

RFQ: Flexible Financial Assistance



The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) requests qualifications from non-profit domestic violence/sexual assault organizations that have not yet participated in [Domestic Violence Housing First \(DVHF\)](#) cohorts to administer flexible financial assistance in support of survivors of domestic violence seeking safe and stable housing.

Funding Overview:

[Coldwell Banker Bain](#), a leading provider of real estate brokerage services in Washington and Oregon, and a market leader in home sales in 2020, raised \$30,000 for their “Bring Hope Home” initiative to benefit DVHF.

[Ballmer Group](#) supports efforts to improve economic mobility for children and families in the United States who are disproportionately likely to remain in poverty and has invested \$15,000 in making flexible financial assistance available for DVHF service provision.

WSCADV plans to expand the DVHF cohort utilizing these funds with a particular focus of implementation and maintenance of a racial-equity framework through servicing by-and-for organizations*.

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. Key components of [DVHF](#) include a survivor-driven and trauma-informed approach, mobile advocacy, community engagement, and flexible financial assistance.

Project Goal:

[Flexible Financial Assistance](#) is a critical pillar to the Domestic Violence Housing First approach. It is used by advocates to assist with any needs related to housing safety and stability. Examples of specific services provided by funding include those around children’s needs, debt assistance, education/training, employment assistance, housing preparation, legal assistance, mortgage and move-in costs, physical/mental health needs, rental assistance, security assistance, transportation assistance, and utility bills.

\$15,000 will be available to three non-profit domestic violence/sexual assault organizations that are interested in implementation of the DVHF approach. Organizations selected will consist of two based in Western Washington and one in Eastern Washington. WSCADV will provide selected organizations with DVHF training and technical assistance, especially related to mobile advocacy and distribution of flexible funding.

*By-and-for organizations are organizations that provide culturally focused services that are representative of the organization’s surrounding community and reflected in its internal staff and board.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in trainings on DVHF and flexible financial assistance and implement systems to ensure that advocates have knowledge of what is available and strategies for providing flexible financial assistance to survivors.
- Participate in the DVHF cohort to receive collaborative support and technical assistance related to building and implementing the DVHF approach.
- Participate in the [DVHF Flexible Financial Assistance tracker](#), providing up to date information on how funds are being used.

Request:

WSCADV is seeking three agencies to administer \$15,000 each of Flexible Financial Assistance from June 1, 2022- Nov. 1, 2022.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Experienced with survivor-driven, trauma informed advocacy.
- Not a current Domestic Violence Housing First project partner.
- Have demonstrable commitment to culturally specific, community-based domestic violence service provision.

Budget:

\$15,000 total for flexible financial assistance.

Timeline:

- March 1, 2022: Request for Qualifications Release
- May 1, 2022: Request for Qualifications Due to Sarah Kendall, sarah@wscadv.org
- May 16, 2022: Agency selection notification
- May 23, 2022: Contracts and funding release
- May 30, 2022: DVHF training and cohort introduction

Qualifications:

Please submit the following for consideration. Responses may be submitted in either Word or PDF format to Sarah Kendall at sarah@wscadv.org.

1. Describe your agency’s approach to advocacy and use of mobile advocacy.
2. Describe your agency’s commitment to serve and represent the surrounding cultural community in your area.
 - a. What are the demographics of your service area and how is that reflected in your organization staff and services? (See Diversity Data Table for completion)

<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	% of people in geographical region	# of people served by organization	% of people served by organization	# of direct services staff	# of management /supervision staff	# of people on board of directors
<i>African American/Black</i>						
<i>Asian</i>						
<i>Hispanic/Latinx</i>						
<i>Native American</i>						
<i>Pacific Islander</i>						
<i>White</i>						
<i>Other</i>						
<i>TOTAL</i>						

- b. In what ways if any does your agency implement operations to better serve communities disproportionately impacted by housing instability and homelessness due to racial disparity?
3. What is your agency’s experience with direct financial assistance for survivors? How has your agency allocated unrestricted funds in the past?
4. How will the agency manage these funds and make them readily available for advocates in their work with survivors?
5. A copy of the agency policies, procedures, and forms related to the administration of flexible financial assistance.
6. Describe your community partnerships currently in place to leverage resources and to support survivors’ safety and stability, including landlords, property management companies, community organizations, local businesses, faith communities, housing/homeless organizations, etc.

For any questions about this application, please contact Sarah Kendall at sarah@wscadv.org.