

**Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence,  
Domestic Violence Housing First Project**

**Year One Flexible Financial Assistance Evaluation: 2016-2017**

**Background**

The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) is using flexible funds to help implement the Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) model in four King County direct service agencies: New Beginnings, LifeWire, InterIm CDA, and Northwest Network, and four South Central WA direct service agencies: Yakima YWCA, DVS of Benton & Franklin Counties, Lower Valley Crisis & Support Services, and New Hope. To support this effort, WSCADV distributed \$210,000 in total in 2016 to the eight agencies. Not all funds were spent, and any left will be rolled over into the 2017-2018 cycle. Using these funds, the agencies distributed flexible financial assistance to program participants. Flexible funds may be used for:

- Children's Needs
- Debt Assistance
- Education/Training
- Employment Assistance
- Family Activities
- Housing Readiness
- Legal Assistance
- Mortgage
- Move-In Costs & Deposit
- Physical/Mental Health Needs
- Rental Assistance
- Security Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Utility Bills
- Other purposes that directly support housing stability

In addition to financial assistance, program participants were provided with survivor-centered advocacy support from the agencies in order to eliminate housing barriers, locate and secure housing, and address any other issues that may have been affecting housing stability or well-being.

## **Procedure**

Each agency recorded details of every flexible fund transaction that occurred, including:

- Date of transaction
- Survivor age, gender, ethnicity, and race
- Immigrant or refugee status
- Family or individual survivor
- Amount of flexible funds disbursed
- Purpose of flexible funds
- Other services the survivor or family had received
- Immediate and final housing outcome

Agencies shared this information with WSCADV staff via a web-based tracking sheet on a quarterly basis.

## **Participants**

As of July 31, 2017, the eight agencies had distributed flexible funds to 236 families. Demographics of heads of households (HH) are listed below.

### *Age of HH:*

The largest subsets of participants fell between the ages of 25-34 and 44-54.

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percent of Sample</b>
18 or younger	1	<1%
18-24	31	13%
25-34	96	41%
35-44	75	32%
45-54	17	7%
55-64	6	3%
65 or older	1	<1%
unknown	9	4%

### *Gender of HH:*

Almost all participants (94%) identified as female.

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percent of Sample</b>
Female	222	94%
Male	9	4%
Transgender	3	1%
Other	2	<1%

*Race/Ethnicity of HH:*

Almost half of the participants (46%) were White/European-American.

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percent of Sample</b>
White/European-American	109	46%
Hispanic/Latino/a	51	22%
Black/African American/African Descent	33	14%
Asian	18	8%
Multiracial	15	6%
Native American/Alaska Native	2	<1%
Unknown/Not Reported	8	3%

*Refugees/Immigrants:*

The majority of participants (63%) were not immigrants or refugees, though 14% did not provide this information.

<b>Refugee/ Immigrant?</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percent of Sample</b>
Yes	54	23%
No	149	63%
Unknown	33	14%

*Single/family:*

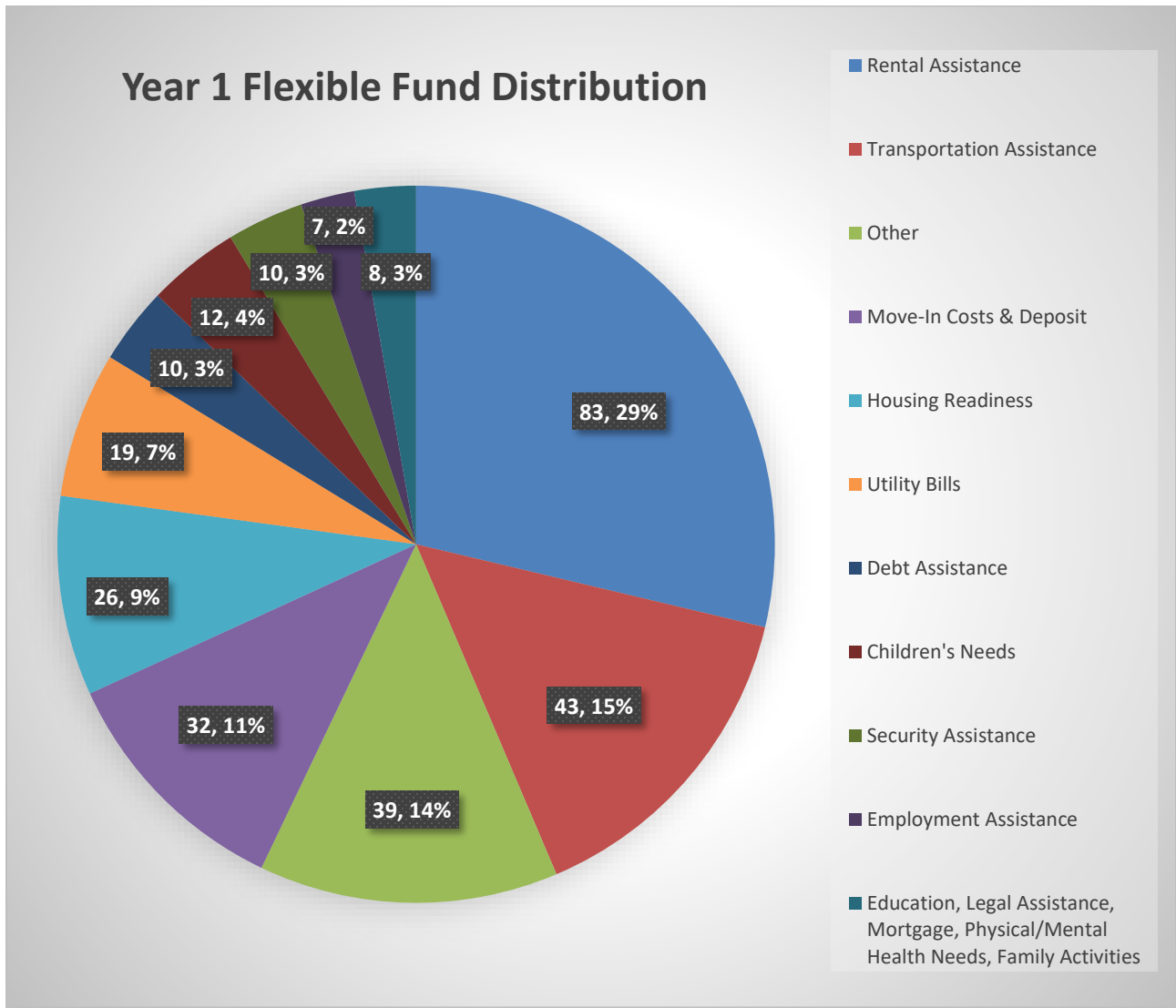
29% of participants were single and 70% had dependent children.

<b>Family?</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percent of Sample</b>
Single	68	29%
Family	165	70%
Unknown	3	1%

**Flexible Financial Assistance Provided**

A total of 289 payments across all eight agencies were made to participants through flexible financial assistance. \$147,840.38 in total was spent across the eight agencies. A handful of participants received multiple payments, typically when they were receiving monthly rental assistance. Rental assistance accounted for the largest portion of payments, with agencies contributing to up to six months' rent. The table below gives an overview of flexible financial assistance that was provided across the agencies. "Other" encompasses a wide variety of payments, including basic needs like clothing or food, furniture, or gift cards.

Category	# Times Provided	Average Payment	Payment Range	Total Spent
Rental Assistance	83	\$806.60	\$38.00-\$5,450.00	\$66,948.04
Transportation Assistance	43	\$375.92	\$3.24-\$1,839.39	\$16,164.36
Other	39	\$193.22	\$15.00-\$600.00	\$7,535.76
Move-In Costs & Deposit	32	\$1,048.61	\$135.00-\$3,580.00	\$34,604.27
Housing Readiness	26	\$203.42	\$10.00-\$1636.84	\$5,288.90
Utility Bills	19	\$271.25	\$34.00-\$814.01	\$5,135.71
Debt Assistance	10	\$251.31	\$88.72-\$500.00	\$2,513.08
Children's Needs	12	\$151.14	\$30.00-\$272.32	\$1,813.72
Security Assistance	9	\$521.91	\$18.94-\$2,275.00	\$4,697.15
Employment Assistance	7	\$128.81	\$30.00-\$265.70	\$901.70
Education/Training	3	\$86.00	\$30.00-\$150.00	\$258.00
Legal Assistance	2	\$287.50	\$25.00-\$550.00	\$575.00
Mortgage	1	--	--	\$755.00
Physical/Mental Health Needs	1	--	--	\$589.69
Family Activities	1	--	--	\$60.00



## Housing Outcomes

After engaging with the agencies, at least 95% of families were stably housed.

Final Housing Status	Quantity	Percent of Sample
Stayed in own home	136	58%
Moved from homelessness to housed	33	14%
Moved from shelter to housed	28	12%
Moved from one home to another	25	11%
Transitional housing	6	3%
Unknown	8	3%

236 families received funds

\$147,840.38  
distributed via 8  
agencies

289 payments  
made

95+% of participating families  
remained or became stably  
housed