



Serving Survivors of Domestic Violence Experiencing Homelessness

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024

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Advocacy

**Youth
Housing
Initiative**

**Race
Equity**



OHIO

Balance of State
Continuum of Care



COHHIO

Training and
Technical Assistance



COHHIO

Homeless Management
Information System

Housing Ohio
conference

**SOAR
Ohio**



Healthy Beginnings
At Home

**Fair Housing
& Tenant
Information**



COHHIO

Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio

The Center for Family Safety and Healing presents:

**Serving Survivors of Domestic
Violence Experiencing Homelessness**



Introductions



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Training Supervisor



Kat Weathers
Housing Coordinator



Adult Services Program - Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Counseling Services

Evidenced-based, trauma informed domestic violence counseling by licensed counselors in a confidential, secure setting.

Family Advocacy Legal Services

No-cost advice and counsel on a variety of legal issues.

Domestic Violence Advocacy Services

- Safety planning
- Community resource linkage
- Domestic violence education
- Additional support as needed
- Housing advocacy



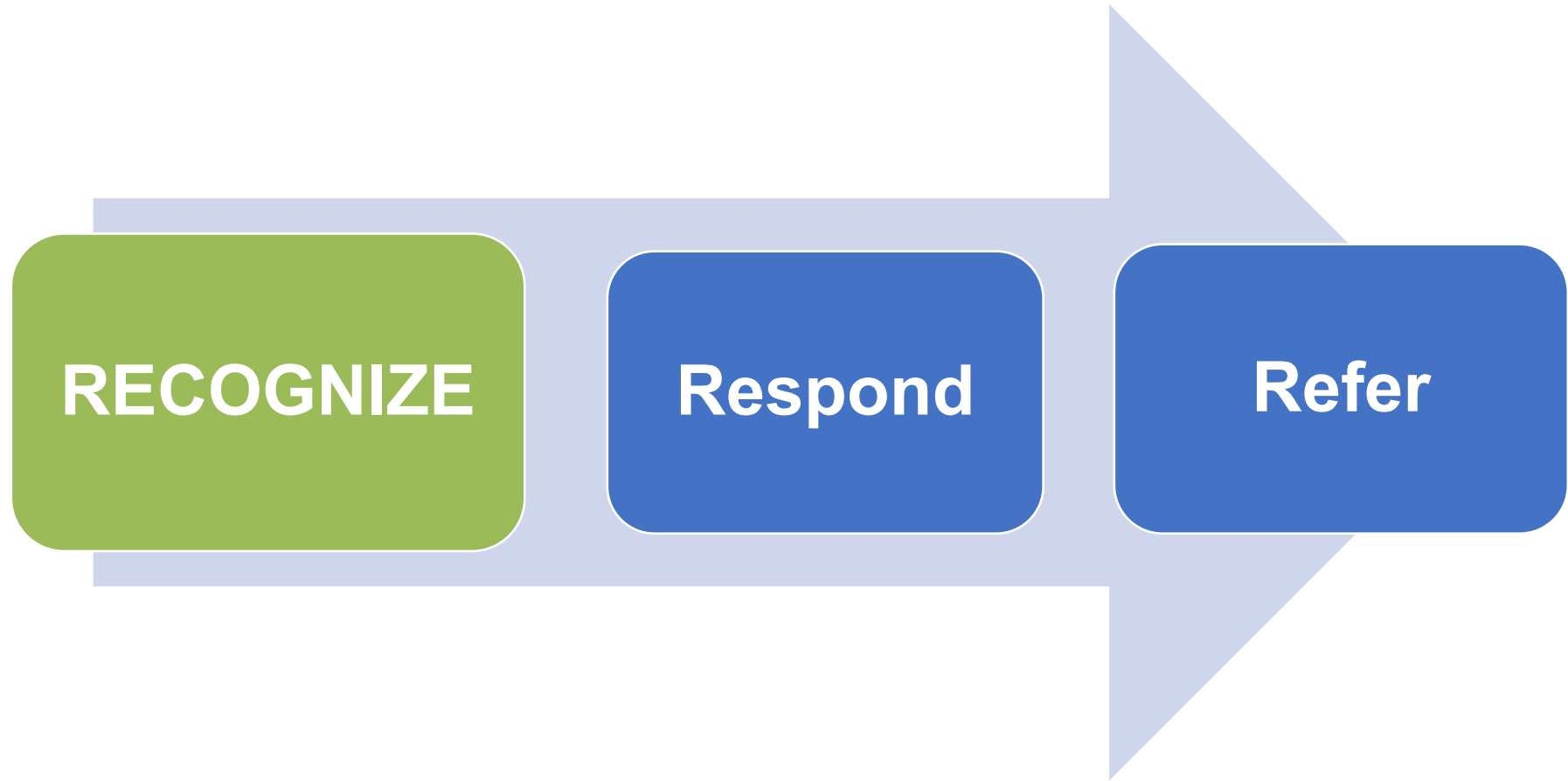
Learning Objectives

- Describe the dynamics of domestic violence and how to identify signs of domestic violence
- Discuss how stable and sustainable housing is key to safety, health, economic independence, and well-being for survivors and their children
- Understand HUD's definition of domestic violence homelessness
- Explore challenges, successes, and best practices in serving families impacted by domestic violence



THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE





What is Domestic Violence / Intimate Partner Violence?

A **pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors** that one uses to gain **power and control** over a current or former intimate partner or family member.



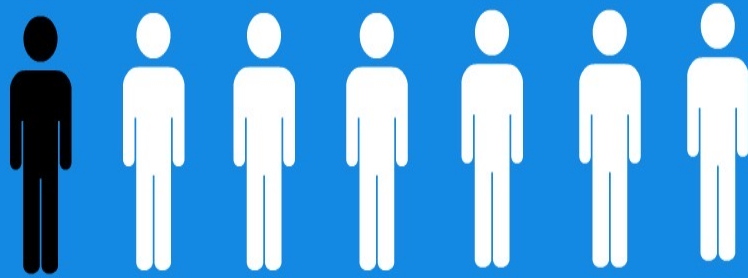
FACT/MYTH Activity

Domestic violence is a common experience in the United States.



Domestic Violence in the United States

1 in 7 men



1 in 4 women

report experiencing physical abuse by a partner

FACT/MYTH Activity

Physical abuse is the most common type of intimate partner violence.



Types of Abuse

Physical	Hitting, slapping, shoving, strangulation, throwing objects, driving dangerously to intimidate
Verbal	Humiliation, insults, put downs, constantly criticizing or yelling, partner spreading rumors
Psychological	Jealousy, gaslighting , threats, intimidation, undermining self-esteem, food control
Sexual	Forced sex, reproductive coercion , non-consensual image exploitation
Economic/ Financial	Behaviors to control, exploit, and sabotage (i.e., employment, food, housing)/ exploiting or sabotaging money and finances
Coercive Control	Isolation, partner controls daily living, constantly navigating partner's rules or temper, frequent "check-ins" from partner

FACT/MYTH Activity

Economic abuse occurs alongside other forms of abuse and is commonly part of a pattern of behavior through which abusers seek to control their victims.



“

One of the most invisible forms of domestic violence is financial abuse.

Serena Williams

”

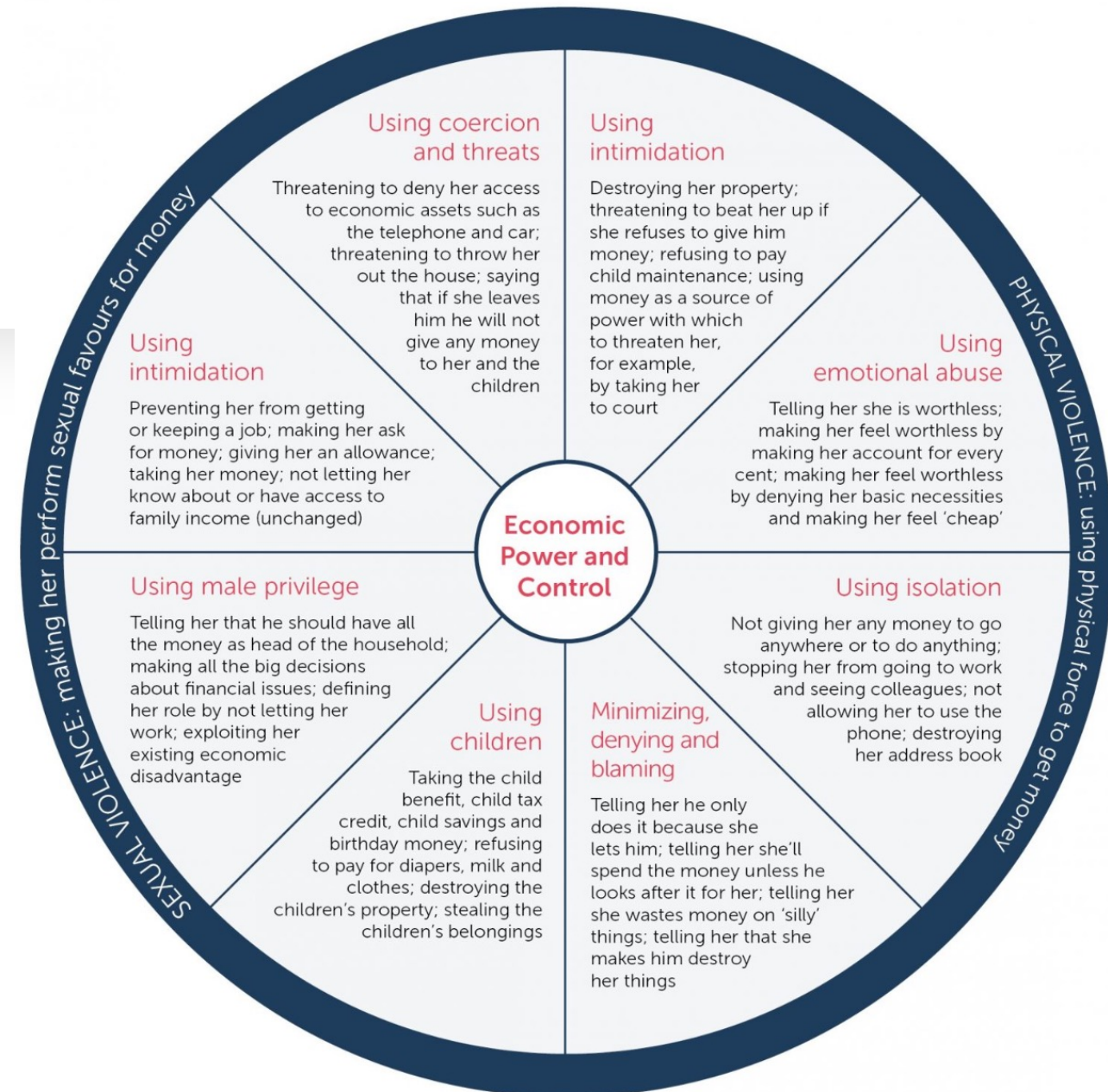
Did you know...?

- **Between 21-60%** of victims of intimate partner violence lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse.
- Economic abuse is linked to **physical safety**. Women who experience economic abuse are **five times more likely to experience physical abuse**.
- Women experiencing coercive control who also experience economic abuse are at ***increased risk*** of being ***killed***.
- **Eight in ten** women said their mental health has been affected by financial abuse.
- **\$104k** is the average cost associated with being a female survivor of domestic violence
- Number **ONE** obstacle to safety for survivors is financial insecurity.



Economic Abuse: Coercive Control Tactics in Intimate Relationships

- **Economic Control**
 - Restricts access to or decision-making over resources.
- **Economic Exploitation**
 - Involves destroying the individual's financial resources or credit.
- **Economic Sabotage**
 - Inhibits the individual's ability to gain or maintain work. This form of abuse is exacerbated when the individual works with their partner.



Economic Abuse in Practice

Survivor-Driven

- Financial Safety Planning
 - Living with the person engaging in harm/Living independently
- Match Savings Program
- Financial Empowerment Curriculums
 - Economic and housing advocacy is supported by evidence from the literature on domestic violence interventions.
- Legal Aid
 - Survivors become poor through domestic violence when their abusers take control of the finances, acquire debt in the survivor's name, destroy credit, and withhold necessities



FACT/MYTH Activity

Someone experiencing family/domestic violence will usually discuss the abuse with housing professionals.



Reasons for Non-Disclosure

- Feelings of shame or self-blame
- Low self-esteem, loss of trust
- Confusion, threats
- Desire to keep family together
- Disclosure may be unsafe
- Abuser's use of coercive control – normalization, gaslighting, blame
- Belief that professionals will not help ***landlords, seeking safe havens**



Coded Disclosures

- *They don't like it when...*
 - *They get angry/pop off a lot...*
 - *They lose it...*
 - *They punish me with silence...*
 - *They like things a particular way or else...*
 - *They are in charge of the money*
 - *They watch everything I spend and do*
 - *We aren't allowed to/ They won't let me...*
-



Signs of Someone Engaging in Abusive Behaviors

- ❑ Frequent visit(s) by law enforcement/emergency services
- ❑ Putting their partner down in front of other people.
 - ❑ They may also say things like, “Oh, I’m just joking – don’t be so sensitive!”
- ❑ Harassing phone calls, emails, notes on cars.
- ❑ Control over finances, behaviors and/or social groups.



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FACT/MYTH Activity

Intimate partner violence remains a significant public health issue and survivors often need various forms of support to achieve safety.



Let's Chat



What barriers to safe housing might someone experiencing abuse encounter?

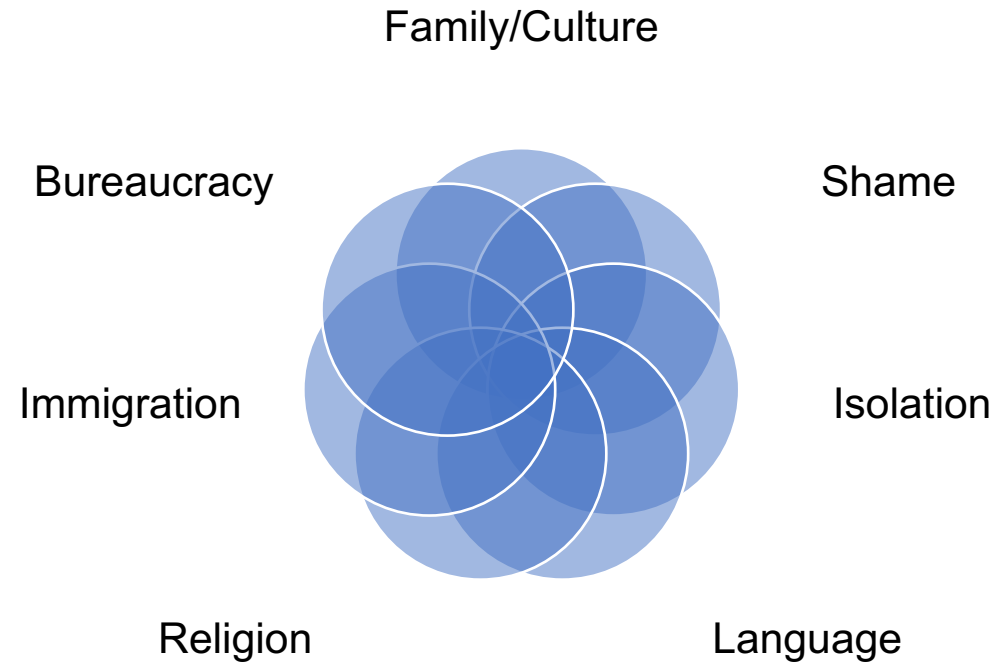


Barriers to Accessing Safe Housing

Contributing Factors to DV Eviction Cycle

- Economic stability
- Financial stability
- Housing discrimination
- Loss of subsidized or other affordable housing

Barriers to Accessing Services for Immigrants



“Why don’t you just leave?”



Potential Impacts of Asking “Why Don’t You Leave?”

- ❑ Places responsibility for ending the abuse on the person being hurt or controlled.
- ❑ Can feel like a judgment on the person experiencing harm.
- ❑ Drives disconnection between a housing professional and their client families.
- ❑ Ignores the danger of leaving an abusive situation.



Problem Statement

- **Survivors of domestic and sexual violence** often face **housing discrimination** because of the violence committed against them such as being **denied admission to, or being evicted from, housing** due to acts of violence committed against them.
- Once a **survivor is in safe housing**, often an abusive partner will continue to **sabotage the survivor's success and undermine safety** through lengthy legal battles, custody arguments, financial abuse, stalking, etc.
- Limited immediate access to safe havens (shelters, affordable housing, support)
- Survivors become more marginalized within communities, their access to resources decreases



Domestic Violence and Homelessness

- Higher rates
- Financial dependence
- Children
- Tactic of abuse
- Rates of revictimization



Point in Time Survey - Ohio, 2023

Approximately 45% of the unmet requests for services were for emergency shelter, hotels, motels, transitional housing, and other housing

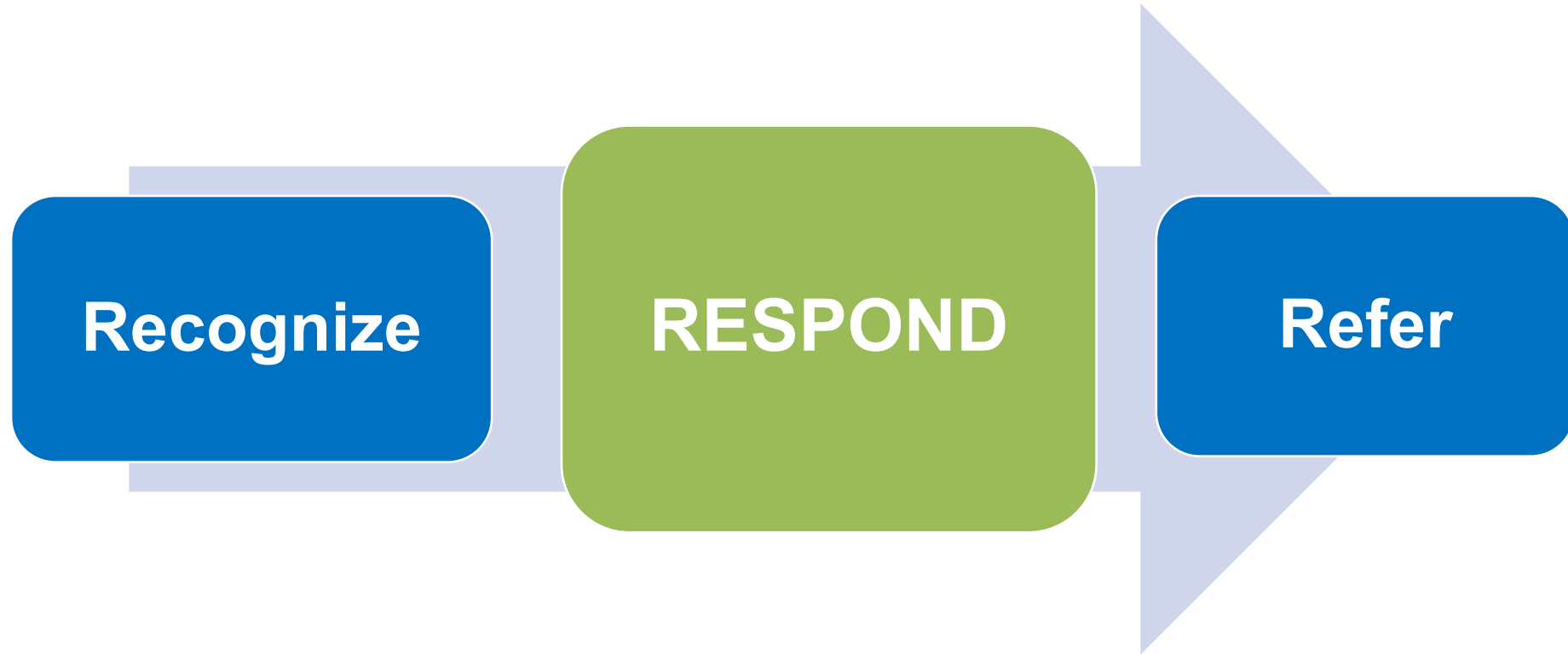
2,445 Victims Served in One Day (NNEDV):

- 207 Individuals attended prevention and Educational Trainings
- 404 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day
- 658 Hotline Calls Answered, during 24-hour survey period



“Domestic violence is systematic, it is identifiable, and together, we can work to prevent it.”

Elisha Shepard, Survivor Advocate



No Rescues

- No one rescues anyone else
- Not helpless clients
- An attempt to rescue someone is actually colluding with their sense of powerlessness
- What is mine to do?



Your Role

- Respectful **Partnering**
- Connect to **Support Network**
- Offer **Empowered Decision-making**



Increase Safety

Decrease Isolation





Shifting to Trauma-Responsive Language

Why don't you just leave?	What do you need right now? Or What does safety look like for you?
You need to.... (tell, report, etc.)	Is there anything you've tried that has helped / made you feel safer?
You should call... (resource)	I know a few places that might help, would you like to look together?
That's abusive and I'm making a report.	Offer mandatory reporting disclaimers at the beginning of the conversation and periodically throughout.
That's just how relationships are.	You're not alone in what you're going through. Your description of what's going on makes sense – I believe you.
I was in that situation and then I realized my own self-worth and left.	I have experienced something similar and I'm glad that you opened up to me.
Anything you need, call me, day or night, no matter what, I'm there.	Here are a few ways I could support you, would any of these sound helpful at this point?

ASSESSING SURVIVORS IMMEDIATE SAFE HOUSING AND BASIC NEEDS



Advocacy Supportive Services

Survivor-Driven Advocacy is Trauma-Informed

- Supports independent decision-making
- Safety planning as an ongoing process
- Builds on strengths and resources of individuals and families, respecting autonomy and self-determination
- Relies on community, natural supports rather than dependency on program

Trauma-Informed Approach

- **Safety** – Physical and emotional
- **Trustworthiness** – Transparency, clarity, consistency, and healthy boundaries
- **Choice**– Support survivor’s rights to make own choices and have control of her/his plan
- **Collaboration** – Avoid hierarchy; work as partners and share power
- **Empowerment**– help with survivors’ skill-building rather than doing things FOR them



Advocacy Supportive Services

- Effective coordination
- Integrating systems of care to optimize and ensure;
 - Referral criteria are based on program capacity, resource limitations, and placement;
 - Culturally responsive services; and
- “Any door” system of access
 - Gain equal access and information to address immediate housing needs.
- Honor survivor’s choice

“The ache for home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”- Maya Angelou



Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA)

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a federal law that provides housing protections for people who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, to help keep them safe and reduce their likelihood of homelessness.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and HMIS. Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) must protect the confidentiality of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking seeking housing assistance.



Equitable Flexible Funding

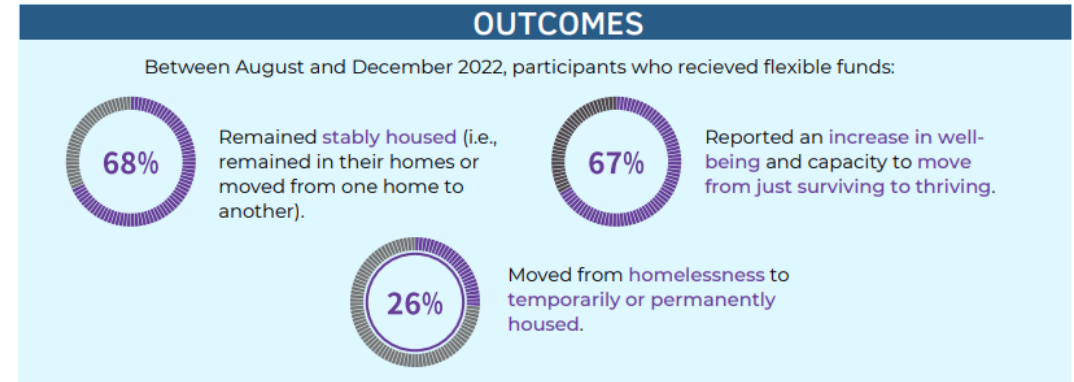
Brief intervention that includes flexible funding can restore survivor's stability

- Low-barrier access
 - Trust survivors
- No limitation, multiple needs
- Path to financial independence
- Supportive process
 - Landlord advocacy
 - Progressive engagement model that features flexibility around length and depth of assistance (rent, utilities, necessities)



Evaluation of Flexible Funding Pilot Program to Prevent Homelessness

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



Participatory Asset Mapping

- Build on and expand existing community strengths
- Facilitate community involvement in research and action
- Generate a shared awareness and understanding of community assets
- Articulate and communicate spatial knowledge to external agencies
- Manage resources, community development, and planning
- Identify and potentially increase capacity within communities



Mapping in Community Organizing

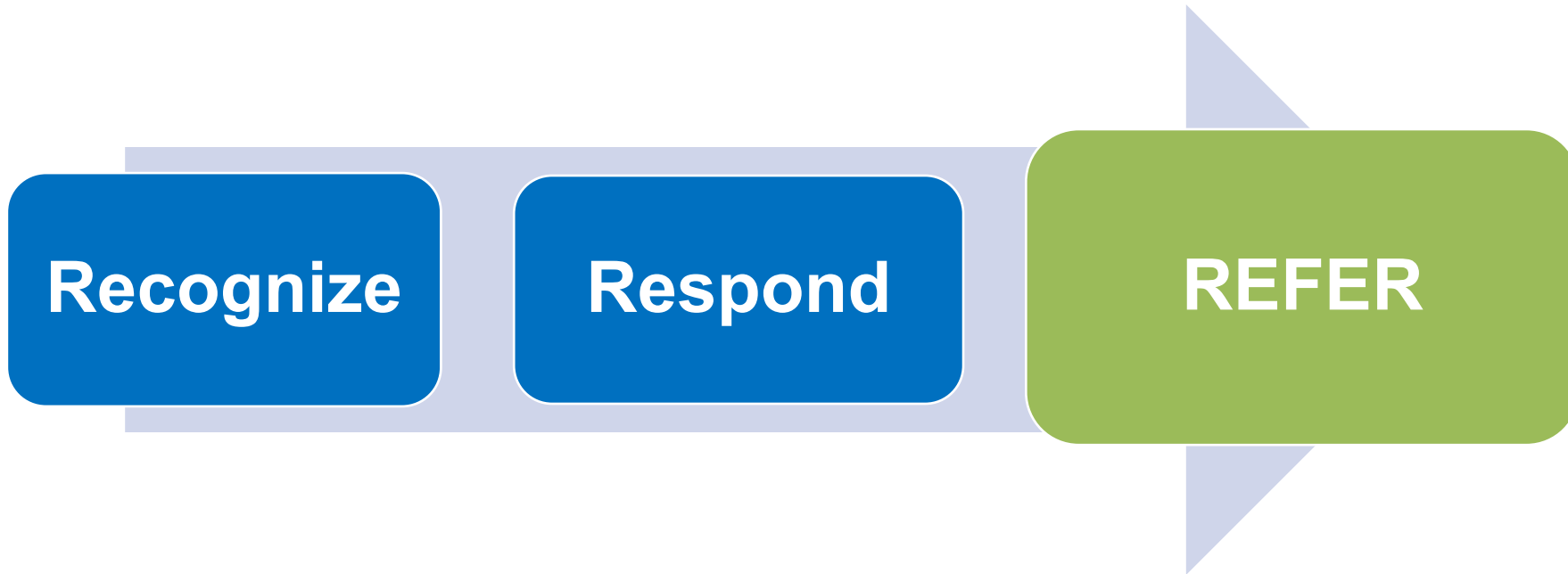


Best practices integrating systems

Safe Housing Planning



- Reduce barriers in access to housing systems
- Improve access and coordination for domestic violence survivors
- Coordinated and comprehensive trauma-informed process and response
- Flexible Funding
- Participatory Asset Mapping



Community Resources

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

(800) 934-9840; www.odvn.org

Provides training and technical assistance as well as promotes social change.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-SAFE (7233); www.thehotline.org

Provides essential tools and support to help survivors of domestic violence so they can live their lives free of abuse. Available 24/7, 365.
Interpreter services available.



Community Resources cont.

Safe Housing Partnerships

www.safehousingpartnerships.org

Works to end homelessness for domestic and sexual violence survivors
and their families

Futures Without Violence

www.futureswithoutviolence.org

Supports program, policies and campaigns that empower individuals
and organizations working to end violence against women and children



Community Resources cont.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.ncadv.org

Support efforts to change the conditions that lead to domestic violence, while supporting survivors, holding offenders accountable, and supporting advocates.

National Network to End Domestic Violence

www.nnedv.org

A social change organization dedicated to creating a social, political, and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists.



CEU Code

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