

EVALUATION OF A FLEXIBLE FUNDING PILOT PROGRAM TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS AMONG BIPOC AND LGBTQ+ SURVIVORS

In August 2022, The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV) 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

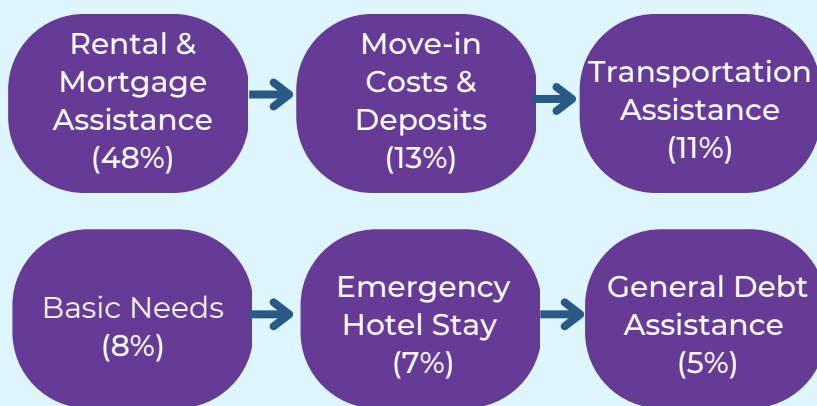
 **127 payments**

Total number of unique payments made to or on behalf of participants

 **\$50 to \$4,894.30**

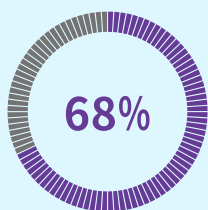
Range of total amount provided to or on behalf of each participant

HOW SURVIVORS USED FUNDS (TOP 6 FUNDING CATEGORIES)

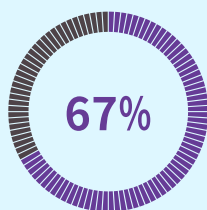


OUTCOMES

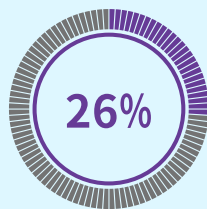
Between August and December 2022, participants who received flexible funds:



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



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



Moved from **homelessness to temporarily or permanently housed**.

LESSONS LEARNED



Provide training and technical assistance on flexible funding to staff at 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

For more detailed information: Oyesola Oluwafunmilayo Ayeni, PhD. and Clarice Hampton, M.A. (2023). *Evaluation of a Flexible Funding Pilot Program to Prevent Homelessness among BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Survivors*. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV).