



2019 Annual Report



OUR MISSION

The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) mobilizes collaborative community action with and on behalf of a statewide network of Domestic Violence Resource Centers to ensure that all people affected by domestic abuse and violence in Maine are restored to safety and that perpetrators are held accountable. MCEDV builds partnerships that promote public policy, education, and systems advocacy to create and encourage a social, political, and economic environment that fosters communities where the diversity, dignity, and contributions of all are respected and celebrated, and domestic abuse and violence no longer exist.



LEGISLATION

In 2019 MCEDV added the position of Public Policy Director to staff for the first time. We are excited to reflect our increased impact on policy and legislation.

Last year, we:

- Worked with our partners at the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault and in the Legislature to secure a **one-time funding increase of \$5 million over two years from the Fund for a Healthy Maine** - the first increase in state funding for domestic violence and sexual assault services in nearly 20 years.
- Presented "**A Report on the Impact of Economic Abuse on Survivors of Domestic Violence in Maine**" to the Legislature, and supported first-ever protections in Maine law for people who have experienced someone using these tactics against them.
- Supported legislation to **elevate the third violation of a protection from abuse order to a felony crime**. This new law also classifies the most serious felony assaults against a family or household member as domestic violence aggravated assaults in Maine's criminal code. Both of these modifications to Maine's law will enhance victim safety through increased perpetrator accountability.

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TRAINING & EDUCATION

A core part of our work is enhancing the ability of systems and individuals in Maine to support survivors, to hold abusive people to account and to shift conditions that foster abuse and violence.

Last year, MCEDV staff:

- **Spent 249 hours training 1,856 Maine professionals** - including law enforcement, nurses, clergy, advocates, child welfare workers and others - in effectively responding to domestic abuse, elder abuse, teen dating violence and commercial sex trafficking.
- **Spent 75 hours training 436 mental and behavioral health providers** in advance of the 2020 Intimate Partner Violence licensure requirements, created by the Legislature in 2013.
- Following up on legislation passed in 2017, **provided foundational training for both men's and women's violence intervention programs as required by state certification standards.** Training audiences included our member programs, Maine's Certified Batterer Intervention Programs, the Wabanaki Women's Coalition and the Department of Corrections.
- In our role as a technical assistance provider regarding policy and practice related to domestic abuse and violence, we made **3,426 technical assistance connections with our members, and 1,846 with community partners.**

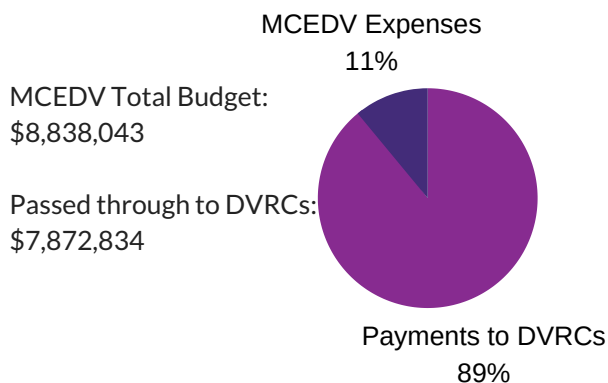


ADMINISTRATION

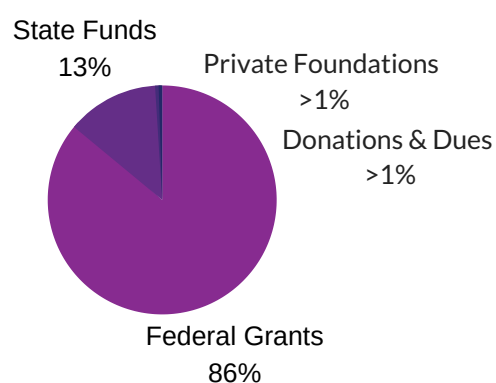
MCEDV administers the bulk of the federal and state funds that support Domestic Violence Resource Centers through a single contract with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, as well as two grants from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. Last year, we:

- **Administered disbursement of \$7,872,834** to our eight sub-recipient members, and monitored compliance with all contract provisions.
- **Updated our Quality Assurance Standards** to reflect current best practices.
- Through a contract with the Maine Department of Corrections, **developed and began administering partial fee reimbursement** for low-income participants in Certified Batterer Intervention Programs, supporting both the financial stability of the programs and more equitable access for people with low-income.
- **Grew our team from six staff to 10** - expanding our capacity to serve Maine.

HOW MUCH DID IT COST ?



WHERE IS THE FUNDING FROM?





2019 DVRC Snapshot

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK

Our member Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRCs) provide services for people affected by domestic abuse and violence, dating abuse, stalking, elder abuse and commercial sex trafficking. DVRCs are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, via their 24-hour helplines.

WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE IN 2019?



Overall, **13,759 people** sought help from a local DVRC.



631 people accessed emergency shelter. This represents **5% of the total people** who sought help. By contrast, DVRC legal programs assisted **36% of people served**.



DVRCs spent a total of **124,341 hours** working with Mainers - on the phone, at shelters, in groups and in other community settings.



485 volunteers contributed **29,704 hours** of service, an in-kind donation of labor worth more than **\$445,000**.

IN JUST ONE DAY, DVRCs...*



Provided 515 people with legal advocacy, safety planning, group support, shelter, and other services.



Answered 86 calls to their 24-hour helplines.



117 Mainers attended community education and prevention sessions provided by the DVRCs.



Were unable to meet 17 requests for help - 94% of which were for housing or emergency shelter - because they lacked sufficient resources.

*Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence 2018 Census: https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Library_Census_2018_Maine.pdf
Most recent available.

PREVENTING FUTURE VIOLENCE



Community engagement and education with people of all ages is key to changing the way we understand and react to domestic abuse - and to preventing future violence. In 2019:

- DVRCs facilitated **3,215 community education events for 54,271 people** across Maine.
- **74%** were for young people. DVRCs reached **41,803** young people through prevention programming in schools, at shelters and in other youth-focused settings.

WHO DID WE HELP?



DVRC services are designed to be low barrier, without the expectation or requirement of people providing us with lots of demographic data, or even their name. We served **13,759** people in 2019. Much of that work happens over the phone; DVRCs took **18,348 helpline calls** last year.

With that context, here is a look at some of who the DVRCs served in 2019:

- **1,283 people** who shared they have physical, mental or cognitive disabilities.
- **259 people** who identified themselves as LGBTQ+, including **42** trans people.
- **185 people** who identified themselves as immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.
- **1,166 people** who identified themselves as male.
- **415 children** who directly accessed services - **228** of whom stayed in shelters.
- **739 people** who identified their age as over 60.
- **220 people** who were victims of sex trafficking - **30** of whom were served through Maine's first ever emergency shelter dedicated solely to serving victims of sex trafficking, which opened its doors in FY 2019 and is operated by Safe Voices, the DVRC serving Western Maine, in collaboration with Sexual Assault Prevention and Support Services.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?



The goal of DVRC services is to help survivors minimize the risks they face - primarily from their abusive partners, but also from systems and communities that can present additional barriers that people must navigate as they seek safety and peace.

- **93%** of people who reached out gained ways to plan for their safety as a result of working with a DVRC. They took away tools to manage the risks they faced.
- **91%** of people who reached out learned about community resources as a result of working with a DVRC. They learned about where else they might find help, and how to get connected.
- **66%** of of the **1,028** final protection from abuse orders that DVRCs helped people to obtain were granted to people with children. Their services are helping families be more safe.
- **85%** of people who attended trainings offered by the MCEDV network reported an increase in their preparedness to serve victims. We are helping to shift the way Maine's systems, and the people working within them, respond to domestic abuse.