

preventing homelessness among domestic violence survivors and their families: a virtual briefing on the domestic violence housing first model

**Sponsored by Blue Shield of California Foundation and California Partnership to
End Domestic Violence**

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introduction



Lucia Corral Peña
Senior Program Officer
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welcome



Senator Susan Rubio
22nd Senate District
Eastern Los Angeles County

addressing dv and homelessness



Lucia Corral Peña
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dvhf evaluation highlights



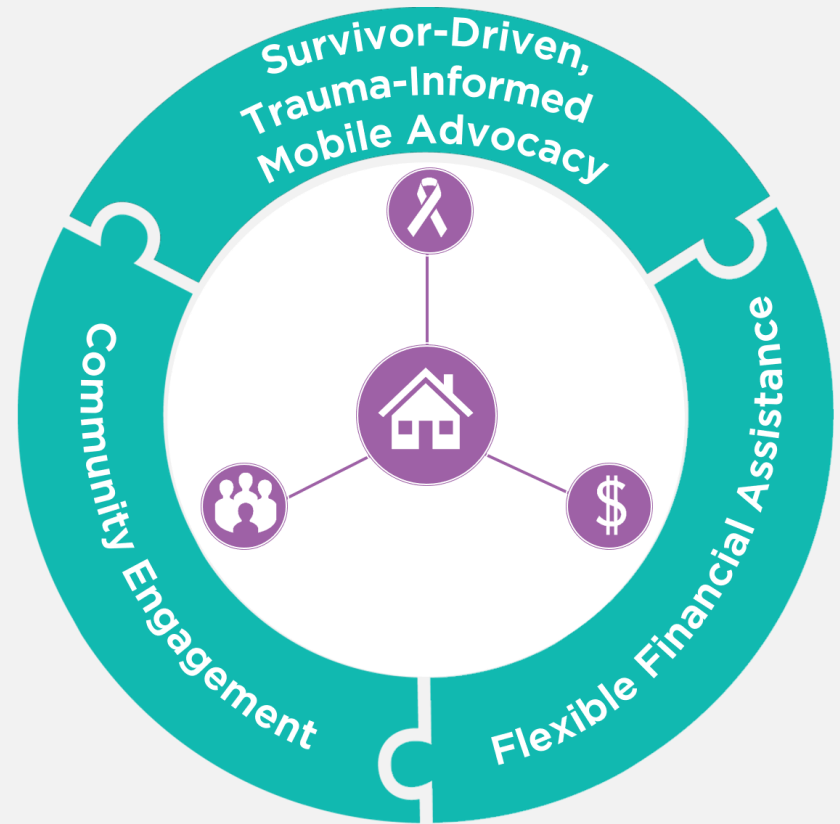
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- California Governor's Office for Emergency Services (CalOES)
- California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
- All participating agencies' staff, advocates, leadership & community partners
- All survivors who shared their stories and contributed their time and expertise
- MSU Research Consortium on Gender-based Violence's Research Team

DV HOUSING FIRST

Core Components of
the Model



SURVIVOR-DRIVEN, TRAUMA- INFORMED MOBILE ADVOCACY

- Advocates focus on addressing the needs **identified by survivors** rather than on pre-determined needs promoted by agencies
- Advocates are **mobile**, meeting survivors where it is safe and convenient for them
- Advocates engage in **trauma-informed practice**

FLEXIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

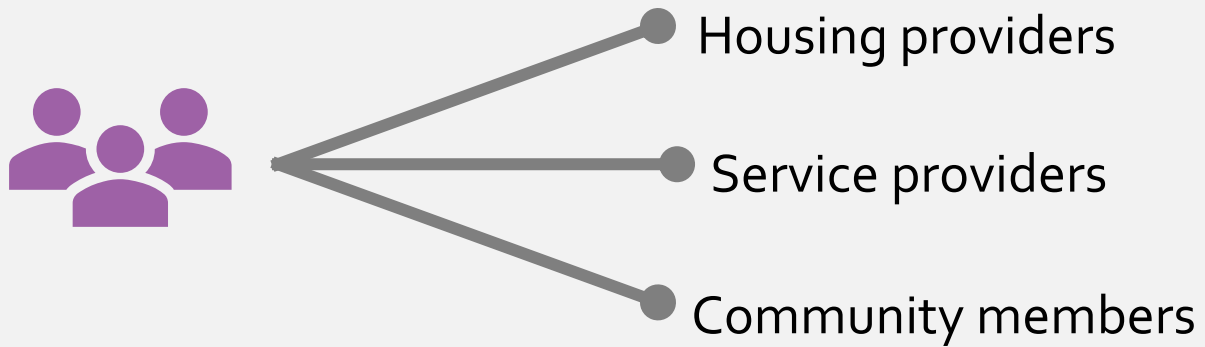


Directly related
to housing



AND funds critical
for housing stability

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



DV HOUSING FIRST IN CALIFORNIA



- 19 agencies tracked their use of flexible funding & distributed identical Client Feedback Surveys
- 36 DV Housing First participants were interviewed 4 times over a 9-month period
- Interviews with key community partners
- Examination of one DV organization implementing the model

FLEXIBLE FUNDING



925 survivors



Disbursements ranged
From \$0.50 to \$6,385

On average, survivors received **4 payments**, about **\$3,000** in total

HOUSING IMPACT



58%
Prevented
Homelessness

Of those →

46%
Stayed in
Their Homes

"I was on the verge of becoming homeless. Thanks to the [DVHF] program, I am able to keep a roof over my children's heads."

HOUSING IMPACT



40%

Obtained New
Housing

*"They helped me with my deposit, furniture, and beds, living room set, dinner set, and dressers. They help me with diapers and clothing for my 1-year old. **We have not had any of these items in years.**"*

PARTICIPANTS FELT THEIR ADVOCATE...



95% Very focused on their strengths



92% Flexible about where they met



90% Helped reach their housing goals

PUTTING THE MODEL INTO PRACTICE

Flexible Financial Assistance: Homeless to Housed

Mariela (not her real name) was homeless when she started working with a non-profit agency in Los Angeles. The agency supported her with DV Housing First flexible financial assistance to pay for move-in costs and first month's rent of her new housing. The following month, she needed financial support for furniture assistance and rental assistance in order to stay in her new home. Due to changing circumstances and need, three months later, Mariela received help with move-in costs for a new home. Due to the flexibility and immediate disbursement of the funds, Mariela and her family avoided moving back into homelessness and were able to move into another home. In total, Mariela received about \$5,000 in five separate payments to support her in her journey toward housing stability.

PUTTING THE MODEL INTO PRACTICE

Flexible Financial Assistance: Stay in their Own Home

Ana (not her real name) was housed and wished to stay in her home. She worked with a non-profit agency in the greater San Francisco area to receive advocacy and financial support to help her stay in her home. Her first four payments were across four months and helped her with utility and rental debt, as well as basic needs for food and gas. This debt assistance helped her catch up with rent. The following month, she received funds to help with her current month's rent. Due to changing circumstances, she received help with rent two months later; and in another two months, she received help with her utilities. She received about \$3,000 over eight separate payments to cover these costs. Due to this support, she was able to avoid any unwanted moves and stay in her home.

PARTICIPANTS' PERCEPTIONS

*"I'm paid up until July and I'm **stable and safe** and there's no reason for me not to stay [in current housing]. It means that I can close my door and my kids have a safe bed to sleep, a warm bed to sleep, they have food if they're hungry, they have entertainment, they don't need for anything...they're good."*

PARTICIPANTS' PERCEPTIONS

*"Thanks to this program I have a place to live for me and my two kids. Thanks to this program I have settled other costs that were not in my plans. **Thanks to this program I have been able to survive everything.** They have also taught me to carry and manage my money better."*

LESSONS LEARNED & IMPLICATIONS

- **Flexible financial assistance** can be critical to effectively help survivors and their families **prevent homelessness** and maintain housing stability
- Advocates' ability to pair **flexible funds** with **trauma-informed, survivor-driven mobile advocacy** is essential to help survivors obtain and maintain housing
- Leadership and staff must implement **proactive and responsive strategies** to establish and maintain relationships with community partners
- An organizational structure that allows for **flexible work schedules** and promotes **ongoing training and staff support** is key to successfully implement the model

q&a on the evaluation

dvhf panel



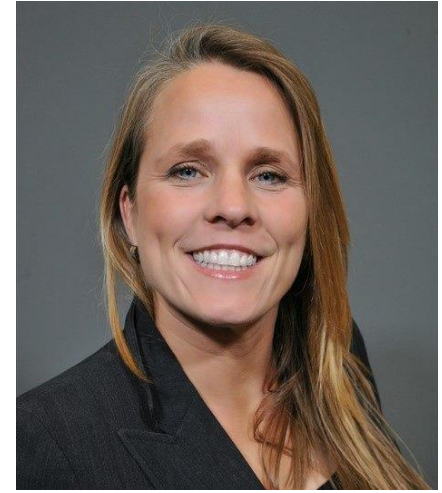
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My Sister's House



Jessica Bartholow
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panel reaction



Krista Niemczyk
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panel q&a

thank you!

to access materials related to today's briefing, visit:
www.blueshieldcafoundation.org/housing

