### What is Domestic Violence Housing First?



#### **Overview**

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children.

The Domestic Violence Housing First approach focuses on getting survivors of domestic violence into stable housing as quickly as possible and then providing the necessary support as they rebuild their lives.

The approach's success relies on survivor-driven advocacy, flexible financial assistance, housing stability, and community engagement.

#### Flexible Financial Assistance

Funds are free to be used in whatever way will best help survivors retain housing: Rent and utilities, as well as costs like child care, transportation, and employee uniforms.

### Survivor-Driven Advocacy

- "What do you need?" instead of "Here's what we offer."
- Meet where it is safe and convenient for survivors.
- Survivors lead the process and choose their own goals.

# Housing Stability Advocates accompany

survivors to housing appointments, act as a liaison with landlords, and negotiate leases.

## Community Engagement Advocates reach out to landlords, law

Advocates reach out to landlords, law enforcement, housing/homeless providers, and employment programs, encouraging them to support survivors.

Women and children are safe, more stable, self-sufficient, and empowered to create lives free from violence.

\$40 The minimum amount it took to get a survivor into stable housing. \$1250 was the average cost.

It took an average of three months for survivors to find housing.

96% of survive housing

of survivors retained housing 18 months after entering DVHF.



Housing is no longer a reason to stay in an abusive relationship.