

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

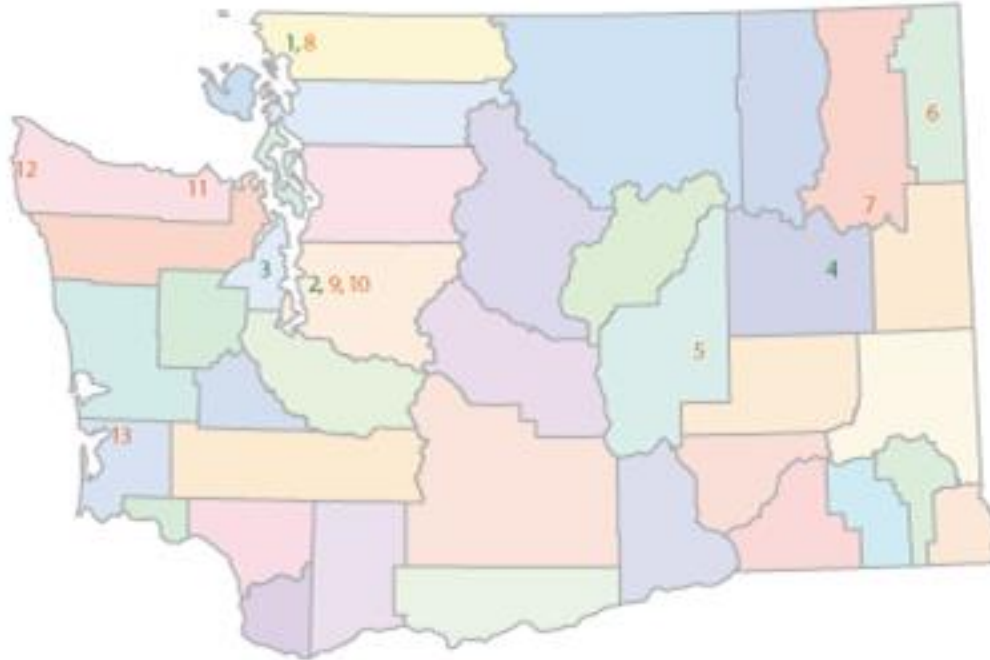
Today

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

DV Housing First: The Approach



DVHF supports survivors and their children to rapidly access new housing, or retain their current housing, while maintaining safety and stability.

Housing Approaches

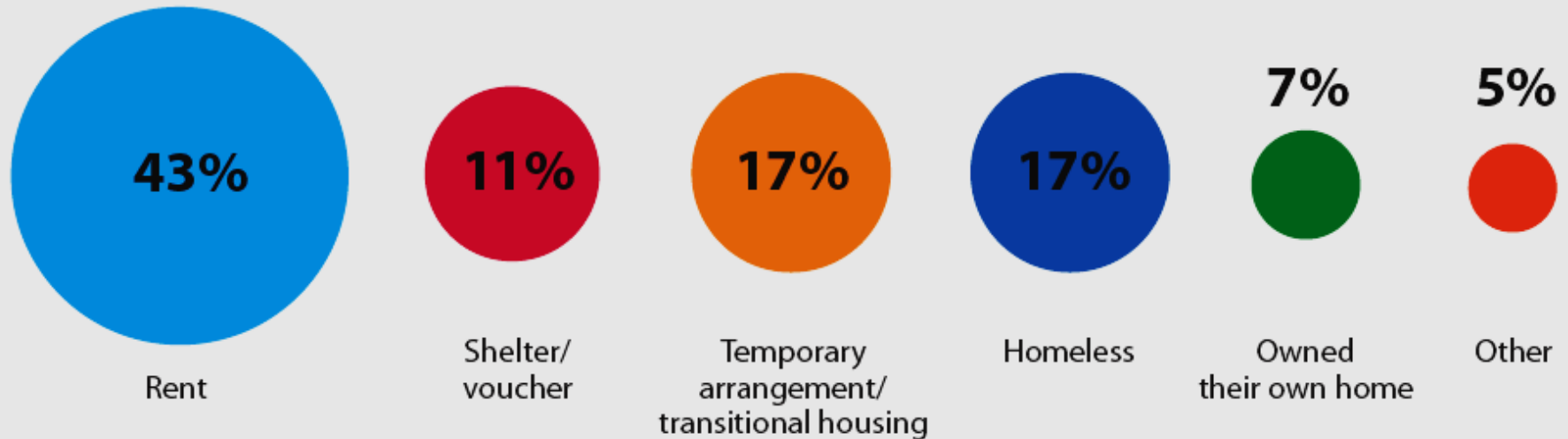
- Housing retention (diversion or homeless prevention—survivor may never leave the home or may leave temporarily if safety is a concern)
- Rapid ReHousing/Progressive Engagement
- Subsidized housing with services available—may need a master leasing arrangement if undocumented or with bad tenant screening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



Living Situation at Program Entry

Figure A. Cohort 2: Living Situation at Program Entry

N=681



Race, Ethnicity, Immigrant Status

Table 2. Participant Demographics at Program Entry

Demographic	N=681
Hispanic or Latino/a	12%
Race	
African American/African Descent/Black*	10%
Asian	10%
Caucasian/European American/White	30%
Native American/Alaska Native	35%
Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian	2%
Multiracial	5%
Other	5%
Not reported	3%
Immigrant/Refugee	22%

Final Follow-up: September 2014

681 survivors participated

Advocates entered available follow-up data for

657

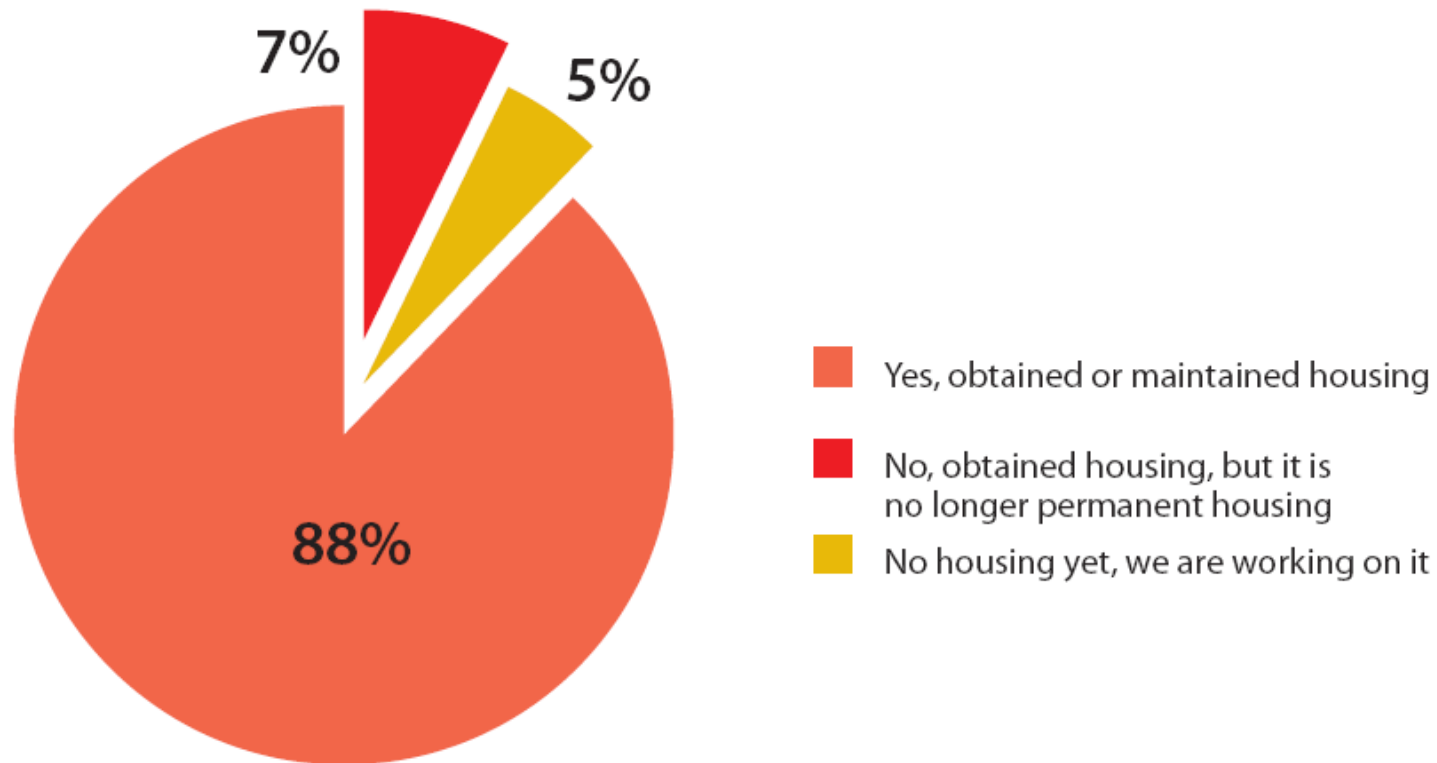
438

were reached for follow-up interviews



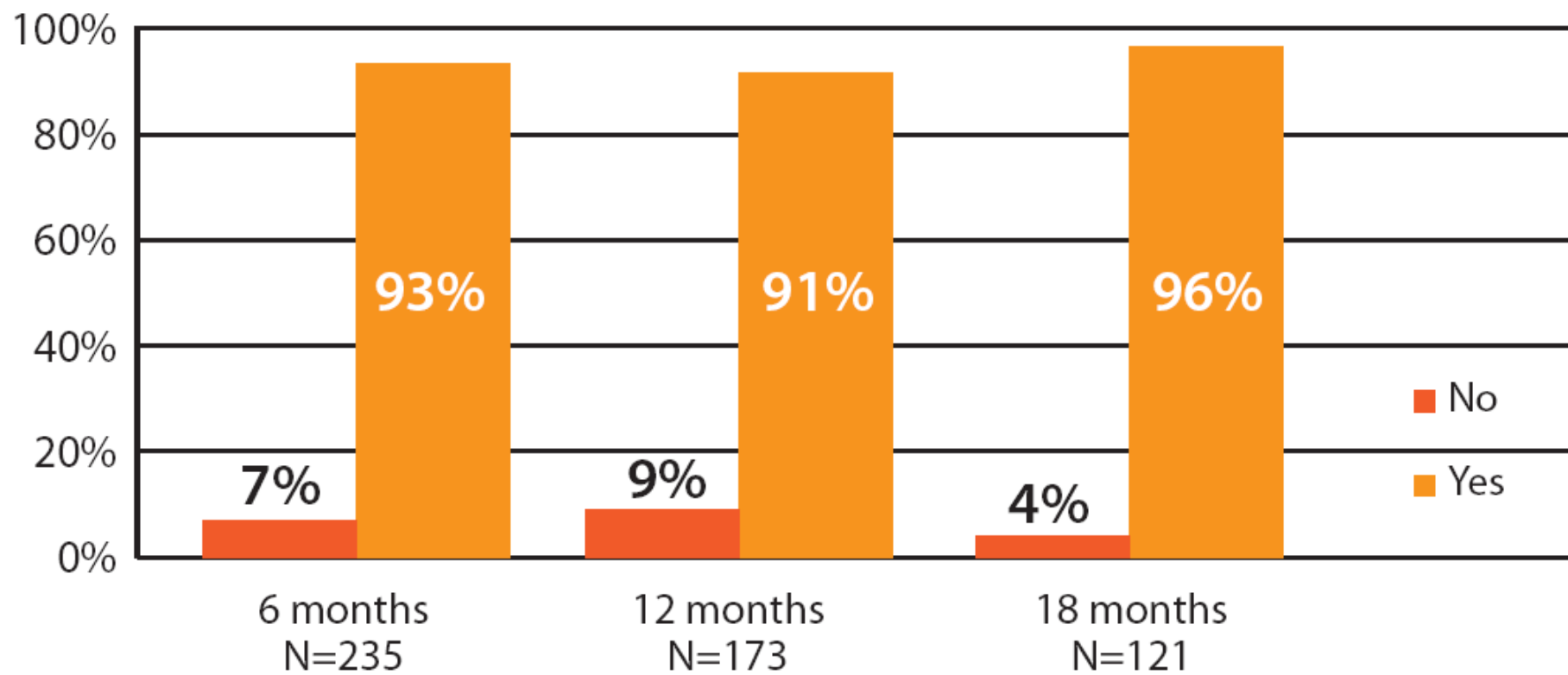
88% obtained permanent housing

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



96% retained housing after 18 months

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



Survivors' needs lessened following housing stability

Level of Need/Service	Intake/ Program Entry N=681	Follow-Up N=657
Light	46%	76%
Medium	26%	11%
High	28%	13%

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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WASHINGTON STATE COALITION

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AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE