

	LiGHT Grant Application 2026	
	2026 LiGHT Grant Cover Form and Guidelines	

Name of individual, group or organization: Adams Wells Crisis Center

Contact name(s): Jodi Mawhorr

Address: 1203 Village Green Drive Decatur IN 46733 PO Box 253

Phone number: 260-728-9800 Email Address: jmawhorr@adamswellscenter.org

Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: AWCC: Pathways to Safety and Stability

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected: The grant will serve approximately 30 Wells County clients while also reaching youth & community members.

Dollar amount requested: \$2500⁰⁰

Would the program be offered if only a partial grant from LiGHT is made? Yes

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested: AWCC is requesting \$2500 in LiGHT

> May be utilized for part of the presentation.

grant funds to provide flexible, short term assistance to Wells County clients experiencing domestic violence. Funds will support emergency housing, basic needs, transportation, utilities, internet, post office rental & prevention & education activities, helping clients overcome

immediate barriers to safety & stability.

1) This Cover Form

2) Project Narrative, 1-5 pages typed, including:

- What need in the Community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request. (i.e., data, letters of recommendation, etc.)
- What do you want to do?
- What is your timeline?
- What results do you expect?
- If partnering with other organizations, please list.
- Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget
- Signature page: To include endorsement of the project or program by the requesting agency's Board of Directors. This page must include a signature of the Board president.

3) Detailed budget

LiGHT Grant Application

Project Narrative

1) What need in the community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request.

Wells County clients experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, or teen dating violence often face immediate barriers to safety and stability, including the lack of safe housing, limited financial resources, transportation challenges, and difficulty meeting basic needs. These barriers can make it difficult for clients to leave an unsafe situation or maintain safe, stable housing after leaving. The LiGHT grant will help address these gaps by providing flexible, short-term assistance to clients when other resources are unavailable or insufficient. Funding will support short-term emergency housing stays, helping clients access a safe place to stay while longer-term housing options are identified. Funds will also assist with essential needs such as food, clothing, toiletries, and other basic necessities. Additionally, funding will help clients maintain stability through assistance with utilities, internet access, and Post Office Box rentals when these services are necessary for safety, communication, and maintaining independence. WOW passes will provide transportation assistance to help clients access employment, appointments, housing, legal services, and other essential resources.

By addressing these immediate needs, the program will reduce barriers that can prevent clients from safely leaving violence and will provide practical support as they work toward safety, stability, and independence.

2) What do you want to do?

The Adams Wells Crisis Center wants to eliminate or reduce the practical barriers that may prevent a client from leaving a domestic violence, sexual violence, or teen dating violence situation. Through the LiGHT grant, we will provide flexible assistance with immediate needs such as safe short-term housing, food, clothing, toiletries, utilities, transportation, internet access, and other necessities that can make leaving an unsafe situation possible. We will also continue providing education and prevention programming throughout Wells County and in local schools. Education will focus on healthy relationships, safe dating, recognizing warning signs of abuse, setting healthy boundaries, and understanding when and how to seek help.

By combining immediate assistance with prevention and education, we aim to help clients achieve safety while increasing community awareness and reducing the risk of violence.

3) What is your timeline?

The program will be implemented throughout the entire 2027 calendar year, from January 1 through December 31, 2027. Client assistance will be available as needs arise, providing flexible support for short-term housing, basic needs, utilities, transportation, internet access, Post Office Box rentals, and other approved services. Community and school-based education and prevention activities will also be provided throughout the year, focusing on healthy relationships, safe dating, warning signs of abuse, and resources available to individuals experiencing violence.

4) What results do you expect?

Based on the increasing need for services in Wells County, the Adams Wells Crisis Center will establish the following measurable milestones for 2027:

- Assist at least 20 new Wells County clients experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, or teen dating violence. AWCC assisted 18 new Wells County clients in 2025 and has already assisted 24 in 2026.
- Provide at least 15 shelter nights through AWCC's facility and/or hotel accommodations for Wells County clients who need safe, short-term housing. Shelter nights increased from 14 in 2025 to 101 in 2026, demonstrating the growing need for emergency housing assistance.
- Provide basic-needs assistance to clients as needed, including food, clothing, toiletries, utilities, internet access, transportation/WOW passes, Post Office Box rentals, and other eligible expenses that reduce barriers to safety and stability.
- Provide at least 5 community or school-based educational presentations in Wells County during 2027, reaching at least 250 youth and community members.
- Increase awareness of healthy relationships and violence prevention by providing education on healthy relationships, safe dating, warning signs of abuse, boundaries, and available resources.
- Track client assistance, shelter nights, educational activities, and individuals reached throughout 2027 to measure the program's impact and identify continuing needs in Wells County..

A significant indicator of the need for this program is the increase in emergency shelter nights provided to Wells County clients, from 14 nights in 2025 to 101 nights in 2026. One mother and daughter alone required 49 shelter nights, demonstrating how access to short-term housing can be critical in preventing clients from becoming homeless while they work toward safety and more permanent housing.

We want to include an example just this year of the difference that assistance can provide to our clients. We know that 49 shelter nights can seem excessive. With the lack of housing in our area it can be difficult to find housing in a timely manner. One example of the impact of emergency housing assistance involved a mother and daughter who had previously relocated out of state for approximately 7 to 10 months in order to find a safe

location. The daughter was a student in a Wells County school and was doing very well academically. The mother wanted to return to Wells County so her daughter could continue her education, remain connected to her friends and community, and regain a sense of normalcy and stability. Upon returning to the area, the mother faced significant financial barriers. She had not been employed because the abuser had restricted her ability to work. Determined to provide for her daughter and establish independence, she obtained three part-time jobs and walked to work. As her employers recognized her strong work ethic and reliability, she was able to reduce the number of jobs while receiving additional hours. She was eventually hired for a full-time position and was offered an opportunity to move into management. During this transition, the mother and daughter needed safe housing while they worked toward financial stability. AWCC provided 49 shelter nights through a combination of shelter and hotel accommodations. AWCC also provided a Post Office Box so the family could safely receive important documents and correspondence, including insurance information, educational and college information, court dates, and other essential paperwork. Having a secure mailing address was an important part of maintaining their privacy and safety while they were in temporary housing. The temporary housing and additional support gave the family the time and safety needed to establish employment, save money, and secure permanent housing rather than being forced to return to an unsafe situation or face homelessness.

Through her own determination, combined with temporary assistance from AWCC, the mother was eventually able to secure an apartment for herself and her daughter. This experience demonstrates that short-term assistance can be a critical bridge to long-term stability. The 49 shelter nights, Post Office Box, and other support provided the family with the opportunity to move from an unsafe situation toward employment, permanent housing, stability, and independence.

5) If partnering with other organizations, please list.

We are not partnering with any other organizations for this grant. However, we do receive referrals from Helping Hands, DCS, and other Wells county agencies.

6) Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used on your budget.

The Adams Wells Crisis Center will use LiGHT grant funds throughout 2027 to provide immediate, practical assistance to Wells County clients experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, or teen dating violence. The program is designed to address barriers that can prevent clients from leaving an unsafe situation or maintaining safety and stability after leaving. Grant funds will be used based on the approved budget to provide short-term emergency housing, basic needs assistance, transportation, utilities, internet access, Post Office Box rentals, and other eligible expenses that directly support client safety and stability. Short-term housing may include shelter or hotel accommodations when a safe housing option is not immediately available. Basic-needs assistance may include food,

clothing, toiletries, and other necessities identified through individual client assessments. WOW passes will assist clients with transportation to employment, medical appointments, court, housing, and other essential services. Utilities, internet access, and Post Office Box rentals may be provided when these services are necessary to maintain safety, communication, and independence. Funds will also support prevention and education activities in Wells County and local schools. These activities will focus on healthy relationships, safe dating, recognizing warning signs of abuse, boundaries, and information about available resources.

Because AWCC cannot predict the number of clients who will seek services or the specific needs each client will have, the detailed budget is based on projected expenditures rather than a predetermined number of clients served. Client needs can vary significantly; one client may need only basic necessities or transportation assistance, while another may require multiple shelter nights and additional support. This flexible approach allows AWCC to respond to actual client needs throughout the grant period while ensuring that grant funds are used for approved program purposes.

AWCC will track expenditures and services provided throughout 2027 and monitor the budget regularly to ensure funds are used responsibly and continue to address the greatest needs of Wells County clients.

7) Detailed budget

Budget Category	Amount
Short-Term Emergency Housing	\$1,000
Basic Needs – food, clothing, toiletries, etc.	\$500
Transportation/WOW Passes	\$300
Utilities/Internet	\$250
Post Office Box Rentals	\$150
Prevention & Education Supplies	\$200
Other Eligible Client Assistance	\$100
Total	\$2500.00

AWCC is requesting \$2,500 in LiGHT grant funding to provide flexible, short-term assistance to Wells County clients experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, or teen dating violence. Funds will be used to address immediate barriers to safety and stability and will be distributed based on actual client needs throughout the 2027 grant period. The largest portion of the funding will be dedicated to short-term emergency housing, including shelter and hotel accommodations when a client does not have a safe place to stay. Additional funds will provide basic necessities such as food, clothing, and toiletries. Transportation assistance through WOW passes will help clients access employment, housing, medical appointments, court, and other essential services. Funds may also assist with utilities and internet access when these services are necessary to maintain safe and stable housing. Post Office Box rentals may be provided to clients in temporary housing or when a secure mailing address is needed to protect their privacy and safety. A portion of the funding will support prevention and education activities in Wells County and local schools. Because AWCC cannot predict the number of clients who will seek assistance or the specific needs of each client, the budget is intended to provide flexibility within the approved categories. Funds may be prioritized toward the most immediate client needs as they arise while remaining within the approved grant purposes.

AWCC will maintain appropriate records of all grant-funded expenditures and is willing to provide receipts and supporting documentation upon request. Expenditures and services will be monitored throughout the grant period to ensure responsible use of funds and accountability for all LiGHT grant dollars.