



Intersection of Domestic Violence and Asset-Building: Designing and Implementing an Asset-Based Program

2020 Prosperity Indiana Conference

Objectives:

1. How did Coburn Place design and implement its DV Housing First program
2. How can others replicate long-term housing stability programs
3. Building your agencies financial assets
4. Having an Asset-Based approach

Comparing Concepts:

Housing First

vs.

DV Housing First

Housing First

- ✓ Those experiencing homelessness are believed to be housing ready
- ✓ Provided with permanent housing immediately and with few to no preconditions
- ✓ Presumption that helping people obtain stable housing before addressing other concerns makes dealing with these other issues “easier”

DV Housing First

- ✓ Support Services
- ✓ Mobile Advocacy-nimble and effective
- ✓ Flexible Engagement
- ✓ Community Engagement
- ✓ Trauma-Informed Practices
- ✓ May establish “new” housing or assistance in sustaining current housing
- ✓ SURVIVOR-CENTERED

Designing & Implementing a Domestic Violence Housing First model at Coburn Place

- Meeting survivors where they are
- Accompanying survivors on the journey
- Safety planning
- Holistic focus on overall well-being, not just housing

- Establish emotional safety
- Restore choice and control
- Facilitate connections
- Recognize trauma healing is not linear



- Individualized flexible funding
- Funding not limited to rent assistance
- Engagement is often not linear

- Partnerships with housing providers and landlords
- Partnerships with other community resource providers
- Systems change

Initial contact: Welcome to Coburn Place (call, text, email, or walk in)



Initial Assessment happens



Based upon recommendations from Initial Assessment,
Survivor is assigned a Well-Being Advocate and a Housing Advocate.



Coburn Place Programs

Housing Options: (35 onsite TH units + Community Based + 17 PSH)

Well-Being Services + Children's Services (non-Housing + Programming Services)



**TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING**

**COMMUNITY
HOUSING**

**WELL-BEING
SERVICES**

Becoming an Asset Based Program:

- ▶ Agency engages community partners
- ▶ What agencies are in your community
- ▶ How to increase community connections for client
- ▶ **GOAL:** Increasing overall self-sufficiency

Coburn Place's GOALS

1-providing DV Housing First Flex Funds

2-Be Asset Based

- ▶ Assess and eliminate barriers to housing stability.
- ▶ Provide survivor-centered advocacy and support.
- ▶ As quickly as possible, place or keep survivors in safe and sustainable housing.
- ▶ Improve housing stability.
- ▶ Improve overall well-being.
- ▶ Any survivor has access to DVHF Flex Funds regardless of which Coburn Place program they are engaged.

Most “common” uses of Flex Funds at Coburn Place

2016: \$69,255
2017: \$81,417
2018: \$348,767
2019 (so far): \$156,412
2020: est \$1.2M

- ▶ **Rent Assistance/Deposits**
- ▶ Moving Costs
- ▶ Children’s Needs
- ▶ **Utility Assistance/Deposits**
- ▶ **Credit Clean-Up, Debt and Eviction Costs**
- ▶ Education/training
- ▶ Employment Needs
- ▶ Mortgage payment
- ▶ Transportation Needs
- ▶ Legal Assistance
- ▶ Physical/Mental Health Needs
- ▶ Security Assistance
- ▶ Other purposes that directly impact housing stability

Low Barrier
and Flexible

How to replicate a DV Housing First Model

1. Ensure your service delivery model is survivor-centered, voluntary, and trauma-informed.
2. Build in the core components of DVHF into your service delivery model.
3. Begin to design your program budget to include some “seed” Flex Funds.
4. Set your projections based on what you know you have.

How to replicate a DV Housing First Model

5. Develop your parameters for Flex Funds and DVHF services.
6. Visit other programs.
7. Develop relationships.
8. House a few people.
9. Evaluate your outcomes, Get Survivor feedback and learn lessons.
10. Tell your story and keep building.

Becoming an Asset Based Program:

- ▶ Utilizing a Social Safety Net

- ▶ The **social safety net** is a collection of services provided by the state or other institutions such as friendly societies. which prevent individuals from falling into poverty beyond a certain level.

Some Practical Resources to Help You Get Started:

- ▶ Coburn Place's *Individualized Housing Assessment and Action Plan*
- ▶ Coburn Place's *Rent Calculator Projections Form*
- ▶ *Budget Form*
- ▶ Coburn Place's *Housing Pre- and Post- Survey*

Questions?

Thank you!

Lara Chandler, Chief Operating Officer lara@coburnplace.org

Carrie Stephens, Housing Services Coordinator carrie@coburnplace.org