IMPLEMENTING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST MODEL IN CALIFORNIA
KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PROCESS EVALUATION OF SEVEN PILOT SITES

In 2016, 8 agencies piloted the DVHF model, an initiative that focuses on helping survivors get into safe and stable housing as quickly as possible, and on providing services to help them move forward with their lives. The three pillars of the DVHF model, designed to promote housing stability, are:

SURVIVOR-DRIVEN, TRAUMA-INFORMED MOBILE ADVOCACY
Advocates focus on addressing the needs identified by survivors rather than on pre-determined needs promoted by agencies. Advocates are mobile and are trained in trauma-informed practice.
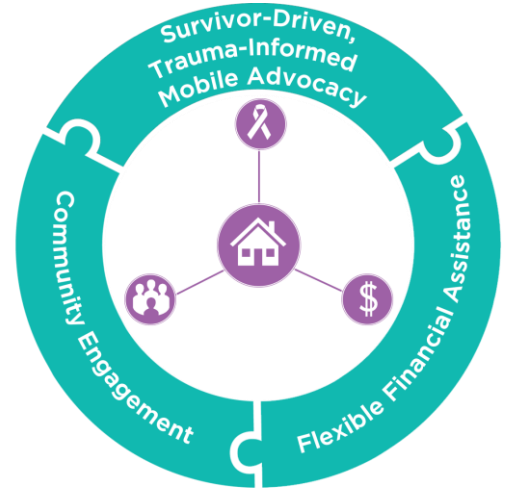
FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSISTANCE
Many survivors need not only safe and stable housing, but also temporary financial assistance. They may need assistance with issues directly related to housing or funds that are critical to housing stability. Funds are targeted to support survivors so they can rebuild their lives.
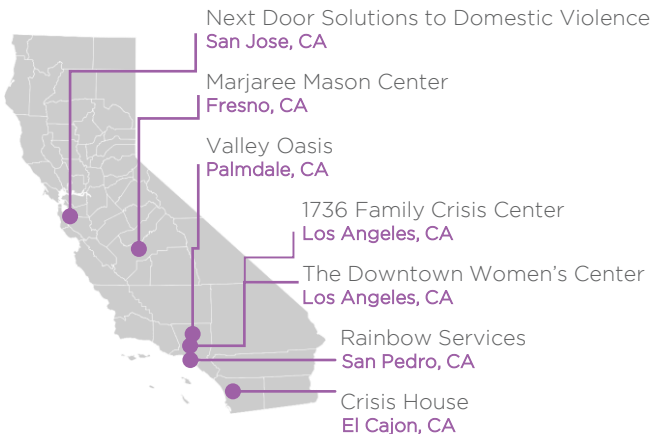
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Proactive engagement with housing providers, other service providers and community members changes how the community responds to domestic violence.

Survivor-Driven, Trauma-Informed Mobile Advocacy · Flexible Financial Assistance · Community Engagement

SEVEN AGENCIES PARTICIPATED IN THE PROCESS EVALUATION OF THE DVHF MODEL

Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
San Jose, CA

Marjaree Mason Center
Fresno, CA

Valley Oasis
Palmdale, CA

1736 Family Crisis Center
Los Angeles, CA

The Downtown Women's Center
Los Angeles, CA

Rainbow Services
San Pedro, CA

Crisis House
El Cajon, CA

$926,838
total flexible funding distributed

100% of survivors exiting the program had **stable housing**

After being in the program,

93% of survivors said they **learned more ways to plan for their safety**

96% of survivors **felt more hopeful about the future**

LESSONS LEARNED

- Allocate funds toward administrative costs related to DVHF
- Allow time for start-up activities needed to support the model
- Be clear about how flexible funds can and cannot be used
- Consider using some funds for clients needing significant support
- Create a learning community for agencies incorporating DVHF into their work