

Housing Innovations for Survivors in Delaware: The Intersection of Domestic Violence with Homelessness and Housing Affordability

“Forging Ahead: Our Map to a World Without Violence”

May 6, 2025

1:15-2:45 pm

Presenters:

- Carielle Escalante, National Network to End Domestic Violence, CAHS Senior Specialist
- Elena Hampton-Stover, LMSW, National Network to End Domestic Violence, Director of Housing

National Network to End Domestic Violence



NNEDV's Collaborative Approach to Safe Housing for Survivors Project provides training and technical assistance to improve coordination between domestic violence and homeless services.

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Safe Housing Partnerships TA Consortium (SHPTAC)

Federal Partners

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness

Technical Assistance Providers

- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
- Safe Housing Alliance (SHA)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
- National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
- STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Resource Center (STTARS)

SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

The website for the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium

UNDERSTANDING THE INTERSECTIONS

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

EMPLOYING KEY APPROACHES

PUBLIC POLICIES

- Data, infographics, literature reviews, and reports that describe the intersections between domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and housing instability
- Strategies for building effective and sustainable partnerships across systems and case studies of successful collaborations
- In-depth resource collections organized around four key approaches to addressing and preventing housing instability among survivors
- Access to relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies

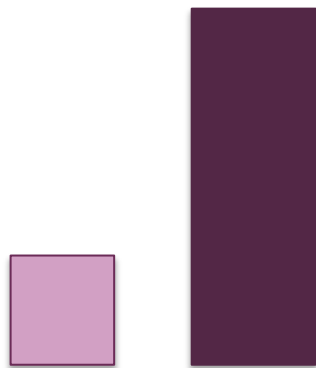
Have questions? Need TA? Want training?
Contact the Consortium directly through the site!

Intersection of DV/SV and Homelessness

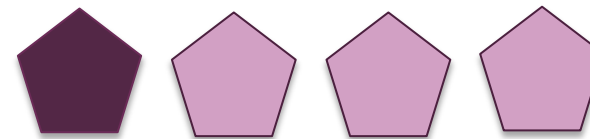
& Delaware's Housing Realities

Intersection of Domestic/Sexual Violence and Housing Instability in the US

Housing instability is 4x more likely for women who have experienced domestic violence¹



One in four women experiencing homelessness cite DV as a major contributor to their homelessness²

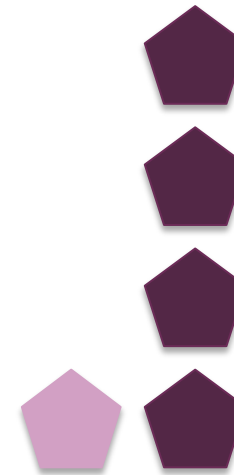


Intersection of Domestic/Sexual Violence and Housing Instability in the US

Almost two-thirds of trafficking survivors report experiencing homelessness or housing instability at the time they were recruited³



A majority of youth experiencing homelessness report leaving home due to sexual abuse⁴





In the 2023 DV Count report from Delaware had 100% participation from DV programs and we observed the following;

- Over 70% of adult and children served were supported with some type of housing emergency shelter, transitional housing, hotels, motels or other housing.
- There were 31 unmet requests and approximately 77% of these unmet requests were for sheltering and housing needs.⁵

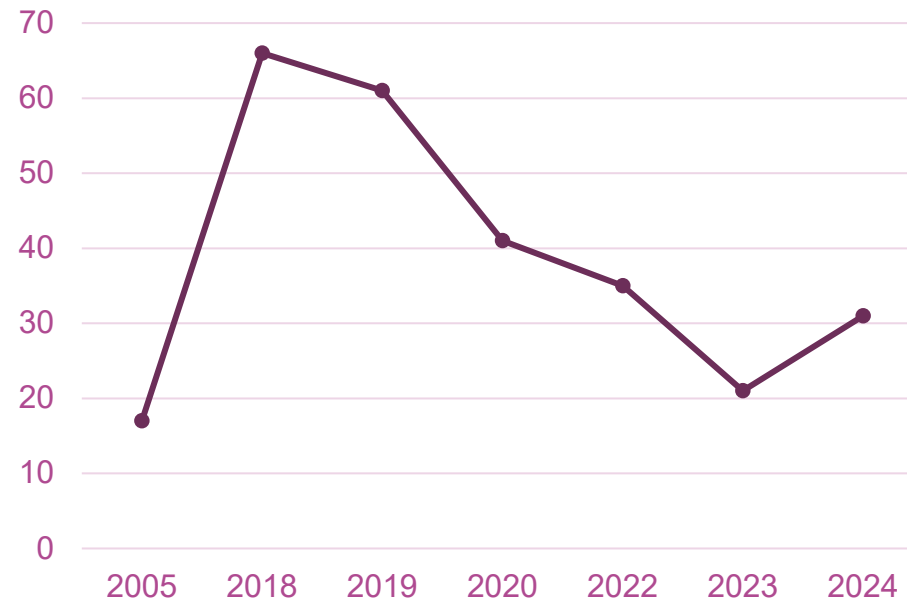
HUD PIT Count Timeline

In the 2023 HUD
Point-in-Time Count,
21
individual/households
identified as victim of
domestic violence⁶

In the 2024 HUD
Point-in-Time Count,
31
individual/households
identified as victim of
domestic violence⁷

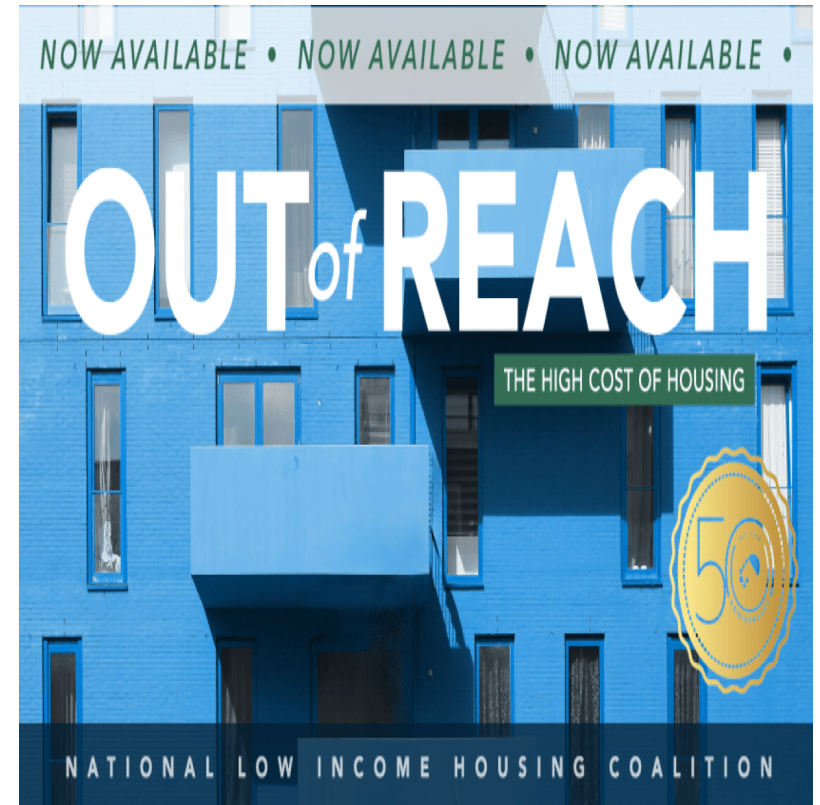


Note the significant increase of 47.62% of survivors that need housing support



Out of Reach Report 2024

- Housing Wage Mismatch: The hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent (FMR) in Delaware is \$30.65, but the average renter wage is only \$22.21, creating a significant affordability gap⁸
- Work Hours Disparity: A minimum wage worker (\$13.25/hour) must work 93 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom rental or 76 hours per week for a one-bedroom rental at FMR⁸
- Multiple Jobs Required: A household relying on minimum wage income would need 2.3 full-time jobs to afford a two-bedroom rental and 1.9 full-time jobs for a one-bedroom rental⁸



Roundtable Discussion

- Does this align with what you are seeing in your work?
- What are the biggest barriers you see survivors face in securing stable, affordable housing?
- How have these challenges changed over time?



Key Accomplishments for Housing Survivors

Survivor Housing Investments & Supports- Expanding DV Housing First

- 70,000/\$5 billion in Housing Choice Vouchers--with a focus on DV/SA survivors and people experiencing homelessness⁹
- FVPSA \$198 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP)¹⁰
- FVPSA funds for Culturally Specific Services \$49.5 million (ARP)¹¹
- The CDC issued a temporary national eviction moratorium starting September 4, 2020, which was extended by Congress and the executive branch until July 31, 2021, and the extended further with limited protections lasting until October 31, 2021¹²

A shared vision of safe housing for survivors

Establish Safety & Address Crisis

Emergency Housing

- Shelter/safe home
- Hotel vouchers
- Relocation assistance
- Installing security devices in current housing
- Staying with friends or family
- Protection orders
- Shallow subsidy/ financial assistance

Address Barriers to Staying Safely Housed

Bridge Housing

- Facility-based/scattered-site transitional housing
- Joint component program
- Temporary rental subsidy
- Master leasing/subleasing
- Economic/employment support and advocacy
- Mental health/addiction support
- Rapid Rehousing

Embed Safety and Lasting Stabilization

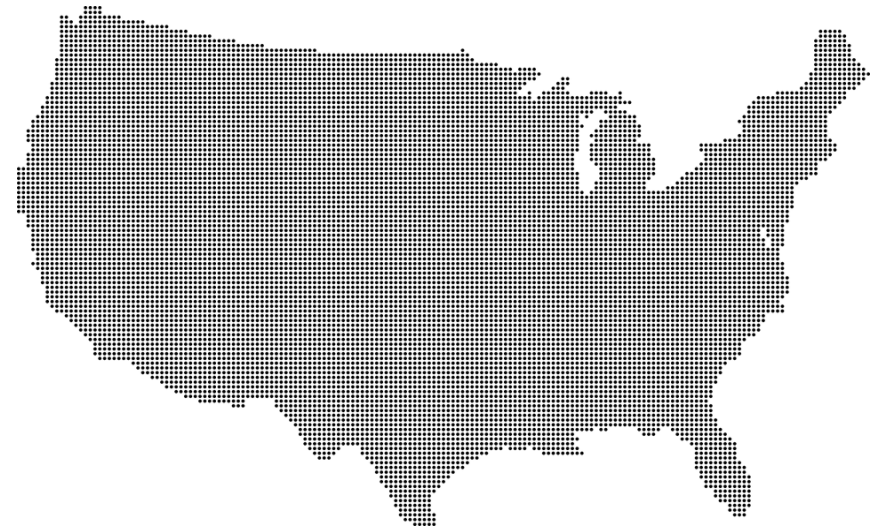
Permanent Housing

- Return to own housing
- Shared housing
- Self-sustaining following RRH subsidy
- Housing Voucher
- Public housing
- Home purchase assistance
- Permanent supportive housing

Safety planning, advocacy, and access to trauma-informed services

A Necessary Shift to Safe Housing

- Broadening our definition of ‘shelter’ and creating options
- Resources historically focused on emergency and transitional housing – which are only temporary solutions if no permanent housing options at exit
- Shelter and TH models expanded to include private spaces, homes, hoteling
- HUD requirements, funding increases reflect increased attention to need for targeted response to survivors’ long-term safe housing needs and eviction prevention and preventing homelessness



Safe Housing for Survivors



- Flexible programming and financial assistance
- Broad eligibility, minimal program requirements
- Safety lens infused throughout program
- Survivor-driven, trauma informed, responsive and accessible, voluntary services
- Flexible duration for survivors who need longer term support
- Support for reconnecting with community

Peer Learning Sparks Change

- Re-thinking shelter
- Investing in full range of survivor-specific housing options
- Applying (DV) Housing First approach
- Expanding use of flex funds
- Promoting conversation-based assessment trauma-informed CE
- Broadening ways services are provided (voluntary services, mobile advocacy, virtual advocacy)



Three Approaches of Particular Interest

Domestic Violence Housing First

- Uses intensive mobile advocacy and flex funding to help survivors remain in or obtain and sustain housing

Flexible Funding with brief advocacy

- Promising approach in preventing survivors from becoming homeless

Rapid Re-housing with population- specific modifications

- Combines housing identification, financial assistance, and supportive services

Domestic Violence Housing First

What is DV Housing First?

- A model pioneered by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) that prioritizes safe, stable housing as the first step in helping survivors rebuild their lives¹³

Core Principles:

- **Survivor-Driven Advocacy** – Centering survivors' needs and choices.
- **Trauma-Informed Mobile Advocacy** – Centering survivors' choices and providing support wherever they are.
- **Community Engagement** – Building partnerships with landlords, housing providers, and local organizations to expand options.
- **Flexible Financial Assistance** – Covering costs like rent, utilities, transportation, and basic needs to remove financial barriers.

Why It Matters:

- Reduces homelessness and housing insecurity among survivors.
- Increases safety, stability, and long-term well-being.
- Proven to help survivors maintain housing and avoid returning to abusive partners.

Flexible Funding with Brief Advocacy

What is Flexible Funding & Brief Intervention?

A short-term, individualized housing assistance approach for IPV survivors facing homelessness due to a crisis. It combines immediate financial support with brief, survivor-centered advocacy to restore housing stability.

Core Components:

- **Flexible Funding (Up to 6 Months)** – Immediate financial assistance for rent, utilities, or move-in costs to prevent homelessness.
- **Brief, Survivor-Centered Advocacy** – Short-term support to help survivors navigate housing systems, access services, and build financial stability.
- **Housing Stability Focus** – Provides the essential resources to prevent homelessness and promote long-term housing security.

Why It Works:

- Proven to **increase housing stability** for survivors in crisis.
- **94% of survivors remained housed** 6 months after receiving funding in a Washington, D.C. study¹⁴
- **Cost-effective** and **quick intervention** that prevents the devastating consequences of homelessness.

Population Specific RRH

What is RRH for Survivors?

A housing intervention designed to help survivors move into safe, permanent housing with short- to medium-term support.

Core Components of RRH for Survivors:

- **Survivor-Centered & Trauma-Informed Approach** – Ensuring housing services prioritize safety, choice, and healing.
- **Housing Identification** – Helping survivors find safe, appropriate housing options quickly.
- **Rental Assistance** – Covering rent and essential move-in costs to promote stability.
- **Supportive Services** – Providing case management, legal assistance, counseling, and safety planning.

Why It Matters:

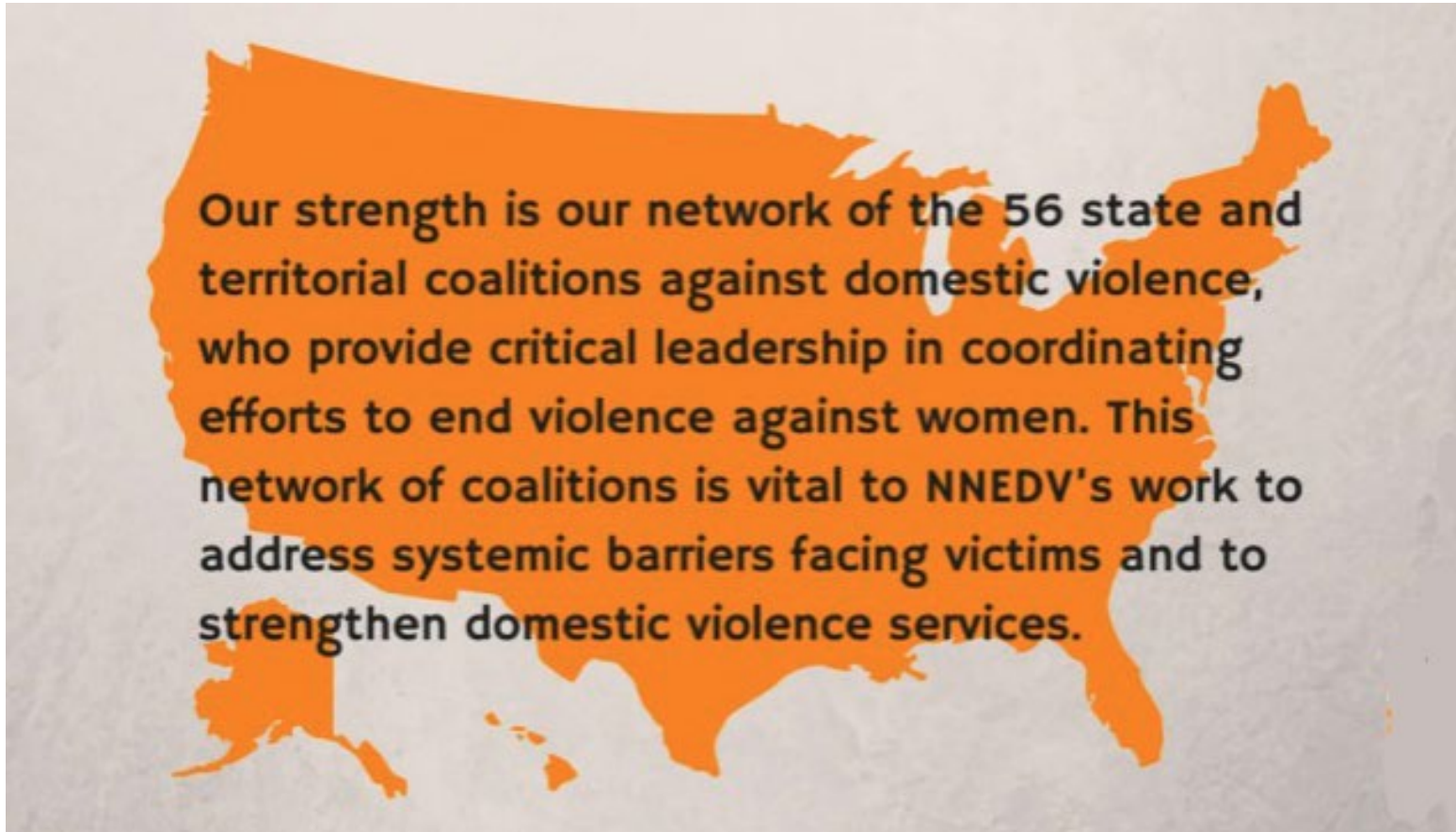
- Reduces homelessness and housing instability among survivors.
- Prevents survivors from having to return to unsafe living situations.
- Increases long-term safety, independence, and economic stability.

Examples:



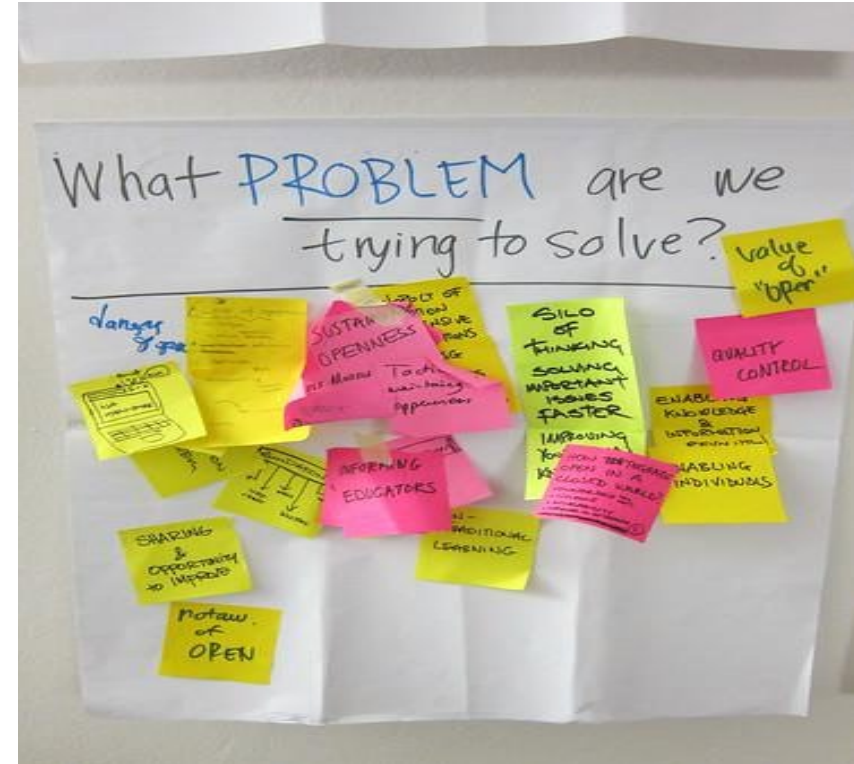
- How has the Housing First model been implemented in your community?
- What examples have you seen in your community of survivors successfully utilizing flexible funding or RRH resources?
- What strategies have you used or seen to effectively leverage housing resources?

State Domestic Violence Coalitions- Learning Communities



Learning Communities: Changing Our Approaches to Meet the Moment

- Centering survivor voice
- Expanding access and choice
- Housing as a right
- Economic justice
- Learning from the past



Roundtable Discussion

- Take 15 minutes to discuss the case study provided at your table.
- Come up with potential solutions given the resources that are available in your community
- A person from your team will report out

What's Next ?



- Where are the gaps? What type of inclusive housing program is most needed by survivors in your community?
- How has shelter shifted for your agency during the pandemic and after?
- Which population of survivors would this project serve?

Questions to Ask

- Which community partners would you want to connect with to explore acquiring HUD funding?
- Are there other funding sources or partnerships you can identify or existing funds you can leverage?
- Interested in exploring the idea of starting a new housing program? Contact NNEDV or your state DV Coalition

Presenter Contact Info:

Carielle Escalante, NNEDV | cvescalante@nnedv.org

Elena Hampton-Stover, NNEDV | ehamptonstover@nnedv.org

Visit safehousingpartnerships.org and use the TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE tab in
the top toolbar

Questions and Discussion



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