

HOUSING FIRST: WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS?

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You need commitment from board and staff. They need to talk about domestic violence and be familiar with communities being served. Be culturally competent and sensitive to the communities with a commitment to understanding and to respect. Meet clients where they are and listen to them. Respect them.

PRADEEPTA UPADHYAY,
Executive Director, InterIm Community Development Association

INTRODUCTION

Do you care deeply about safe and stable housing for survivors? Are you committed to survivor-driven advocacy and listening to what survivors say they want and need? This paper is designed as a useful tool for your planning process. The goal is to share, from the perspectives of agencies implementing housing first for survivors, how they integrated housing first into their service model, the challenges they faced, and how this model can be sustained. Throughout this paper, you will see first-person advice from agency management and advocate staff who adopted this approach.

COMMITMENT

CULTURE

COMMUNITY

THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING INSTABILITY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Early efforts of the Battered Women's Movement to create safe and confidential locations for those abused by intimate partners resulted in the limited visibility of survivors. Secret locations for shelters and the deep value of confidentiality and privacy were critical to providing safety, healing, and connection with other survivors. It was assumed that once their autonomy and agency were restored or created, survivors could confidently move forward with important decisions related to legal needs, parenting, employment, and housing.

For many, this was a life-saving response and provided the immediate support that was needed. But for many others, it was only a temporary reprieve—particularly for those already living in poverty, for those rooted in isolated rural or culturally specific communities, and for those severely traumatized by a lifetime of abuse and caught in a continuing cycle of violence.

Domestic violence advocates became aware of the housing instability and cycles of homelessness that survivors and their children were facing. They began to expand their quest for funding beyond shelters to include transitional housing programs and bridges to other housing resources. Barriers to permanent housing opportunities were often presented when programs and community members asserted that survivors should meet certain expectations related to safety, healing, economic stability, or sobriety.





Meet clients where they are. Open conversations with, ‘What do you want?’ Trust survivors to tell you what they need, then help them discern what they want. Trust in advocates. Get used to saying yes instead of no.

BECCA KORBY,
Former Executive Director, Healthy Families of Clallam County



HOUSING FIRST

Housing first establishes that housing is a human right. It prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, guided by the belief that people need a place to live before they can realistically attend to things like getting a job, budgeting, addressing substance abuse issues, or fully engaging in mental health treatment and healing from trauma. The housing first approach centers consumer choice in housing selection and supportive services participation. It does not require people experiencing homelessness to address their problems or graduate through a series of services programs before they can access housing. Instead, services are offered throughout the process of identifying housing and securing housing. This approach can benefit individuals and families, and it has been particularly effective with vulnerable populations such as chronically homeless individuals.


SUCCESS OF A HOUSING FIRST APPROACH FOR DV SURVIVORS

Cohort 1: The Seed Planters

In 2009, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the Foundation) approached the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) to inquire about a small pilot program to test whether a housing first approach could be successfully adapted for survivors of domestic violence and their children. This invitation was based on WSCADV's unique position of convening time and space for domestic violence programs around the state. WSCADV strives to improve how communities respond to domestic violence and to support the domestic violence programs that serve Washington State communities. Four agencies were selected to implement a housing first approach as part of their work with survivors. In addition to project coordination, WSCADV staff worked with the cohort and the Foundation program officer to identify the necessary housing first adaptations related to domestic violence and safety within a context of culture and community size.

Cohort 2: The Pilot Project Expands

The creativity of the original four agencies and the promising results with the housing first approach in both housing access and homelessness prevention led to a second cohort of nine agencies added in 2011. Agencies in both cohorts received individual awards of \$250,000 spread over three years. The Foundation required that half of the funds be used for flexible financial assistance for survivors to use in whatever ways they identified as most beneficial for their personal housing stability and family well-being.



Meet survivors where they are with compassion. The look on someone's face when they feel like you've heard them... accepted them...they know they won't be beat up emotionally. With mobile advocacy, you can show up with people at places they need to go. Build community partnerships. Build networks within communities.

ANN SIMPSON, Executive Director, Mariposa House



THE EVOLUTION OF HOUSING FIRST FOR SURVIVORS

Twice each year, the pilot organizations gathered as a cohort at the Foundation campus. These learning communities combined facilitated conversations with expert presentations, resource opportunities, training, and data updates. In addition to these cohort learning communities, the three tribal programs in Cohort 2 also gathered annually, with facilitation by Victoria Ybanez of Red Wind Consulting.


During these learning community conversations, the service model evolved.

CORE SERVICES	EMERGING HOUSING FIRST	FINAL THREE PILLARS
Hotline Shelter Support Groups Legal Advocacy	Tailored Services Mobile Advocacy Temporary Financial Assistance Housing Search Support Landlord Education	Survivor-Driven, Trauma-Informed Mobile Advocacy Flexible Financial Assistance Community Engagement

Passionate conversations insisted on survivor-driven services—tailored to and rooted in the autonomy and choice of each survivor. Work with trainers on both historical and personal trauma brought trauma-informed services into the first pillar. The advocacy was framed as mobile—in the community rather than in a facility or office. As the stories about survivor choice with financial assistance became an emotional part of our time together, temporary financial assistance became flexible financial assistance as a second pillar. This emphasis demonstrated the empowering impact on survivors when they determined how they could best use funds to benefit themselves and their children. A third pillar emerged from the work with housing search and landlord education. Both were deemed incredibly important; however, our cohort conversations were revealing how vital community was to those who had been isolated and often cut off from it. This pillar grew from simply being about housing and landlord engagement to community services, resources, and a social network.

The platform of housing options depended upon the creativity of advocates, the determination of survivors, and the resources and funding for available housing.





Oh, my God! It is necessary! It (Flexible Financial Assistance) has to happen and be integrated into everything you do. Have conversations—every program needs flexible funds. Think of the ways the funding could make a difference.

BARBARA LANGDON, Former Executive Director, LifeWire

DV HOUSING FIRST: THE DEMONSTRATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT

When the pilot project ended in 2014, the promising [evaluation summaries](#)—along with enthusiasm from survivors and advocates about the benefits of the advocacy and flexible financial assistance—led to another Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation investment in a five-year demonstration and research project. With a service model in hand, the next step was to demonstrate the flexibility of this housing first service approach for programs and for survivors.

This opportunity was developed by WSCADV staff as training, technical assistance, and flexible funding for agencies that applied together as a self-defined region. It was an exploration of the concept of regionalization, where agencies would come together, develop a shared vision, and coordinate a plan to address the needs of survivors in the community together. Each region's agencies were encouraged to coordinate with other systems in their shared communities to improve resources and access for survivors. Both the South Central region in eastern Washington and the King County region in western Washington submitted successful applications for the demonstration and research project. The South Central region is predominantly rural, with a number of Latinx communities, and the King County region is urban, with many diverse communities in its service area.

With the promising potential of this work, the Foundation made an initial investment in evaluation funding in the hope it would attract additional funding.



DV HOUSING FIRST (DVHF) AGENCIES

The 18 agencies involved in the pilot and demonstration projects included both rural and urban settings and were scattered across the state. Three programs that participated in the pilot cohorts also became part of the regional demonstration project. Most were nonprofits: three were tribal programs and part of their tribe's services, whereas one was under the umbrella of its county government.

- 13 were domestic violence agencies, with hotline, emergency shelter, support groups, and legal advocacy
- 8 programs had transitional housing
- 10 programs, including the three tribal programs, offered domestic violence, sexual assault, and crime victim services
- 2 domestic violence programs with emergency shelter components were part of larger multi-service/housing organizations
- 2 small rural programs were also their community's housing/homeless provider

There were culturally specific programs that served the urban Seattle immigrant refugee population, Latinx populations in the Lower Yakima Valley, and the LGBTQ population in King County. Several programs had strong relationships with the tribes in their area. (See the appendix for a brief description of each agency and its community/service area.)

AGENCY STATUS OF DVHF AT PROJECT'S END

During the life of this project, most agencies remained stable, although some went through significant changes in executive leadership and board membership. Two agencies dissolved, and the services they had provided were absorbed by other agencies. COVID-19 had a significant impact on several agencies during the final two years of the demonstration and research project, as they struggled with staffing and adequate coverage for services. Providing mobile advocacy was a challenge but advocates adapted creatively to connect with and support survivors.

In 2022, during the project's final months, WSCADV staff conducted either in-person or remote interviews with program staff that had been part of the DV Housing First project implementation in their agencies. Out of the participating 18 agencies:

- 11 fully integrated the DV Housing First approach into their service delivery model and continue to utilize the three pillars
- 2 needed to pause for conversation and staff healing before they could get on track for integration of DV Housing First
- 3 discontinued the use of the approach
- 2 closed, and their services were picked up by other agencies



IMPLEMENTING AND INTEGRATING A DV HOUSING FIRST APPROACH: WHAT FACILITATED THE SUCCESS?

PILLARS

PROCESS

PLAN

Pillars

Conversations at each agency level, starting with staff, are critical in discussing each of the final three pillars. Planning, implementing, evaluating, and making improvements are key to the sustainability of this approach.

FIRST PILLAR: MOBILE ADVOCACY—SURVIVOR-DRIVEN AND TRAUMA-INFORMED

How else would we do it?! This was the first response to mobile advocacy from the rural and culturally specific programs. Both urban and rural culturally specific programs with little sheltering capacity were accustomed to sending advocates out into communities to meet survivors where they were—literally and figuratively. They considered this a critical part of their work.

Rural program staff, like culturally specific program staff, were an integral part of the community they served. While all had small emergency sheltering options, the core of their work with survivors was mobile and deeply rooted in the community with community partners. One agency director expressed surprise over the challenges identified by other directors within the cohort. For her, mobile advocacy was just guided by the advocates.

Survivor-driven or client-centered advocacy is a service expectation for Washington State–funded domestic violence programs. As domestic violence programs have developed a greater understanding of trauma and trauma impacts, the shape of the advocacy response has grown to include the impacts of trauma on survivors’ autonomy, healing, and needs.

Each agency has grappled with trauma-informed care to varying degrees. Trusting and believing in survivors who have been particularly impacted by historical and personal trauma can be challenging. Advocates can be protective about survivors’ readiness for independence and are sometimes cynical about the survival strategies that survivors might use. One rural program, Mariposa House (formerly Forks Abuse Program), has intentionally focused on trauma-informed work with staff, clients, and community members.



SECOND PILLAR: FLEXIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—THE GAME CHANGER

Total flexibility of funds was the most important piece of flexible financial assistance. Survivors identified what they needed for safety and stability for themselves and their children, and advocates were able to provide the funds necessary to support those needs. This was a game changer, best described by agency staff as bringing hope to survivors. For many, it was life-changing.

“

It's been transformational!

LETICIA GARCIA, Executive Director, Lighthouse

It changed the culture and fabric of this agency.

BECCA KORBY, Former Executive Director, Healthy Families of Clallam County

It changed our job. We were encouraged to make mistakes and to embrace complete flexibility.

NEW HOPE ADVOCATES

The decision is with the survivor—tell us what you need.

AGENCY ADVOCATES

”

THIRD PILLAR: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT—BEYOND OUTREACH

Human connection and healing require not just housing and resources but social networks and social support. Solid community support increases a survivor's ability to retain and thrive in their home. When advocates are a part of the community, it is easier for them to navigate community cultures and norms alongside survivors. Urban mainstream agencies often face the challenge of a lack of connection with the different communities they serve, even though advocates regularly do outreach.

Process

COMMITMENT TEAM MEETINGS	CULTURE AGENCY	COMMUNITY KNOW IT. BE PART OF IT.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine current service practice and discuss in meetings and individually• Carefully research options for DV Housing First and ask:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How would it impact the agency?- How would it improve responses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team collaboration• Cohesive approaches• Mutually respectful• Trauma-informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural• Urban• Culturally specific<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Immigrant/refugee- LGBTQ- African American- Latinx- Asian- Faith-based



Plan

BUILD ON EVALUATION

The Domestic Violence Housing First on the WSCADV website now includes the [results of the Demonstration Evaluation Project](#) as well as multiple publications related to qualitative studies. Discuss the evidence that is available and develop implementation and funding strategies accordingly.

CONSIDER THE CHALLENGES

- 1. Awareness.** Everyone in the agency needs to understand how the DV Housing First approach benefits survivors and should be on board—which requires transparency, communication, and open conversation. Training is not necessarily enough; the housing first approach needs to be applied and discussed. Agency leadership, both management staff and board members, needs to understand the commitment being made to survivors. One advocate said there was pushback from other advocates about the way management presented DV Housing First. It felt like a new program in addition to existing work, rather than an approach that could fit into the current framework. Another program had a change in management right before DVHF implementation, and the new management did not fully understand how to implement it, which left staff very confused about what was expected.
- 2. Leadership changes.** When there are leadership changes, it is important to press pause and clarify the service approach for everyone—especially new leadership.
“It’s hard for DVHF to survive when an agency is broken.” ADVOCATE
- 3. Changes in board members and priorities.** At one point, WSCADV staff had to step in and communicate with an agency’s board about housing first and the project. There were other occasions when there was no opportunity to do that.
- 4. The right staff.** One of the first pilot agencies discovered after the first cohort gathering that it did not have the right staff and needed to replace the advocates identified. Staff turnover was often challenging.
“It’s important to have the right staff person with the right temperament with the right training.”
ANN SIMPSON, Executive Director, Mariposa House
- 5. Staff time and capacity.** Planning and scheduling staff time for mobile advocacy and community engagement are crucial tasks. Even if requirements tying advocates to shelter shifts in programs with facilities were eliminated, advocates with their new mobility still did not have enough time for quality work with survivors. Time spent on the road needed to be considered, as did the continuing advocacy needed for newly housed survivors. Caseloads had to be considered and balanced between new requests and continuing support. Fair and equitable compensation for advocates—especially bilingual, bicultural advocates—needed to be factored in. **More trained advocates were needed.**

- 6. Flexible financial assistance—concept and structure.** Many programs were hesitant to spend the money and were often concerned about justifying expenditures to their funders. Sometimes, there were concerns that survivors would not be truthful about their needs or misuse money. Streamlining protocols, developing forms, and tracking receipts required involvement and commitment from finance staff. The larger an agency was, the harder it was to identify streamlined ways to make financial assistance available in a timely manner. Smooth, fast access had to be balanced with a reasonable system of checks and balances.
- 7. Expanding community-based work to build new relationships with landlords and housing providers.** Building new relationships with mutual trust took time. Not all landlords were interested in these new partnerships. Sometimes, the Washington State residential landlord protections for victims were effective, while other landlords were indifferent to the protections—particularly for Native American survivors. Tribal programs struggled to identify new housing for survivors. Housing was not easily available on the reservations and discrimination off-reservation was often an insurmountable barrier. Advocates found that identifying ways to improve the current housing option or create new possibilities out of existing structures and living arrangements was the best they could do.
- 8. Cultural shifts.** For many management and advocacy staff members, the shifts took them outside of their comfort level, leading to some fears and resistance to doing things differently. It took time for advocates who were accustomed to depending on rules to start thinking creatively about distributing funds and helping survivors identify how financial assistance and advocacy could bring new hope.
- 9. Funders not always on board.** There were often funding restrictions by population, which for some agencies included the geographic service area. There were also restrictions on financial assistance even if it was part of the contract. The value of trusting survivors conflicted with some funders, who wanted proof of need and sometimes disputed the necessity of what was needed. More funding resources tended to be available for urban programs, whereas rural program directors had to be creative in addition to being well-known and respected within their communities.
- 10. Other sources for flexible financial assistance after the original grant money was spent.** When the Gates funding was gone, agency directors were not always able to identify the necessary resources to continue the housing first approach.

Learning how to address these barriers was key to implementation.

TAKING THE RECOMMENDED STEPS TO SUSTAIN HOUSING FIRST FOR SURVIVORS

Strong organizational leadership and commitment to the three pillars is what it takes to sustain the housing first approach. Directors and lead staff from most of the DVHF organizations had immediate responses for sustaining what they saw as a valuable support for survivors.

- 1. Prioritize and clearly communicate survivor-driven advocacy as the foundation for work with survivors.**
- 2. Write a service approach that includes survivor-driven mobile advocacy and flexible funds into all funding contracts.**
- 3. Incorporate the three pillars into the agency's core priorities, its way of being and operating.** Document. Redo the mission statement. Leave a record and standard operating procedures. Make them a part of the agency's branding and giving back to the community.
- 4. Staff cohesiveness—sticking together and staying firm in the DVHF approach.** Good buy-in from staff requires input from the beginning so that they feel like it is theirs. This is a priority and not an afterthought. Agency culture needs to be built on survivor-driven advocacy services, with a common understanding of what that means.
- 5. Have good leadership.** Put procedures in place so everyone knows what is done and what can be done. There must be a common vision—not just the director's vision.
- 6. A good business approach requires business literacy.** Funders want to know that the agency makes a difference and how it contributes to the community.
- 7. Succession planning.** It is up to the director to see that staff are empowered and everyone knows what the plans are. Lead people into the next chapter and build them up for success.



- 8. Conversation—lots of it—is huge!** Get everyone on the same page about housing first as a continuing goal. Educate both board and staff and encourage conversation about the benefits of the three pillars of flexible financial assistance, mobile advocacy, and community engagement. Make sure this becomes a part of the agency culture and is talked about in the board of directors training and leadership training, and with both elected officials and funders.
- 9. Provide continuing education on why this approach matters** aimed at board members, advocates, and the finance team. The board should be knowledgeable about the agency and its services and just as committed to the mission and values as the director and staff. This approach depends on commitment from both board and staff. If the vision is not there and shared, it will be difficult to sustain.
- 10. Community support is vital.** Agency board and staff must be committed to understanding and respecting the communities—ideally, being an integral part of the community that is being served.
- 11. Include housing first in the agency’s 5-year strategic plan and organize it around the agency’s core values.**
- 12. Trust survivors to know what they need.** This should be the foundation of agency culture.
- 13. Remember why the program is there.** Help the survivors who need it, no matter what their background might be.



BE INSPIRED: WHAT THE STORIES TELL US AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THOSE WHO HAVE DONE IT!

“

Just do it.

CIARA MURPHY, Domestic Violence Program Director, The Salvation Army NW

Talk to agencies that have adopted the approach. Take the opportunity to hear firsthand the difference it makes for survivors and for staff. If agencies are really listening to survivors, they'll hear that this (approach) aligns with what survivors need. Look at the data! The evidence is there! Know that you're not alone in the journey. Values should mesh with values espoused.

SUSAN SEGALL, Former Executive Director, New Beginnings

Always be thinking about funding the program. Have the info that it works (evidence-based). Ask people what their concerns are.

JACKIE BROWN, Morrow Manor Manager, YWCA Kitsap County

Be open-minded. Get a mentor (someone who has done the work) for leadership. Lean into support. Encourage regular communication and staffing. It's okay to make mistakes. Include 'thinking outside the box' in training. Meet clients where they are at.

SUZI FODE, Program Director, New Hope

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It's important to get everyone on the same page about the value of the program and how this important work should be done. You really need to take the time on the front end and ask what the value of survivor-driven advocacy means. Take the time for conversations at the beginning. Clarify your values and grounding principles. You will lean on them over time as questions come up. Root yourselves in those principles and values.

AMARINTHIA TORRES, Former Staff at Northwest Network

This model is very integral in the healing process for survivors. It really relies on the right kind of staffing and right kind of funding.

SUNDUS BAIG, Former DV Housing First Supervisor, InterIm CDA

Serve as many people as you can. Help them move forward. Be gentle. Listen to their story. Stand with them, not above them. Put yourself in their shoes.

NIKKI FINKBONNER, Former Program Manager, Lummi Victims of Crime

Listen to victims. Try to find a yes before going to no. If you hit a wall, you must find another way. No isn't an option.

CATHLEEN KINTNER-CHRISTIE, Director, Kalispel Tribe Victim Assistance Services Program

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CONCLUSION

Domestic Violence Housing First as an approach to housing stability and safety for survivors and their children was successfully implemented in 18 agencies in Washington State. While the approach did not prove successful in all instances, the potential to make a fresh start and try again is always there. These agencies were scattered throughout the state: large and small, urban and rural. They all reflect their communities in one way or another. There was no perfect agency or agency profile, but the agencies already practicing mobile advocacy in their communities tended to be the most immediately successful. Stellar agency work could dramatically dim with a change in leadership. All of them wanted to do the best they could for survivors of domestic violence. No matter the rocks and bumps along the way, the consistent chorus from agency leadership and advocates was, “Just do it.”





APPENDIX

WSCADV'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST AGENCIES

Pilot Agencies—Cohort 1

- 1. Eastside Domestic Violence Program (EDVP)/LifeWire (2010–2012; 2015–2021).** One of the first four agencies to pilot a DVHF approach (2010–2012) LifeWire was also one of the King County region agencies participating in the demonstration project (2015–2019) and was a research site (2017–2021). It is in Bellevue and serves the urban, suburban, and rural areas of east King County. In addition to its crisis line, support groups, community, and legal advocacy program, LifeWire provides emergency shelter and transitional housing for survivors needing support with both substance abuse treatment/sobriety and safety. It provides additional shelter and housing programs through a network of hotel rooms, volunteer safe homes, and rental assistance in apartments.
- 2. Family Resource Center (FRC) of Lincoln County (2010–2012).** The FRC office, emergency shelter, and housing programs were located in Davenport, the seat of Lincoln County, the fifth least-populous county in the state. The county is in rural eastern Washington, has an economy dominated by wheat production, and shares its northern border with the Spokane Indian Reservation. Within a couple of years of the project end, FRC closed, and the county's domestic violence, sexual assault, and housing services were taken over by Rural Resources in Colville, Stevens County.
- 3. Womencare Shelter (2010–2012).** Womencare Shelter's services were focused on emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence. The shelter program had also committed to operating within a network of housing service providers organized by Whatcom County Homeless Services. The community served includes Bellingham, rural Whatcom County, the Nooksack Indian Tribe community, and Lummi Nation. The partnership between the domestic violence shelter program and Whatcom County Homeless Services was so solid that the directors of each agency co-wrote the proposal and participated in regularly scheduled cohort meetings. Shortly after the project ended, Womencare Shelter merged with Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County.
- 4. YWCA of Kitsap County (2010–2012).** The YWCA's main office and emergency shelter are in Bremerton, with other office locations and transitional housing facilities scattered throughout Kitsap County. There are several medium-size towns in Kitsap County (including Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo). It is a community with strong ties to the U.S. Navy through the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Naval Base Kitsap. Bainbridge Island, also a part of Kitsap County, is a bedroom community for Seattle through its regular ferry service. Kitsap County is home to the Port Madison Indian Reservation (Suquamish) and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Indian Reservation.

Pilot Agencies—Cohort 2

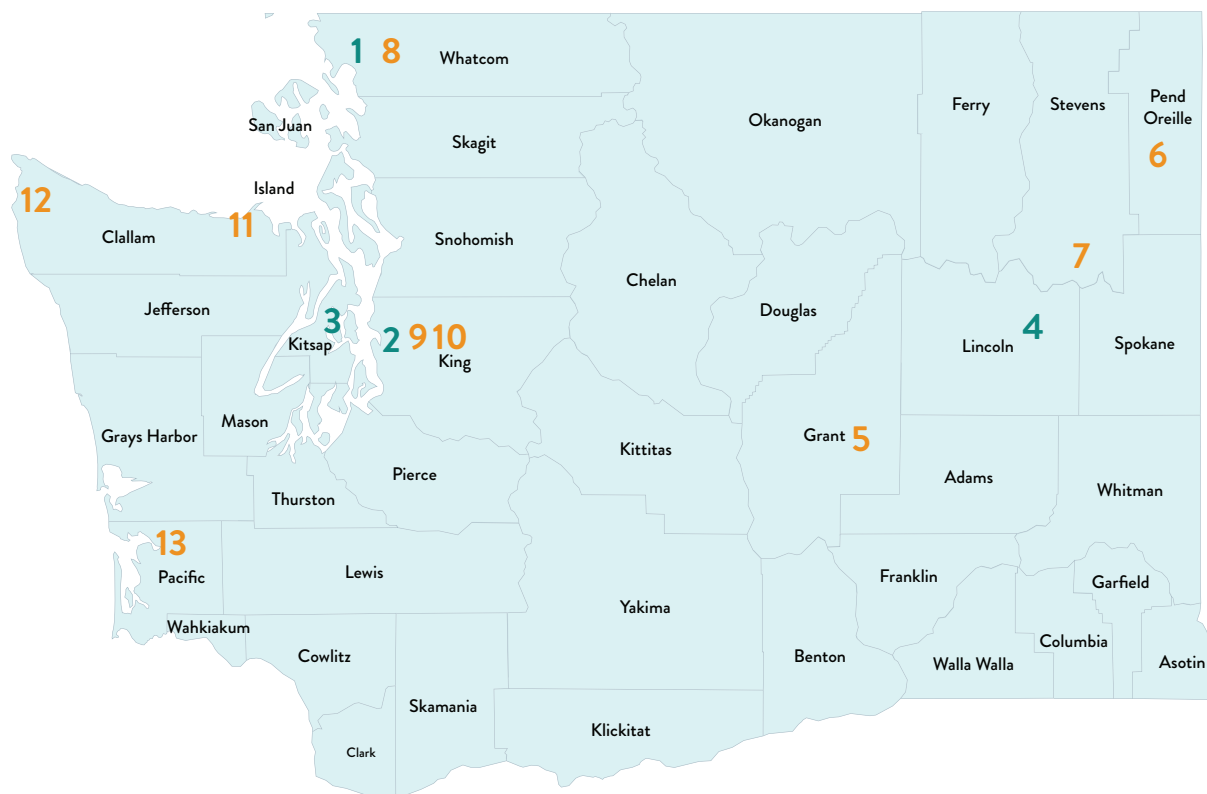
5. **Crisis Support Network (CSN)** is in rural Pacific County, on the southern Washington coast. Although the area attracts seasonal tourists, it is an economically depressed county with few resources. It has a small but significant Latinx population who work on the oyster farms and in the fisheries. Pacific County is also home to the Shoalwater Bay Tribe. CSN provides domestic violence, sexual assault, and crime victim services and has recently added a Children’s Advocacy Center. Shelter capacity is limited, but the agency does provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing for survivors.
- 6-7. **Healthy Families of Clallam County and Mariposa House** (formerly Forks Abuse Program) shared one of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grants. Both programs are located on the western part of the Olympic Peninsula. Forks is very small and is in an isolated rural area surrounded by National Park Service land (including the Hoh Rain Forest), ocean beaches, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Mariposa House has its office and emergency shelter in Forks. Healthy Families has offices in Port Angeles and Sequim and offers scattered site emergency shelter units as well as a transitional housing program. Both agencies have domestic violence, sexual assault, and crime victim services. Healthy Families also has a Child Advocacy Center. The service area is home to the Makah, Quileute, Hoh River, Jamestown S’Klallam, and Lower Elwah S’Klallam Tribes.
8. **InterIm Community Development Association (CDA)** is a nonprofit affordable housing and community development organization based in Seattle’s Chinatown/International District. The organization provides multilingual, culturally sensitive housing-related and community-building services to Asian, Pacific Islander, and immigrant and refugee communities. It provides emergency/transitional housing for domestic violence survivors through scattered site individual apartment units. InterIm CDA is one of the King County region demonstration projects (2015–2019).
9. **Kalispel Tribe of Indians** includes within its Tribal Court a domestic violence, sexual assault, and crime victim services program. The reservation is in rural Pend Oreille County (eastern Washington), roughly 55 miles north of Spokane. There is no emergency shelter, but efforts are being made to construct tiny home shelter units. Many tribal members reside in Spokane, where the tribe has a presence with services and support. Hotels are used for emergency shelter.

10. Lummi Victims of Crime is on the Lummi reservation outside of Bellingham (Whatcom County) on the Salish Sea coast in western Washington. It provides domestic violence, sexual assault, and crime victim services and operates an emergency shelter.

11. New Hope, in Moses Lake (eastern Washington), provides domestic violence (including emergency shelter), sexual assault, and crime victim services in Grant and Adams Counties. New Hope also operates a Child Advocacy Center. Both counties are rural farming communities, with 43% Latinx population in Grant County and 65% Latinx population in Adams County. New Hope is one of the demonstration project sites as part of the South Central region (2015–2019) as well as a research study site (2018–2021).

12. The Salvation Army Northwest Division includes a domestic violence program under its umbrella of services in Seattle. The program operated an emergency shelter before closing it to focus on housing first for survivors and continues to operate a transitional housing/Rapid Rehousing program (HUD Joint Component). Its community advocacy program and services are located close to downtown Seattle, with 50% of survivors entering the program from marginalized populations, including African American and refugee/immigrant communities.

13. Spokane Tribal Family Violence Program operates under the umbrella of the Spokane Tribe of Indians Department of Health and Human Services. The program's offices are located on the Spokane reservation in Wellpinit, Stevens County, in northeastern Washington. The reservation has 159,000 acres of mostly forested land. The program does not have an emergency shelter—instead, emergency options are in motels close to Spokane, which can be challenging because many survivors do not want to leave the reservation.



COHORT ONE

1. WomenCare,
Bellingham, Whatcom County
2. LifeWire, *Bellevue, King County*
3. Kitsap County YWCA,
Bremerton, Kitsap County
4. Family Resource Center,
Davenport, Lincoln County

COHORT TWO

5. New Hope DV/SA Services,
Moses Lake, Grant & Adams Counties
6. Kalispel Tribe of Indians, *Usk, Pend Oreille County*
7. Spokane Tribe Family Violence,
Wellpinit, Stephens County
8. Lummi Victims of Crime,
Bellingham, Whatcom County
9. Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program,
Seattle, King County
10. InterimCDA, *Seattle, King County*
11. Healthy Families of Clallum County,
Port Angeles, Clallam County
12. Forks Abuse Program, *Forks, Clallam County*
13. Crisis Support Network, *Raymond, Pacific County*

DEMONSTRATION AND RESEARCH PROJECT AGENCIES (2015–2019; 2016–2021)

South Central Region

14. The Lighthouse—Advocacy, Prevention, and Education Center (previously known as Lower Valley Crisis and Support Services) provides sexual assault, domestic violence, and emergency shelter and housing advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence in the lower valley part of Yakima County in Central Washington. The Lighthouse was one of the five research study sites. Offices are in Sunnyside and Toppenish (on the Yakama Nation’s reservation). In both Sunnyside and Toppenish, Hispanic/Latinx people of any race comprise roughly 82.6% of the population. The area is agricultural, with a growing wine industry.

15. The YWCA-Yakima provides services primarily for domestic violence survivors. It operates an emergency shelter and transitional housing program and works with the Yakima Housing Authority to provide housing vouchers for survivors through partnerships with landlords. The YWCA was selected as one of the research study sites. Yakima is the county seat for Yakima County, which is primarily an agricultural region where fruits, vegetables, and most of the nation’s hops are grown. Many residents have come to the valley out of economic necessity and participate in the picking, processing, marketing, and support services for the agricultural economy. Forty-one percent of the population in Yakima is Hispanic/Latinx.

16. New Hope (see description under pilot agencies, cohort 2)

17. Domestic Violence Services of Benton-Franklin County (DVSBF) provides a wide range of services for domestic violence survivors, including emergency shelter. This two-county area is known for the Tri-Cities of Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco. Roughly 31% of the Tri-Cities population is Latinx/Hispanic, which is the largest minority population. Many of these families are clustered in Pasco. DVSBF has its offices in Kennewick and an emergency shelter in Richland. Plans are underway to develop office space in Pasco.

King County

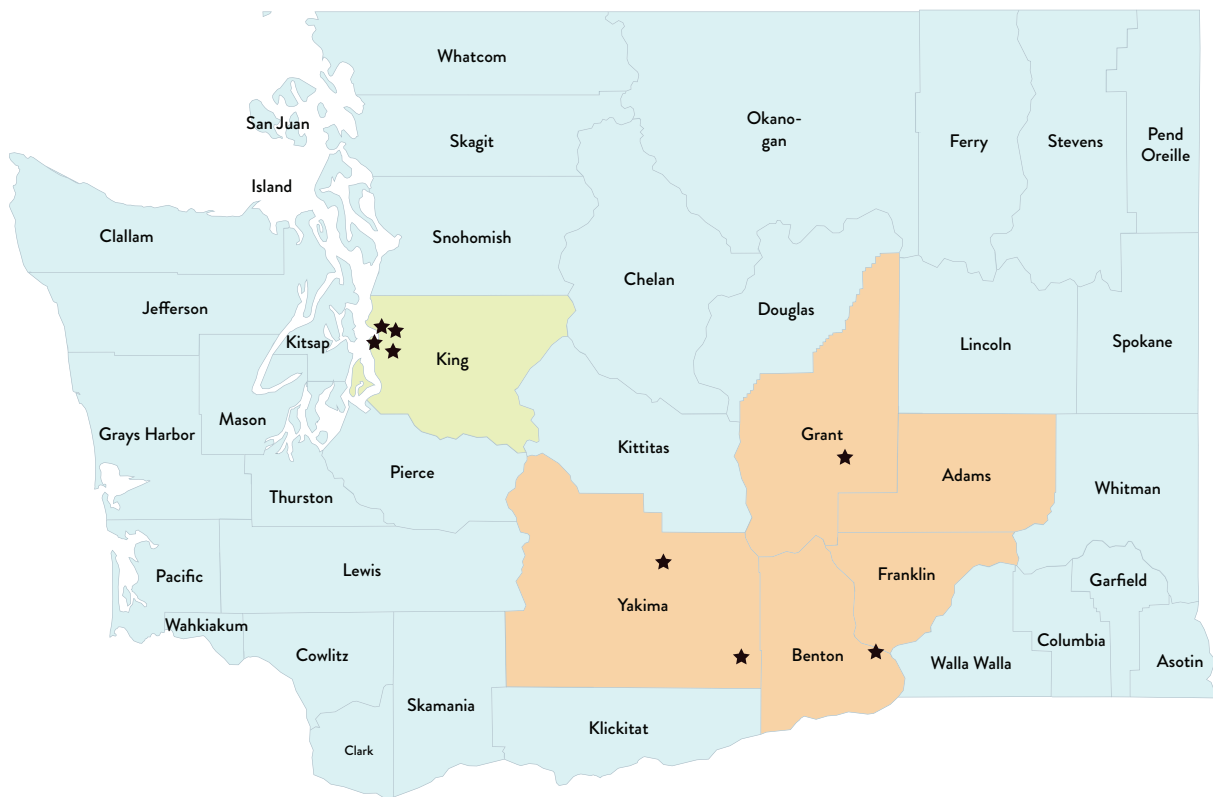
18. New Beginnings is a large domestic violence services agency in Seattle. It was founded in 1976 and serves over 10,000 women, children, and men each year. In addition to its community-based advocacy, support groups, legal advocacy, and helpline, it offers short-term residential housing in individual apartments and rapid rehousing rental assistance. New Beginnings is one of the research study sites in the King County region.

19. The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian, and Gay Survivors of Abuse supports queer and trans survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, hate violence, and stalking. It is in Seattle.

20. LifeWire (see pilot agencies)

21. InterIm CDA (see pilot agencies)

King County is the most populous county in Washington, with 2,269,675 people in the 2020 census. It includes urban, suburban, and rural communities. It is home to the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and the Muckleshoot tribal groups. The population in the 2020 census was 54.2% white, 19.8% Asian, 10.7% Hispanic or Latinx, 6.5% Black or African American, 0.9% Pacific Islander, 0.5% Native American, and 6.8% mixed. The annual average household income is \$137,194, while the median household income is \$100,955 per year.



KING COUNTY

LifeWire

New Beginnings

Northwest Network of BLTG Survivors of Abuse

Interim Community Development Association

SOUTHEAST CENTRAL REGION

YWCA

DV Services of Boston & Franklin Counties

New Hope DV/SA Services

The Lighthouse