Daniel Pitino
SHELTER

Safe Haven Initiative - Grant Summary

Total Project Cost: $132,424 | Impact100 Request: $100,000 | Organization Reserves: $32,424

Project Overview

Daniel Pitino Shelter is requesting $100,000 from Impact100 Owensboro to implement the Safe Haven Initiative, a comprehensive safety and security upgrade for its emergency shelter serving women, children, and families experiencing homelessness. The project will modernize the shelter through a controlled keycard access system, upgraded security doors with magnetic locking systems, a video intercom system, and approximately 38 security cameras positioned throughout key interior and exterior areas.

Since 1994, Daniel Pitino Shelter has served Owensboro and surrounding communities by providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, case management, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, transportation assistance, life-skills support, and other stabilization services. Each year, the shelter serves more than 250 individuals, provides more than 77,000 meals through the St. Stephen Cathedral Soup Kitchen, and helps prevent homelessness for more than 200 individuals and families through rental and utility assistance.

Community Need

Women and families entering shelter often arrive after periods of housing instability, unsafe living situations, financial hardship, trauma, family crisis, or prolonged homelessness. For children, homelessness can disrupt education, routines, emotional well-being, and a basic sense of normalcy. A stable and secure environment is therefore essential to helping families move from crisis toward recovery and permanent housing.

The shelter's existing safety infrastructure no longer fully meets the needs of residents, staff, or modern shelter operations. Stronger control of entry points, better monitoring, and improved accountability are needed to reduce unauthorized access, strengthen emergency response, and give residents greater confidence in their safety. These improvements will also help staff spend less time responding to preventable security concerns and more time supporting residents in housing, employment, healthcare, and other stability goals.

Why This Project Matters

The Safe Haven Initiative is more than a building improvement project. It is a long-term investment in the safety, dignity, and stability of families experiencing homelessness. When parents feel secure, they can better focus on employment, appointments, budgeting, case management, and housing plans. Children benefit from a calmer and more predictable environment during a difficult period in their lives.

The project will also strengthen Daniel Pitino Shelter's role within Owensboro's broader network of care. The shelter regularly collaborates with healthcare providers, behavioral health agencies, schools, workforce organizations, housing providers, and other nonprofits. A safer shelter environment allows residents to engage more consistently with these services and strengthens the community's overall response to homelessness.

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Project Plan, Outcomes, and Budget

Implementation Plan

The project will be completed in phases over approximately 12 months. Months 1-2 will focus on final vendor selection and planning. Months 2-4 will prioritize keycard access and security door installation, followed by camera installation during months 3-6. Staff training and updated security procedures will be implemented during months 5-8, with evaluation and sustainability planning continuing through months 8-12.

Key Outcomes

- Install facility-wide keycard access for designated residential and staff areas.
- Upgrade critical entry points with secure doors and magnetic locking systems.
- Install approximately 38 cameras to improve visibility and reduce safety blind spots.
- Train staff on monitoring, access control, and emergency response procedures.
- Achieve a goal of at least 85% of surveyed residents reporting that they feel safe or safer after implementation.

Sustainability

Daniel Pitino Shelter owns and operates its facility, and ongoing maintenance of the security improvements will be incorporated into annual operating and facility budgets. Sustainability will be supported through diversified funding that includes individual donations, foundation grants, community partnerships, fundraising events, and corporate support. Once installed, the keycard, door, and camera infrastructure is expected to require limited ongoing costs, allowing the shelter to sustain the investment for years to come.

Expected Community Impact

The Safe Haven Initiative will directly benefit more than 250 women and family members each year while strengthening one of the Greater Owensboro area's primary shelter resources for women and families. By creating a safer, more trauma-informed environment, the project will support healing, improve daily shelter operations, strengthen partnerships, and help families move more effectively from crisis toward long-term stability and permanent housing.

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Safe Haven Project

Project Component	Total Cost	Impact100 Request	Organization Reserves
Surveillance Camera System	$67,112	$67,112	$0
Access Control & Video Intercom System	$18,912	$18,912	$0
Door, Frame & Locking Mechanism Upgrades	$46,400	$13,976	$32,424
TOTAL PROJECT COST	**$132,424**	**$100,000**	**$32,424**