

**Interagency Committee of State Employed Women**

[www.icsew.wa.gov](http://www.icsew.wa.gov) | icsew@ofm.wa.gov

Facebook: [Interagency Committee of State Employed Women](https://www.facebook.com/Interagency-Committee-of-State-Employed-Women-247419845305862/)

October 1, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIEATE RELASE**

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Debra Lefing, Public Outreach Co-Chair | (360) 764-9791

The Interagency Committee of State Employed Women, ICSEW, is sponsoring a gift card and supplies drive for organizations that provide services and resources to women and individuals who are victims of domestic violence. In light of the COVID 19 pandemic, police departments and civic groups are reporting a spike in domestic violence cases. Mandated stay-at-home orders have put victims in close proximity to their abusers.

“This is an opportunity to help empower Washingtonians who are taking the difficult steps to protect the wellbeing of themselves and their families. These are strong, brave individuals and to be a part of bettering their lives falls in line with so many of ICSEW values.” said ICSEW Public Outreach Co-chair, Jasmine Pippin-Timco.

The drive starts Oct.1 which also marks the beginning of [National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.](https://nnedv.org/get-involved/dv-awareness-month/) The drive runs through the spring of 2021.*Recipients of the gift cards will be clients of the following organizations:*

* [SafePlace](https://www.safeplaceolympia.org/) in Olympia
* [New Hope](http://www.grantcountywa.gov/new-hope/) in Grand Coulee, Moses Lake, Mattawa, Othello, Quincy, and Royal City
* [The Emergency Support Shelter](https://www.esshelter.com/) in Longview
* [Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center](https://turningpointe.org/) in Shelton and Belfair

“This is a great opportunity to make a difference twice with one gesture as many local businesses are struggling to stay afloat through this pandemic,” said ICSEW Public Outreach Co-chair, Debra Lefing. “Donating a gift card helps a domestic violence survivor obtain meals or supplies and gives a much-needed boost to a business owner.”

**How to Participate**

**If you are an individual** who would like to donate a gift card, simply reach out to a local business or restaurant near you to purchase the card and mail to the desired organization below. Any business, which carries grocery items, diapers & wipes, personal hygiene items or cleaning supplies works. The organizations also need gift cards for restaurants, takeout, and fast food locations.

If you are an immune compromised individual or do not feel comfortable purchasing a gift card in-person, the ICSEW’s [Annual Charity Drive page](https://icsew.wa.gov/events/charity-drive/) will have an updated list of businesses that offer no-contact purchase options. ICSEW will coordinate with the business to arrange delivery of the gift card to the specific organization.

**For Individuals**: To ensure safe, no-contact delivery, ICSEW is encouraging the public to **mail** gift cards to charitable organizations for local businesses that carry items in need.

***Western Washington***:

* [Safe Place](https://www.safeplaceolympia.org/)(Thurston County/South Puget Sound) **C/O: Ellie Parrish 521 Legion Way SE Olympia WA, 98501**
* [The Emergency Support Shelter](https://www.esshelter.com/)(Longview/ Southwest Washington): **C/O: Felina Gonzalez 1330 11th Ave. Longview, WA 98632**
* [Turning Pointe Survivor Advocacy Center](http://C/O%3A%20Gina%20Blanchard-Reed%20PO%20Box%202014%20Shelton%2C%20WA%2098584) (Mason County) **C/O:** **Gina Blanchard-Reed** **PO Box 2014 Shelton, WA 98584**

***Eastern Washington***

* [*New Hope*](https://www.new-hope.org/domestic-violence/) (Grand Coulee, Moses Lake, Mattawa, Othello, Quincy, Royal City) **C/O: Tina Steinmetz 311 W 3rd Ave, Moses Lake, WA, 98837**

**If you are a local business** and would like to participate in the gift card and product drive please contact the ICSEW’s Public Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chairs. For Western Washington businesses please contact jasmine.pippin-timco@lcb.wa.gov and for Eastern Washington businesses, please contact debra.lefing@atg.wa.gov.

For more information about the gift card drive, please visit the ICSEW’s Annual Charity Drive webpage, https://icsew.wa.gov/events/charity-drive/

The ICSEW’s Public Outreach Subcommittee has a vested interest in supporting community organizations that share the ICSEW values of *Wellness, Advocacy, Leadership, Integrity, Fostering growth and Empowerment*.

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**About the Interagency Committee of State Employed Women:**

The Interagency Committee of State Employed Women, ICSEW is made up of governor-appointed state-employees from various agencies. The ICSEW seeks to better the lives of state employees through advocacy, outreach, opportunity, and by advising the Governor and agencies on policies that affect state-employed women.

**Mission:** To better the lives of state employees by advising the Governor and agencies on policies that affect state-employed women.

**Vision:** Enriching lives through advocacy, outreach, and opportunity.

For more information about the ICSEW, visit, [https://icsew.wa.gov](https://icsew.wa.gov/).