

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence Recommendations for DV Programs, Policy-Makers, and Funders regarding Shelter and Housing for DV Survivors

Funding

1. Develop rapid re-housing models (immediate permanent housing and voluntary supportive services) specifically geared towards DV survivors.
2. Increase the stock of safe, affordable, permanent housing, and its availability for DV survivors.
3. Funding for supportive services including domestic violence advocacy and DV agency capacity to provide technical assistance to housing/homeless agencies. Services should be voluntary and tailored to the needs of DV survivors, including immigrants and people of color.
4. Funding flexible client assistance dollars that may be used for a variety of expenses that help survivors access and/or maintain permanent housing in the context of DV advocacy (e.g., rental assistance, transportation, child care, employment services, business licenses, education costs)
5. Preserve emergency DV housing options (such as safe houses, shelter, hotel vouchers) and fund renovation for aging shelter housing stock. Renovation should attend to survivor-centered design to reduce rules and support healing the parent/child relationship.

Policy

1. Increase attention to independence, safety, and privacy needs of DV survivors in housing policy and program development.
2. Decrease barriers to housing faced by DV survivors such as credit history, no/bad landlord references, criminal history, discrimination in housing due to income level and/or domestic violence through policy and practice changes.
3. Support the passage of the Fair Tenant Screening Act.

Interagency Collaboration

1. Support cross training and conversations between homeless/housing service providers and domestic violence advocates (similar to work currently being done with mental health and chemical dependency service providers).
2. Develop homeless/housing agency policies and protocols that increase DV survivors' housing options and do not increase danger.
3. Create formal (with MOUs) and informal relationships between DV and homeless/housing agencies for resources and service provision (such as the Landlord Liaison Project).

Evaluation

1. Evaluate outcomes regarding
 - a. survivor/children independence, safety, and dignity;
 - b. cost effectiveness;
 - c. sustainability; and
 - d. access for immigrants and people of color.