

District of Columbia Domestic Violence Housing Continuum



Purpose: There is a direct correlation between housing and domestic violence, in fact, domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness both locally and nationally. DCCADV and its member programs convened to develop and cultivate the use of a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Background: The DC Domestic Violence Housing Continuum (DVHC) joined DV housing providers to develop a city-wide procedure for use with all DV housing agencies to establish a coordinated entry and assessment process. The DVHC was established in 2016 as an interagency partnership with DV housing and housing related providers in Washington, DC — House of Ruth, DASH, My Sister's Place, and DC Safe.



DC SAFE ensures the safety and self-determination of domestic violence survivors in Washington, DC through emergency services, court advocacy and system reform. The shelter project, SAFE Space, offers on average 22 days of immediate crisis shelter for survivors who are at highest risk of being killed or seriously injured by their abuser.

DC's 1st domestic violence shelter & hotline. Housing ranging from emergency shelter for 15 families to RISE transitional-to-permanent housing in scattered site apartments, with licensed social workers providing professional case management to promote survivor self-sufficiency.

District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) is DC's largest dedicated safe housing provider for survivors and their families. Cornerstone offers 43 units of safe housing for residents for up to two years while working to recover from abuse.

Services are offered to families who are placed in rent-subsidized apartments and receive supportive services from House of Ruth's transitional and permanent supportive housing programs.

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV) serves as the coordinating body to ensure housing providers have the supports they need to help survivors navigate DC's systems. We advocate on behalf of the providers and offer training and technical assistance to help break down barriers, build relationships, and fund the life-saving work they do every day. The Housing Continuum meets monthly and includes senior representatives from each of the four housing providers to collaborate and coordinate, eliminating barriers for survivors of domestic violence and strengthens partnerships across the domestic violence community.

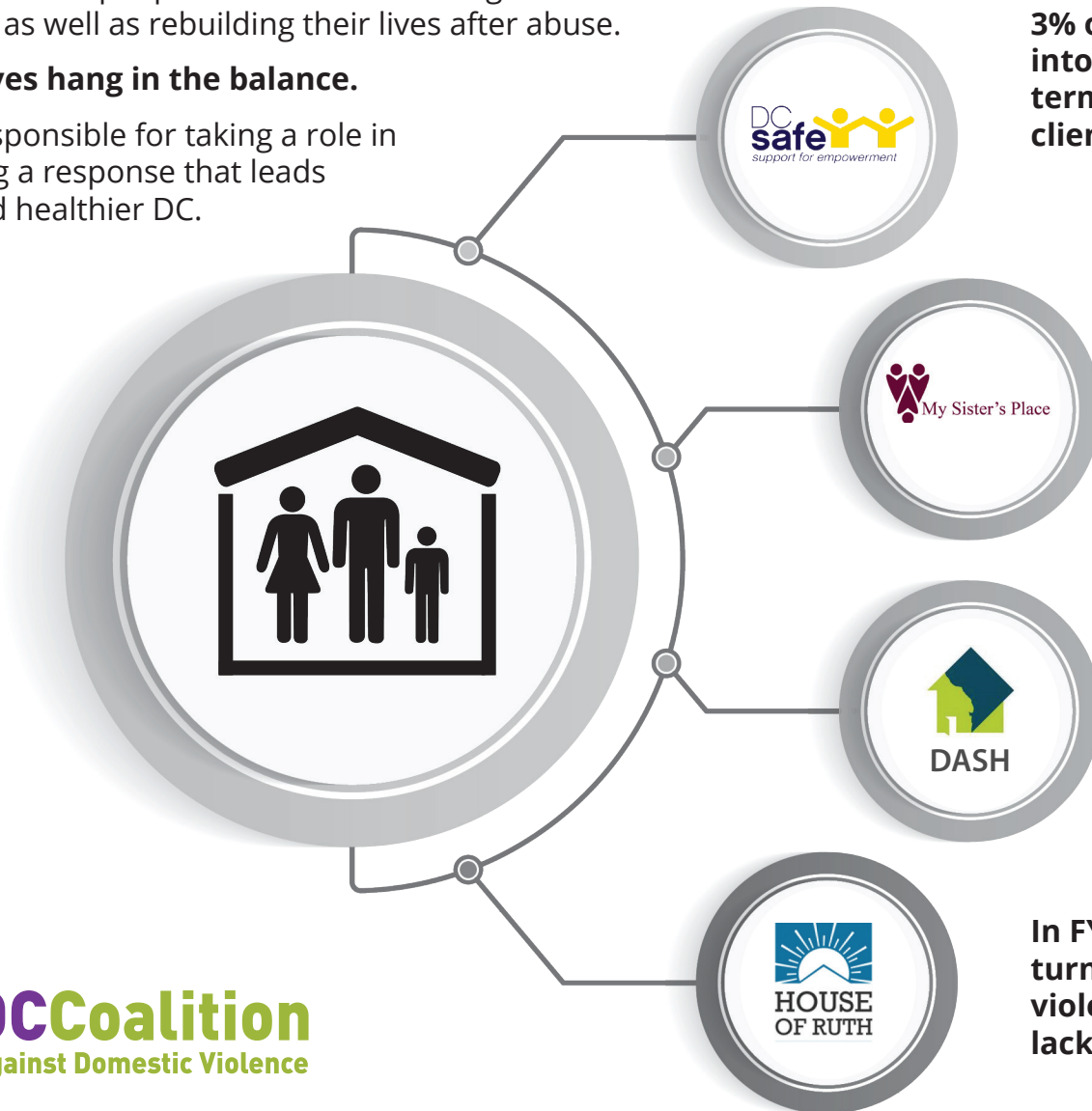
Deficiencies in the DC Safety Net

Needed Response:

Local data consistently tells us that domestic violence is an ongoing precipitating factor of homelessness. To effectively respond to this reality, we need more domestic violence specific housing options for people who are both fleeing abusive relationships as well as rebuilding their lives after abuse.

Survivors' lives hang in the balance.

We all are responsible for taking a role in implementing a response that leads to a safer and healthier DC.



In FY2016, SAFE was able to place only 3% of their emergency shelter clients into domestic violence-specific short-term or transitional housing when clients exited the shelter program.

In FY2016, My Sister's Place had 45 clients on a wait list that they weren't able to serve due to lack of capacity.

In FY 2016, DASH identified the ratio of survivors placed in housing versus those turned away due to no housing options was 1:5.

In FY2016, House of Ruth turned away 199 domestic violence survivors due to lack of housing availability.