

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



HOUSING FIRST MODEL

3 main pillars to help promote housing stability, well-being, and safety for survivors and their families:



FLEXIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



SURVIVOR-DRIVEN, TRAUMA-INFORMED, MOBILE ADVOCACY



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MULTIPRONGED EVALUATION OF DV HOUSING FIRST MODEL IN CA

By 2017, the Victim Services and Public Safety Branch of the California Governor's Office for Emergency Services (Cal OES) had funded a total of 33 non-profit agencies across the state to implement the DV Housing First model. California is also the first state to dedicate federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds toward DV Housing First.

THE EVALUATION INCLUDED:

- 1 A **statewide evaluation** tracking the implementation of DV Housing First flexible funding for 19 of the 33 agencies implementing the program.
- 2 An **in-depth longitudinal evaluation** of Rainbow Services, a Los Angeles-based organization implementing the DV Housing First model.
- 3 An **examination of the community engagement** pillar of the DV Housing First model.
- 4 A **review of NEWS**, a DV agency serving as an exemplar of the implementation of the three DV Housing First pillars.

EVALUATION KEY FINDINGS

STATEWIDE EVALUATION | Agencies tracked **\$3,002,355.48** in flexible funds distributed to **925** survivors over the course of 21 months:

- 4,010 payments were made to support survivors' unique needs
- Rental assistance accounted for **only 62% of the total funding**, while the rest was used for a wide range of expenses
- 58% of survivors** used funds to prevent homelessness

Agencies distributed **273 anonymous client feedback surveys** in English (59%), Spanish (29%), and Korean (12%)

- 95%** reported feeling that their advocate was very focused on their strengths
- 92%** felt their advocate was flexible about where they met
- 90%** reported their advocate helped them reach their housing goals

LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION | **36 survivors** receiving services from Rainbow Services participated in four interviews across nine months:

- Services were **uniquely tailored** such that regardless of degree of need or unique circumstances everyone reported their needs were met.
- Advocates helped restore a sense of dignity through **survivor-driven, trauma-informed interpersonal interactions**.
- Mutually supportive relationships** are critical for survivors' healing journey after obtaining safe housing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Two Rainbow Services' housing team members** and **five community partners** participated in face-to-face interviews:

- Rainbow Services' leadership and staff implemented **innovative and creative strategies** to establish and maintain relationships with community partners that can provide housing and other support to survivors.
- Proactive and responsive communication** that accounts for the needs of community partners is essential to developing and maintaining trusting collaboration.

DV HOUSING FIRST EXEMPLAR | NEWS' **executive director, program director, housing team advocates, two community partners, and five survivors** participated in face-to-face interviews:

- Each advocate works with a relatively **small number of families** to ensure they provide the services survivors' need to see long-term improvements in their lives.
- NEWS promotes a consideration of **survivors' overall wellbeing and wholeness**.

For more detailed information: Lopez-Zerón, G., Clements, K., Sullivan, C. (2019). *Examining the impact of the Domestic Violence Housing First model in California: A multipronged evaluation*. San Francisco, CA: Blue Shield of California Foundation

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