

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Program

The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program (Transitional Housing Program) funds programs that provide transitional housing, short-term housing assistance, and related support services to victims, their children, and other dependents.

THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE holistic, victim-centered transitional housing services that move individuals to permanent housing.

261 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 261 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Transitional Housing Program.

6,729 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 2,760 victims, 3,864 children, and 104 other dependents during each 6-month reporting period.

938,893 Bed Nights

Grantees provided a total of 938,893 bed nights to victims, their children, and other dependents.¹

Grantees provide housing units, rental vouchers, and victim-centered services such as case management, housing advocacy, counseling, job training, child care, transportation, and other assistance. It is crucial that these programs provide a wide range of flexible and optional services that reflect the differences and individual needs of victims, and allow them to choose the best course of action for their specific circumstances. Trained staff work with victims to help them determine and reach their goals for permanent housing.



Research shows that when victims work to become and remain free from violence, they may experience negative consequences such as limited access to financial resources, potentially escalating violence, and residential instability (Thomas et al., 2015).

¹ This number does not include nights spent in housing supported through a voucher or other rental assistance.



MN • Grantee Perspective

The OVV Transitional Housing grant has allowed Alexandra House, Rise, and Anoka County Job Training Center to work collaboratively to address the current gaps that exist in the housing market for low-income survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking in Anoka County. We are pleased to report that ten households are currently enrolled in the program. Prior to receiving the grant, these households faced many obstacles and barriers. Some of these included lack of support from family and friends, lack of community resources, and also a lack of financial stability (no savings, poor credit history, and inconsistent work placement). Survivors who were able to work had to work multiple jobs to afford housing, which left them little time with their families, limited their opportunities to further their education, and in some cases resulted in reliance on their abuser for help. A housing subsidy is provided to households served under the grant for a period of a year or more, with the household not paying more than 30% of their net income towards rent. Households receive information and assistance on landlord/tenant relationships, credit repair, expungement, and more. As a collaborative, we have been able to share resources, and utilize each other's expertise to support survivors in our short-term housing program. Our individual agencies offer numerous services, including job readiness, transportation, legal advocacy, therapy and support groups, housing-related assistance, basic needs support, and voluntary in-home case management. These services have assisted survivors in securing and maintaining permanent housing, improved access to resources, created options for safety, and promoted dignity and self-sufficiency. The housing subsidy specifically has allowed survivors to save money and build a solid rental history.

ALEXANDRA HOUSE, INC., MINNESOTA



In a recent study of homelessness, families assigned permanent housing subsidies were half as likely to report intimate partner violence at a 20-month outcome measurement than families who had not been offered any priority access to homeless or housing assistance (Gubits et al., 2016).

The Transitional Housing Program enhances the safety and security of victims, their children, and other dependents by supporting an array of services that are critical to the provision of temporary housing and the attainment of permanent housing. Purpose areas include:

- Provide transitional housing, including funding for the operating expenses of newly developed or existing transitional housing;
- Provide short-term housing assistance, including rental or utilities payments assistance, and assistance with related expenses such as security deposits and other costs incidental to relocation to transitional housing;
- Provide support services designed to help victims fleeing violence locate and secure permanent housing and integrate into a community by providing them with services, such as transportation, counseling, child care services, case management, and other assistance; and
- Expand support services to help victims secure employment, via employment counseling, occupational training, job retention counseling, and/or counseling concerning reentry into the workforce.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **261** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- **14** (5%) grantees reported that their grants specifically addressed tribal populations.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Provide support services, including counseling, transportation, and employment services.

Provision of Housing

The ability to provide housing is a vital part of supporting victims in leaving their abusers by allowing them to live safely in the community. Grantees note that without housing, a victim must often choose between becoming homeless or remaining with their abuser.

- **225** (86%) grantees used funds to directly support housing units.

Grantees use a variety of strategies to provide housing to victims, their children, and other dependents. Some programs use funds to support either program-owned or program-rented units, whereas other programs use rental assistance vouchers to provide housing to victims.

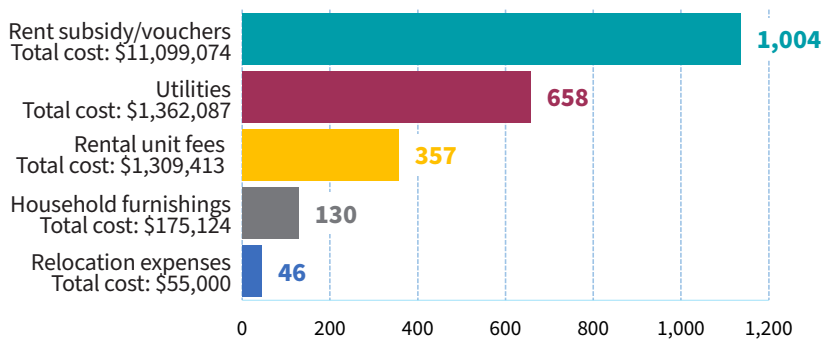
During each 6-month reporting period, on average, grantees provided victims, children, and other dependents:

- **368** program-owned housing units;
- **216** program-rented housing units; and
- **1,100** vouchers/rent subsidies.

Housing Assistance

In addition to funding housing units, grantees used funds to support other expenses related to housing, such as relocation expenses and utilities.

Figure 1 Average number of victims provided with housing assistance by Transitional Housing Program grantees, July 2017–June 2019



Increasing Accessibility of Housing and Services

Some programs are able to offer units that are accessible to people with disabilities and/or enhance their programs' accessibility by providing interpretation services, language lines, translation of documents, and/or telecommunication devices for Deaf or hard of hearing victims.

- An average of **666** housing units were accessible to people with disabilities (for example, people who are blind or vision-impaired, people with physical disabilities, and people with diagnosed mental illness, if their activities are so limited) during each 6-month period.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide direct services to victims, children, and other dependents, as well as program administration. **Being able to hire staff is critical for the overall function and success of programs.**

- **255** (98%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **210** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support case managers and program coordinators.



FL • Grantee Perspective

Transitional Housing Program Funding has allowed Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) to sustain our transitional housing program in Palm Beach County. While all other programs shifted their focus, AVDA remains the last standing Transitional Housing Program for survivors of domestic violence in our 2,000 square mile county with a population of 1.3 million.

AID TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE, INC., FLORIDA



Emerging research has indicated that, for some domestic violence victims, flexible funding assistance can mean the difference between stability and lost jobs, homelessness, and further abuse. The ability to use funds for things like back-rent, bills, security deposits, and transportation-related expenses can contribute to long-term safety and well-being for victims and their children (Bomsta & Sullivan, 2018; Klein et al., 2019; Sullivan et al., 2019).



VT • Grantee Perspective

As always, the ongoing 6-18 months of housing subsidy payments for each TH participant would not be possible without the grant funding provided by OWW. At a time when community funding is scarce and existing housing funding assistance is one-time or once a year at most, 6-18 months of ongoing support provides a needed safety net for survivors who are struggling to make ends meet after fleeing violent situations, often after years of abuse and with little to no rental or employment history.

WOMENSAFE INC., VERMONT



ID • Grantee Perspective

During this reporting period, we have been able to provide full housing assistance and services to nine families. This program has allowed many families the option to flee their abusive situations and secure housing options and services much more quickly than other housing programs in the community. Ada County continues to have very limited housing options for victims fleeing domestic/sexual violence. Without this funding, victims would have no choice but to remain with their abuser, or live in places not meant for human habitation. This funding has given many women an opportunity to be safe and independent during a transition period between the shelter and a permanent housing option.

ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY, IDAHO



Women who reside in a shelter tend to receive a broader range of support services for a longer period of time, compared to women who never enter a shelter (Grossman & Lundy, 2011; Sullivan & Virden, 2017b). A recent study found that the amount of help received in a shelter positively influenced victims' ability to advocate for themselves and their hopefulness for the future (Sullivan & Virden, 2017a).



VT • Grantee Perspective

Transitional Housing Program funds have allowed our agency to house families and individuals that would otherwise be in shelters long-term or on the streets. These funds allow families (moms and children) to stay together and start over in a safe environment. With Section 8 not always accessible, TH Program funding is even more important. Participants will need the full two years to heal, gain strength, and where applicable, learn new skills to earn better, self-sustaining wages. Funding has also allowed us to deepen our relationship with the Abenaki community, and as a result, we collaborated on a cultural competency training for staff as well as other interested parties. Evaluations of the training were overwhelmingly positive.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, VERMONT



NJ • Grantee Perspective

The Transitional Housing Program has allowed us to provide women with the services they need to strengthen their skill set, seek gainful employment, and secure permanent housing.

The funding has also allowed us to have a part-time Bilingual Vocational Case Manager. Clients have the opportunity to assess their dreams and goals of furthering their education and to become more financially empowered.

We have been able to provide Financial Empowerment and Work Readiness workshops. The TH Staff has been able to secure training from the National Network to End Domestic Violence/OWW Conferences, and trainings on best practices in working with our clients. We have been able to install new computers in each of our Transitional homes which allows the women to seek employment, engage in on-line courses, and assist their children with their studies from the comfort and safety of their TH homes. The funding has allowed the clients the opportunity and time to rest, heal, and rebuild their lives in a safe environment.

CENTER FOR HOPE AND SAFETY, NEW JERSEY

Table 1 | Staff supported with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	210	
Case managers	78	37%
Program coordinators	42	20%
Housing advocates	24	11%
Victim advocates	17	8%
Administrators	14	7%
Transitional services advocates	11	5%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Services for Victims, Children, and Other Dependents

Grantees provide an array of support services to victims, their children, and other dependents to locate, secure, and maintain permanent housing and economic stability. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **250** (96%) grantees used funds for services provided to victims, their children, and other dependents.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **2,760** victims, **3,864** children, and **104** other dependents during each 6-month period.
- **71%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

Support Services for Victims, Children, and Other Dependents

On average, during each 6-month reporting period, Transitional Housing grantees provided services to:

2,760
VICTIMS

3,864
CHILDREN

104
OTHER DEPENDENTS

Services include:

Services include:

2,472 individuals received CASE MANAGEMENT	1,735 individuals received HOUSING ADVOCACY
1,477 individuals received MATERIAL ASSISTANCE	1,369 individuals received FINANCIAL COUNSELING

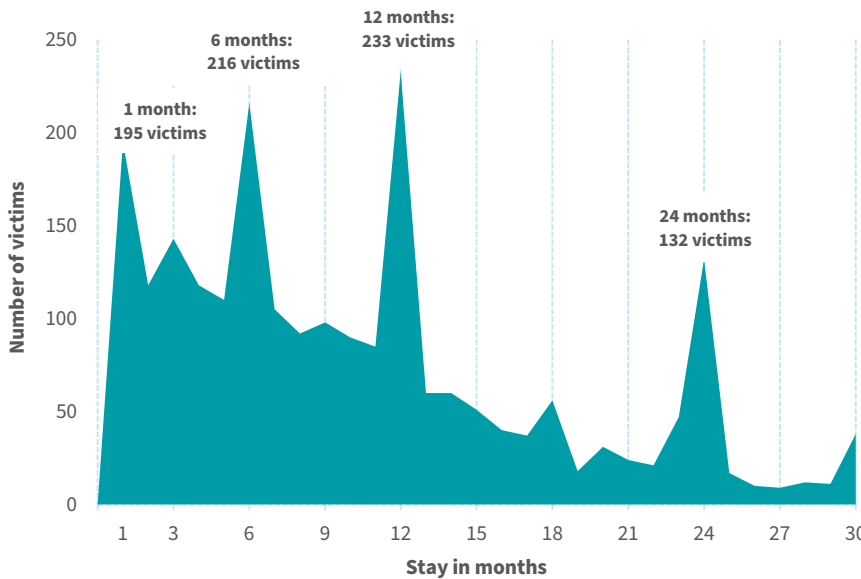
1,884 individuals received CASE MANAGEMENT	1,333 individuals received MATERIAL ASSISTANCE
1,045 individuals received CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES	859 individuals received VICTIM ADVOCACY

Table 2 | Victims, children, and other dependents sheltered with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Transitional housing	Number of people (6-month average)	Number of bed nights (2-year total)
Victims	827	402,031
Children	1,086	527,199
Other dependents	19	9,663
Total	1,932	938,893

NOTE: These numbers do not include victims, children, or other dependents receiving housing through a voucher or other rental assistance.

Figure 2 | Victims and their families' length of stay in transitional housing in months, June 2017–July 2019



Victims, Children, and Other Dependents Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence.

Table 3 | Victims seeking services with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017–June 2019

Victims seeking services	6-month average					
	Victims		Children		Other dependents	
Total victims seeking services	3,865		5,184		111	
Victims served	2,613	68%	3,697	71%	99	90%
Victims partially served	148	4%	167	3%	5	5%
Victims not served	1,104	29%	1,320	25%	7	6%

NOTE: "Partially served" represents victims, children, and other dependents who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant. "Not served" represents victims, children, and other dependents who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Transitional Housing Program grant.

A recent study confirmed prior research which has shown that accessing housing-related services is even more challenging for certain victims, namely victims with children and/or pets, male victims, college students, and those with disabilities (Rizo et al., 2020).



SC • Grantee Perspective



This program has helped survivors with rental assistance, utility bills, and security deposits to secure safe housing in the community. These survivors have achieved greater self-determination and confidence through life skills workshops, and have obtained legal advocacy, group and children's counseling, and transportation. In this reporting period, three clients have gone to counseling on a regular basis. The Transitional Housing Program funding has allowed Sistercare to house 11 families who did not fit other funding criteria and otherwise would have remained unserved. Additionally, the program has allowed Sistercare to continue to help homeless battered and sexually abused women and their children establish their own violence-free households and increase self-sufficiency. Without this grant, victims would not have had the funding or resources to have their own home independent from their abusers. By living without domestic and sexual violence, survivors had time to stabilize their financial situation and become financially independent from their abusers so they would not have to return to a life of violence. Overall, battered and sexually abused women were able to reduce further injuries from assaults and in some instances, save their lives.

SISTERCARE, INC., SOUTH CAROLINA

Victims seeking housing may face discrimination by landlords based on their histories of abuse, their gender or sexual identities, and/or their race/ethnicity. Indigenous victims and immigrants may also encounter barriers to housing due to lack of documentation. Affordable housing shortages across the country also present challenges for those seeking to leave abusive housing arrangements (Gezinski & Gonzalez-Pons, 2019).





VA • Grantee Perspective

The gift of having 18 months to work with families allows our residents, who have often had negative experiences with systems, time to develop trust. It allows us to do the trauma work that begins with developing healthy supportive relationships with our clients. And it allows our residents, who often come to us having been isolated from family and community, an opportunity to develop lifelong friends among their neighbors here and a lifelong support system through our organization. Although Transitional Housing is not the answer for every victim, it is truly life changing and sometimes life saving (these words coming from so many victims we have served). Thank you for this funding.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF THE NEW RIVER VALLEY, INC., VIRGINIA



A recent report on serving Latinx survivors who are seeking housing identified innovative and successful strategies for meeting the particular needs of these communities, including incorporating faith-based organizations, providing alternative housing to immigrant survivors, employing housing assistance specialists, and utilizing informal networks of support (Hernandez-Martinez et al., 2018).



WA • Grantee Perspective

This funding is what creates our program, makes it possible to carry a reasonable case load, assist survivors with tangible things that make their lives and the lives of their children better, and ensures that we can have an ongoing partnership with our housing authority that provides subsidized housing for our clients. It is an excellent program that is well thought-out in terms of training, best-practices, and access to technical support through the National Network to End Domestic Violence. If all the shelters and housing programs in our community had this type of support, training, and infrastructure, what a positive difference it would make. We are so appreciative of this funding stream and the opportunity it affords us to better serve our clients.

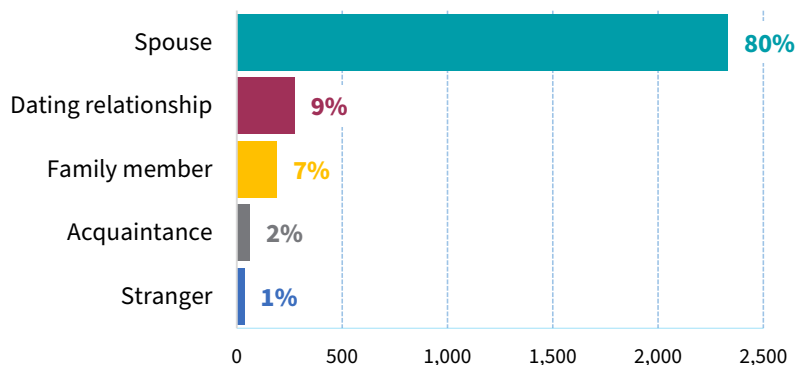
YWCA OF PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Victims' Relationships to Offenders

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (80%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized in the context of a **dating relationship** (9%) or by another **family or household member** (7%).

Figure 3 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender (6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

During the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 reporting period, grantees reported that an average of **808** victims, **989** children, and **7** other dependents were not served or were only partially **served solely due to a lack of available housing**.

Grantees most frequently noted the following additional barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Program reached capacity;
- Party(ies) did not meet statutory requirements;
- Program rules not acceptable to party(ies);
- Services were not appropriate for party(ies); or
- Services not available for party(ies) based on family composition.

Demographics of Victims, Children, and Other Dependents Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **2,760** victims, **3,864** children, and **104** other dependents during each 6-month period. The victims most frequently served or partially served were **white** (44%), **female** (98%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (85%).

Table 4 Demographic characteristics of victims, children, and other dependents served with Transitional Housing grant funds, July 2017-June 2019

Characteristic	6-month average					
	Victims		Children		Other dependents	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Race						
American Indian or Alaska Native	123	5%	177	5%	4	3%
Asian	100	4%	100	3%	8	8%
Black or African American	827	30%	1,383	37%	25	24%
Hispanic or Latino	534	20%	936	25%	33	32%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	24	1%	54	1%	2	2%
White	1,197	44%	1,333	35%	34	33%
Unknown (missing)	47		100		2	
Gender						
Female	2,691	98%	1,926	50%	60	58%
Male	57	2%	1,925	50%	43	42%
Total	2,748		3,852		103	
Unknown (missing)	12		13		1	
Age						
0-6	-	-	1,831	48%	-	-
7-12	-	-	1,308	34%	-	-
13-17	5	0%	704	18%	-	-
18-24	332	12%	-	-	88	85%
25-59	2,328	85%	-	-	11	10%
60+	72	3%	-	-	5	5%
Total	2,737		3,843		103	
Unknown (missing)	23		22		1	
Other						
People with disabilities	528	19%	205	5%	19	18%
People with limited English proficiency	431	16%	173	4%	9	9%
People who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers	411	15%	177	5%	12	12%
People who live in rural areas	617	22%	797	21%	20	19%

NY • Grantee Perspective



As a result of Transitional Housing Program funding, we have been able to build alliances with landlords and property management companies. Through successful landlord engagement, we have expanded our housing resources for the survivors that we serve. We have found that tenant needs are being addressed by landlords more frequently, leading to fewer requests for advocacy services from survivors. We continue to share program information with other service agencies and organizations, which has led to a greater number of referral sources within the community. This in turn has allowed us to provide housing and support services to a more diverse population of survivors. Grant funding has allowed us to provide support networks and financial resources to address both the short- and long-term housing needs of individuals and families. By assisting with security deposits, rent, and other support services we are able to coordinate a service plan that not only places survivors in safe, affordable housing, but also allows them to become self-sufficient, while maintaining their housing independently. Successfully maintaining their housing eliminates the need for shelter stays and encourages survivors to feel empowered. While learning and strengthening key skills, survivors feel supported every step of the way as they enter their new independent life.

YWCA OF ROCHESTER AND MONROE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Women and men who have experienced housing insecurity are at higher risk for rape, physical violence, or stalking. NISVS found that 10% of women and 8% of men who faced housing insecurity were victims of intimate partner violence, as compared with 2.3% of women and 3.1% of men who did not face housing insecurity (Breiding et al., 2014). Housing instability is a strong predictor of poor health outcomes for those in abusive relationships, exacerbating PTSD, depression, substance abuse, medical noncompliance, absences from work and/or school, and hospital/emergency room use (Daoud et al., 2016; Rollins et al., 2012).



**PA • Grantee Perspective**

Without this funding, the YWCA would not be able to maintain the transitional housing program offered to this rural community. Victims/survivors and their children would be forced to uproot their lives to escape the trauma they were experiencing at home, as the closest domestic violence shelters are in Harrisburg and Carlisle, which are 27 miles and 26 miles away respectively. In addition, supportive services would be extremely limited, if not for this grant. The YWCA is state-funded to provide sexual assault services in Perry County, but not services for survivors of domestic violence. These services are to be provided by another non-profit; however, the majority of the work they do in the county is related to filing protection orders. As such, without this funding, case management, financial empowerment groups, transportation assistance, employment assistance and job skills, accompaniments, and other services would no longer be provided to this population of survivors.

YWCA OF GREATER HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

**MN • Grantee Perspective**

Life House has been operating a variety of youth transitional, permanent supportive, and support service housing programs for 25 years. While we have always provided youth-specific programming, we have now focused our services to address the needs of several different sub-populations within the youth category (i.e. singles, families, long-term homeless, youth/youth families fleeing DV and trafficked/sexually exploited teens). With the addition of OWW Transitional Housing funding, our current housing stock now includes apartments for youth ages 18 through 24 fleeing domestic/sexual violence; apartments providing permanent supportive housing for high-barrier long-term homeless youth; and Sol House, a five-bed transitional housing program for teen victims of sex trafficking. Our newest program, The Loft, provides emergency shelter for homeless or sexually exploited youth ages 15-19. Our West End Apartments Program is now a well-established supportive housing building, with five one-bedroom units dedicated for our OWW Transitional Housing Program participants.

LIFE HOUSE, INC., MINNESOTA

Transitional Housing and Destination Upon Exit

Grant funds can be used to house victims for up to 24 months.ⁱⁱ Grantees reported that victims most often moved to permanent housing of their choosing, after their stay in grant-funded housing.

Table 5 | Victims' housing destination upon exit, July 2017–June 2019

Destination upon exit	2-year total
Permanent housing of choice (Section 8, return to home, rent or purchase housing)	1,692
Temporary housing with family or friend	213
Transitional housing (not grant-funded program)	53
Healthcare facility/substance abuse treatment program	39
Domestic violence emergency shelter	26
Incarceration/jail	25
Homeless emergency shelter	18
Hotel/motel	14
Unknown	188

Victims' Perception of Risk of Violence Upon Exit

Victims most often reported perceiving a lower risk of violence (**75%**) after their stay in Transitional Housing grant-funded housing units.

Table 6 | Victims' perception of risk of future violence upon exit, July 2017–June 2019

Perception of risk of future violence	2-year total	
Lower risk of violence	1,702	75%
Equal risk of violence	91	4%
Does not know	85	4%
Greater risk of violence	24	1%
Unknown	374	

Follow-up Support Services

If grantees use funds for housing units and support services, they are required to provide a minimum of 3 months follow-up services to victims after their stay in transitional housing units. These follow-up services are intended to continue to connect victims and their families with assistance from the program.

- **229** (88%) grantees used funds for follow-up services.

ⁱⁱ By statute, a grantee may waive the 24-month restriction for no more than 6 months for victims who have made a good-faith effort to acquire permanent housing but have been unable to do so.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Case management services to **447** victims and **305** children and other dependents;
- Housing advocacy services to **197** victims and **60** children and other dependents;
- Victim advocacy services to **186** victims and **135** children and other dependents;
- Material assistance (e.g. clothing, food, or personal items) to **173** victims and **157** children and other dependents;
- Support group/counseling services to **142** victims and **52** children and other dependents;
- Crisis intervention services to **138** victims and **60** children and other dependents; and
- Financial counseling services to **121** victims and **11** children and other dependents.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited a **lack of safe and affordable long-term housing** as the biggest obstacle confronting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.


In addition to **high prices and low availability of rental units**, victims encountered **additional challenges to securing housing**, including:

- Long waitlists for Section 8 and public housing;
- No credit or poor credit history;
- Inability to meet the income requirements of landlords and property managers;
- A history of evictions;
- The presence of a criminal background; and
- Outstanding debt.

These challenges sometimes pushed victims into housing that was **unsafe, outside their target area, or poorly maintained**.

Grantees also cited difficulty in **helping clients secure employment that provided a living wage**. Challenges included:

- High unemployment rates in service areas;
- Lack of training and/or education;
- Little or no employment history;
- An inability to secure child care, especially for nighttime shifts; and
- Inadequate access to reliable transportation.



Shelter and transitional housing program staff may provide follow-up support, counseling and advocacy, legal assistance, financial literacy education and employment counseling, and referrals to other sources of help. Helping victims find stable housing requires addressing interconnected issues related to trauma, poverty, disabilities, and discrimination, and an advocate may spend up to 10 hours or more per week with each victim (Sullivan et al., 2018).

ME • Grantee Perspective



One specific financial intervention available through TH program support is assistance with rent and associated move-in or relocation costs. Often survivors are forced to deal with credit histories and/or debts that are directly connected with their prior experience of abuse or assault. The financial burden associated with this past can present an insurmountable obstacle; even with steady employment, they lack the resources necessary to secure safe, sustainable housing. TH program funds can be brought to bear in this situation. That initial hurdle overcome, many of the recipients of this support go on to maintain stable housing. This can be a life-changing event.

PARTNERS FOR PEACE, MAINE

WI • Grantee Perspective



Our program currently has 70 families on the waitlist who are homeless as a result of fleeing violence. Accessible shelter and housing for families is grossly under-resourced in this community. As a result, families have to be divided to find any kind of shelter, and are often forced into situations that further compromise the client's and the children's safety, leading to further victimization.

WISE WOMEN GATHERING PLACE, WISCONSIN

IA • Grantee Perspective



One of the most significant areas of remaining need is access to legal services, specifically for civil family law and immigration issues. We have a number of participants who are in need of legal services regarding child custody and other civil matters, but are unable to access the few legal assistance programs in our area due to the high demand. A majority of our clients are not able to obtain their own private legal representation due to financial hardship. We've seen some families remain separated or left in unsafe situations due to their inability to obtain legal representation.

ASSAULT CARE CENTER EXTENDING SHELTER & SUPPORT, IOWA



CA • Grantee Perspective

The most significant areas of remaining need are: access to affordable housing units, job training and employment resources, and childcare. Our county is located in close proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area and has been deeply impacted by rising rents and lack of housing inventory. Rents have increased dramatically over the past several years and wages have not. Affordable housing units have long waitlists, and even market rate units are in very high demand. Landlords have noted that 100 or more people may apply for one open rental. We have relied heavily upon our relationships with property management companies and landlords to get clients into market rate units. Clients have expressed concerns about how they will take over the rent on their units when the rental subsidies from Haven's Housing Program ends. Many of our clients have struggled to find employment, stay in employment, and/or find employment that pays a living wage. Minimum wage in California is currently \$11 per hour and the median rent for an apartment in Stanislaus County is \$1,230. We recognize the need for resources, including time, energy collaboration and funding to dedicate toward employment programs.

HAVEN WOMEN'S CENTER, CALIFORNIA

The **inability to earn a living wage and achieve financial self-sufficiency put victims at a much greater risk of returning to their abusers.**

Finding employment and housing was particularly difficult for **underserved populations**, especially:

- Immigrant victims, especially those in the process of obtaining legal status;
- Victims in remote rural areas;
- LGBTQ populations;
- Victims with disabilities;
- Victims with limited English proficiency; and
- Elderly victims.

Grantees emphasized the need to **provide additional services to victims to promote self-sufficiency**, including:

- Affordable and pro bono civil legal services;
- Job training, employment counseling, and education;
- Mental healthcare and substance abuse counseling;
- Funds for moving expenses, utilities, and security deposits; and
- Financial education.