



Housing for Crime Victims Special Project

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Agenda

- **Welcome!**
- **Introduction to Housing Project**
- **Long-term Housing Models**
- **Funding Opportunity**
 - Program Eligibility
 - Important Reminders
 - **Timeline for Projects**
 - **Letter of Intent**
- **Resources**
- **Questions and Discussion**
- **Thank you!**

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the statewide needs assessment conducted by the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), housing for victims of crime has been identified as a Special Project for use of the new Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. DCJ's Office for Victims Programs (OVP) is working collaboratively with CCADV and a Steering Committee of subject matter experts and stakeholders to address this need by supporting a set of demonstration sites across the state in the implementation of new methods of housing for crime victims.

EVIDENCE-BASED
LONG-TERM
HOUSING
APPROACHES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST (DVHF)



Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

- Started DVHF in 2009 through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Project sites 1st, 2nd cohort began in 2011
- 13 sites total (8 rural, 2 mid-size cities, 3 urban)

Basic components of DVHF:

- Survivor-driven mobile advocacy
- Flexible financial assistance
- Housing stability
- Community engagement

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST

Results:

- **96%** of survivors retained their housing 18 months after entering the DVHF program. Flexible financial assistance and services driven by participants' unique needs allowed advocates to help survivors stay in their current home or access other housing, and then retain that housing.
- **84%** of survivors surveyed strongly agreed that DVHF increased their safety and the safety of their children.
- At final follow-up with participants, **76%** were receiving minimal services from the DVHF program at a low cost to the agency.



<http://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/>

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA OREGON: HOME FREE



Emergency Housing:

- Hotel voucher program (provides 4 times as many families with shelter)
- Scattered site model with community-based mobile advocacy

Long-term Housing:

- Assist to secure long-term housing and to stay there
- Flexible funding
- Community-based mobile advocacy
- Financial subsidy is commonly provided for 6 months to one year
 - Up to 2 years of advocacy

Home Free

- **97%** of households enrolled in Housing First obtain safe housing, with **86%** of these households remaining stably housed one year after exiting services (2003).
- Have assisted a higher proportion of Latino, African-American, and Native American households than Home Free had assisted in its shelter or transitional housing programs.
- In one evaluation, nearly **50%** had a history of mental health disability, and nearly one-third had an alcohol and/or drug history. Majority involved with child welfare system.
- **The findings also indicate that housing instability may be a stronger predictor of negative outcomes than the level of danger to which a family is subject.**



For more information: <http://www.voar.org/home-free>

FLEXIBLE FUNDING WITH BRIEF ADVOCACY

Why flexible funding?

- Access to immediate funds for a variety of needs can prevent homelessness for some victims when paired with housing advocacy and support at a variety of levels
- International aid studies have shown that direct funds to those in need have immediate and long-term positive impacts



**Example: District Alliance for Safe House (DASH)
Program in Washington, DC**

BASIC COMPONENTS/QUESTIONS OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING

- Can any other organization provide this resource?
- Will this grant help this person to retain housing, not just today, but over time?
- Process is victim-centered, accessible, and respectful
- Process is *quick* to respond to urgent situations
- Housing assistance search, time-limited rental assistance
- Home visiting with advocate
- Victim determines services wanted



More info: www.dashdc.org

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT (CAP)



CAP provided some of the earliest evidence for the effectiveness of community-based (mobile) advocacy

Key Components:

- The orientation to the ‘whole person’
- Unconditional validation and acceptance
- Genuinely caring
- Strengths-based
- Action orientation

CAP provided evidence that mobile advocacy leads to:

- Higher social support
- Decreased risk of re-abuse
- Access to needed resources
- Higher quality of life

<https://cap.vaw.msu.edu/>

To Summarize...

- There are many different innovative programs and approaches to housing out there. These are just a few examples.
- There is no 'one size fits all'
- Many of these approaches include: flexible funding, housing assistance and advocacy, and victim-driven mobile advocacy
- Some have more systems advocacy than others
- All of the approaches are based on LISTENING and RESPONDING to what victims are saying they need

Housing for Crime Victims Special Project Funding Opportunity

This is an opportunity for organizations to apply to implement new, innovative approaches to housing for crime victims.

- Projects submitted for funding can propose to add pieces of one of the aforementioned approaches to existing programming.
- Project submitted for funding can be seeking to start programming modeled on the aforementioned approaches.
- Only VOCA-eligible expenses and activities will be funded through this funding opportunity, and funded organizations must comply with all requirements associated with receiving VOCA funds.
- Programs must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by **November 7, 2016** to be eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

DRAFT

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

| Type of Housing Assistance | Eligible under VOCA* | Notes |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Emergency Shelter | Y | |
| Rental Assistance | Y | |
| Hotel stay | Y | |
| Utilities assistance | Y | |
| Short-term Nursing Home Shelters for elder abuse victims | Y | *when no other safe, short-term residence is available |
| Bus tickets/Transportation | Y | |
| Moving Expenses | Y | |
| Relocation | Y | |
| Transitional Housing | Y | |
| These expenses for dependents | Y | |
| Support for a Victim Advocate to serve as a Housing Advocate | Y | Direct services and coordination of services are eligible use |
| Minimal support of supervisor of direct victim services provider | Y | Direct supervisor of Housing Advocate |
| Program Evaluation | Y | |

*Eligibility of expenses are still being discussed and determined by OVP under advisement from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

Housing for Crime Victims Special Project Funding Opportunity

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

- Programs will need to plan for outside more flexible funding sources to support some aspects of the models previously discussed.
- This funding opportunity is not meant to provide support for existing forms of transitional or emergency shelter, unless the project is attempting to implement aspects of the aforementioned housing models, i.e. mobile advocacy, low-barrier program structure, etc.
- In addition, this Project is not stating that current or traditional forms of transitional housing or emergency shelter are not useful and important for crime victims, nor is it seeking to replace these methods. This is an opportunity for programs to try new, promising approaches to helping crime victims obtain long-term housing stability.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

- **September 2016** – Webinar for potential applicants
- **November 7, 2016** – Letter of Intent due
- **December 2016-January 2017** – RFP completed and announced
- **February 2017-RFP's** due
- **March 2017-** Review/scoring of applications and selected sites notified by end of the month
- **April 2017-**Project sites accept and contracts completed
- **May 2017-**Funding begins for 20-month grant cycle (May 1, 2017-December 31, 2018)

Letter of Intent

Agencies interested in applying for grant funds through the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) no later than **November 7, 2016**.

A sample LOI can be found here: www.ccadv.org/housing

LOI's should be sent by the deadline to:

Stevi Gray, Housing Program Manager, CCADV at: sgray@ccadv.org

Letter of Intent

AGENCY LETTERHEAD

Date

Ashley Riley Lopes
Grants Administrator
Office for Victims Programs
700 Kipling St.
Lakewood, CO 80215

Dear Mrs. Riley Lopes:

This letter is to notify you of (*Your Organization*)'s intention to seek a grant of \$X,XXX (*estimated amount*) through the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project.

We plan to request support of...

Briefly describe your project and organization here, how it is aligned with the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project, and answering the questions below:

- 1. What direct victim services to crime victims does your agency currently provide (victims do not have to be involved with the criminal justice system to be eligible for support through this funding opportunity, but must be a victim of a VOCA-eligible crime)?*
- 2. How will your agency provide a cash matchⁱ of up to 25% of the requested amount of funding, if required?*
- 3. How will your agency structure your housing program in a victim-driven, low-barrierⁱⁱⁱ way?*

We would welcome the opportunity to submit a full proposal with additional information for further review.

Sincerely,
(Sign)

Name
Title
Address
Phone Number
E-mail Address

ⁱ Eligible victim types include: Adult Physical Assault, Adult Sexual Assault, Adult Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children, Arson, Bullying (Verbal, Cyber, or Physical), Burglary, Child Physical Abuse or Neglect, Child Pornography, Child Sexual Abuse/Assault, Domestic and/or Family Violence, DUI/DWI Incidents, Elder Abuse or Neglect, Human Trafficking: Labor, Human Trafficking: Sex, Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime, Kidnapping (custodial), Kidnapping (noncustodial), Mass Violence (Domestic/International), Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit & Run), Robbery, Stalking/Harassment, Survivors of Homicide Victims, Teen Dating, Terrorism (Domestic/International), Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other.

ⁱⁱ Cash Match: A specified amount of *non-federal dollars* budgeted for the funded project in addition to the grant award amount. Any items paid for with non-federal dollars are cash match such as personnel expenses.

ⁱⁱⁱ Victim-centered/Victim-driven: Victims lead the process, choose their own goals, and define what is going to be safer for themselves.

Advocates focus on the victim, not the crime.

Low barrier: The aim of low barrier is providing access to services with as few barriers and rules as possible, including screening individuals for services. This often means that people staying in low-barrier shelter, for example, are not expected to abstain from using alcohol, forced to adhere to time limits, or other rules. And individuals are not required to participate in certain activities in order to receive services (e.g. group, counseling, etc).

RESOURCES

➤ Program Sites:

- DVHF: <http://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/>
- Home Free: <http://www.voaor.org/home-free>
- DASH: www.dashdc.org
- CAP: <https://cap.vaw.msu.edu/>

➤ National Resources:

- National Alliance to End Homelessness: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/>
- National Network to End Domestic Violence: www.nnedv.org
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc: <http://www.collaborative-solutions.net/>
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence: www.nrcdv.org

➤ Stevi Gray, Housing Program Manager:

- sgray@ccadv.org
- 303-962-3321
- [Ccadv.org/housing](http://ccadv.org/housing)

DISCUSSION AND QUESTION TIME!



➤ Type your comment or questions in the Chat or Question box

Thank you!

Questions?

We encourage you to reach out to Stevi to discuss any questions you may have regarding the housing models presented here. Any questions regarding the requirements of the funding opportunity can also be sent to Stevi to be reviewed and addressed by Ashley and the Steering Committee.

A copy of this Webinar along with questions and responses asked following the webinar will be available next week online at: www.ccadv.org/housing

The slides will be sent out via e-mail to participants following the webinar. This webinar is also being recorded and will be posted here later today: www.ccadv.org/housing

Contact: Stevi Gray at 303-962-3321 or sgray@ccadv.org