



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.





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

Nykole 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

Vendeán 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

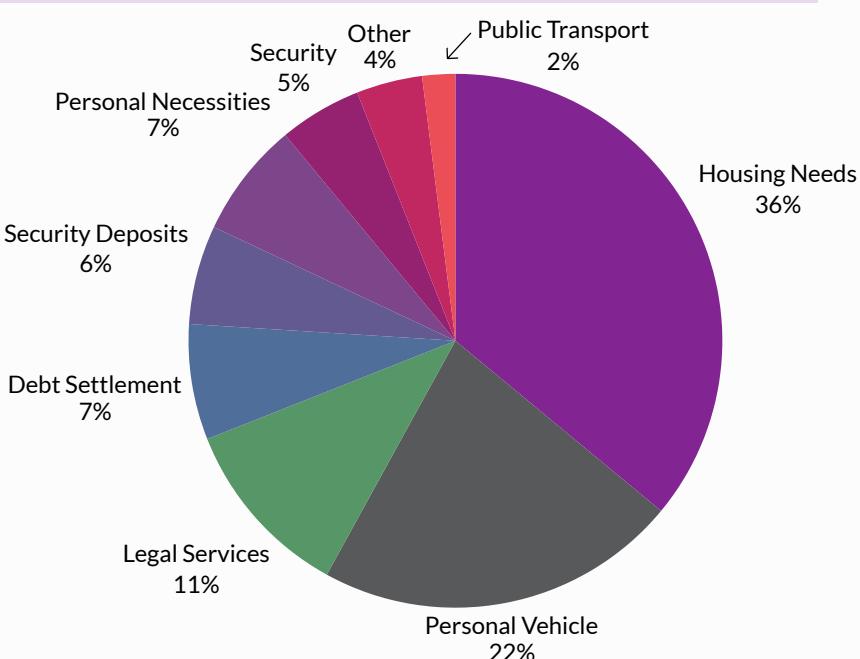
MCEDV's expertise was recognized beyond state lines. A few highlights:

- 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](http://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.**



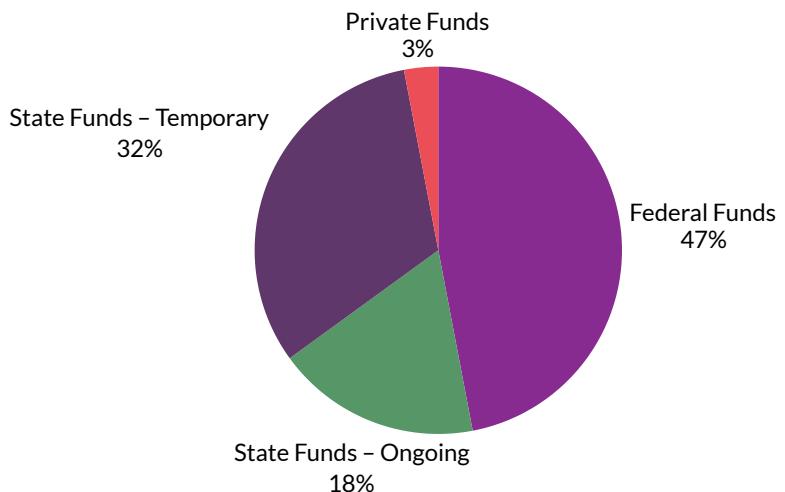
DVRCs provide services for people affected by domestic abuse and violence, dating violence, stalking, elder abuse and sexual exploitation, and trafficking. They are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, via 1-866-834-4357. (Interpreters available. Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Call 1-800-437-1220.)

**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

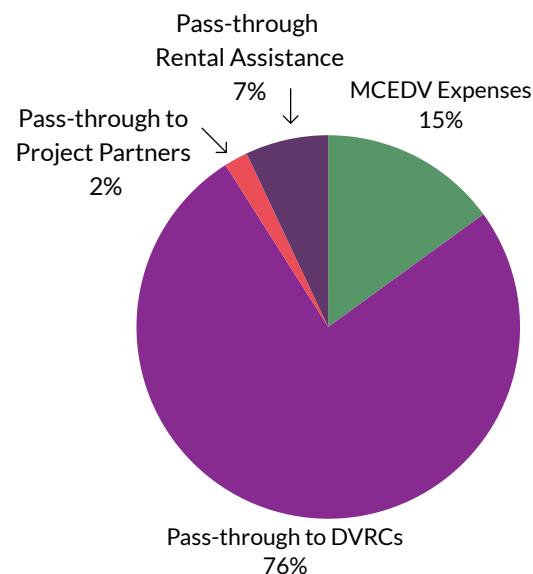
## FY25 REVENUE

<b>Federal Funds:</b>	<b>\$5,977,048</b>
<b>State Funds:</b>	
Ongoing:	\$2,228,811
Temporary:	\$4,099,963
<b>Total State Funds:</b>	<b>\$6,328,774</b>
<b>Private Sources:</b>	
Restricted:	\$259,064
Unrestricted:	\$93,972
<b>Total Private Sources:</b>	<b>\$353,037</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$12,658,859</b>

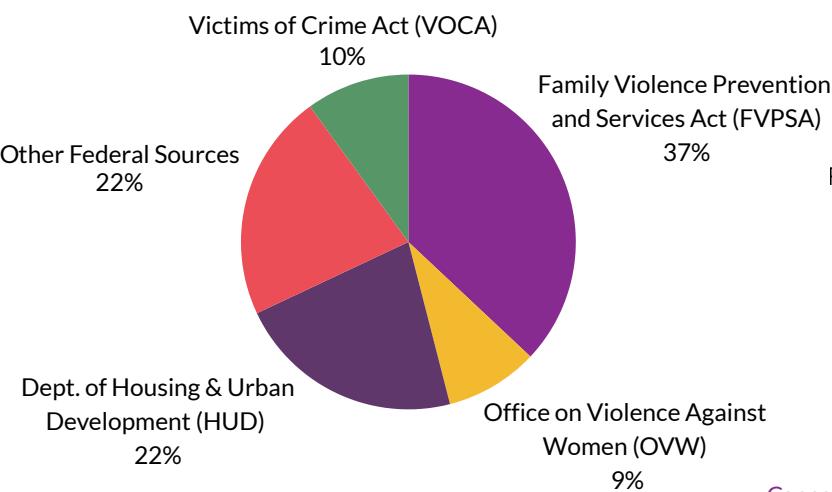


## FY25 EXPENSES

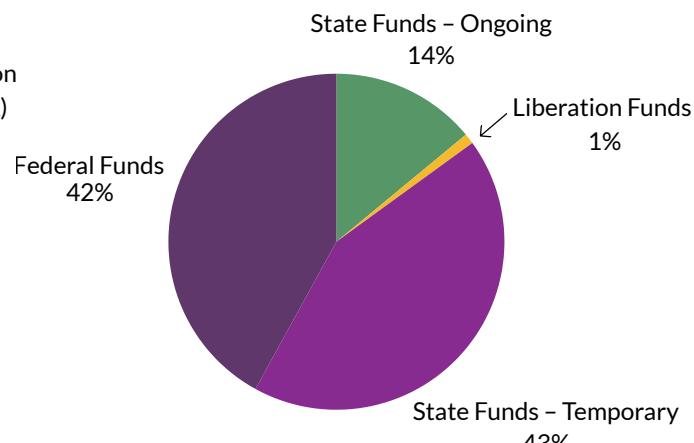
<b>MCEDV Expenses:</b>	<b>\$1,834,665</b>
<b>Pass-through to DVRCs:</b>	
Maine DHHS:	\$8,813,821
Maine DOC:	\$115,726
Direct Federal Grants:	\$570,528
Liberation Fund:	\$90,585
Private Foundations:	\$6,400
<b>Total DVRC Pass-through:</b>	<b>\$9,597,061</b>
<b>Project Partner Pass-through:</b>	<b>\$241,172</b>
<b>Rental Assistance Pass-through:</b>	<b>\$866,735</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$12,539,633</b>



## 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  
Bill Harwood  
Peter Hennessey  
Jean Hoffman  
John T. Gorman Foundation  
Cynthia LaRochelle  
Sarah LeBlanc  
Ronald Long  
W. John Funk  
Kylie Low  
Maine Health Access Foundation  
Carla Marcus  
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 Slotnick  
Valerie Stanfill  
Terri Teller  
Vendean Vafiades  
VA Maine Healthcare Systems  
Elizabeth Ward Saxl  
Karen Wyman  
Bill and Patty Zimmerman



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](http://www.mcedv.org/donate)) and sign up. Every dollar safeguards our ability to keep advocating with and for survivors.