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**LONG BEACH AGENCIES RECEIVE STATE GRANT TO EXPAND SERVICES FOR
LGBTQ VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Long Beach, CA – The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach and Interval House Crisis Shelters & Centers for Victims of Domestic Violence have been awarded a highly competitive grant from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to expand domestic violence education, outreach and support within the LGBTQ community. The three-year grant is one of only three awarded in the State of California by Cal OES.

“We are absolutely thrilled to receive vital funding to expand domestic violence resources and services in the LGBTQ community,” says The Center’s Executive Director Porter Gilberg. “With this funding we have one more tool to provide support to some of the most marginalized folks in our community.”

Funding will enable The Center to build its capacity to serve domestic violence victims in the LGBTQ community through increased support services at The Center and expanded community education in partnership with Interval House, which is recognized for its specialization in working with culturally underserved communities. The project will, therefore, specialize in serving some of the most difficult to reach and vulnerable populations including LGBTQ people of color, immigrants, and men. Recent studies indicate these three groups often face the largest barriers to receiving comprehensive domestic violence support services in many communities.

The partnership between The Center and Interval House spans more than three decades. With nearly \$500,000 in funding over a three-year period, the project will now be able to provide an unprecedented level of care to victims of domestic violence seeking support in Long Beach.

“Interval House has always been a proud partner and supporter of The Center, and we are excited for this opportunity for The Center to strengthen its capacity to assist domestic violence victims in the LGBTQ community,” says Interval House Executive Director Carol Williams. “We look forward to continuing our strong partnership, and to ensuring that those who need domestic violence services will now be able to access them at The Center, which is such an important hub for the LGBTQ community.”

The Center has served as the central and vital core for the LGBTQ community in Greater Long Beach since 1977, and today serves more than 25,000 individuals annually through an array of programs and services. Interval House is a nationally recognized program providing award-winning, comprehensive domestic violence prevention and intervention services to Greater Long Beach and surrounding communities since 1979.

The Center and Interval House have worked in partnership for more than 30 years to provide services for the LGBTQ community, and the Cal OES grant is the partnership’s second such grant from the State given to The Center and Interval House to enhance access to domestic violence services for LGBTQ victims. The project will serve all LGBTQ victims, with a specialization in serving persons of color and those from immigrant communities that often face additional cultural and linguistic barriers to access.