



# DASH 101

Presented By: CHPs



# DASH Mission

- DASH is an innovator in providing access to safe housing and services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families as they rebuild their lives on their own terms.
- No matter what the situation, we meet survivors where they are and strive to eliminate all barriers that prevent them from accessing safe housing. We work to ensure that all survivors have the tools and skills they need to be exactly who they choose to be and to create and maintain safe homes.
- We support partner agencies in the national capital region and throughout the United States in increasing their capacity to assist survivors in accessing safe housing. DASH educates policy makers and service providers nationwide on the principles and best practices of successfully assisting survivors of domestic violence in recognizing that they are empowered and whole.



# CHPs Programs

- **The Empowerment Project (EP)** is a 2-year transitional to permanent scattered site housing program for survivors of domestic violence with a focus on safe stable housing and financial independence. Apartments are leased by landlords directly to participants with a subsidy paid for by DASH. At the end of the program, residents assume paying the rent and remain in their units.



# DASH Programs

- **Cornerstone Housing Program**

- A low-barrier facility for victim-centered housing in a 47- unit apartment building that we opened in 2010. Our Cornerstone program provides women and provides families with transitional and intensive-needs emergency housing.

- The Cornerstone Building incorporates principles of our universal and highlights our holistic approach with its green décor. Cornerstone is a space that is physically accessible to all survivors of sexual and domestic violence and provides a peaceful sanctuary from abuse.

- **Community Housing Programs (CHPs)**

- Housing Resource Center
- Empowerment Project Program
- Survivor Resilience Fund (SRF)



# DV Clinic

## ***Housing Resource Center / DASH Homelessness Prevention Efforts***

- The Housing Resource Center (HRC) is the hub of DASH's efforts to prevent homelessness among domestic violence survivors. We assist participants in completing housing applications, obtaining safety transfers, navigating the public housing system, and making connections to community service. Survivors can conduct housing searches and work one-on-one with Housing Specialists:

Westminster Presbyterian Church (202)425-7573

400 I St. S.W.

Washington, DC 20024

- Partner with DCVLP and My Sister's Place
- Discreet location



# ***Survivor Resilience Fund***

**(SRF)** is a flexible spending fund that provides emergency cash assistance to help survivors address needs which might threaten their (permanent) housing.

- Prevents survivors from entering into the cycle of homelessness



# DASH Services

## *Technical Assistance and Training*

- DASH is venturing to inspire a housing movement for victims called **Domestic Violence (DV) Informed Safe Housing**. DV Informed Safe Housing is a model that can be incorporated into any housing program that provides services to women. It ensures that all victims of domestic violence are receiving services that address the needs of trauma survivors, such as ongoing safety planning, information on the dynamics of domestic violence and counseling. DASH envisions a community where survivors have a multitude of safe housing options so that regardless of where a survivor turns for help, she will be met by service providers who can provide information and support that directly addresses the impact of abuse.



# DASH Partnership Goals:

1. Increase staff awareness on the dynamics of DV and victim safety at DC General and the VWFRC.
2. Enhance staff skills and ability to advocate for victims housing rights and protections.
3. Provide housing counseling to victims seeking support through DASH Housing Resource Center
4. Enhance survivor safety and confidentiality at the VWFRC and DC General through modification of existing program policies and procedures.





# Common Myths About CHPs

- We operate a 24 hour hotline
- We are an emergency housing provider
- We have an process/wait list
- We can get survivors on DC housing waitlists
- We can guarantee housing



# **Safety: Enhancing Survivors' Awareness of Safety**

- Safety Planning
- Tips for Finding Safe Housing:
  - For finding a safe neighborhood
  - For your new home
  - For regaining financial independence
  - For staying connected or seeking out support systems



# Take Away

- Understand the different types of programs DASH offer
- Able to identify myths and barriers for survivors.
- Understand the housing assistance DASH provides
- Understanding tips for Safety Planning



# CHPs Contact

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- DASH staff @VWFRC  
Mondays - Thursday
- DASH staff @ DCG  
DCG Hotel (Monday) & DCG (Thursday)



THANK YOU!

CHPs

Community Housing Programs

[Dashdc.org](http://Dashdc.org)