



The Maine Coalition
to End Domestic Violence

Connecting People,
Creating Frameworks
for Change.



2025 Annual Report

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

We are the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence.





2025 Annual Report

Dear friends,

2025 was an unprecedented year. A complete – though brief – federal funding freeze was followed by months of uncertainty and delays around the availability of the federal grants that MCEDV and our members depend upon for the majority of our work. [Our state legislative agenda](#) proposed three major funding initiatives and a host of other policy bills. And survivors' needs only increased, as federal policy changes weakened safety net programs and put already vulnerable communities at increased risk. We've never seen a year quite like this one.

Despite the challenges, MCEDV has emerged with our feet under us. Most importantly, we sustained government funding for our members, ensuring that survivors in Maine will continue to have access to critical services – an outcome that was far from certain. We even secured some small increases in funding through legislative advocacy and successful grant seeking.

MCEDV's programming remains robust, despite constraints on our capacity. In 2025, we strengthened our focus on supports for survivor-parents within child welfare settings; on equipping advocates to meet the needs of survivors who've been caught up in the criminal legal system; and on exploring new ways to innovate and enhance domestic violence services across the state.

That we've weathered the storms so well thus far has been due to the support from our community in Maine. You have stood with us as we've argued before the legislature for state funding. You've written your congressional representatives to demand that the federal government release grants for domestic violence services. And you've opened your own wallets to enable us to keep advocating for survivors and providing direct financial assistance through the Liberation Fund. Thank you.

We do not know what 2026 will bring. We do know that survivors will continue to be put at greater risk as long as our safety nets remain under attack, our basic human rights are targeted, and our culture's tolerance for hate and violence keep rising. **We are going to keep fighting for survivors through whatever comes next. We hope you will fight with us.**

In solidarity,

Francine Garland Stark
MCEDV Executive Director

Who We Are.

Our Mission:

MCEDV advocates for the right of all people to live free from domestic abuse and all forms of violence.

Our Vision:

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

MCEDV Staff:

Paula Alves, Finance Director
Nycole Cadigan, Operations Coordinator
Christina Foster, Data Systems Coordinator
Sarah Grant, Human Resources Director
Hanna Gregory, Housing Services Coordinator
Katie Holzwarth, Grants & Contracts Director
Andrea Mancuso, Public Policy Director
Katie Matzell, Communications Coordinator
Kelly O'Connor, Systems Advocacy Director
Regina Rooney, Programming Director
Erika Simonson, Family Services Director
Francine Garland Stark, Executive Director
Amanda Taisey, Health Systems Engagement Coordinator
Karen Wyman, Prevention & Intervention Director

Board of Directors:

The Hon. Jessica Fay
Rev. Jane Field
Daryl Fort, Board President
Dr. Judith Josiah-Martin
Sarah Moore
Susan Norton
Vendean Vafiades, Esq., Board Vice President
Kylie Welch

2025 MCEDV Program Highlights

Amplifying Lived Experiences

In 2025, MCEDV continued our commitment to lifting up the voices of survivors and their loved ones. We produced a campaign with WGME, including [news segments](#) and [public service announcements](#) featuring Mainers whose lives have been transformed by abuse. We supported childhood survivor Darren to share [his story](#) in the Bangor Daily News. We highlighted perspectives from Maine survivors on our social media. And we coordinated testimony from more than 40 survivors and surviving family members for a powerful statehouse hearing on the importance of increased state funding for domestic violence services.

Representing MCEDV on the National Stage

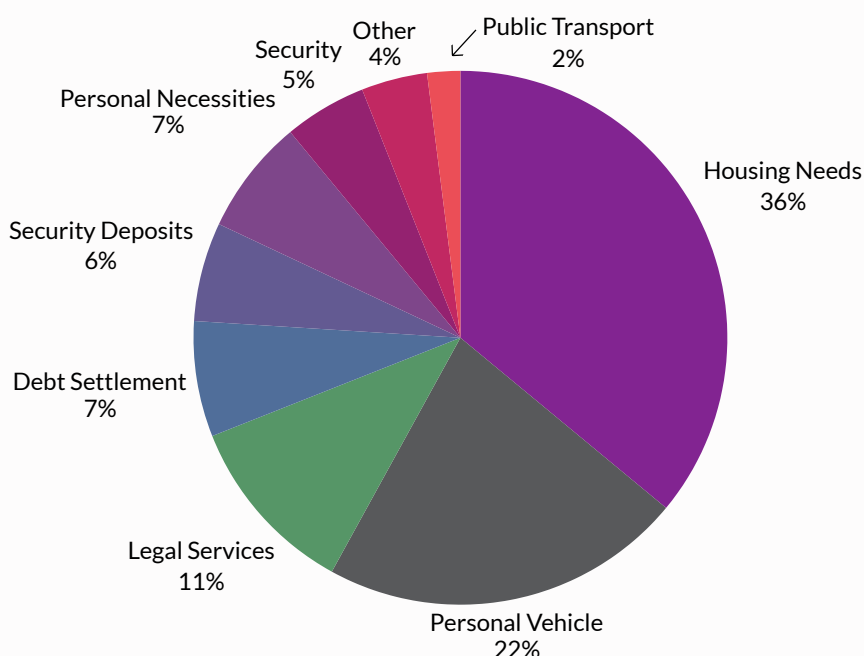
MCEDV's expertise was recognized beyond state lines. A few highlights:

- Karen Wyman, Prevention & Intervention Director, co-presented a session at the Battering Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan on Maine's efforts to improve advocacy responses to criminalized survivors.
- Amanda Taisey co-presented a session at the Futures Without Violence Connected for Care: Advocate Health Summit in San Francisco on how Maternal Mortality Review Committees can address intimate partner violence as a leading cause of maternal mortality.

Growing the Impact of the Liberation Fund

In its fifth year, the Liberation Fund has continued to be an invaluable source of material support for Mainers experiencing abuse. This year, we paid out more than \$81,000 to 203 survivors – and every dollar reduced barriers to safety and security.

Liberation Fund Expenses 2025



“Repairing a window that was broken by a domestic violence offender ... will support a survivor's safety in a high-risk case. The window replacement will enable the survivor to remain in her home.”

– Safe Voices Advocate
on the impact of the Liberation Fund

2025 MCEDV Program Highlights

Improving Child Welfare Responses to Domestic Violence

In 2025 MCEDV developed a legal representation program for survivor-parents as they navigate the investigation stage of a child welfare case. The program launched in the Fall. We also began work on a safety-focused parenting curriculum designed for families where both the survivor-parent and the parent who has used abuse will continue to be involved in their children's lives. This work is made possible thanks to a grant through the Office on Family Violence Prevention & Services. In addition, we created the Expert Witness Project, which is now a resource for use in Protective Custody cases across the state.

Spotlighting Systems-Involved Survivors

Researcher Lisa Young Larance joined MCEDV (pictured below) to offer learning sessions for advocates who work with systems-involved survivors. Larance is the author of *Broken: Women's Stories of Intimate and Institutional Harm and Repair*. Her expertise is in the experiences of women who, as a result of the abuse they face, have become involved with the criminal legal and child welfare systems. The sessions improved the ability of advocates who work within those systems or facilitate intervention programs for women to better understand and advocate on behalf of survivors.



Want to know more about our work?

Check out our [2025 Legislative Review](#), our [2025 Data Dashboard](#), and our [2025 Impact Report: Focus on Housing](#) at www.mcedv.org.



2025 Membership Highlights

MCEDV provides technical assistance, training, funding administration, and operational support for our membership, which is comprised of the eight regional Domestic Violence Resource Centers (DVRCs) and two culturally-specific programs. **We back them up so they can do what they do best: meet the critical needs of survivors across Maine every day.**

With our support, in 2025 the regional DVRCs...

- Helped **14,245 people** across Maine.
- **11,837 people** were experiencing domestic abuse and violence.
 - Nearly half (**48%**) had at least one child in the home.
 - **5,979** accessed specialized court advocacy.
 - **538** – including **199 children** – found safety in emergency sheltering programs.
 - **888 parents** experiencing abuse received help navigating child protective services.
- Advocates spent nearly **40,000 hours** working with people experiencing DV.
- They fielded over **18,000 calls** on their crisis helplines, and another **19,000 calls** that didn't go through their helplines.



DVRC services are highly effective. Advocates administered 37,331 surveys asking about the support they offered survivors. In 98% of interactions, survivors learned strategies to plan for their safety, and in 100% they reported better knowledge of the community resources that were available to them. **These services make a difference.**



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 1-866-834-4357. (Interpreters available. Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Call 1-800-437-1220.)

MCEDV is deeply grateful to our membership, who work day-in and day-out to keep services available to survivors. It's our job to help them do the best work they can do. **Your support of MCEDV means we can keep advocating for resources, coordinating efforts statewide, and solving the big problems we are all facing together.**

Financial Overview

FY25 REVENUE

Federal Funds: \$5,977,048

State Funds:

Ongoing: \$2,228,811

Temporary: \$4,099,963

Total State Funds: \$6,328,774

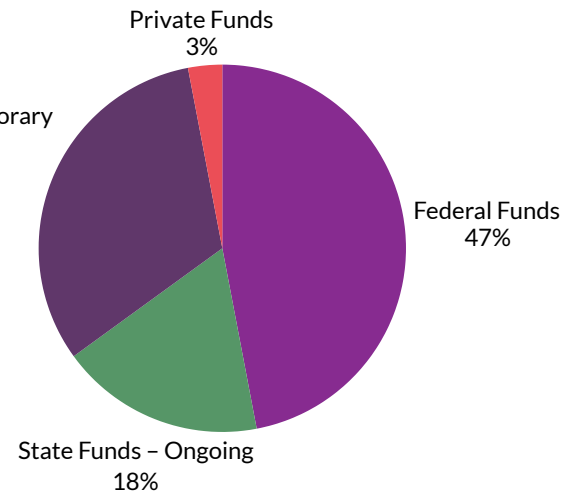
Private Sources:

Restricted: \$259,064

Unrestricted: \$93,972

Total Private Sources: \$353,037

TOTAL REVENUE: \$12,658,859



FY25 EXPENSES

MCEDV Expenses: \$1,834,665

Pass-through to DVRCs:

Maine DHHS: \$8,813,821

Maine DOC: \$115,726

Direct Federal Grants: \$570,528

Liberation Fund: \$90,585

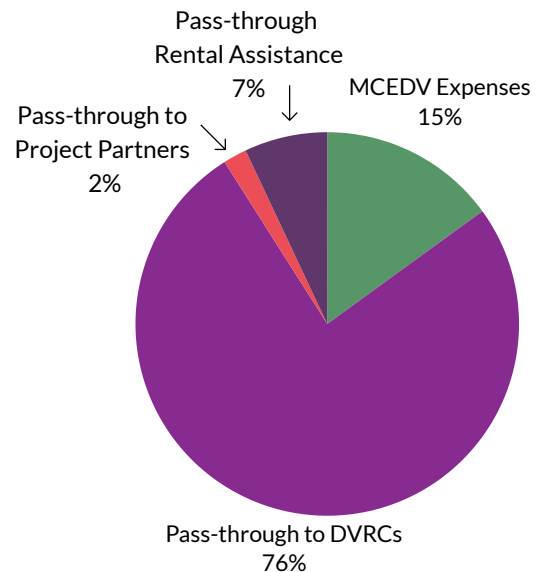
Private Foundations: \$6,400

Total DVRC Pass-through: \$9,597,061

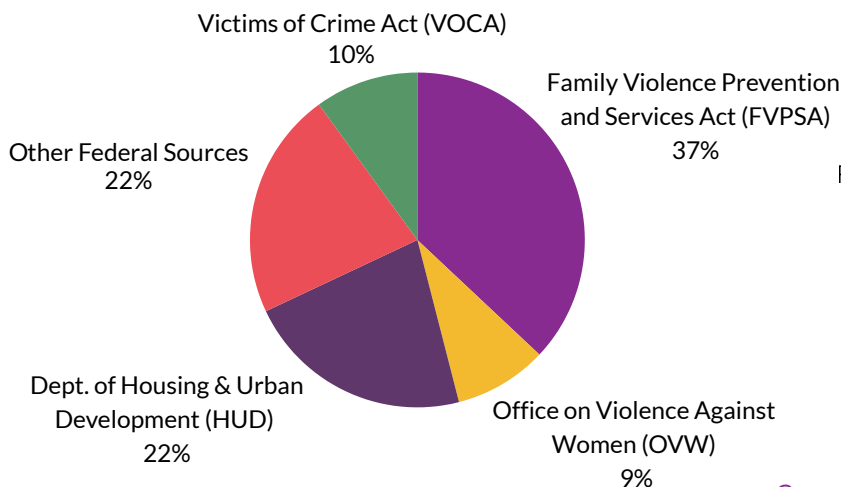
Project Partner Pass-through: \$241,172

Rental Assistance Pass-through: \$866,735

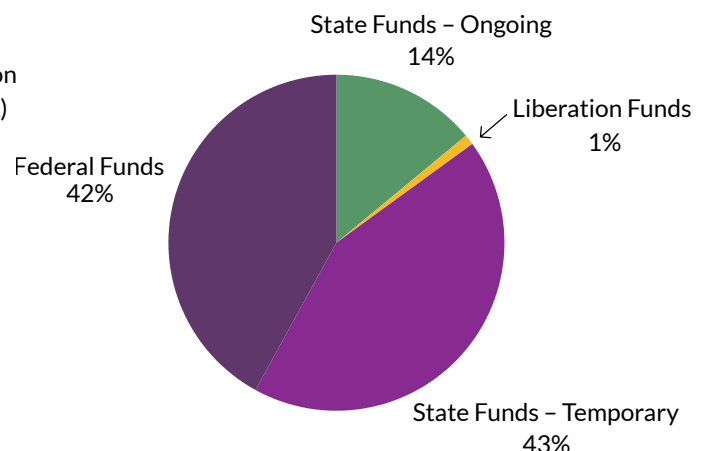
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$12,539,633



Federal Funding Sources



Pass-through to DVRCs



Thank you for your support.

Leslie Abrons
Paula Alves
Chandra and Lou Appell
Lauren Bass
Susan Berry
Daniel Black
Peggy Blackmon 🌱
Brann & Isaacson
Anna Broome
Kasey Bull
Allen & Deb Cairns
Tamara Canal
Christopher Nathan Chase
Alice Elizabeth Clifford
Joanne Cole
Danielle Coutu
Lauren Curley
Shiloh Davis 🌱
Thaddeus Day
Bonnie Dunn
East Point Foundation
Marvin Ellison
Family Violence Project, in honor of Deb Chapman
Jessica Fay
Jane Field
The First Congregational Church of Scarborough
Lori Fisher 🌱
Laura Fortman
Hannah Furst 🌱
Mark Galvez
Leonard Giambalvo
Sarah Grant
Bobbie-Jo Green
Hanna Gregory

Groundswell
Lebel Harriman
Jody Harris
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Jean Hoffman
John T. Gorman Foundation
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Sarah LeBlanc
Ronald Long
W. John Funk
Kylie Low
Maine Health Access Foundation
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Lori O'Connor
Jane O'Reilly
Tikkun Olam
Tonya Olsen
Ineke Schair
Gillian Schair
Annemieke Schair-Cutter
Irene Schmidt
Andrea Scholten
Brian P. Scott
Jack Simmons
Michael Simmons
Molly Slotznick
Valerie Stanfill
Terri Teller
Vendean Vafiades
VA Maine Healthcare Systems
Elizabeth Ward Saxl
Karen Wyman
Bill and Patty Zimmerman



Scan to Join



At the end of 2025 we launched the Fiddlehead Friends campaign for people who want to make a recurring donation to MCEDV. Thank you to our first Fiddlehead Friends – your weekly, monthly and quarterly gifts offer invaluable, sustaining, and predictable support!

If you would like to join them and become a Fiddlehead Friend, we invite you to visit our website (www.mcedv.org/donate) and sign up. Every dollar safeguards our ability to keep advocating with and for survivors.