



2022 Impact Report

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

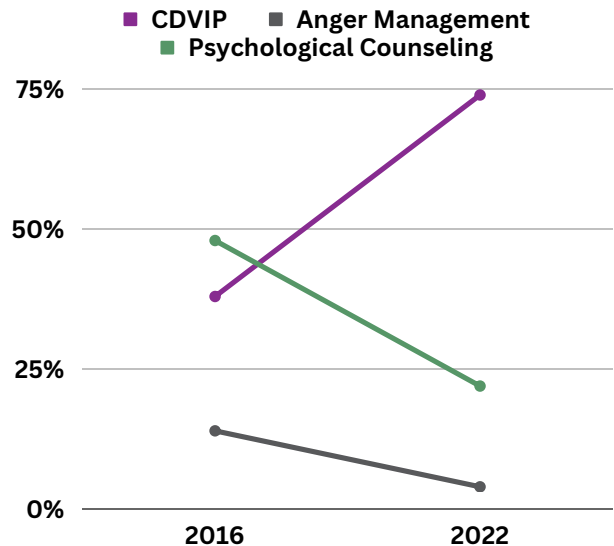
Effective and Appropriate Intervention Practices

Domestic abuse is a pattern of coercive control and entitlement, not an issue of managing one's anger in the moment. With our partners, we have addressed this misconception through legislative changes, technical assistance, and training. In 2016, we asked Maine lawmakers to recognize CDVIPs "as the most appropriate and effective community intervention in cases involving domestic violence," and it was signed into law in 2018. With this recognition, referral rates to CDVIPs increased by 95% in 2022.

We shared with Maine lawmakers what survivors tell us: class fees take away from their family's money to meet basic expenses, even though that is not the intention. Maine's legislature listened to survivors' experiences and in 2018 approved - then continued and expanded in 2021 - first-ever state funds to support CDVIPs. This funding allowed CDVIPs to provide reduced fees to participants with low income, approximately 35% of men and 89% of women, which helps them avoid additional penalties just because they lack money and makes it easier for families to pay rent, put food on the table, and fill their gas tanks.

We urged lawmakers to require courts to note on record why they order something other than CDVIP, and we recommended changes to required information sharing between the state and CDVIPs for improved safety and consistency. As a result of our advocacy, these recommendations were signed into law in 2021.

Referrals to CDVIP Increase with Legal Recognition of Appropriateness



“*I was extremely verbally abusive and I made [my child's mother] feel unsafe. Now my goals are to raise my son differently so his views aren't like that and to change the future a little... I made people feel unsafe and that is not healthy for my child or for anyone to see.*”

- Men's CDVIP participant

MOST OF THE 1,223 MEN AND 91 WOMEN ENROLLED IN MAINE'S CDVIPs IN 2022 HAD AT LEAST ONE CHILD AT HOME. CDVIPs ARE WORKING TO KEEP ADULT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE SAFE AND TO PROTECT THE WELLBEING OF THE CHILDREN.

Collaboration Key to Improving Maine's Firearms Relinquishment Practices



In Maine, courts can order a defendant in a protection from abuse case to relinquish their weapons to law enforcement for the duration of the order. Historically, whether a defendant relinquished any weapons was not reported back to the court and, more importantly, wasn't communicated to survivors. Following close collaboration between MCEDV, Maine's law enforcement community, and the Maine Judicial Branch, a new process was implemented to change that in May 2022. **Regions of the state with the highest percentage of law enforcement notifying the courts were the same regions that prioritized sending law enforcement officers to attend a training hosted by MCEDV, in collaboration with the Maine State Police, to help prepare for the new process.** This demonstrates the impact that MCEDV's training has on helping law enforcement adopt information sharing best practices expeditiously.

496 more survivors received better information about what happened to a defendant's firearm, improving their ability to plan for their safety.

Bringing Together Resources to Address the Housing Crisis



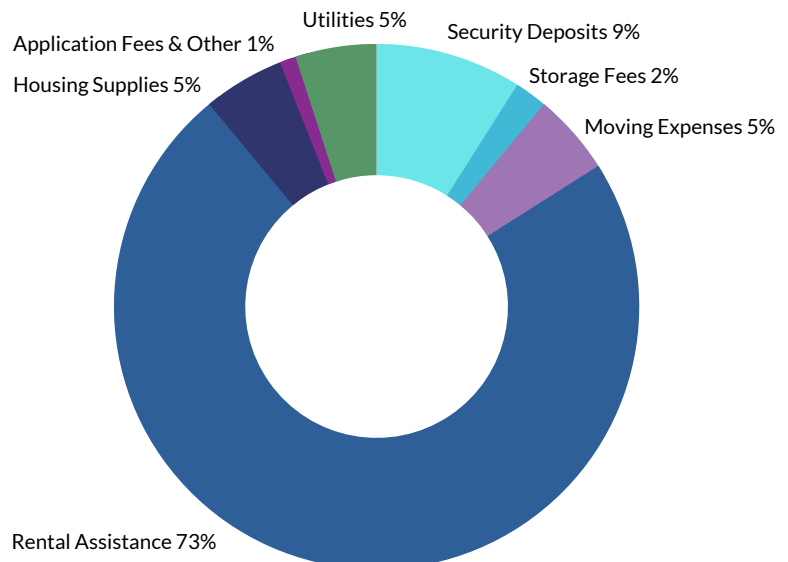
For people affected by domestic violence, Maine's affordable housing crisis is particularly challenging. Advocates across the state use a variety of tools and resources from public and private funds to help people maintain or move into stable housing, including direct financial assistance, when needed.

Studies show that **78% of survivors** who receive housing assistance coupled with advocacy services in the first year remain in a stable housing situation after that, highlighting the need to sustain and expand the financial resources we have to meet this critical need.

In 2022, MCEDV was awarded \$526,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to launch a Rapid Rehousing Program in Maine, which provides 3-12 months of rental assistance to survivors who are either fleeing abuse, or whose housing is unstable directly because of abuse. This program was recently renewed and expanded, providing over \$1.1M in funding to increase the rental assistance available and provide additional, direct support to survivors by ensuring they have access to the basic necessities they need in order to maintain their new homes.

Survivors who participate in this program can receive ongoing advocacy, safety planning, and support from the DVRC in their community for as long as they need it to help them stay safe and stably housed.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTERS HELPED REMOVE FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR 405 SURVIVORS SO THEY COULD OBTAIN SAFE AND STABLE HOUSING, TOTALING \$478,317 IN DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE



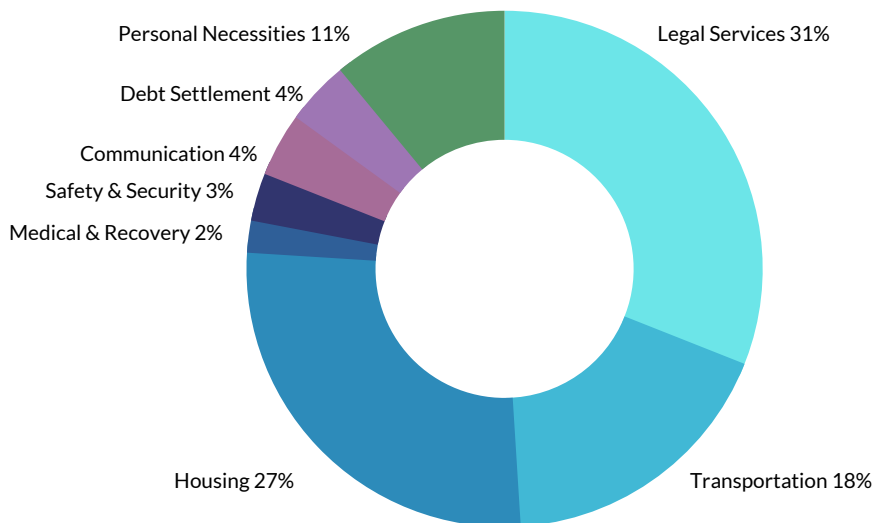
Removing Barriers to Achieving Freedom from Abuse

By covering expenses associated with moving, transportation, legal assistance, and other basic necessities, the Liberation Fund has helped over 1,000 survivors across Maine access critical resources and support they need to establish lives free from domestic violence. The Liberation Fund is made possible through private donations and is our only funding source that can be used directly to support survivors, and with the flexibility to meet each survivor's unique needs.

IN 2022, \$172,882 WAS DISTRIBUTED STATEWIDE THROUGH THE LIBERATION FUND TO HELP SURVIVORS ESTABLISH FREEDOM FROM ABUSE.

"Liberation Funds have helped many survivors I've worked with this year, most notably, a survivor who experienced a severe assault and sustained life-altering injuries. I supported this survivor with clothing, food, personal care items, and a new phone for safety. The funds also helped them transition to a new apartment with new furniture and household items. This funding was a stepping stone to a new life for this survivor. During one of the most vulnerable times in someone's life, it is amazing to be able to offer support that has an impact on their ability to move forward, to heal, and feel like they have someone in their corner."

- DVRC Advocate



Supporting Maine's Regional Domestic Violence Resource Centers

A core component of our work is supporting our membership as they work in communities across Maine to assist and support people affected by domestic violence, and to improve the ways communities and institutions respond to abuse.

When surveyed about the assistance and communication we provide to advocates:

98% feel that connecting with MCEDV staff was a positive experience.

98% will continue to reach out to us for help.

"Thank you, MCEDV. We couldn't do this work without your guidance and leadership."

"MCEDV staff is skilled and experienced. There is shared respect of the work and the individuals doing it. The relationships in place make communications a pleasure, even if the subject is not easy."

"Staff were flexible, communicative, and knowledgeable. They went above and beyond when I reached out for assistance."

Data Highlights

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 HAD AT LEAST ONE CHILD IN THE HOME



1,040 survivors, including 456 children were served through DVRCs' residential programs such as emergency shelter, transitional support, housing navigation, and homelessness prevention.



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

Those hours include advocates making 100,859 contacts with survivors and providing 137,196 distinct services.



99%

of survivors surveyed reported learning about community resources and strategies to help them plan for safety.

Join the Movement

Stay Informed and Connected!

Visit our website to [learn more about our work](#), [sign up for our quarterly newsletters](#), and review our [quarterly data dashboards](#).

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.

Donate

Visit
www.mcedv.org/donate
to give online
Send a check to:
MCEDV
PO Box 5188, Augusta,
ME 04332-5188.

MCEDV envisions a world where respect is our norm, and where all people thrive in their homes and communities – nurtured, healthy, joyful, and free.