

# News Release



**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **County Executive Ilene Shapiro Signs Legislation Providing Homeless Prevention Services for Victims of Domestic Violence**

This week, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro signed legislation passed by Summit County Council to enter an agreement with the Battered Women’s Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties for homeless prevention services at various shelters for victims of domestic violence. In total, the County intends to expend \$425,000 of federal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) dollars to provide eligible families with safe housing and stability.

These funds, provided through the Executive’s Department of Jobs and Family Services, will focus on family stability, housing, financial assistance, short term rentals, security deposits, moving expenses, and emotional support. In addition to the Battered Women’s Shelter, ACCESS and Salvation Army are also included as options for safe temporary housing for families in need.

“Collaborative efforts providing critical temporary assistance to Summit County families in need not only help affected individuals attain the tools they need to strengthen and stabilize their lives, but also in time, provide a foundation for personal sustainability and growth,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “The partnership between Summit County and The Battered Women’s Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties continues to change lives for those who need it most.”

The current fiscal year contract with the Battered Women's Shelter has served 165 clients to date. The renewal will begin in October 2017 and will run through September of 2018. Individuals with financial barriers who wish to participate in this program must be PRC (Prevention, Recovery, and Contingency) eligible. Within a year long period, an average of \$1,250 is spent per family which not only includes financial assistance, but also focuses on case management sessions to address barriers and promote self-sufficiency and stability.

“This type of funding is essential in helping some of our most vulnerable citizens” said County Council President John Schmidt. “The Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties offers incredible services to those in need.”

Program referrals for families seeking eligibility and support through this program may come from the Summit County Department of Jobs and Family Services, community providers, Summit County Courts, or by self-referral.

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