In August 2022, The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) supported the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania (PA) with a grant to pilot a flexible financial assistance model. This intervention focused on addressing the diverse financial needs of survivors related to securing safe, stable, affordable, and accessible housing options; achieving safety; and improving well-being. The guiding principles of flexible funding are:

**SURVIVOR-DRIVEN ADVOCACY**
Advocates focus on developing a trusting relationship with survivors to listen, affirm, and adequately respond to their needs.

**LOW-BARRIER ACCESS**
Funds are accessible to survivors with little to no prerequisites, service requirements, or supporting documentation (e.g., proof of experiencing abuse or financial need).

**SUPPORT MULTIPLE NEEDS WITH NO LIMITATIONS ON FUNDING AMOUNT OR FREQUENCY**
There is no predetermined cap on the amount a survivor can request, the number of times they can receive support, or the types of needs covered.

**PROMPT DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**
Funds are made available to survivors within 24 to 48 hours after the request is received.

### Overview of Distribution of Funds

- **$36,264.87**
  - Total flexible funding distributed

- **30 participants**
  - Total number of participants supported

- **127 payments**
  - Total number of unique payments made to or on behalf of participants

- **$50 to $4,894.30**
  - Range of total amount provided to or on behalf of each participant

### How Survivors Used Funds

**How Survivors Used Funds (Top 6 Funding Categories)**

- **Rental & Mortgage Assistance (48%)**
- **Move-in Costs & Deposits (13%)**
- **Transportation Assistance (11%)**
- **Basic Needs (8%)**
- **Emergency Hotel Stay (7%)**
- **General Debt Assistance (5%)**

### Outcomes

Between August and December 2022, participants who received flexible funds:

- **68%**
  - Remained stably housed (i.e., remained in their homes or moved from one home to another)

- **67%**
  - Reported an increase in well-being and capacity to move from just surviving to thriving

- **26%**
  - Moved from homelessness to temporarily or permanently housed

### Lessons Learned

- Provide training and technical assistance on flexible funding to staff in the implementing agency
- Assess agency practices and their alignment with the flexible funding model
- Assess agency capacity and plan for the resources needed to implement the flexible funding model
- Utilize data collection as an education and advocacy tool
- Develop and implement a plan for the agency’s sustainability of the flexible funding program and principles