



Core Program Elements to DASH’s Survivor Resilience Fund

Core Belief: Housing Is a Human Right	Approach	Practice
<p>DASH believes that all survivors of abuse, regardless of their circumstances, should have access to safe housing. This includes survivors of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intimate partner violence (IPV)• Sexual assault• Sex trafficking• Same-sex IPV• Stalking• Homelessness <p>As well as survivors with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical and mental disabilities• Chemical addictions• Mental illnesses• Undocumented citizens• Differing family configurations	<p>Low Barrier Access</p>	<p><u>Program elements that facilitate low barrier access to the SRF include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering survivors multiple avenues to access DASH’s resources and advocacy, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Weekly drop-in community housing clinics open to survivors without an appointment○ The option to receive support entirely by phone through calling DASH’s non-residential Housing Resource Center○ The option to make a private appointment to meet with a housing advocate• Providing the same level of support to survivors who self refer• Assuming survivors are telling the truth• Asking only essential question to screen survivors <i>into</i> services and advocacy• Minimizing paperwork and documentation to only the essentials (i.e. to document payment needed for SRF records) and never for the purposes of determining eligibility for DASH services



Core Belief: Survivors Have The Right to be Self Determining	Approach	Survivor Resilience Fund Practice
<p>DASH believes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survivors know their situations best Survivors are the best ones, with support and resources, to determine what options are right for them Survivors voices must be central to the process of helping them find safe housing options, including providing them with the means to avoid going to shelter altogether 	<p>Survivor Driven Advocacy</p>	<p>DASH advocates work closely with survivors to determine how we can assist in a meaningful way. <u>The following program elements prioritize survivors self determination:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing advocacy and safety planning are offered before, during and after the SRF grant is made No hard and fast rules regarding what the SRF grant can be used for so long as it will help the survivor maintain housing stability No cap on the dollar amount the survivor can ask for No rule on how many times a survivor can ask for a SRF grant No rule dictating how the funds are dispensed (depending on the situation, a check can be made directly to the vendor or the survivor him/herself)
Core Belief: DV/SA is a Traumatic Experience	Approach	Survivor Resilience Fund Practice
<p>DASH believes experiencing DV/SA:</p> <p>Psychologically changes a person's belief in themselves</p> <p>Diminishes a person's ability to trust</p>	<p>Trauma Informed & Voluntary Services</p>	<p><u>Program elements that facilitate trauma informed practice and voluntary services include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With an understanding of trauma, not requiring survivors to have to tell, and retell, their experiences with violence and abuse in order to receive support



DASH DISTRICT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

<p>Hinders a person's ability to make decisions for themselves, organize and mobilize to accomplish goals</p> <p>Decreases a person's sense of safety and intense fear</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When possible, providing the SRF grant in a timely (24 to 48 hours), with the understanding that survivors often come in crisis and receiving swift financial support can relieve high levels of stress• Being transparent about the SRF process, especially when funds are no longer available and offering ways survivors can continue to engage and receive support in the meantime• No requirements or contingencies are connected to receiving a SRF grant. For example, survivors do not have to agree to participate in services, produce or obtain a protection order, or agree to be substance free as a condition of receiving a SRF grant• Incorporating DASH's core values (the DASH model) in all interactions with survivors• Providing on-going training and coaching for DASH advocate staff to effectively practice the DASH Model to facilitate trauma informed care
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