Domestic Violence Housing First

Programs in Washington have been using the Domestic Violence Housing First approach to get survivors into stable housing and then provide the support needed to rebuild their lives.

1,452 individuals and families participated

45% were able to stay in their own home with the support of flexible financial assistance and advocacy.

33% received support around preparing to move into stable housing.

13% moved from homeless to housed.

7% moved from one home to another.

2% unknown/not reported

2,566 disbursements totaling $873,292.31 from 56¢ to $5,450.

$340.33 average disbursement.

93% of disbursements were under $1,000.

Impact:

- Survivors feel more equipped to move forward and rebuild.
- Survivors regain control over their lives and start to heal.
- Stability and safety means kids can be kids again.

“When my kids feel like I’m safe, they’re okay. For us to be [housing] stable, it matters a lot—they feel secure.”

Domestic Violence Survivor

Key Learnings:

- Financial assistance and advocacy need to be totally flexible.
- More advocates and resources are required in order to adequately support all survivors.
- It takes time and effort to adapt to a new way of providing services.