

2022 Annual Report

Our Mission

The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV) advocates for the right of all people to live free from domestic abuse and all forms of violence.

What We Do

Member Services: We offer support to our membership as they work in communities across Maine to provide assistance and support to people affected by domestic violence, and to improve the ways communities and institutions respond to abuse.

Training & Technical Assistance: We offer training, consultation, and technical assistance to statewide and multi-regional entities seeking to improve their responses to domestic abuse and violence, dating violence, and stalking, as well as sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Public Policy: We bring the voices of survivors to public policy development and implementation and center our solutions on those most impacted by abuse.

Initiatives: We engage in collaborative efforts that further our mission and address the root causes of abuse.

Resource Management: We manage and administer state, federal and private funds that support services through contracts with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Corrections; direct federal grants from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women; and from foundations and individual donors. We administer the Liberation Fund, connecting survivors with immediate, tangible resources that help them overcome barriers standing in the way of achieving safety and freedom.

Board of Directors

Daryl Fort, President
Marvin Ellison, Treasurer
Marie Sola, Secretary
Peggy Rotundo

Member Programs

Caring Unlimited
Family Violence Project
Hope and Justice Project
Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
New Hope Midcoast
NextStep DV Project
Partners for Peace
Safe Voices
Through These Doors

Marking 45 Years

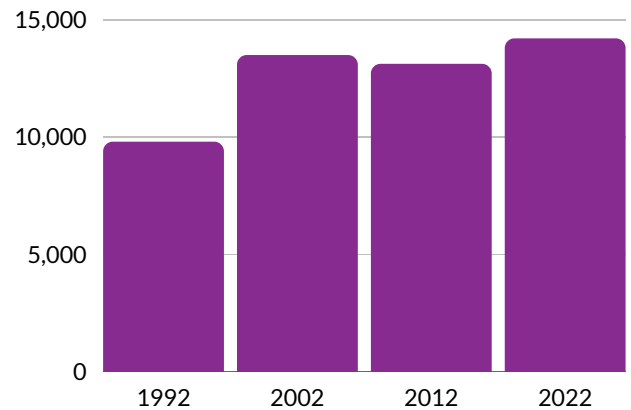
In 2022, MCEDV commemorated 45 years of statewide advocacy with and on behalf of its membership. In this year's Annual Report, we look back over the years and celebrate milestones in this transformative work and extend appreciation to our member programs, community partners, and allies who have contributed hours – and years – to supporting survivors and seeking to build a more just and joyful society.

In 1995, MCEDV published our first “Domestic Abuse in Maine: Data Project 1990-1995,” which was created to share information about domestic abuse in Maine. It was at this time that we began collecting and compiling statewide statistics

about domestic violence prevalence as well as the services provided to people affected by abuse and violence. In 1990, Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRCs) served 7,197 individuals statewide. Since that time, as the number of people seeking our services has increased, so has the breadth and depth of what we provide to those who are impacted by domestic abuse.

Individuals Served, 1992-2022

Sources: Data Project, MCEDV Statistical Reports



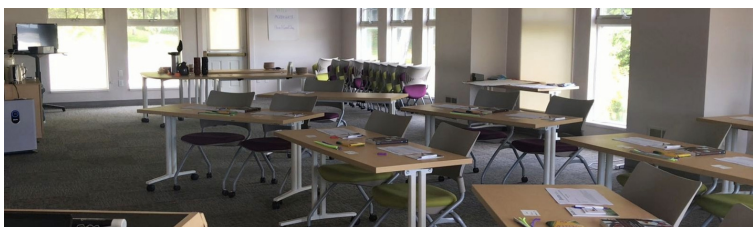
NANCY GENTILE ENDOWMENT



Nancy Gentile was a founding member and Executive Director of Spruce Run Association, Maine's first domestic abuse organization, and one of the first in the country. She was also a founding member of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, which was established in 1977 as the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services.

In 1979, Nancy was one of the authors of the state legislation to fund domestic violence services, and she was a primary contributor to the development and implementation of the pro se divorce and protection from abuse statutes in Maine.

In 1986, Nancy died in a car accident, but her legacy lives on through the Nancy Gentile Endowment, which was established in 1987 with Nancy's legacy gift to MCEDV, the proceeds from the sale of her home. The endowment has made it possible for us to create a meeting and training space that accommodates gathering in-person and remotely, furthering our ability to bring people together from every corner of Maine and increase opportunities to provide training, technical assistance, and meaningful connections. We are growing the endowment to ensure that MCEDV, our members, and survivors statewide will have access to critically needed resources.



MCEDV's Founders Room, made possible by the Nancy Gentile Endowment

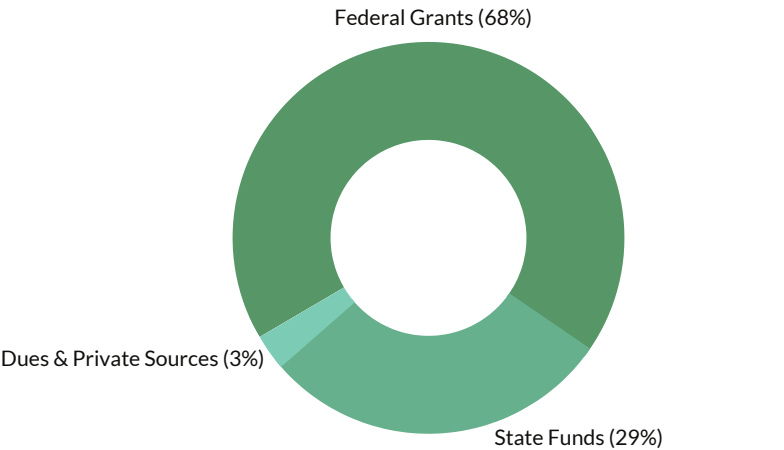


Financial Overview

REVENUE

Federal Grants: \$7,804,785
State Funds: \$3,356,876
Foundation Grants: \$298,224
Contributions, Dues, and Private Donations: \$43,790

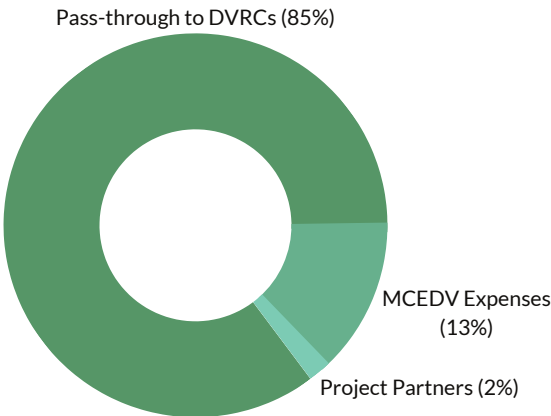
TOTAL: \$11,503,675



EXPENSES

Pass-through to DVRCs: \$9,752,358
MCEDV Expenses: \$1,494,846
Payments to Project Partners
Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs: \$167,783
Other Project Partners: \$31,350
Total Project Partners: \$199,133

TOTAL: \$11,446,337

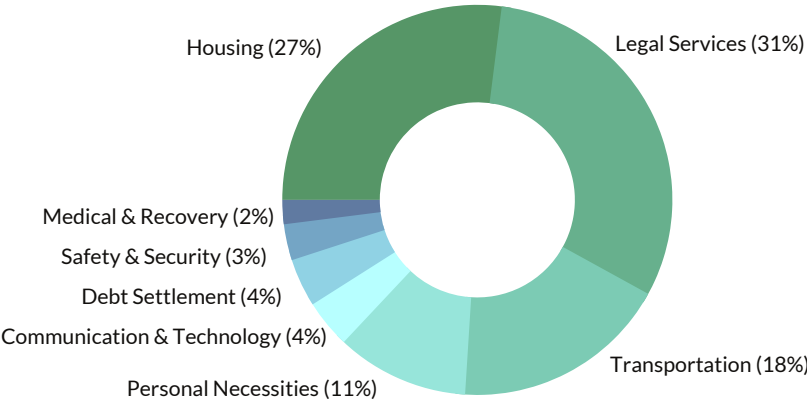


THE LIBERATION FUND

FY22 Payments: \$172,882
Survivors Helped: 400

SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2020, THE LIBERATION FUND HAS HELPED OVER 1,000 SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN MOVE TOWARD LIVES FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND ABUSE.

“Covering these expenses will help survivors break free from their abusive partners by satisfying a need they are unable to afford themselves: legal assistance for matters concerning their abuser, communication ability for safety matters, storage room for belongings, and education assistance for pursuing better employment.” - DVRC Advocate

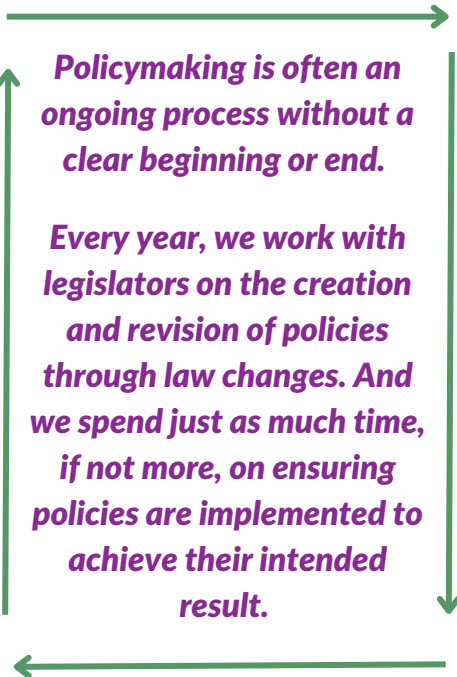


Public Policy

In response to a new law that requires annual judicial training, we partnered with the Maine Judicial Branch, the Maine State Bar Association, and the Battered Women's Justice Project to plan for a statewide training on a national best practice model, known as the SAFer approach, which supports the safety and wellbeing of survivor parents and their children in family courts. In 2022, we were awarded a federal Justice for Families grant, which will bring this training to Maine in 2023 and will be offered not only to judicial officers, but also attorneys, mediators, guardians ad litem and advocates. We, and the Battered Women's Justice Project, will provide ongoing assistance and support to attendees after the initial training.

Over the last three years, in partnership with the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse, the Maine Judicial Branch, and leaders within Maine's law enforcement community, we have led a collaborative, multi-disciplinary working group to address how best to close gaps in Maine's firearms relinquishment processes. As a result, in 2022, this group led the roll-out and implementation of:

- ✓ **New processes to ensure more timely service of protection from abuse orders on defendants to promote compliance with orders to relinquish firearms to law enforcement.**
- ✓ **Improvements for sharing information with the victim and the court about what weapons have been turned over.**
- ✓ **Support for law enforcement when it becomes apparent a defendant has not turned over all of their weapons.**



Policymaking is often an ongoing process without a clear beginning or end.

Every year, we work with legislators on the creation and revision of policies through law changes. And we spend just as much time, if not more, on ensuring policies are implemented to achieve their intended result.

Highlights of the 2nd Regular Session of Maine's 130th Legislature

- A recodification of Maine's protection from abuse statute to make it more user-friendly.
- The creation of a Commission to develop recommendations for a pilot program that would provide legal counsel to parents at the start of a child welfare investigation to help better support the legal needs of families in the critical early weeks of child welfare involvement.
- A new requirement that all judicial officers in Maine receive annual training on domestic violence and child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment issues.

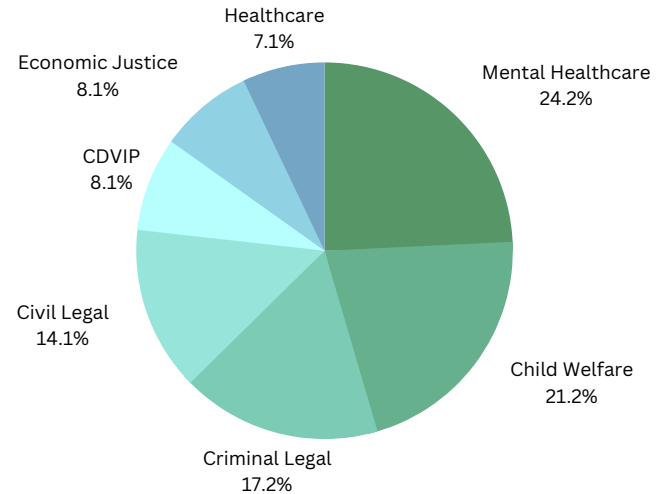
To learn more about our work in the 130th Maine legislature, read our most recent [Legislative Review at mcedv.org](https://www.mcedv.org).

The Training Institute

MCEDV weaves training into a larger strategic framework designed to help create systemic changes in the way our communities understand and respond to domestic violence and abuse.

Collectively, our staff spend significant time delivering tailored training for member program advocates, allies, and professionals from the behavioral and mental healthcare professions, as well as violence intervention, education, civil legal, child welfare, and criminal legal systems. We added 3 new staff in 2022, increasing the Training Institute's breadth of expertise in healthcare, sexual exploitation and trafficking, and child and family needs in partnership with our members.

Training Hours by Content Area/System



872 HOURS –RESEARCH, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING PREPARATION

245 HOURS –DIRECT TRAINING

2,260 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN FY22

After 7-year hiatus, Maine Victim Assistance Academy (MVAA) Returns

Continued investment in training for victim services professionals in Maine is critical to enhancing information flow, multi-system collaboration, and victim-centered and trauma-informed services. The MVAA aims to do just that. The MVAA is a foundational training designed to improve the capacity of advocates and allied professionals to serve crime victims and survivors in Maine. It also creates pathways for community-based and systems-based advocates to build relationships they can lean on to best support crime victims and avoid burnout.

The reimagined MVAA involves a cohort of trainees engaged in activities over a 7-month period. The Academy is delivered in a “hybrid” learning format, with in-person and virtual training sessions facilitated with a blend of live and pre-recorded content. The first cohort includes 38 participants, representing a wide range of victim service professionals from all over the state.

“
*I want to tell others
about what I learned
SO MUCH! After a
few hard months, this
is exactly what I
needed to renew my
faith in the work that
I do, despite all of the
obstacles of [some
people] not taking
victim witness
advocate work
seriously.*

- MVAA Participant

The Training Institute

Workplace Response Policies – A Pathway to Safety & Justice for Survivors

In its 2016 biennial report, the Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel reviewed multiple cases where homicide victims reached out to employers for support prior to their murder: “employers, supervisors, and co-workers have the opportunity to engage in protective actions when framed by a comprehensive workplace response to domestic abuse.”

In 2019, MCEDV published a report on the impact of economic abuse on survivors of domestic violence in Maine. We asked 135 survivors if their partner made it difficult for them to keep their job – a resounding 85% said yes.

Recognizing this reality, in 2022 Maine Savings Federal Credit Union reached out for help developing a domestic violence workplace response policy and a training program for its employees. We worked closely with Maine Savings to design a victim-centered workplace response policy that prioritizes safety, honors confidentiality, creates pathways to connect with MCEDV’s network of DVRCs, and ensures leave and reasonable accommodations for employees experiencing abuse so they have every opportunity to safely maintain employment. All Maine Savings staff across the state have been trained on this new policy.

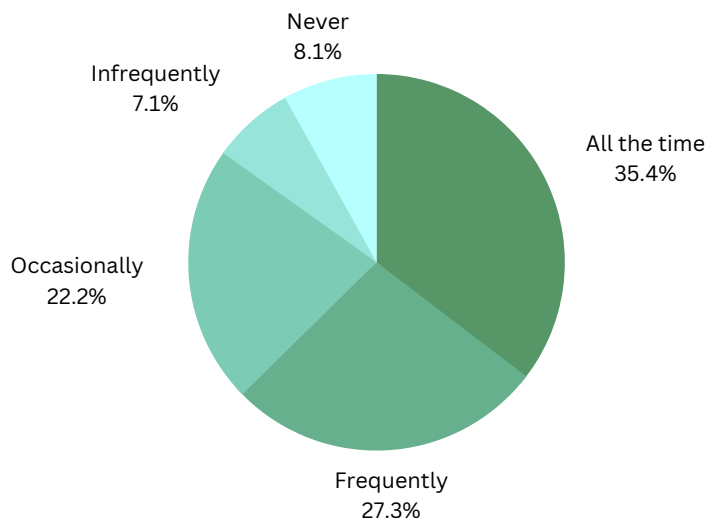
Working With Our Healthcare Partners

... the students appreciated the information you bring to the course. They expressed a lot about how you gave them the ‘language’ to communicate effectively with survivors. I see this as an amazing gift, because you have changed every potential patient interaction for the better- going forward.

This is how we change the world!

– SAFE nurse training participant

If you worked outside of your home, did your partner make it difficult for you to keep your job?



“

Regrettably, domestic abuse is a problem faced by many. Those who have not experienced it directly likely know someone who has. The material presented by MCEDV delivers a powerful message that should be heard by all. Their training to our employees nicely complements our policy regarding domestic abuse and violence in the workplace and offers direct resources to our employees.

- Maine Savings Federal Credit Union

”

Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIP)

In 2022, we and the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) continued our collaboration to support the work of Maine's Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (CDVIPs) toward victim safety, offender accountability, and a consistent coordinated community response statewide. CDVIPs serve as an opportunity to change the core beliefs that lead to the choice to abuse and help provide survivors with insight about the potential for behavior change.

Maine's 130th legislature appropriated continued and increased funds to support the statewide coordination, training, and technical assistance, including the partial reimbursement of reduced fees for very low-income participants in CDVIP. Statewide, an average of 197 CDVIP participants qualify for reduced fees each month, with eleven programs typically requesting reimbursement.

We offered a three-part, six-hour webinar series on Change Within DVIP featuring international experts on domestic violence intervention work. We also provided a 12-hour training for staff of women's CDVIPs, attended by 18 participants.

These programs are focused on the complex intersection of trauma, criminalization, change, and healing.

Change Within DVIP Webinar Series

- 1. CAN CDVIP PARTICIPANTS CHANGE?**
- 2. CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE**
- 3. WE ARE THE WORK**

Now I am trying to be more mindful again of victims' safety. This series was a great reminder of what is most important and that is victim safety.

- Change Within DVIP trainee

I feel like this is the first training in a while to actually challenge me.

- Women's CDVIP trainee

The ability to practice what we learned was invaluable.

- Women's CDVIP trainee

CAIRET - Comprehensive Advocacy, Intervention, Response & Ethics Training

The CAIRET is the core training required of all DVRC advocates. This intensive, 40-hour program, developed and managed by MCEDV, is designed to ensure that people affected by domestic abuse and/or violence will receive the same quality and comprehensive response from any of Maine's DVRCs, and to enhance community partners' ability to assist and collaborate effectively, ensuring the response will be survivor centered, safety focused, trauma responsive, culturally appropriate, accessible, and available to all persons affected by abuse.

DVRC advocates spent over 1,600 hours on the planning & delivery of CAIRET in 2022

- 134 individuals completed CAIRET training.
- 10% of participants included program staff from the Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, Her Safety Net, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Penquis, and advocates from Wabanaki Women's Coalition member programs.

Helping Domestic Violence Survivors

Maine's regional Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRCs) provide services for people affected by domestic abuse and violence, dating violence, stalking, elder abuse and sexual exploitation and trafficking. They are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, via their 24-hour helplines.

In FY22:



14,199 PEOPLE RECEIVED HELP

12,193 PEOPLE WERE DIRECTLY EXPERIENCING ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

2,006 WERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND FAMILIES WHO WERE SUPPORTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ABUSE



42% OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES HAD AT LEAST ONE CHILD IN THE HOME

DVRC services are low barrier and much of the work happens over the phone. We have complete demographic information for 43% the survivors we serve. Of those for whom we have demographic information, in 2022 DVRCs worked with:

10,263 ADULTS WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS FEMALE (82%)

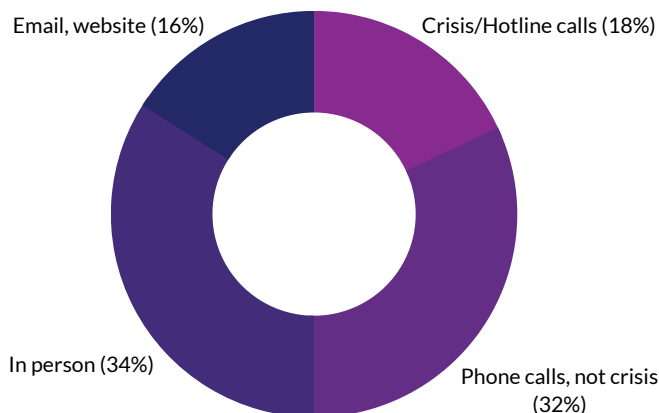
743 ADULTS WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS MALE (5%)

In addition, we know that at least:

- 296 people identified themselves as LGBTQ+, including 53 people who identified as transgender (3%).
- 182 individuals had Limited English Proficiency (2%).
- 212 people identified themselves as Black (2%).
- 178 people identified themselves as immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers (1%).
- 694 people identified their age as over 60 (5%).
- 202 people were survivors of trafficking (1%).
- 1,476 people shared they have physical, mental, or cognitive disabilities (10%).
- 2,057 people were homeless (15%).

These survivors together received over 18% of service hours as well as 12% of our direct financial support services.

How Advocates Connected with Survivors



Advocates provided 54,398 hours of services and support to survivors and the people close to them.

Over those hours, advocates made 100,859 contacts with survivors and provided 137,196 distinct services.

Helping Domestic Violence Survivors

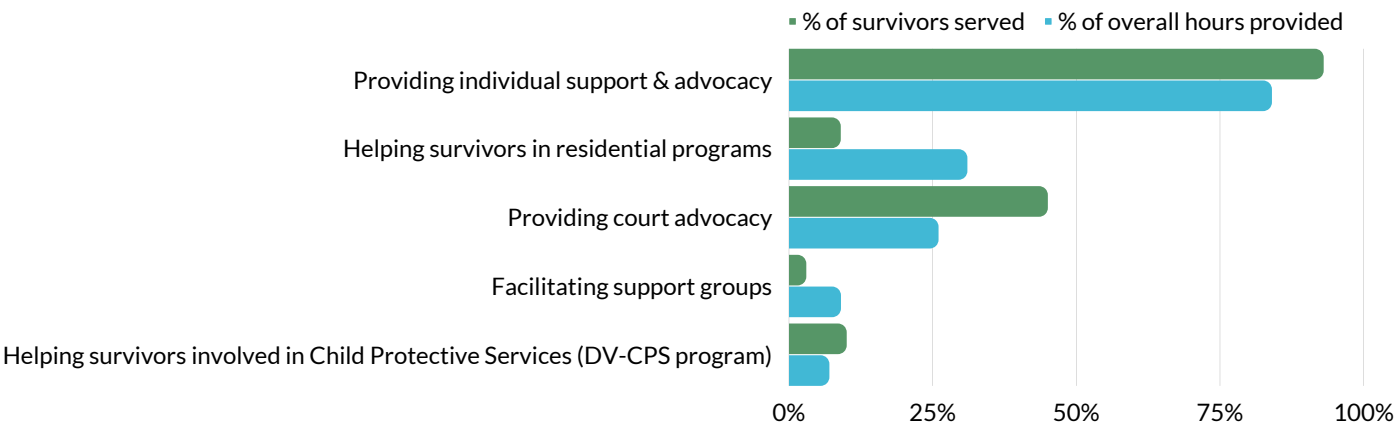


ACROSS MAINE, SURVIVORS RECEIVED **\$467,976.62** IN DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO SAFETY AND FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE.

In addition to helping reduce risks from abusive partners, services help minimize systemic and community barriers to safety and peace. We regularly survey survivors to evaluate our work.

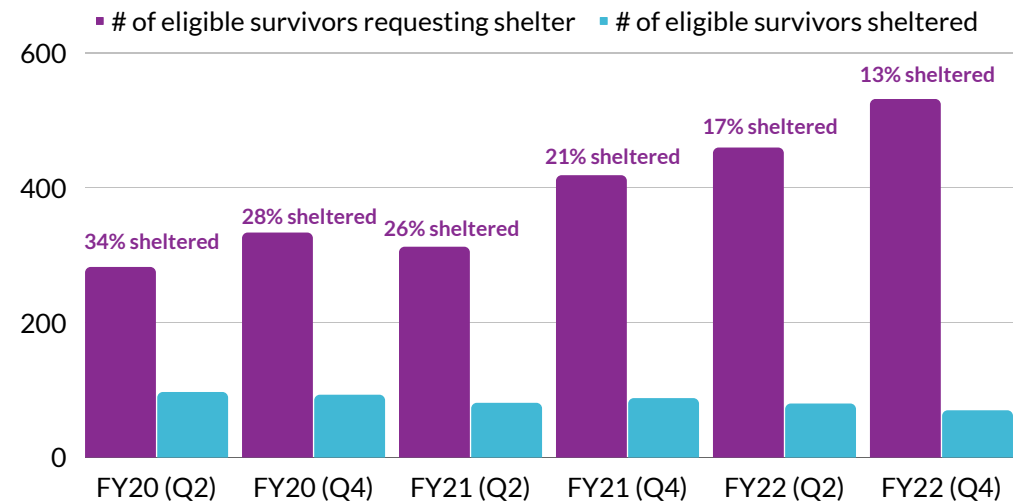
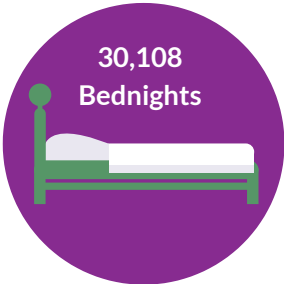


Where Advocates Focused their Time



Residential Programs

1,040 people, which includes 456 children, were served through DVRCs’ residential programs such as emergency shelter, transitional support, housing navigation and homelessness prevention, an increase of almost 7% over FY21. Advocates helped an additional 1,268 people not in residential programs retain or obtain safe housing.



THE ABILITY TO FIND SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MAINE CONTINUES TO BE A CHALLENGE. WHILE DVRCs EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF EMERGENCY SHELTER, ON AVERAGE, THEY WERE ONLY ABLE TO OFFER SHELTER TO 18% OF PEOPLE WHO WERE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THOSE SERVICES.

MCEDV Sustains and Supports Statewide Advocacy Services and Justice Making

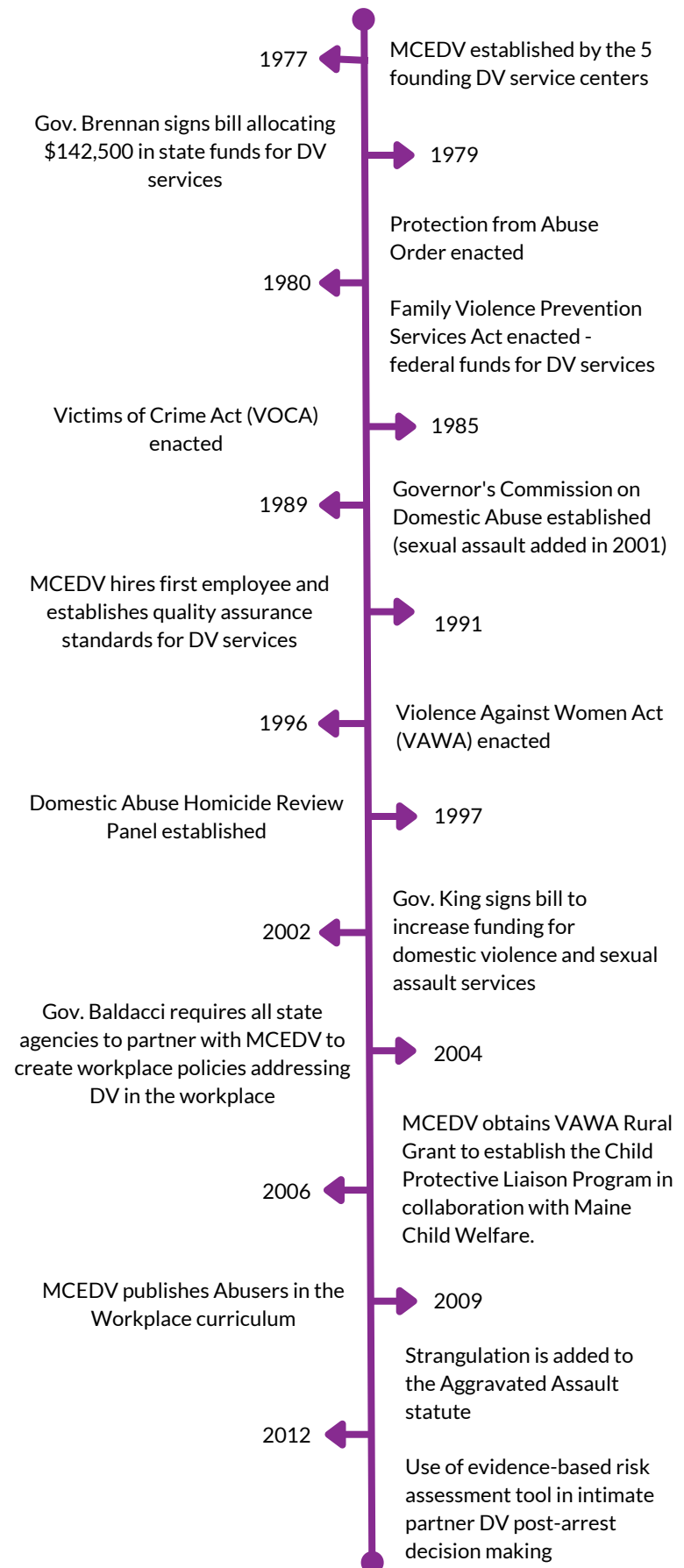
We support the development of specialized programs through which advocates offer information and support for survivors engaged with social service and legal institutions.

These advocates convene multi-disciplinary teams and participate in collaborative development of policies, protocols, and training, providing survivor centered consultation as well as organizing skills to move projects forward.

Some examples of this include:

- **The Child Protective Liaison Program**, a collaboration with the child welfare system, improving outcomes for children and parents impacted by domestic violence.
- **Advocate-initiated contacts** with victims of domestic violence crimes, a collaboration with law enforcement agencies who provide contact information following arrests.
- **Housing navigation**, in collaboration with MaineHousing, other shelters, housing providers, and landlords, helping survivors secure housing that is safe, suitable, and subsidized as needed.
- **Economic empowerment**, a collaboration with New Ventures Maine, the Allstate Foundation, and private donors, providing tangible financial assistance and education, as well as matched savings opportunities.

Over the Years



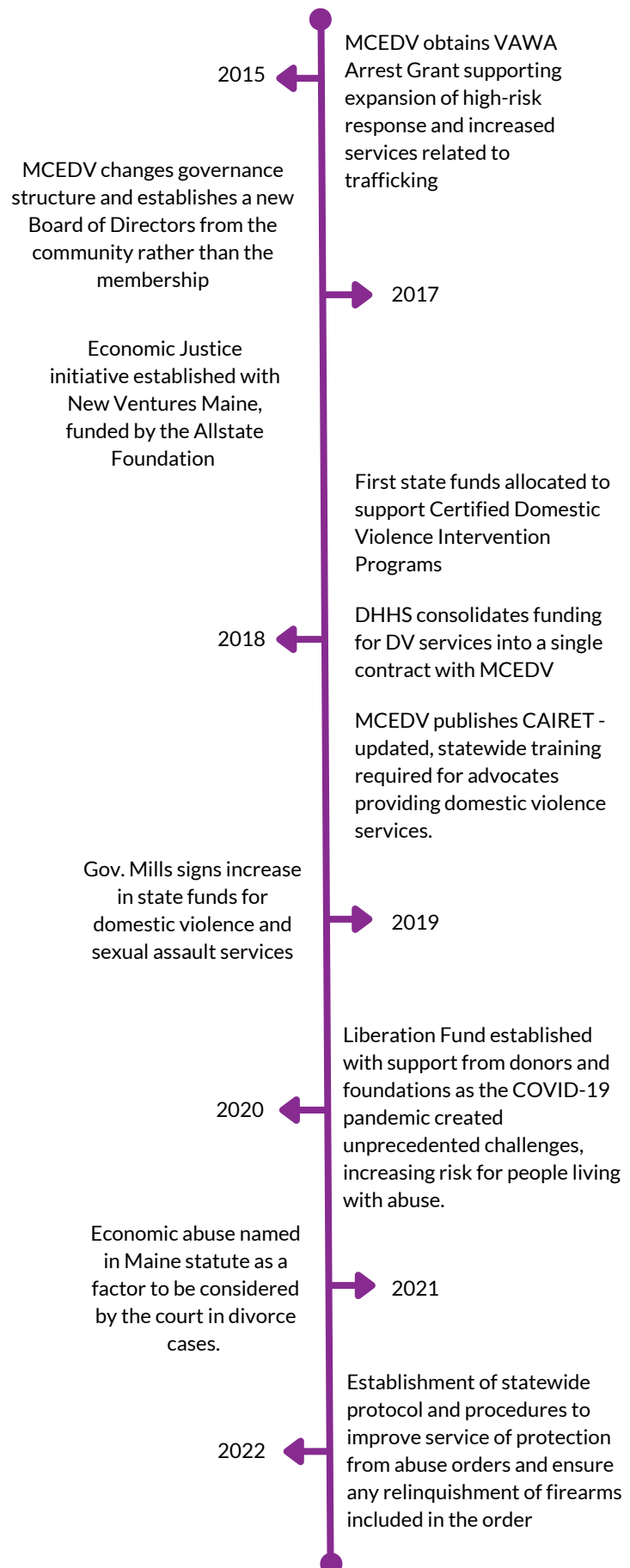
Reflecting and Looking Forward

Today, the COVID pandemic remains a factor for us and for our DVRCs who have continually pivoted and stepped up to meet new challenges in this evolving landscape. For example, with pandemic-relief funds for sheltering survivors in hotels, DVRCs were able to shelter an unprecedented number of people. That funding is now gone, but the need for shelter remains, creating a gap that cannot be easily filled.

With the pandemic, the complexity of work has also increased, requiring advocates to address issues related to substance use disorder or other mental health needs. And while we at the coalition can convene our members and provide them with support to help navigate these challenges, what really matters is that 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, advocates have continued doing their good work, providing critical and lifesaving services to thousands of Mainers every year.

While there is still much to be done to end domestic violence and abuse, we cannot lose sight of how far we've come, how much we've achieved, and how many lives have been changed thanks to our advocates.

**WE DEDICATE THIS ANNUAL
REPORT TO THE EXTRAORDINARY
PEOPLE DOING THE WORK.**



Become a Supporter Today!

- ✓ Help survivors who are on the path to independence and freedom from abuse by giving to the Liberation Fund.
- ✓ Contribute to the Nancy Gentile Endowment and help ensure long-term sustainability and the flexibility to respond to emerging needs.
- ✓ Provide general support and help us bring the lived experiences of survivors to the tables where laws, policies, and practices that impact survivors and their families are being developed

Thank you to our 2022 donors and supporters!

Visit <https://www.mcedv.org/donate> to give online

You can also send a check to:

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
PO Box 5188, Augusta, ME 04332-5188.

*For more information, or if you have questions about giving,
please contact Sarah Grant at sarah@mcedv.org.*

Stay Connected

Visit www.mcedv.org to learn more and sign up for our newsletter.
Contact us at info@mcedv.org or (207) 430-8334.

Follow Us!



In 2022, 165 volunteers contributed 32,309 hours of service, an in-kind donation of labor worth \$967,655. However, statewide, DVRCs experienced a 51% decline in volunteers, requiring more staff coverage of critical 24/7 services.

Volunteering is a great way to take action and support survivors in your community. Contact your local DVRC to learn more about volunteer opportunities near you!

Reach out for free and confidential support 24/7:

Statewide Helpline: 1-866-834-HELP (4357)

Deaf or Heard of Hearing: 1-800-437-1220