



Safe at Home

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

Steve Simon

Safe at Home Program Participation Annual Report January 2015

(January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014)

Cost of Report Preparation

The total cost for the Office of the Secretary of State to prepare this report was approximately \$792.00. Most of these costs involved staff time in analyzing data and preparing the written report. Incidental costs include paper, copying, and other office supplies.

Estimated costs are provided in accordance with *Minnesota Statutes 2012*, Section 3.197, requiring the cost for preparing a report to be provided at the beginning of a report to the legislature.

Safe at Home Program Overview

The Safe at Home address confidentiality program is managed by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State. The program, which began September 1, 2007, is open to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and those who otherwise fear for their safety-including law enforcement and judicial personnel.

Participants in Safe at Home are assigned a designated address (a P.O. Box in St. Paul) that can be used for all of their interactions with others. The designated address allows the participant to go about their daily life without disclosing their actual home, employment, or school address. All private and public entities in the state of Minnesota must accept the Safe at Home address as a participant's actual address per Minn. Stat. § 5B.05(a).

Safe at Home receives participants' mail, forwards their First-Class Mail to them, and assists them with their interactions with third parties should problems arise when giving the Safe at Home address to others. Staff also works with third party stakeholders, such as utility companies, banks, and schools, to ensure legal compliance and to make sure their business practices accommodate the safety needs of Safe at Home participants.

Total Number of Participants or Applicants Served Per Calendar Year

| | |
|------|-------|
| 2009 | 513 |
| 2010 | 799 |
| 2011 | 1,198 |
| 2012 | 1,681 |
| 2013 | 2,169 |
| 2014 | 2,436 |

Current Program Participation

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of Program Participants as of December 31, 2014 | 1,745 |
| Number of Participant Households as of December 31, 2014 | 746 |

Safe at Home Application Assistants

Safe at Home is a successful private sector–government partnership that utilizes limited state resources to recruit, train and monitor application assistants—victim advocates who are employed by community-based organizations throughout Minnesota.

Application assistants meet one-on-one with potential applicants to discuss the victim’s situation and help them determine whether applying to Safe at Home is an appropriate safety step for the person to take. During this process, the application assistant helps the victim understand the program and guide the application process.

In order to ensure enough application assistants are available throughout the state at all times, Safe at Home provides initial trainings to advocates several times a year. Continuing education is provided on an as-needed basis to teach application assistants about legislative changes to the program and to keep application skills fresh. Beyond this training and on-going support, the community-based organizations and individual staff are not compensated by Safe at Home.

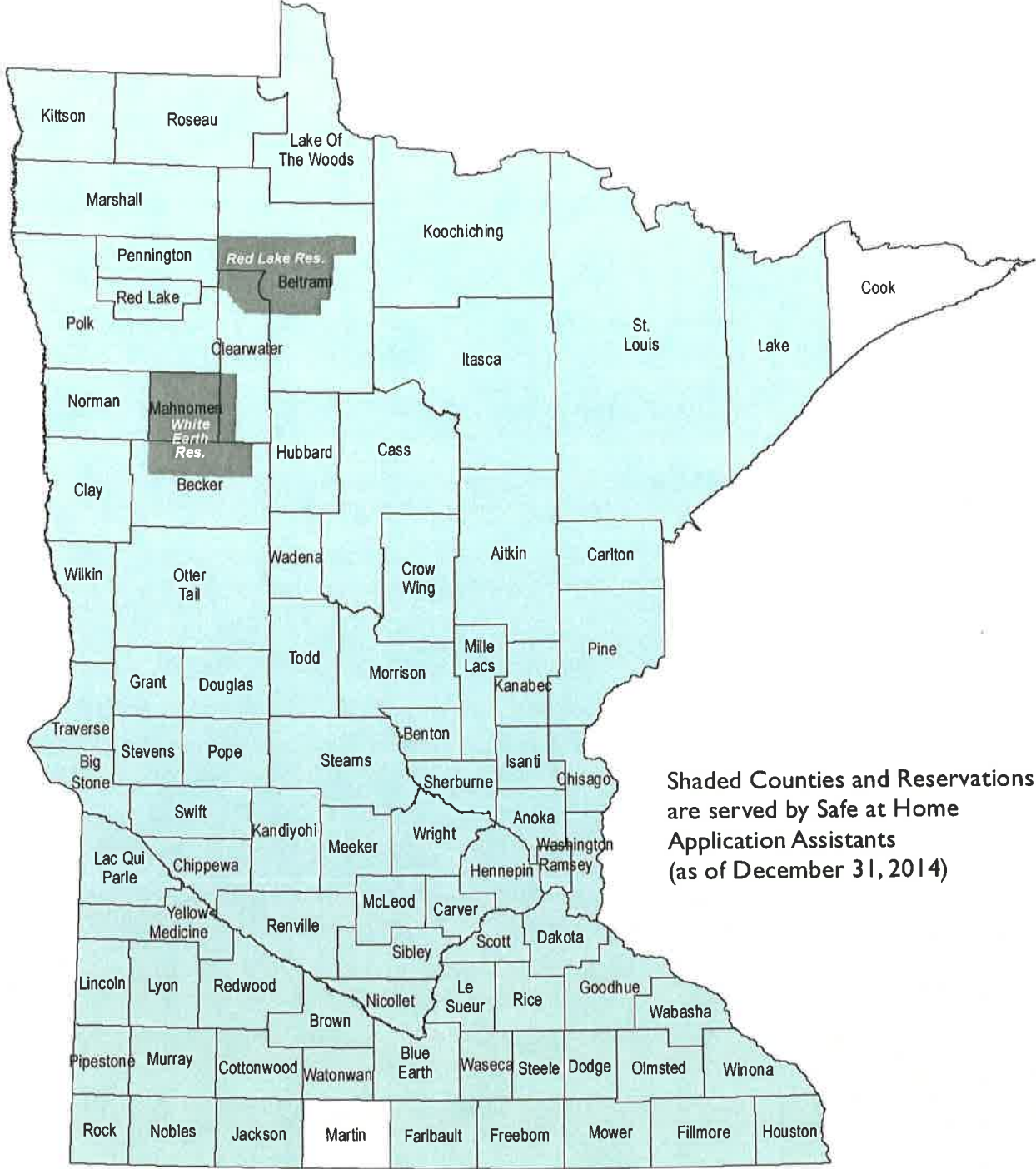
The chart below shows the number of application assistants accredited to assist with Safe at Home application as of December 31, 2014 and the number of application assistants that were trained or provided with continuing education during the 2014 calendar year.

The map on page four of this report shows a geographical breakdown of the 85 counties and two tribal governments served by the community-based organizations where the application assistants are employed.

Safe at Home Application Assistant Activity

| | |
|---|------------|
| <p>Number of Application Assistants as of December 31, 2014</p> <p><i>Note: Application assistants are employees of community-based organizations.</i></p> | <p>214</p> |
| <p>Number of Application Assistants Provided with Initial Training or Continued Education January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014</p> | <p>42</p> |

**87 Geographical Areas Served by Minnesota Safe at Home Application Assistants
(as of December 31, 2014)**



Shaded Counties and Reservations are served by Safe at Home Application Assistants (as of December 31, 2014)