

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOUSING FIRST:

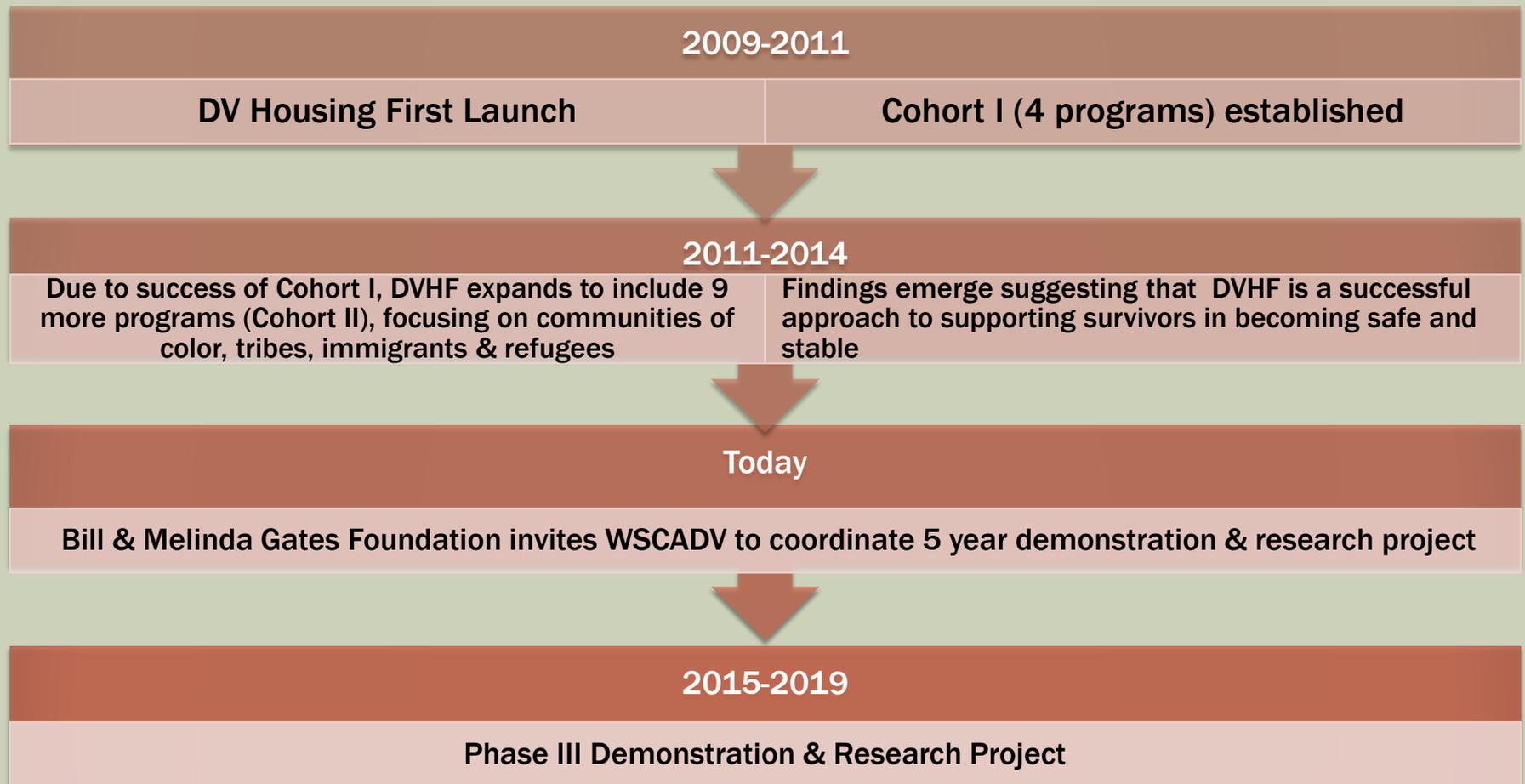
From Agency Pilot Projects to Regional
Demonstration and Research Project

The Housing First Philosophy

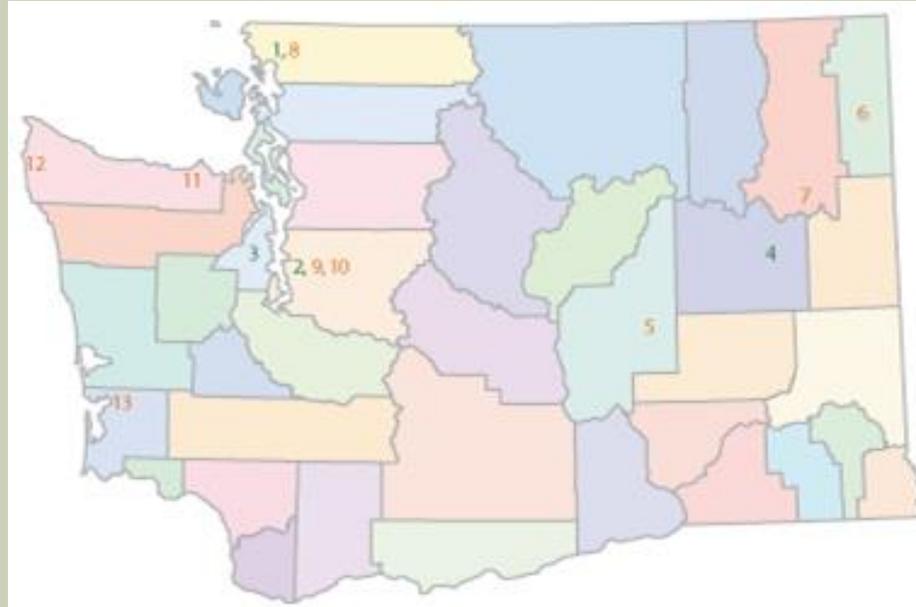
- Housing is a right.
- Housing **FIRST** not Housing **READY**
- No barriers for housing access
- Assessment done to identify and eliminate potential barriers
- Tailored, voluntary services



DV Housing First History



The Agencies Involved



Cohort I (2009—2012)

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 II (2011—2014)

1. **New Hope DV/SA Services Moses Lake, Grant & Adams Counties**
2. **Kalispel Tribe of Indians Usk, Pend Oreille County**
3. **Spoken Tribe Family Violence Wellpinit, Stevens County**
4. **Lummi Victims of Crime Bellingham, Whatcom County**
5. **Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program Seattle, King County**
6. **InterImCDA Seattle, King County**
7. **Healthy Families of Clallam County Port Angeles, Clallam County**
8. **Forks Abuse Program Forks, Clallam County**
9. **Crisis Support Network Raymond, Pacific County**

Final Follow-up: September 2014

681 survivors participated

Advocates entered available
follow-up data for

657

438

were reached for
follow-up
interviews

[wscadv.org/projects/
domestic-violence-
housing-first/](http://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/)

Key Findings from Pilot Project

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

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.

What is Survivor-Driven Advocacy?

- According to the Washington Administrative Code 388-61A, advocacy on behalf of domestic violence survivors focuses on:



- Advocates may do case management or counseling
- Meeting survivors where they are and accompanying them where they need to go

Trauma-Informed Approach

Trauma awareness - relationship with provider key

Emphasis on safety/awareness of potential triggers

Rebuild control – choice and power sharing

Strengths-based

Flexible Financial Assistance

**Rent, Deposit,
Utilities**

Debt reduction

**Transportation
needs (cars,
car repairs &
insurance,
drivers'
licenses &
lessons)**

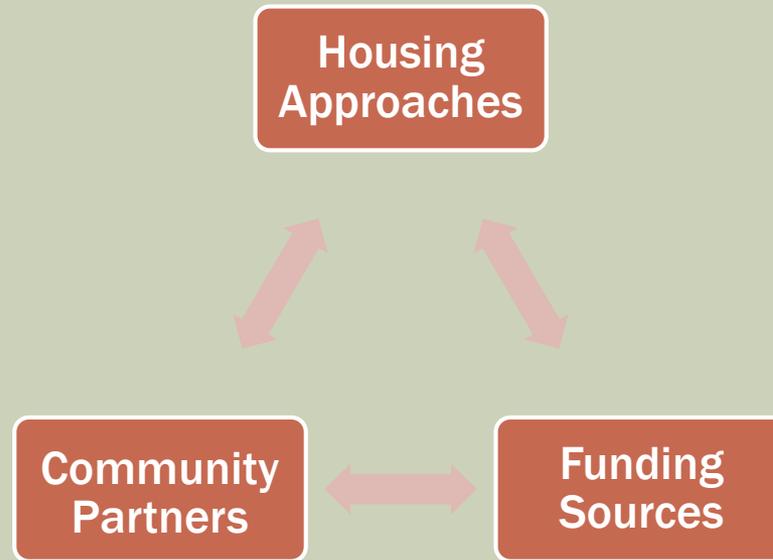
**Education or
Employment
needs**

Back rent

**Home
Furnishings**

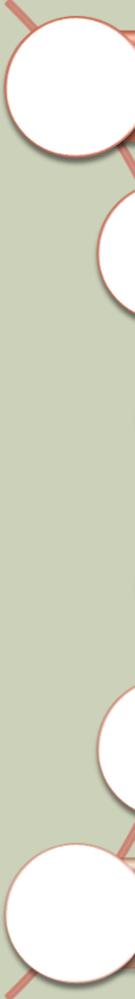
**Children's
needs**

Domestic Violence Housing First: 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/Flexible Engagement
- Subsidized housing with services available
- Permanent supportive housing

Community Engagement: It's all about the relationships!



Housing programs, tribal housing authority, realtors, landlords, emergency shelters, hotels

Auto repair shops, gas stations, phone shops, locksmiths

Treatment centers, clinics, daycares, health and human services, youth programs, schools

Job training and work programs

Law enforcement, City councils, Legal services, population-specific resources

Furniture and grocery stores, household appliance stores, community resources, clothing and food banks

Demonstration Project Regions



SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

YWCA of Yakima

DV Services of Benton & Franklin Counties

New Hope DV/SA Services

Lower Valley Crisis & Support Services

KING COUNTY

Lifewire

New Beginnings

Northwest Network of BLTG Survivors of Abuse

Interim Community Development Association

Innovation for Long-term, Systemic Change

**Improve health
and well-being
for DV survivors**

- Robust organizational change to include policies, advocate training, and staffing structures

Research

- Increase the level of evidence that documents the relationship between domestic violence advocacy, housing stability, and improved health and well-being for survivors and their children

**Regional
Transformation
of Services**

- Partnerships with neighboring DV providers, housing/homeless organizations, housing partners and funders to expand and coordinate services within the region

Questions?

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