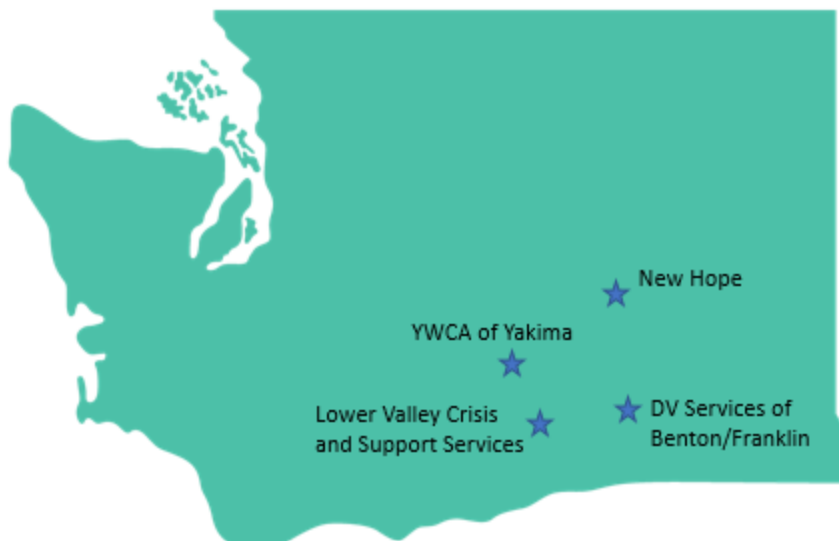


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST: SOUTH CENTRAL REGION AGENCY RESULTS JAN 2016-JAN 2018

The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) is working with eight agencies across Washington State to implement the [Domestic Violence Housing First \(DVHF\)](#) approach. The Domestic Violence Housing First approach focuses on helping survivors get into safe and stable housing as quickly as possible, and providing services to help them move forward with their lives. Four of these agencies are in South-Central WA: YWCA of Yakima, DV Services of Benton/Franklin Counties, Lower Valley Crisis and Support Services, and New Hope.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION DVHF AGENCIES



These four agencies have been providing survivor-driven, trauma-informed, mobile advocacy and utilizing flexible financial assistance to support survivors in their housing stability. As of January 2018, **\$197,335** flexible funds had been disbursed to 408 individuals and families. Funds disbursed ranged from \$3.24 up to \$3,217.08. **Nearly half of survivors (48%) were able to stay in their own home** as a direct result of receiving flexible financial assistance and advocacy.



408 survivors served

76% with dependent children



48% stayed in their home

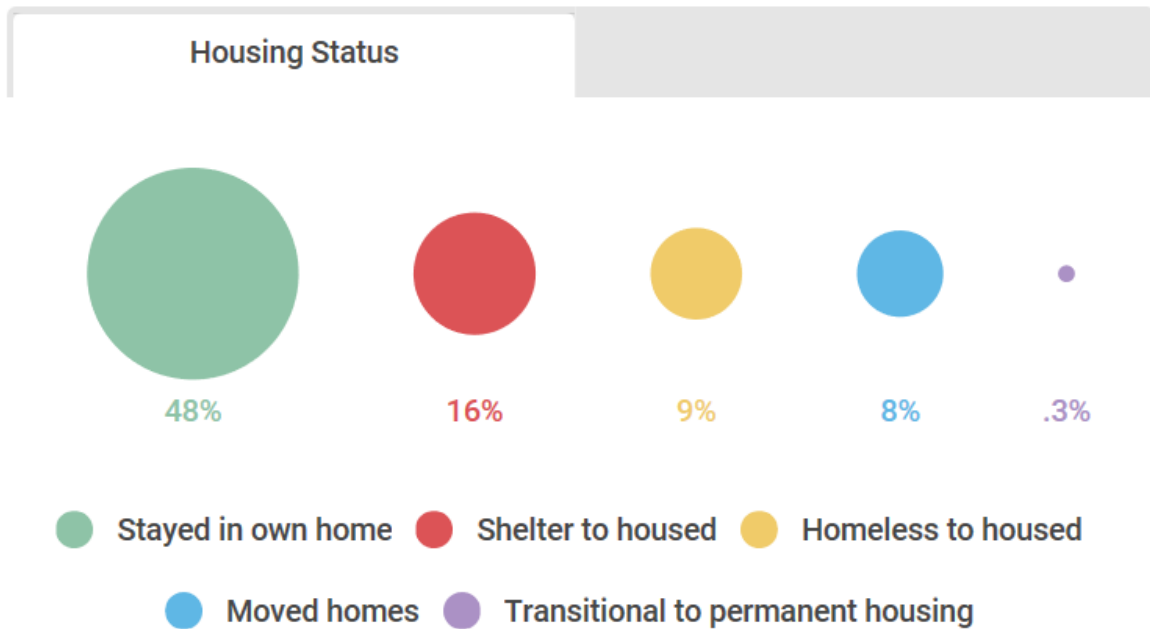


\$197,335 disbursed

ranging from \$3.24-\$3,217

IMMEDIATE HOUSING IMPACT:

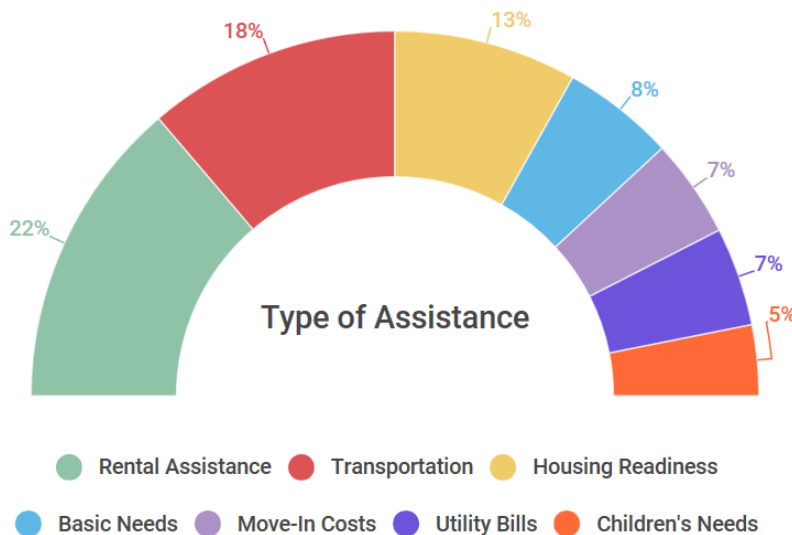
Nearly half (48%) of survivors stayed safely in their own home, avoiding relocating their families or potential homelessness. Other survivors moved from a shelter to housed (16%), homeless to housed (9%), moved homes (8%), and moved from transitional housing to permanent housing (.3%). The remaining 19% primarily included funds for housing prep (9%) and family well-being (5%).



“With the DVHF dollars we were able to help one survivor stay in her home by paying two months of rent and changing the locks on her door. Her car had also broken down and she was finding rides to work. She didn’t want to lose her job and couldn’t afford to fix her car so we helped fix her car and she was able to continue to work. She is doing well and still in her home and has her job because of DVHF” – Domestic Violence Advocate

FLEXIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVOCACY:

Domestic violence advocates use flexible financial assistance to meet the unique and individual needs of survivors. Flexibility of funds allows advocates to address survivor’s immediate needs around safety and stability. Advocates made 590 unique flex fund disbursements to 408 survivors. Some survivors received assistance multiple times, for example receiving funds to help with rent and renew a driver’s license, but the majority only received assistance once.



Rental assistance accounted for the largest portion of payments, followed by transportation and housing readiness, such as application fees and identification. In rural areas, transportation is a huge barrier to housing stability, assistance for transportation encompassed car repair (replacing windows damaged by an abuser), bus passes and gas cards so survivors could get to

their jobs and take their children to school. Other needs that related to housing stability included legal assistance (3%), paying off past debt (2%), education and employment assistance (4%), and for miscellaneous items such as family activities, minutes for phones, and medication.

Advocates play a key role in survivor’s safety and stability. They provide emotional support, meet survivors where it is convenient, negotiate lease agreements with landlords, and connect survivors with community resources. Flexible financial assistance is a tool advocates use to help survivors retain or establish safety and stability.

*“One survivor met with an advocate and began her journey on taking control over her life. She received legal advocacy, and support along the way. She lives in her own apartment, obtained assistance with move in costs, and some furniture. She continues to attend support groups” –
Domestic Violence Advocate*

CHALLENGES:

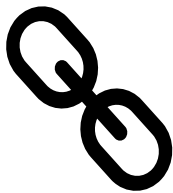
Each agency participating in the Demonstration Project has encountered their own unique barriers to implementing the DHVF approach, including learning new procedures, and advocacy practices. The most shared challenges with implementation have been the shift in organizational culture and staff turnover/re-structure, and lack of community connection and affordable housing.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

“The most exciting and challenging part of this has been adjusting to organizational change and leadership”

“We have experienced [...] transition, new staff, and re-organization and it has taken time to settle”



AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

"We are all struggling over similar road blocks, safe and affordable housing"

"There may be a lot of services, there isn't a lot of connection"

Each agency will continue to receive flexible financial assistance and technical assistance on implementation of DVHF through 2019. Each year, reports will be compiled to share lessons learned and results from flexible financial assistance disbursement. Stay up to date by checking out our webpage and signing up for our quarterly newsletters: www.wscadv.org/dvhf