Meeting the Housing Needs of Domestic Violence Survivors
NAEH Ending Family and Youth Homelessness Conference 2/19/15
DV Housing First History

**2009-2011**

DVHF Launches  |  Cohort I (4 programs) established

**2011-2014**

Due to success of Cohort I, DVHF expands to include 9 more programs (Cohort II)  |  Findings emerge suggesting that DVHF is a successful approach to supporting survivors in becoming safe and stable

**Today**

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invites WSCADV to coordinate 5 year demonstration project

**2015-2019**

Phase III Demonstration Project
The Agencies Involved

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, Stevens 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 Clallam County Port Angeles, Clallam County
12. Forks Abuse Program Forks, Clallam County
13. Crisis Support Network Raymond, Pacific County
DVHF supports survivors and their children to rapidly access new housing, or retain their current housing, while maintaining safety and stability.
Housing Approaches

- **Housing retention** (diversion or homeless prevention—survivor may never leave the home or may leave temporarily if safety is a concern)
- **Rapid ReHousing/Progressive Engagement**
- **Subsidized housing** with services available—may need a master leasing arrangement if undocumented or with bad tenant screening report (criminal record, debt, eviction)
- **Permanent supportive housing**
Living Situation at Program Entry

Figure A. Cohort 2: Living Situation at Program Entry  
N=681

- Rent: 43%
- Shelter/voucher: 11%
- Temporary arrangement/transitional housing: 17%
- Homeless: 17%
- Owned their own home: 7%
- Other: 5%
## Race, Ethnicity, Immigrant Status

### Table 2. Participant Demographics at Program Entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>N=681</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino/a</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/African Descent/Black*</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian/European American/White</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American/Alaska Native</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander_Native Hawaiian</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not reported</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Immigrant/Refugee</strong></td>
<td>22%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Final Follow-up: September 2014

681 survivors participated

Advocates entered available follow-up data for 657

438 were reached for follow-up interviews
88% obtained permanent housing

Figure C. Cohort 2: Permanent Housing Status At Final Follow-Up  N = 438

- 88% Yes, obtained or maintained housing
- 7% No, obtained housing, but it is no longer permanent housing
- 5% No housing yet, we are working on it
96% retained housing after 18 months

Figure D. Housing Retention at 6, 12 and 18 Months of Advocacy Services

- 6 months: 93%, 7% (N=235)
- 12 months: 91%, 9% (N=173)
- 18 months: 96%, 4% (N=121)
Survivors’ needs lessened following housing stability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Need/Service</th>
<th>Intake/Program Entry N=681</th>
<th>Follow-Up N=657</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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Key Findings

Survivor-driven advocacy contributes to housing retention

Housing stability rebuilds lives, leads to independence

Independence leads to safety

Safety and stability contribute to nurturing environments for children

Housing stability and advocacy improve health & well-being and restore dignity & self-worth

Flexibility supports adaptability of culturally responsive services

Community engagement enhances collaboration and sustainability
“It doesn’t take much to make a big difference…”

"For example, we paid for new shoes for a homeless woman that cost $20. She had a terrible sore on her foot and wouldn’t go anywhere. Eventually the new shoes led her to housing, treatment, and other needs.”—Advocate

"It was the smaller things that made the biggest difference for me (transporting to doctor’s appointment, help with divorce papers, food, etc.). Nothing else has compared with the help I’ve received from [the DVHF agency].”—Survivor on disability

$1,250 was the average financial assistance to survivors for the entire duration of the program.
Increased Safety, Improved Well-Being

- Nearly all survivors (97%) agreed DVHF advocacy services increased their safety and their children’s safety.
- Many survivors reported that having a permanent home allowed them to heal from trauma and recover from chemical dependency.
Community Partnerships have led to...

“If the abuser shows up, the abuser is not going to get away with being violent. There’s zero tolerance for DV, and the agency has partnerships with everyone in the community, which won’t allow it to happen. They are keeping an eye out for survivors.”—Survivor

“In the past, landlords said, ‘I’m not renting to those kind.’ Now landlords say, ‘What’s going on and how can I help?’ In some cases, landlords have reduced rent for survivors and counted it as a donation.”—DVHF staff
Questions?

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