

An Evaluation of the

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# Colorado Housing for Crime Victims Special Project

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Report prepared by:  
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CRC, LLC

For: Violence Free Colorado

# Acknowledgements

This report summarizes evaluation findings from the 2017-2018 Colorado Housing for Crime Victims Special Project.

The evaluation was made possible through the support of the Colorado Office of The Attorney General and the Office for Victims Programs, Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Public Safety. The Colorado Special Housing project was implemented by Violence Free Colorado and the Office for Victims Programs. Support for Violence Free Colorado's Domestic Violence Housing Program was provided by the Colorado Office of the Attorney General, the Domestic Violence Program at the Colorado Department of Human Services, and The Denver Foundation. The evaluation was led by an independent evaluation consultant, Dr. Echo Rivera of CRC LLC.

This work would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project Steering Committee Members and the eight sites participating in the project.

## **Violence Free Colorado:**

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- Amy Pohl, Associate Director
- Lindsay Christopher, Housing Program Manager (for the final phase of the project)
- Stevi Gray, Housing Program Manager (for the initial phase of the project)

## **Office for Victims Programs, Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Public Safety:**

- Ashley Riley Lopes MPA, Grants Administrator

## **Project Sites:**

- Advocates for Victims of Assault
- Alliance Against Domestic Abuse
- Bright Future Foundation
- Hilltop
- San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence
- TESSA
- Volunteers of America Southwest Safehouse, Rise Above Violence, and Housing Solutions for the Southwest Collaboration

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# Executive Summary

## Background

According to the 2018 National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) census survey, 72,823 adult and child survivors received services daily in the United States. Of those survivors, at least 1,079 were from Colorado (81% of Colorado domestic violence DV organizations participated in the survey). Sadly, there were actually 1,296 requests for support that day, 17% (n=217) of requests were unmet that day, and 72% (n=156) of those requests were for housing. There is emerging interest in the promise of innovating approaches to address housing needs, beyond a traditional shelter model.

As a result of the statewide needs assessment conducted by the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) in 2015, housing for victims of crime was identified as a Special Project for the use of the new Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance funds. DCJ's Office for Victims Programs (OVP) worked collaboratively with the state Domestic Violence Coalition (Violence Free Colorado) and other stakeholders to address this need by supporting a set of demonstration sites across the state in the implementation of new methods of housing for crime victims.

The project was implemented in Colorado for a 20-month period (May 2017 through December 2018). The project was not exclusively a domestic violence housing first (DVHF) model, but rather an initiative to allow for housing advocacy and financial assistance to help crime victims in Colorado obtain or maintain housing. To the extent possible, sites were encouraged to provide low-barrier access to these services (e.g., minimal paperwork, few eligibility criteria). This included domestic violence housing first, flexible financial assistance, hotel vouchers, community and individual advocacy, and other strategies. In addition to the standard services sites were already providing (e.g., counseling, support groups), all sites provided the following housing assistance services: mobile advocacy; housing search and navigation; landlord advocacy; financial management and budgeting; case management and goal planning for both safety and housing stability; and direct financial support for expenses such as rent, utilities, and other needs. In this report, we refer to this set of services as "housing services" which includes both financial and non-financial forms of support. In some sections, we focus specifically on the financial assistance provided.

## Method

All sites participating in the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project were provided with an Excel spreadsheet for the purpose of monitoring and collecting evaluation data. According to this spreadsheet, about 449 survivors received housing assistance, with a range of 17-133 survivors served per site.

## Financial Assistance Provided

The total amount of financial assistance provided was \$957,494.91, which was paid across 1,444 payments to 438 survivors. In total, \$849,648.61 (1,350 payments) were from VOCA and the remaining \$67,911.42 (94 payments) were non-VOCA funds. By nature of being a flexible financial assistance model, the range of total assistance provided per person varied quite a bit (from \$14 to \$20,815.85). The median number of times a person received assistance was twice, with a median total amount of \$1,397 per person.

While there were some cases where survivors received a high and/or frequent amount of financial assistance, most survivors received a relatively small amount of support, only a few times. There was a large drop in survivors at each assistance point. For example, there was a 35% drop in the number of survivors who received assistance by the second assistance point (95.9%;  $n=420$  at assistance #1 and 61.2%;  $n=268$  at assistance #2). The percentage of survivors reported as being denied funding at both assistance number one (7%,  $n=32$ ) and assistance number two (2%,  $n=8$ ) is small. However, some organizations indicated that they provided high or frequent amounts of financial assistance to the first survivors in the program, and then changed their policies to provide smaller amounts for survivors they worked with later. Therefore, this drop in assistance may be due to a combination of two factors: (a) survivors did not need high and/or frequent financial assistance, and/or (b) organizations did not have the funding available or the type of funding for their need. We did not find any statistically significant differences in total number of times funding was provided or total assistance provided based on demographics.

At housing assistance #1, 420 (93.5%) survivors received financial assistance. More specifically, 407 (90.6%) received VOCA funds and 80 (17.8%) received non-VOCA funds. Some survivors received both types of funds. Some survivors received \$0 funds and they are included in these tables because they may have received other forms of advocacy, which may have had an impact on their well-being, housing situation, or their interest in coming back for more advocacy services. The median amount requested was \$695, with an average of \$770 and a range of \$14-\$5,393.00. Funding was denied to about 7.1% ( $n=32$ ) of survivors, though 22.7% of the data is missing for this question. Regardless of funding source, most funds were used to provide survivors with rental assistance. The tracker sheet recorded how financial assistance funds were used depending on the funding source. Of those who received VOCA funds at their first assistance ( $n=407$ ), 84.2% ( $n=343$ ) used the VOCA funds for rental assistance. The next two largest categories of use were for utility bills (3.9%;  $n=16$ ) and emergency hotel stays (3.9%;  $n=16$ ). The remaining 8% used funds for relocation, clothing, food supplies, transportation assistance, moving expenses, childcare, emergency shelter, food assistance, housing prep, or physical/mental health needs. Of those who received non-VOCA funds at their first assistance ( $n=80$ ), 57.7% ( $n=45$ ) used funding for rental assistance. Another 28.2% ( $n=22$ ) used funds for clothing, food and supplies. Another 11.5% ( $n=9$ ) used funds for transportation assistance. The remaining 2% of participants used non-VOCA funds for emergency hotel stays and moving expenses.

## Outcomes

Of those with an immediate outcome reported (97%; n=437), nearly 51% of survivors (50.8%; n=222) were able to stay in their current housing as an “immediate” result of receiving their first housing assistance. Another 39.2% of survivors were able to obtain some form of housing as an “immediate” result of receiving their first housing assistance, bringing the total percentage of survivors housed to 90%. Specifically, 15.6% (n=68) were able to go from homeless (i.e., couch surfing, living with a friend, or living on the street) to housed; 15.1% (n=66) from one home to another; and 8.5% (n=37) from shelter to housed. The remaining survivors reported that assistance helped them with family well-being (7.6%; n=33) or housing preparation (2.5%; n=11). The immediate outcome was not provided for 12 (2.7%) survivors.

To obtain final outcome data, in the fall of 2018 sites were asked to contact all survivors they worked with through the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project and obtain an update on their housing status. In all, 155 survivors were reached for the follow-up survey, which is 34.5% of those who received housing assistance. Thus, the long-term housing status for most survivors was unknown (65%; n=294). From there, 20% (n=91) had no change in housing and 11% (n=50) were living in new housing. The remaining survivors were living in a new short-term or emergency shelter, transitional housing, or other. Three survivors were homeless (living on the street or couch surfing). When adjusted to include only those who participated in the follow-up survey (n=155), most (59%; n=91) had no change in their housing status (they were still in the same housing or shelter). The second largest response was that they were living in a new home (32.3%; n=50). The remaining survivors who participated in the follow up were living in a new short-term or emergency shelter (3.2%; n=5), transitional housing (1.4%; n=2), or other (2.6%; n=4). Three survivors (1.9%) were homeless (living on the street or couch surfing).

## Recommendations and Discussion

In just one day in 2017, at least 218 requests for housing were unmet in Colorado (NNEDV, 2017). Results of this Housing for Crime Victims Special Project indicate that this model has the potential to address an important, often unmet, need for housing. In this demonstration study, 449 survivors received housing assistance across just 8 sites. Flexible financial assistance should be continued in the future. The report provides recommendations for improving data collection, monitoring, and quality for future projects.

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# BACKGROUND

## 1. Background

### Domestic Violence (DV) Survivors' Housing Needs

Domestic violence (DV) is a widespread social problem that contributes to both homelessness and economic instability for many families (Sullivan & Olsen, 2016; Gilroy, McFarlane, Maddoux, & Sullivan, 2016). Many survivors seek the support of a community-based DV advocacy and service organization to help them find shelter and re-establish their lives. However, it can be a challenge to help survivors find both safe and stable housing or establish economic security in the United States. Many communities lack affordable housing (National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2016) and many abusers damage survivors' economic self-sufficiency. For example, abusers may ruin their partners' credit and deplete savings accounts (Adams, Littwin, & Javorka, 2019; Adams & Beeble, 2018).

According to the 2018 National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) census survey, **72,823 adult and child survivors received services in just one day in the United States**. Of those survivors, at least 1,079 were from Colorado (81% of Colorado DV organizations participated in the survey). Sadly, there were actually 1,296 requests for support that day, 17% (n=217) of which were unmet, and 72% (n=156) of those requests were for housing.

## In just one day in Colorado, 72% of domestic violence survivors' unmet needs were for housing.

To meet the need for housing, many DV organizations maintain a traditional shelter. Data on the costs of running DV shelters is difficult to find. One study using 1998 data found that it cost \$213,535 per year to operate a shelter (Chanley, Chanley, & Campbell, 2001). The Home for Women and Children (HFWC) posted details of the costs associated with building a DV shelter in New Mexico for survivors in the Navajo Nation (they serve the entire Navajo Reservation which covers the four corners of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado). The cost to build the shelter was over \$4.8 million (\$4,809,500.00). Even if shelters were not a costly option, emergency shelter is a temporary solution that does not meet survivors' long-term housing stability needs. As such, many are searching for more affordable, impactful, and sustainable alternatives.

There is emerging interest in the promise of domestic violence housing first (DVHF) approaches to address these needs. For example, there are recent implementations of DVHF that have been evaluated in California (Sullivan, Strom, & Fluegeman, 2017) and Washington state (Mbilyi, 2015; WCASDV, 2018ab).

## The Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) Model

Housing First is an approach that prioritizes placing people experiencing homelessness or housing instability into housing, *first*, with as few barriers as possible. Complementary advocacy and supportive services (e.g., counseling) are also usually offered to provide wraparound support. Housing First models have already demonstrated an improvement in the physical, financial, and mental well-being of participants (Aubry, Tsemberis, Adiar, Veldhuizen, Streiner, Latimer, & Goering, 2015; Oudshoorn, Forchuk, Hall, Smith-Carrier, & Van Berkum, 2018).

Some research indicates that Housing First models may even be more cost effective than emergency services. One study compared the cost of emergency services to a Housing First program for people with psychiatric disabilities and concluded that housing first may cost up to \$23,000 less per person (per year) compared to a shelter. (Stefancic & Tsemberis, 2007).

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless implemented a Housing First program for people who were chronically homeless with disabilities. There was an average of \$4,745 in savings per person (Perlman & Parvensky, 2006.). The potential for cost savings in the DV area is promising. As mentioned earlier, in just one day in 2018 (NNEDV, 2018) 659 adult and child survivors received housing assistance in Colorado with another 156 unable to have their housing need request met. That means during just one day in Colorado, 815<sup>1</sup> people needed housing assistance. If similar cost savings were found for DV survivors in Colorado, at \$4,475 in savings per person that could be a potential saving of up to \$3,647,125.00.

### *The Core Components of a DVHF Model*

DVHF has three core components that, when grouped together, distinguish it from other types of assistance: (1) survivor-driven, trauma-informed advocacy; (2) flexible financial assistance; and (3) community engagement. For more details on the core components of a DVHF model, see Sullivan, Strom and Fluegeman (2017).



#### **Survivor-driven, trauma-informed advocacy**

Advocates should work on needs **identified by the survivor**, rather than choosing what to work on *for* the survivor. Advocacy must also be trauma-informed and will ideally involve mobile advocacy (i.e., meeting survivors where they are rather than only meeting in the organization’s office).



#### **Flexible financial assistance**

A critical component of the DVHF model is **flexible** financial assistance. Rather than providing a pre-determined amount of funds to each survivor, the amount of funding will be **based on each survivor’s need**. Ideally, the funds can be used for a variety of things, such as child care, transportation, car repair, utility bills, and rent.



#### **Community engagement**

DV organizations should also engage with the **community** to build relationships in ways that will benefit and increase **community safety, access, and security for survivors**. For example, this could include engaging with landlords to help increase access to a variety of housing options in the community.

<sup>1</sup> The count provided by NNEDV may include children living with an adult in this number. Even if we cut the number of survivors served by 50% to reduce that to 407 people, that would still be a saving of up to \$1,821,325.00

## The Colorado Housing for Crime Victims Special Project

As a result of the statewide needs assessment conducted by the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) in 2015, housing for victims of crime was identified as a Special Project for the use of the new Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance funds. DCJ's Office for Victims Programs (OVP) worked collaboratively with the state Domestic Violence Coalition (Violence Free Colorado; VFC) and other stakeholders to address this need by supporting a set of demonstration sites across the state in the implementation of new methods of housing for crime victims.

The project was implemented in Colorado for a 20-month period (May 2017 through December 2018). The project was **not exclusively a DVHF model**, but rather an initiative to allow for housing advocacy and financial assistance to help crime victims in Colorado obtain or maintain housing. To the extent possible, sites were encouraged to provide **low-barrier access to these services (e.g., minimal paperwork, few eligibility criteria)**. This included DVHF, flexible financial assistance, hotel vouchers, community and individual advocacy, and other strategies.

For VOCA funds to be used, the expense must be linked to the victimization. For the Colorado project, participating organizations provided services to survivors of domestic violence, as well as other crimes. Although it is ideal for DVHF models to provide financial assistance with minimal-to-no restrictions, VOCA funds can only be used for eligible purposes as outlined in the federal and state guidelines. As a result, sites in this project provided flexible financial assistance through both VOCA and non-VOCA funds. Both VOCA and non-VOCA funds were needed due to some restrictions in how VOCA funds can be used. The biggest restriction for Colorado organizations was that VOCA funds could not be used to cover deposits or mortgage payments.

During implementation, VFC's Housing Program Manager (HPM) and the OVP Grants Administrator conducted monthly training and technical assistance (TA) calls with all sites. The HPM coordinated an in-person meeting with all sites in 2018, at the beginning of the project. The HPM also conducted in-person site visits at least once during the grant cycle. Finally, the HPM also provided TA as needed throughout the project. The TA topics discussed included: housing protections, federal and state statutes on victims' rights to sever leases, mobile advocacy, program development, DVHF best practices, process and protocols, housing program paperwork, and staffing suggestions.

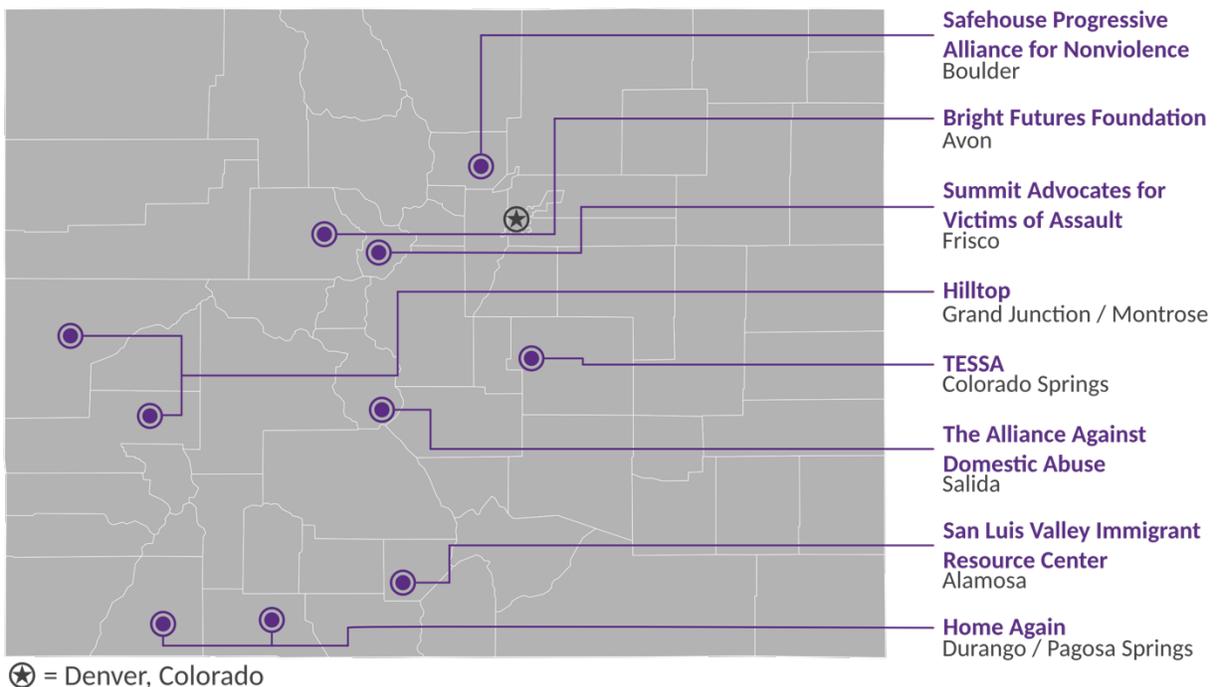
The project implemented in Colorado was **not exclusively a DVHF model**, but rather an initiative to provide **flexible, low-barrier access to housing advocacy and financial assistance services**.

## The 8 Colorado Housing for Crime Victims Special Project Pilot Sites

Eight sites implemented the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project and are shown on the map below.

### The eight sites and their locations are as follows:

- The Alliance Against Domestic Abuse (AADA) in Salida
- Bright Futures Foundation (BFF) in Avon
- Home Again (HA): Volunteers of America Southwest Safehouse (Durango), Rise Above Violence (Pagosa Springs), and Southwest Housing Solutions (Durango)
- Hilltop in Montrose and Grand Junction
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) in Boulder.
- Advocates for Victims of Assault (AVA) in Frisco
- San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center (SLVIRC) in Alamosa
- TESSA in Colorado Springs



**In addition to the standard services sites were already providing (e.g., counseling, support groups), all sites provided the following housing assistance services:**

- mobile advocacy
- housing search and navigation
- landlord advocacy
- financial management and budgeting
- case management and goal planning for both safety and housing stability
- direct financial support for expenses such as rent, utilities, and other needs (multiple times, not just once)

In this report, we refer to this set of services as “housing services” which includes both financial and non-financial forms of support. In some sections, we focus specifically on the financial assistance provided.

Although many of the pilot sites were providing some form of these services already, this special project allowed organizations to standardize their processes, build on or expand these services, and/or hire dedicated housing staff or team members.

**In this report, we refer to this set of services as “housing services” which includes both financial and non-financial forms of support. In some sections, we focus specifically on the financial assistance provided.**



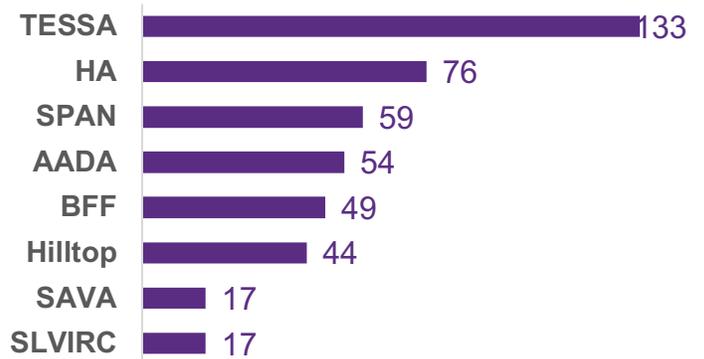
# METHOD

## 2. Evaluation Project Method and Data

### Financial Assistance Data

All sites participating in the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project were provided with an Excel spreadsheet for the purpose of monitoring and collecting evaluation data.

According to this spreadsheet, **449 survivors received housing assistance, with a range of 17-133 survivors served per site.**



## According to the excel spreadsheets used by sites, 449 survivors received housing assistance during the Special Project.

**The Excel spreadsheet was an edited version of the one used by Dr. Cris Sullivan and included the following columns:**

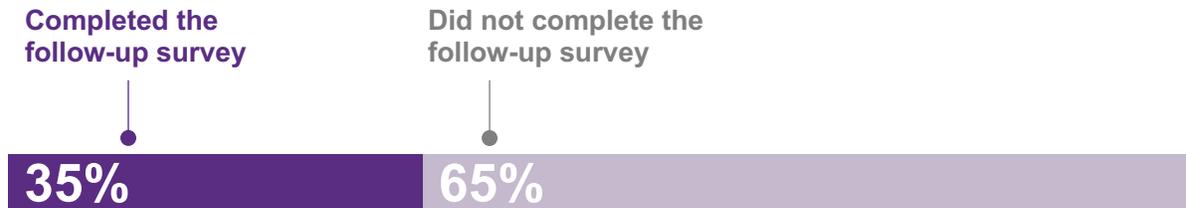
- Advocate name
- Date
- Survivor age
- Survivor sex/gender
- Survivor ethnicity
- Survivor race
- Type of victimization experienced
- Whether children live with survivor
- Is survivor an immigrant or refugee
- Amount requested
- Amount provided by VOCA
- Amount provided by other flexible funding
- If funding was denied, reason
- What were VOCA funds used for
- What were non-VOCA funds used for

## Follow-up Survey

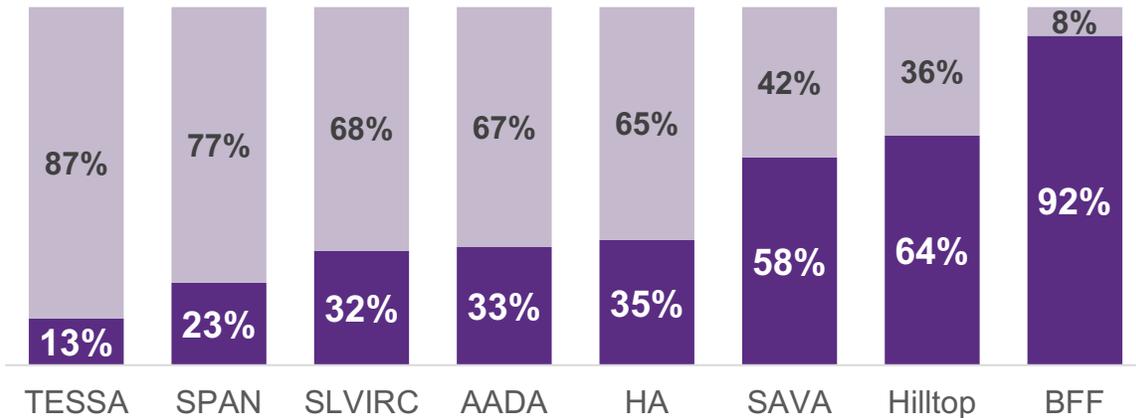
Approximately 6 months after data collection began (June 2018), Dr. Echo Rivera was brought on as an independent evaluation consultant. Dr. Rivera's first task was to review the existing data collection protocol to plan for future data analyses and identify any potential gaps. Through this process, a follow-up survey protocol was developed and implemented due to concerns about how the "final outcome status" had been collected. In fall 2018, the Violence Free Colorado Housing Program Manager informed and trained advocates on the follow-up survey protocol.

The follow-up survey asked one question, "**What is your housing situation right now?**" Advocates were also asked to track how many survivors they attempted to reach for the survey. Based on these reports, advocates attempted to reach about 87% of survivors who received assistance through the special housing program.

Across all sites, about **34.5% of survivors (n=155)** who received financial assistance **completed the follow-up survey** about their housing status.



By site, percentage of survivors reached for the follow up survey  **ranged from 13-92%.**



**As a reminder, the eight sites and their locations are as follows:**

- The Alliance Against Domestic Abuse (**AADA**) in Salida
- Bright Futures Foundation (**BFF**) in Avon
- Home Again (**HA**): Volunteers of America Southwest Safehouse (Durango), Rise Above Violence (Pagosa Springs), and Southwest Housing Solutions (Durango)
- **Hilltop** in Montrose and Grand Junction
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (**SPAN**) in Boulder.
- Advocates for Victims of Assault (**AVA**) in Frisco
- San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center (**SLVIRC**) in Alamosa
- **TESSA** in Colorado Springs



# SAMPLE

## 3. Sample Demographics

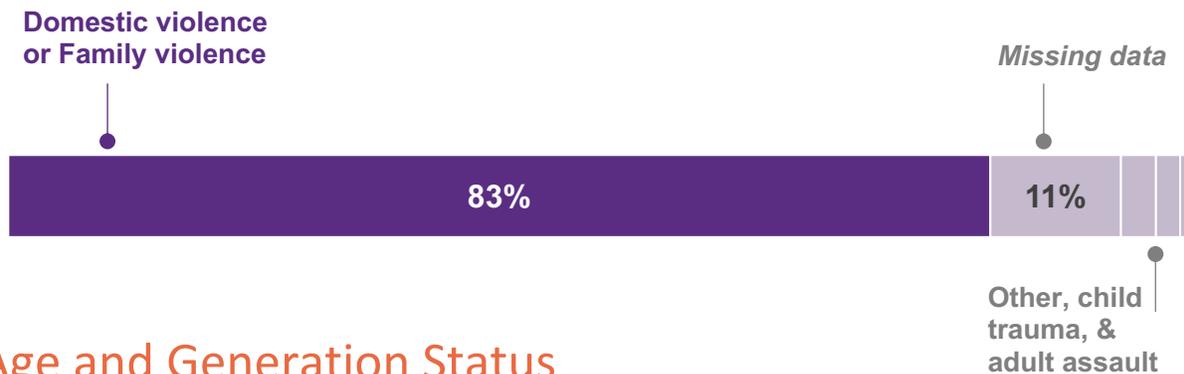
This section provides demographic information (e.g., age, race/ethnicity) for the survivors who received housing assistance during the Special Project.

Based on the spreadsheets, 449 survivors received housing assistance (438 survivors received financial assistance, and an additional 11 received non-financial forms of advocacy). The 438 survivors who received financial assistance also likely received other forms of advocacy, however this information was not captured in the financial tracker spreadsheet.

**438 survivors** received housing and financial assistance, and **11 survivors** received non-financial forms of housing assistance.

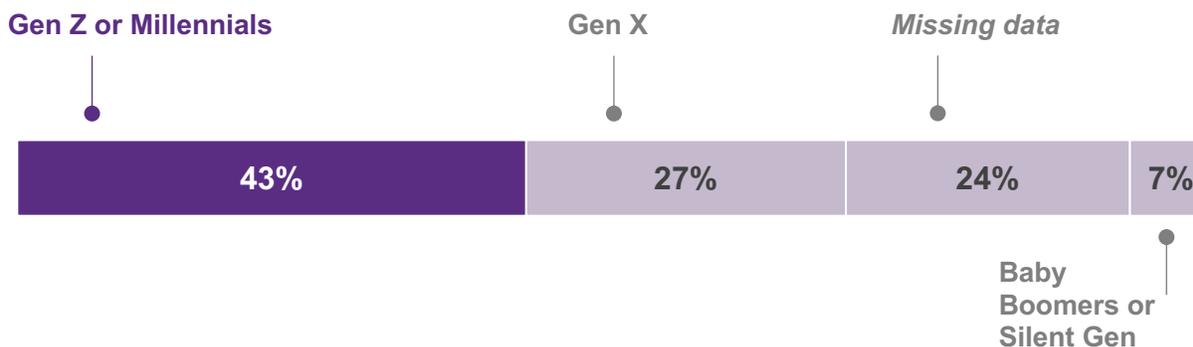
## Type of Victimization

**Most survivors who received housing assistance endured domestic or family violence (DV/FV; n=371, 82.6%).** About 10.5% (n=47) did not have a victimization type reported, with the remaining victimization types ranging from adult physical assault or stalking (n=15; 3.3%), other violent crime (e.g., robbery; n=9; 2%) and childhood trauma (e.g., neglect; n=7; 1.6%). Most of the sites that participated in the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project specifically provide Domestic/Family Violence services, so it is possible that some of the missing data are DV/FV situations.



## Age and Generation Status

The age range of survivors was between **19-74 years old with a median age of 36 years.** Most clients were **Gen Z or Millennials (42.8%; n=192)**, followed by Gen X (26.9%; n=121), and Baby Boomers or Silent Gen (6.7%; n=30)<sup>2</sup>. There was **no age reported for 24% (n=106) of clients**, so data on age may not be representative of all clients who received housing assistance.



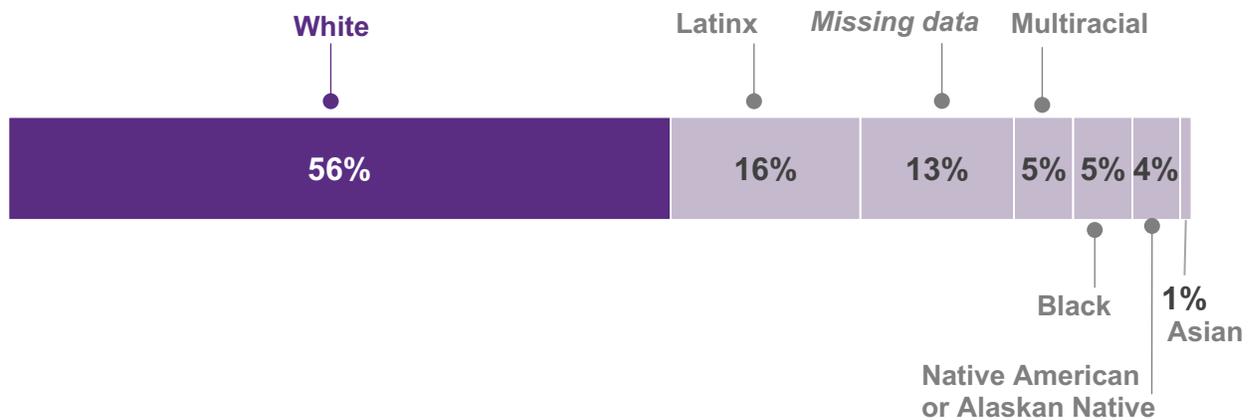
<sup>2</sup> Generation status was calculated based on the Pew Research Center birth year guidelines: Silent Gen (1928-1945); Baby Boomers (1946-1964); GenX (1965-1980); Millennials (1981-1996); GenZ (1997-Present)

## Sex/Gender

**Most survivors were female (95.5%; n=429)**, followed by male (2.7%; n=12), and transgender (0.4%; n=2). Sex or gender was not reported for 6 survivors (1.3%; n=6).

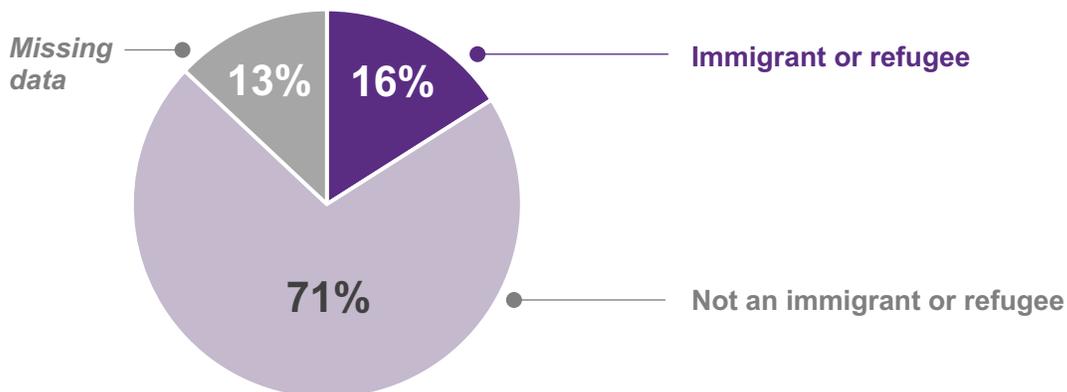
## Race/Ethnicity

**Most survivors who received housing assistance were white (56.5%; n=254)**, followed by Latinx (15.8%; n=71), Multiracial (5.1%; n=23), Black (4.7%; n=21), Native American or Alaskan Native (3.6%; n=16), and Asian (0.4%; n=2). An additional, 13.8% (n=62) did not have any race or ethnicity stated.



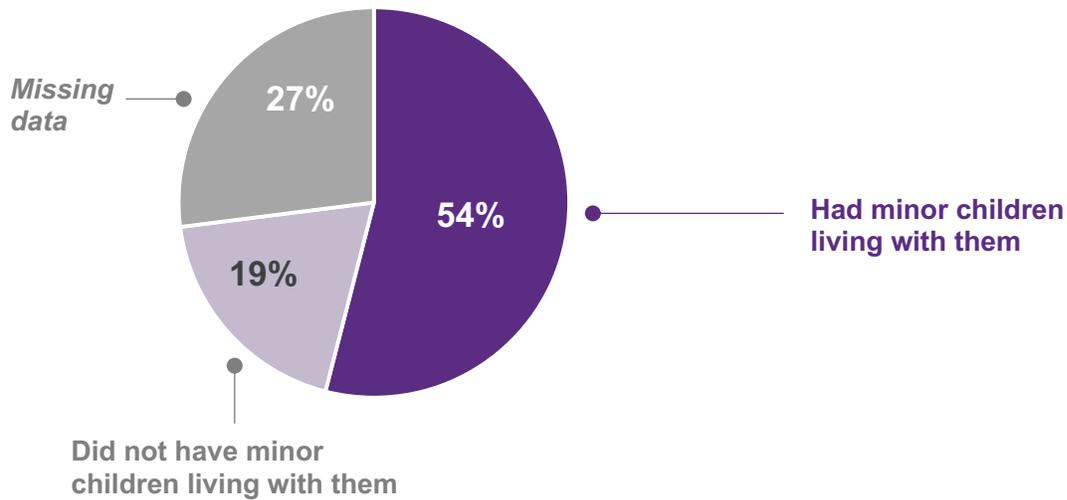
## Immigrant or Refugee Status

Most (71.5%) survivors were not an immigrant or refugee (n=321). **At least 15.6% (n=70) of survivors who received housing assistance were immigrants or refugees** and 12.9% (n=58) of this data was missing. However, it is possible that staff were only choosing “yes” if the survivor was an immigrant or refugee, which means that some of the missing data may be a “no” response.



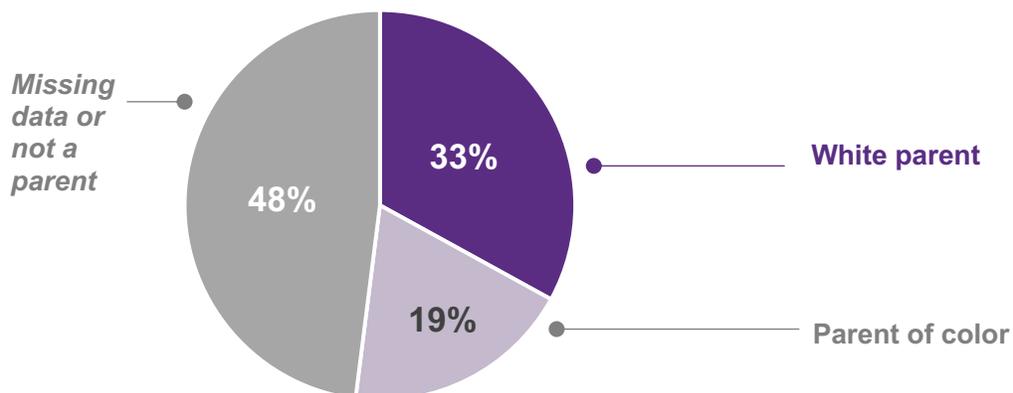
## Family Details

**Most survivors who received housing assistance had a minor child or children living with them (53.9%; n=242).** Although 18.7% (n=84) reported no child/children living with them, a larger portion of this data point was missing (27.4%; n=123). Again, it is possible that staff were only choosing “yes” if the survivor had children living with them, which means that some of the missing data may simply be a “no” response.



## Intersecting Demographics

At least 33.4% (n=150) of parents were white and 18.9% (n=85) were parents of color. The remaining 47.5% (n=214) were either not parents or had missing data for these two questions (i.e., race and parental status).



The two largest groups were white Gen Z or Millennials (27.2%; n=122) and Gen Z/Millennials of color (14.5%; n=65).

<b>Generation and Race</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Gen Z or Millennial</b>		
Person of color	65	14.5%
White	122	27.2%
<b>Gen X</b>		
Person of color	52	11.6%
White	65	14.5%
<b>Baby Boomer or Silent Generation</b>		
Person of color	7	1.6%
White	22	4.9%
<i>Missing/Unreported</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>25.8%</i>

We were unable to create additional intersecting demographic categories due to a significant amount of missing data (greater than 50%). For example, due to the amount of missing data for race and immigrant/refugee status, when combined 86% of cases were of missing data.



# ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

## 4. Financial & Housing Assistance Provided

### Financial Assistance Across All Time Points

This section presents data only for those who received financial assistance as part of their housing assistance (n=438). The **total amount of financial assistance provided** was \$957,494.91, which was paid across 1,444 payments to 438 survivors (See Tables 4.1 and 4.2 for the median, average, and range).

In total, \$849,648.61 (1,350 payments) were from VOCA and the remaining \$67,911.42 (94 payments) were non-VOCA funds. By nature of being a flexible financial assistance model, the **range of total assistance provided per person** varied (from \$14 to \$20,815.85). The median number of times a person received assistance was two times, with a **median total amount of \$1,397 per person**. (See Tables 4.1 and 4.2 for the median, average, and range).

Table 4.1 Total, Range, Average, and Median Amount of Assistance Provided (n=438)

Total Amount Provided	Median	Average	Range
Total (All Sources)	\$1,397	\$2,094	\$14-\$20,815
Total VOCA	\$1,206	\$1,939	\$0-\$20,815
Total non-VOCA	\$0	\$155	\$0-\$3,200

**Note.** \$0 is the low range in this table because if survivors did not receive one source of funding (e.g., VOCA) then they received the other source (e.g., non-VOCA) at that same time point.

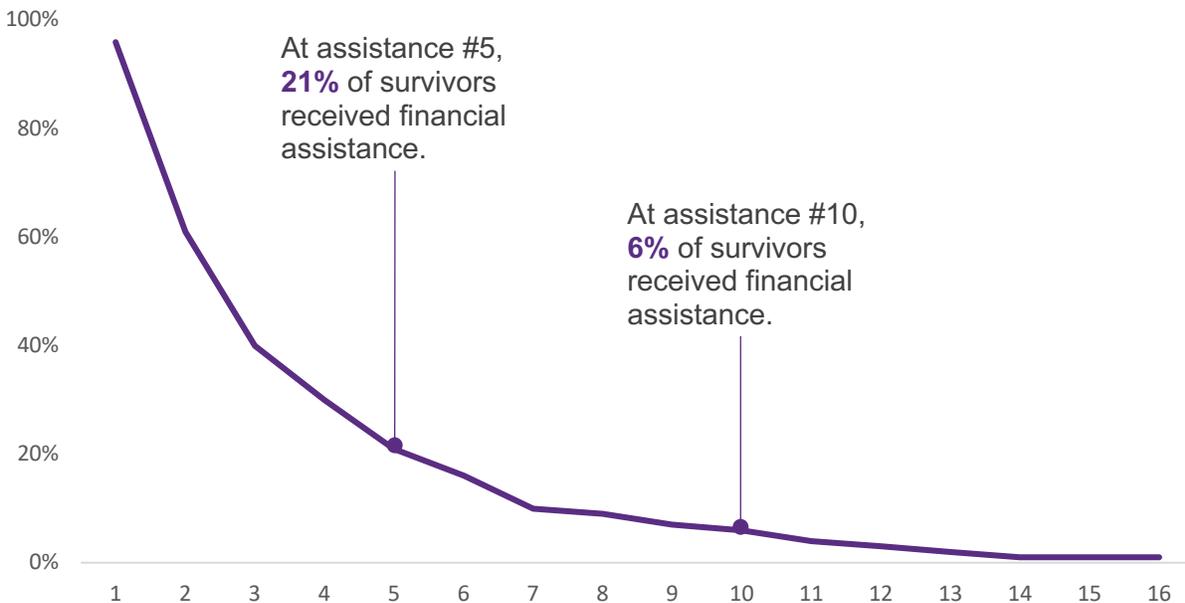
Table 4.2 Total, Range, Average, and Median Number of Times of Assistance Provided (n=438)

Total Number of Assistances Provided	Median	Average	Range
Total (All Sources)	2 times	3.30 times	1-23 times
Total VOCA	2 times	3.08 times	0-23 times
Total non-VOCA	0 times	0.2 times	0-2 times

**Note.** \$0 is the low range in this table because if survivors did not receive one source of funding (e.g., VOCA) then they received the other source (e.g., non-VOCA) at that same time point.

The **median** amount of financial assistance per survivor was **\$1,397**, with a median of **2 financial assistances**.

While there were some cases where survivors received a high and/or frequent amount of financial assistance, most survivors received a relatively small amount of support, only a few times. Figure 4.3 shows the decrease in financial assistance provided across time. For details on the number of survivors who received financial assistance at each point, see Appendix C.



*Figure 4.3 Percentage of survivors who received any financial assistance (VOCA or non-VOCA) at each assistance point*

There is a large drop in survivors at each assistance point. For example, there was a 35% drop in the number of survivors who received assistance by the second assistance point (95.9%; n=420 at assistance #1 and 61.2%; n=268 at assistance #2). The percentage of survivors reported as being denied funding at both assistance number one (7%, n=32) and assistance number two (2%, n=8) is small. However, some organizations indicated that they provided high or frequent amounts of financial assistance to the first survivors in the program, and then changed their policies to provide smaller amounts for survivors they worked with later. Therefore, this drop in assistance may be due to a combination of two factors: (a) survivors did not need high and/or frequent financial assistance, and/or (b) organizations did not have the funding available or the type of funding for their need.

We did not find any statistically significant differences in the total number of times funding was provided or total assistance provided based on demographics (See Appendix D for more information about these statistical tests).

# Details About the First Housing Assistance

Some survivors received \$0 funds and they are included in these results because they may have received other forms of advocacy, which may have had an impact on their well-being, housing situation, or their interest in coming back for more advocacy services. This section provides data for all survivors in the dataset (n=449), because some may not have received *financial* assistance at the first *housing* assistance, but received other forms of assistance at a later point in time.

**At housing assistance #1, 420 (93.5%) survivors received financial assistance.** More specifically, 407 (90.6%) received VOCA funds and 80 (17.8%) received non-VOCA funds. Some survivors received both types of funds (See Appendices C and E).



The **median amount requested was \$695**, with an average of \$770 and a range of \$14-\$5,393. 00. Funding was denied to about 7.1% (n=32) of survivors, though 22.7% of the data is missing for this question.

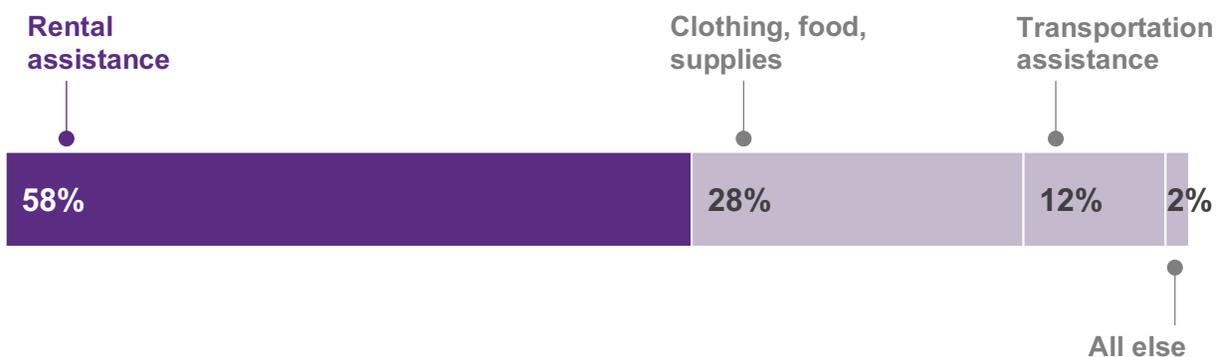


The excel spreadsheet recorded **how financial assistance funds were used depending on the funding source**. Regardless of funding source, most funds were used to provide survivors with rental assistance.

Of those who received **VOCA funds** at their first assistance (n=407), 84.2% (n=343) used the VOCA funds for rental assistance. The next two largest categories were for utility bills (3.9%; n=16) and emergency hotel stays (3.9%; n=16). The remaining 8% used funds for relocation, clothing, food supplies, transportation assistance, moving expenses, childcare, emergency shelter, food assistance, housing prep, or physical/mental health needs.



Of those who received **non-VOCA funds** at their first assistance (n=80), 57.7% (n=45) used them for rental assistance. Another 28.2% (n=22) used this funding for clothing, food and supplies. Another 11.5% (n=9) were used for transportation assistance. The remaining 2% used the funds for emergency hotel stays and moving expenses.





# OUTCOMES

## 6. Housing Outcomes

Sites collected both immediate and follow-up outcome data from survivors. The “immediate outcome” question was included in the excel spreadsheet and reflected the immediate impact of receiving that specific form of housing assistance or amount of financial assistance. The “follow-up” outcome was collected via phone call follow-up near the end of the project.

This section provides data for all survivors in the dataset even if they did not receive financial assistance (n=449), because the other forms of housing assistance they received (e.g., landlord advocacy) may have had an impact on their housing outcome.

## Immediate Outcomes After Housing Assistance #1

Of those with an immediate outcome reported (97%; n=437), nearly 51% of survivors (50.8%; n=222) were able to stay in their current housing as an “immediate” result of receiving their first housing assistance.

Another 39.2% of survivors were able to obtain some form of housing as an “immediate” result of receiving their first housing assistance, **bringing the total percentage of survivors housed to 90%**. Specifically, 15.6% (n=68) were able to go from homeless (i.e., couch surfing, living with a friend, or living on the street) to housed; 15.1% (n=66) from one home to another; and 8.5% (n=37) from shelter to housed.

# 90%

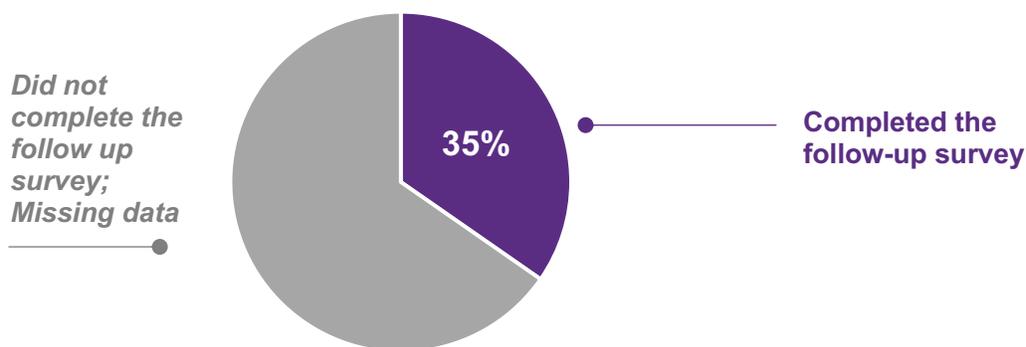
were able to **maintain or obtain housing** as a result of receiving housing assistance.



The remaining 10% of survivors used the housing assistance for family well-being (7.6%; n=33) or housing preparation (2.5%; n=11). In most cases, these options were chosen when none of the other options applied. “Family well-being” was chosen when the housing assistance helped survivors maintain their safety or health (e.g., utilities could stay on and not get shut off, food, or clothes). “Housing preparation” was chosen when the housing assistance helped survivors get ready for housing (e.g., moving company, utility start-up). The immediate outcome was not provided for 12 (2.7%) survivors.

## Follow-up Outcomes

To obtain final outcome data, in the fall of 2018 sites were asked to contact all survivors they worked with through the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project and obtain an update on their housing status. As noted earlier, 155 survivors were reached for the follow-up survey, which is **34.5% of those who received housing assistance**.

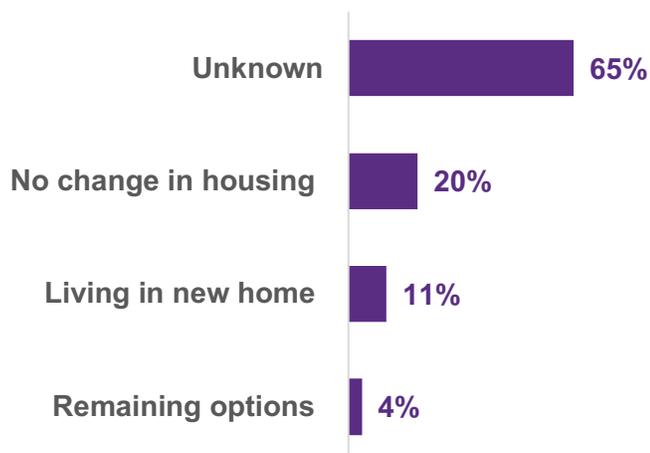


**As a group, immigrants/refugees were more likely to be reached/participate in the follow-up survey than non-immigrants/refugees:** 51% of immigrants participated in the follow-up, whereas 32% of non-immigrants did. This was tested using a Pearson Chi-Square test and was statistically significant at  $X^2 (1, N=391) = 9.05, p = .003$ .

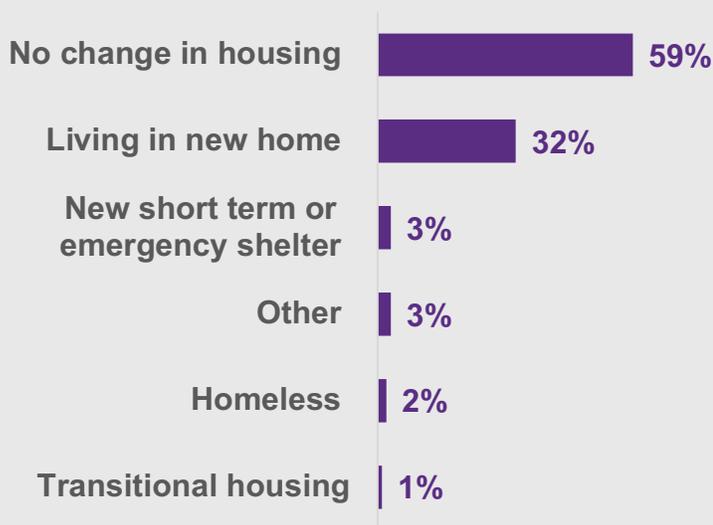
There were no significant differences in whether or not the follow up survey was conducted based on: amount of financial assistance, total number of times assistance was provided, generation, race, or parent status. Due to small subgroup sizes and/or missing data, we were unable to test for differences based on sex/gender, age generation by race, victimization type, parent status by race or immigrant/refugee status by race.

## Change in housing status

The housing status for most survivors was unknown (65%; n=294). From there, 20% (n=91) had no change in housing or were living in new housing (11%; n=50). The remaining survivors were living in a new short-term or emergency shelter, transitional housing, or other. Three survivors were homeless (living on the street or couch surfing).



**When adjusted to include only those who participated in the follow-up survey (n=155),** most (59%; n=91) had no change in their housing status (they were still in the same housing or shelter). The second largest response was that they were living in a new home (32.3%; n=50). The remaining survivors who participated in the follow up were living in a new short-term or emergency shelter (3.2%; n=5), transitional housing (1.4%; n=2), or other (2.6%; n=4). Three survivors (1.9%) were homeless (living on the street or couch surfing).





# CONCLUSION

## 7. Recommendations & Discussion

### Collect Data from Survivors Using an Independent Organization or Evaluator

**To understand the impact of DVHF on survivors, it is important to hear directly from survivors who participated in the program.** It is highly recommended that a survivor survey and/or survivor interviews are conducted to obtain outcomes data. For example, one goal of the Housing for Crime Victims Special Project was to ensure access to DVHF was low barrier, survivor-driven, and trauma-informed—all of which are areas that only survivors can provide accurate data about.

Because this information would directly speak to the quality of services provided, ideally it should be collected by an independent organization or evaluator. This is to ensure survivors are confident they can speak freely about positive and negative experiences without any negative impact on the services they receive.

## Improve Data Collection Protocols

### *Changes to the Excel spreadsheet and/or data captured by advocates*

One change to the Excel spreadsheet that is recommended is to have only **one row per survivor**, and additional columns added for each assistance point. This structure will allow for ongoing data quality and completeness monitoring. Additional recommendations include expanding the **response options** provided to advocates for gender and race/ethnicity.

### *Conduct monthly audits and ongoing data reliability maintenance*

**Monthly audits**, with **rapid** follow-up and response to gather the missing data or clarify questions in the data, will provide a more complete dataset in the future. **One goal to strive for in the future is to have less than 5% missing data for a single question.**

## The Special Housing Project is a promising initiative for Colorado

In one day in 2017, at least 218 requests for housing were unmet in Colorado (NNEDV, 2017). Results of this Housing for Crime Victims Special Project indicate that **this model has potential to address an important, often unmet, need for housing.** In this demonstration study, 449 survivors received housing assistance across just 8 sites.

**Flexible financial assistance should be continued in the future.** The range of assistance varied from \$14-\$20,815, with a median of \$1,397 per person. Plus, most survivors only received assistance once or twice. By assistance number 3, only 39.5% (n=173) received assistance. Although we were unable to find direct cost comparisons available for shelter or transitional housing programs, available data indicates that funds spent to implement a similar model (i.e., Housing First) results in cost savings. In this project, 438 survivors received financial assistance (with an additional 11 receiving non-financial forms of housing advocacy). By using the estimate based on the Denver Housing First Collaborative results (a saving of \$4,475 per person) it is possible that this program saved up to \$1,960,050 in emergency housing and assistance costs. For organizations wishing to make an economic argument for Colorado, a cost analysis study would be helpful in the future.

However, even if implementing this form of housing program costs the same as a shelter or transitional housing program, the outcomes may be greater. Importantly, **90% of survivors reported that they were able to obtain some form of housing after the first assistance—with 51% of those survivors able to stay in their existing housing.** While shelters provide a valuable, life-saving option for survivors, the ability to help survivors stay in their own home contributes to positive outcomes.

# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX A: REFERENCES

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# APPENDIX B: SURVIVORS BY ORGANIZATION

The eight sites that participated in the project were:

- The Alliance Against Domestic Abuse (**AADA**) in Salida
- Bright Futures Foundation (**BFF**) in Avon
- Home Again (**HA**): Volunteers of America Southwest Safehouse (Durango), Rise Above Violence (Pagosa Springs), and Southwest Housing Solutions (Durango)
- **Hilltop** in Montrose and Grand Junction
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (**SPAN**) in Boulder.
- Advocates for Victims of Assault (**AVA**) in Frisco
- San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center (**SLVIRC**) in Alamosa
- **TESSA** in Colorado Springs

*Number of Survivors and the Percentage of the Sample, by Organization*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Number of Survivors (% percentage of sample)</b>
TESSA	133 (30%)
HA	76 (17%)
SPAN	59 (13%)
AADA	54 (12%)
BFF	49 (11%)
Hilltop	44 (10%)
AVA	17 (4%)
SLVIRC	17 (4%)
<b>TOTAL = 449</b>	

# APPENDIX C: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT EACH ASSISTANCE POINT

The tables in this section show results for those who received financial assistance at some point in time (n=438). **This section excludes survivors who received \$0 in financial assistance.** Missing data (i.e., blank cells in the financial tracker) were counted as “no financial assistance.”

*Number of Survivors Who Received Financial Assistance at Each Assistance Point, by Funding Source*

<b>Assistance #</b>	<b># of any funding (%)</b>	<b># of VOCA funding (%)</b>	<b># of non-VOCA funding (%)</b>
1	<b>420 (95.9%)</b>	407 (92.9%)	81 (22.2%)
2	<b>268 (61.2%)</b>	264 (60.3%)	11 (5.6%)
3	<b>173 (39.5%)</b>	173 (39.5%)	0
4	<b>129 (29.5%)</b>	129 (29.5%)	1 (1.6%)
5	<b>93 (21.2%)</b>	93 (21.2%)	1 (1.6%)
6	<i>(see VOCA column)</i>	<b>71 (16.2%)</b>	
7		<b>46 (10.5%)</b>	
8		<b>40 (9.1%)</b>	
9		<b>29 (6.6%)</b>	
10		<b>25 (5.7%)</b>	
11		<b>17 (3.9%)</b>	
12		<b>15 (3.4%)</b>	
13		<b>9 (2.1%)</b>	
14		<b>4 (0.9%)</b>	
15		<b>5 (1.1%)</b>	
16		<b>4 (0.9%)</b>	
17		<b>4 (0.9%)</b>	
18		<b>4 (0.9%)</b>	
19		<b>4 (0.9%)</b>	
20		<b>3 (0.7%)</b>	
21		<b>2 (0.5%)</b>	
22		<b>1 (0.2%)</b>	
23		<b>1 (0.2%)</b>	

*Range, Average, and Median Amounts of VOCA Funding Across All Assistance Points*

<b>#</b>	<b># of VOCA funding</b>	<b>Range of \$</b>	<b>Average \$</b>	<b>Median \$</b>
1	407 (92.9%)	\$0-5,394	\$676	\$600
2	264 (60.3%)	\$0-2,400	\$626	\$550
3	173 (39.5%)	\$20-1,820	\$607	\$550
4	129 (29.5%)	\$20-1,540	\$563	\$545
5	93 (21.2%)	\$0-2,100	\$549	\$500
6	71 (16.2%)	\$31-3,000	\$592	\$550
7	46 (10.5%)	\$55-1,456	\$584	\$511
8	40 (9.1%)	\$142-2,000	\$572	\$463
9	29 (6.6%)	\$31-1,100	\$467	\$446
10	25 (5.7%)	\$79-\$1,366	\$506	\$450
11	17 (3.9%)	\$61-1,300	\$487	\$500
12	15 (3.4%)	\$55-1,000	\$378	\$307
13	9 (2.1%)	\$70-\$1,514	\$436	\$284
14	4 (0.9%)	\$37-1,300	\$575	\$482
15	5 (1.1%)	\$39-\$1,200	\$601	\$850
16	4 (0.9%)	\$59-950	\$658	\$813
17	4 (0.9%)	\$109-\$1,100	\$663	\$722
18	4 (0.9%)	\$110-\$950	\$477	\$424
19	4 (0.9%)	\$381-900	\$653	\$665
20	3 (0.7%)	\$110-1,514	\$766	\$675
21	2 (0.5%)	\$93-675	\$384	\$384
22	1 (0.2%)	\$473	-	-
23	1 (0.2%)	\$307	-	-

*Non-VOCA Funding Across All Applicable Assistance Points*

<b>#</b>	<b># of non-VOCA funding</b>	<b>Range of \$</b>	<b>Average \$</b>	<b>Median \$</b>
1	81 (22.2%)	\$0-2,475	\$160	\$0
2	11 (5.6%)	\$0-1,600	\$46	\$0
3	0	-	-	-
4	1 (1.6%)	\$175	-	-
5	1 (1.6%)	\$592	-	-

There was no non-VOCA funding provided after the 5th assistance point.

# APPENDIX D: STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE TESTS

## Were there any differences in funding provided based on demographics?

Statistical significance tests were conducted where possible. One-way ANOVAs (Analysis of Variance) were used to test whether there were significant differences in (a) the average total number of times funding was provided or (b) average total amount of funding provided, based on key demographics.

We tested for differences in financial assistance provided based on survivors' immigrant/refugee status, parent status, and generation. **There were no significant differences in either (1) the number of times funding was provided or (2) total funding provided based on these factors.**

Due to small subgroup sizes and/or missing data, we were unable to test for differences based on sex/gender, age generation by race, parent status by race, victimization type, or immigrant/refugee status by race.

**Due to missing data, these results should be interpreted with caution.** Future evaluations of the Special Housing Project should continue to collect demographic data and conduct statistical tests in the future.

# APPENDIX E: DETAILED DATA ABOUT THE FIRST ASSISTANCE

At housing assistance #1, 32 survivors (7%) were denied some form of financial assistance (VOCA, non-VOCA, or both).

*Range, Average, and Median Amounts Requested and Provided by Funding Source*

	<b>n</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Median</b>
<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>\$14-\$5,393</b>	<b>\$770</b>	<b>\$695</b>
Total VOCA funds received	440	\$0-\$5,393	\$662	\$590
Total non-VOCA funds	365	\$0-\$3,200	\$169	0

**Of those who received VOCA funds at their first housing assistance (n=407), what were funds used for? This table excludes survivors who received \$0 VOCA funds at the first housing assistance.**

<b>VOCA funds use</b>	<b>n (%)</b>
Rental assistance	343 (84.3%)
Utility bills (start up or current)	16 (3.9%)
Emergency hotel stay	16 (3.9%)
Relocation	10 (2.5%)
Clothing, food, supplies	7 (1.7%)
Transportation assistance	6 (1.5%)
Moving expenses	2 (0.5%)
Other	2 (0.5%)
Childcare	1 (0.2%)
Emergency shelter	1 (0.2%)
Food assistance	1 (0.2%)
Housing prep	1 (0.2%)
Physical and mental health needs	1 (0.2%)

**Of those who received non-VOCA funds at their first housing assistance (n=80), what were funds used for? This table excludes survivors who received \$0 non-VOCA funds at the first housing assistance.**

<b>Non-VOCA funds use</b>	<b>n (%)</b>
Rental assistance	45 (57.7%)
Utility bills (start up or current)	-
Emergency hotel stay	1 (1.3%)
Relocation	-
Clothing, food, supplies	22 (28.2%)
Transportation assistance	9 (11.5%)
Moving expenses	1 (1.3%)
Other	-
Childcare	-
Emergency shelter	-
Food assistance	-
Housing prep	-
Physical and mental health needs	-
Missing/Unreported	-

*An evaluation of the*  
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Victims Special Project**

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Together we can end relationship abuse