

Domestic Violence Program

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



COLORADO

Office of Children,
Youth & Families

Domestic Violence Program

Our Values

About the Domestic Violence Program

In 1983, the Colorado General Assembly created the Domestic Violence Program (DVP), located in the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS). DVP is the sole government entity dedicated entirely to funding community-based domestic violence programs. DVP is the lead authority within CDHS and state government for issues pertaining to domestic violence.



Our Vision

Promote and sustain a culture free of domestic violence for all Coloradans.



Our Mission

To partner with communities to promote the safety and well-being of domestic violence survivors and prevent domestic violence through good stewardship of funding resources and the advancement of quality programming.



Nondiscrimination Commitment

DVP is committed to serving Colorado community-based domestic violence advocacy programs and survivors without prejudice. DVP is dedicated to funding programs that are committed to creating an environment that is accessible, culturally relevant, and trauma-informed for all domestic violence survivors and their families.



Funding Administration

DVP oversees approximately \$4 million annually in revenue from five diverse sources, which are pooled and distributed through an application process to Colorado's community-based domestic violence advocacy organizations.



Staff & Committees



Beth Collins - DVP Director

"There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives."
- Audre Lorde



Chelsea Baldwin - DVP Data & Project Lead

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."
- Anne Frank



Melissa Snider - DVP Program Assistant

Retired in January 2022!
Congratulations on your retirement & thank you!

New in '22!



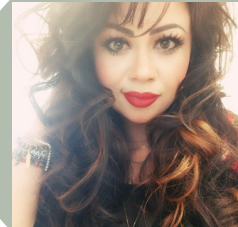
Shelley Reader - DVP Specialist

"When I dare to be powerful-
to use my strength in the
services of my vision, then it
becomes less and less
important whether I am
afraid."
- Audre Lorde



Maddi Ring - DVP Project Coordinator

"A friend may be waiting
behind a stranger's face."
- Maya Angelou



Tiffany Abeyta - DVP Contract Coordinator

"Everyone you meet is
fighting a battle you know
nothing about. Be kind.
Always."
- Robin Williams

DVP extends our thanks to the following committee members who supported our work in impactful ways.

Advisory Committee

Adam Evans - Project PAVE
Ashlee Lewis - The Initiative
Ashley Wilson - Rise Above Violence
Jackie List - Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley
Linsey Wingfield - CDPS DCJ
Monica Rivera - Violence Free Colorado
Regina Rodriguez - Colorado JEDI, LLC
Roshan Kalantar - Violence Free Colorado
Shannon Meyer - Response, Inc.
Sheri Mintz - Bright Future Foundation

Selection Committee

Agueda Morgan - CCASA
Georquel Goodwin - CDHS DCW
Jon Capps-Dean - CDHS DCP
Kristi Griffith - CDHS TGYS
Maria Mendez - CCASA
Theo Isoz - CDHS CoSHI



COLORADO
Office of Children,
Youth & Families
Domestic Violence Program

Funding Administration

Federal Fiscal Year 2022 marked Year One of a Four-Year Funding Cycle

DVP oversees approximately \$4 million annually in revenue from a compilation of diverse sources. Following an application process, the funds are distributed through contracts with community-based domestic violence advocacy organizations across Colorado.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

Beginning in 1984, Congress approved the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), creating a grant for states to assist in establishing, maintaining and expanding domestic violence programs to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance to survivors of family violence and their dependents.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Starting in 2004, the Colorado Legislature appropriated funding for domestic violence advocacy services through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund

Beginning in 1983, the legislature established the Colorado Domestic Abuse Fund (CDAF), which allows individual taxpayers to make contributions in support of funding for domestic violence advocacy services.

Marriage & Civil Union Licenses and Divorce Filing Fees

Beginning in 2009, \$20 of the fees collected from marriage and civil union licenses and \$5 from each divorce filing are directed to DVP for distribution to domestic violence advocacy organizations.

DVP-funded organizations commit to providing services within an Accessible, Culturally Responsive, and Trauma-Informed (ACRTI) framework. To accomplish this, funded organizations complete two goals each year.

1. Ensure meaningful access for all survivors seeking services by conducting an annual EDI assessment.
2. Identify and work toward a goal related to the ACRTI principles.

Support Across State Agencies

Among the changes in 2022 was the creation of the Division of Community Programs, DVP's new home within the Office of Children, Youth and Families. Dr. Sandy Ho, the Director of this new Division, has assisted DVP in furthering our commitment to ACRTI work.

DVP is grateful to have the partnership and support of Violence Free Colorado and the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Both coalitions work closely with DVP to provide training and technical assistance to DVP-funded organizations.

In FFY22, DVP had many opportunities to partner with allied agencies to further the vision of a culture free of Domestic Violence. Some project highlights are below.

DOLA - HMIS Comparable Database

DVP partnered with the Office of Homeless Initiatives, Division of Housing team to modify the CAFE Salesforce database to incorporate required elements for organizations receiving DOLA funding.

OEC (now the Department of Early Childhood) - Fatherhood FIRE Grant

DVP developed a domestic violence screening tool, provided training on domestic violence and the use of the tool, and helped to coordinate formalized agreements in seven locations between the domestic violence service providers and the project sites contracted with OEC. The local domestic violence organizations provided training and ongoing consultation with the Fatherhood organizations.

DCW - Child Protective Services Practice Guide

DVP partnered with the Training Steering Committee within the Division of Child Welfare to initiate updates for the statewide Domestic Violence Practice Guide for Child Protective Services, which acts as a resource for caseworkers to enhance their knowledge and practice in child welfare cases with co-occurring domestic violence and child maltreatment concerns.

DCW - Domestic Abuse Definition Task Force

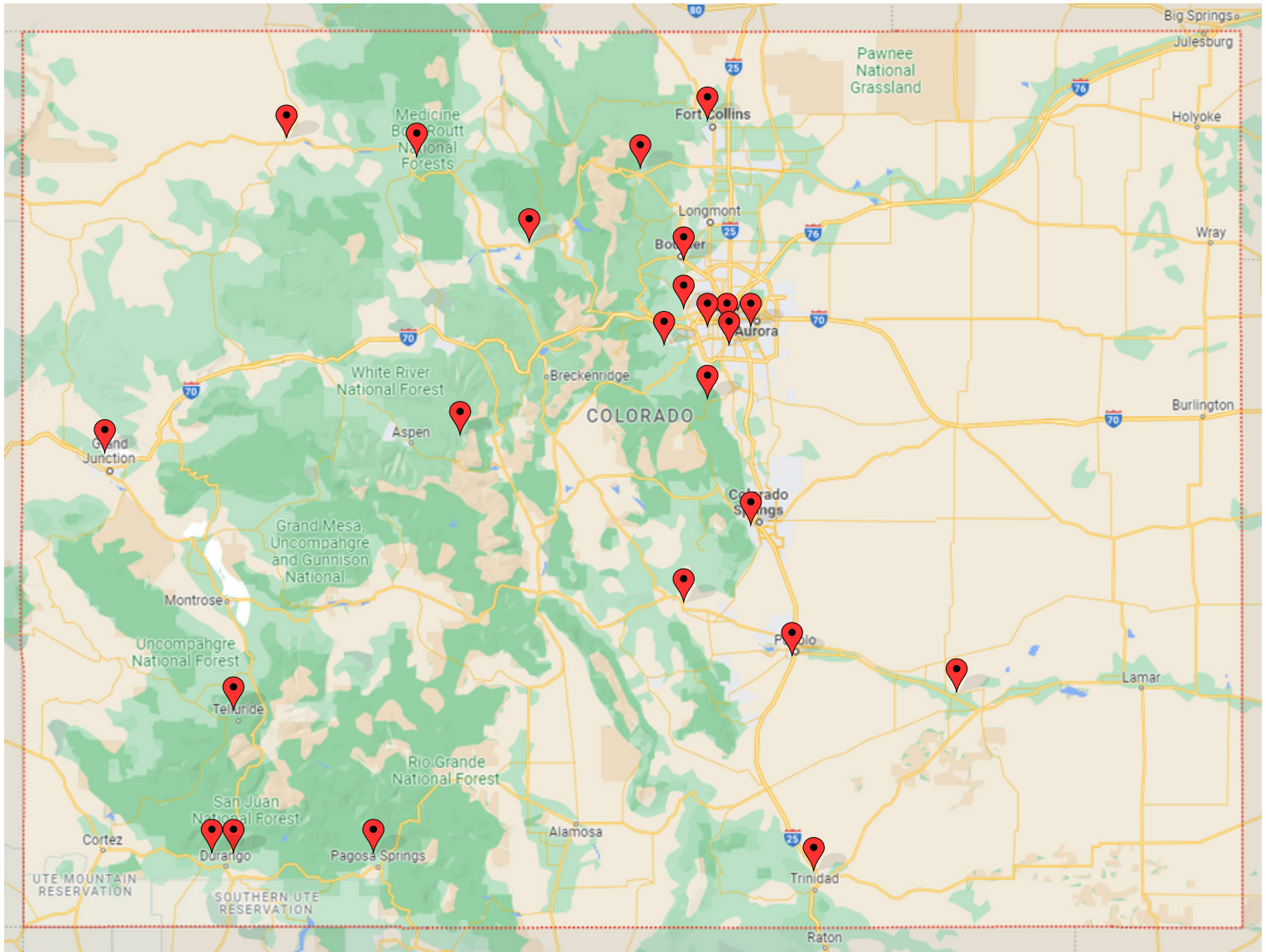
DVP partnered with the Division of Child Welfare in accordance with HB21-1099, to convene diverse partners to consider improving child welfare case practice through modification to the Children's Code, rules governing best practices, and training regarding domestic abuse.



Where did DVP go in 2022?



After a pause due to the COVID pandemic, in 2022 DVP was able to resume in-person site visits with community-based organizations. Here is where DVP went!



Map courtesy of Google Maps

Thank you to each of these DVP-funded organizations for the conversations we had while visiting your location.

- Advocates Against Domestic Assault
- Advocates of Lake County
- Advocates of Routt County/Better Tomorrow
- Advocates Victim Assistance Team
- Alternative Horizons Corp
- Arkansas Valley Resource Center Inc
- Asian Pacific Development Center
- Crisis Center
- Crossroads Safehouse Inc
- Estes Valley Crisis Advocates
- Family Crisis Services Inc
- Family Tree
- Hilltop Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
- Open Heart Advocates
- Peaceworks, Inc.
- Project Safeguard
- Rise Above Violence
- SafeHouse Denver, Inc.
- Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence
- San Miguel Resource Center
- TESSA
- The Phoenix Center at Auraria
- VOA, Southwest Safehouse
- YWCA of Pueblo



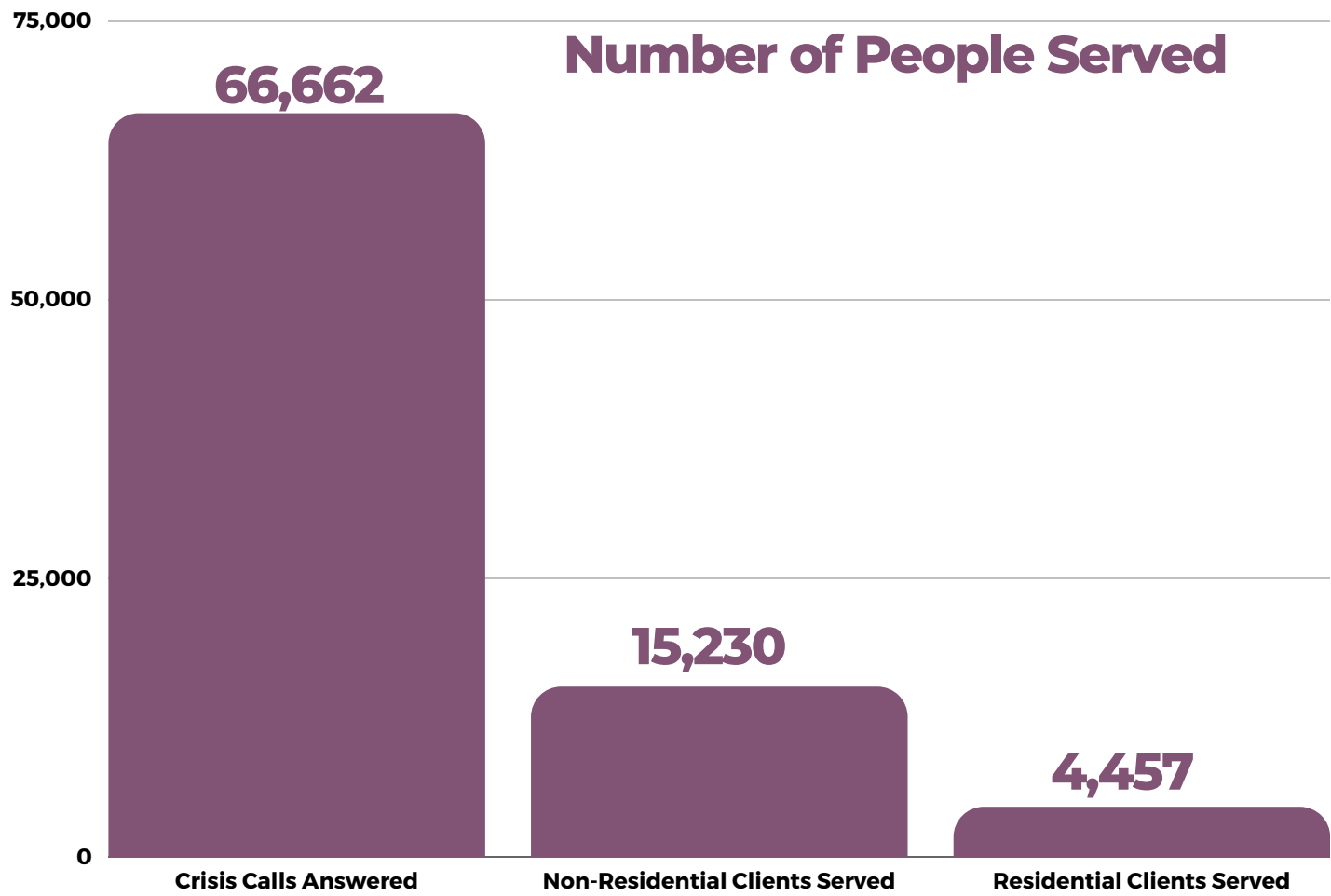
COLORADO

Office of Children,
Youth & Families

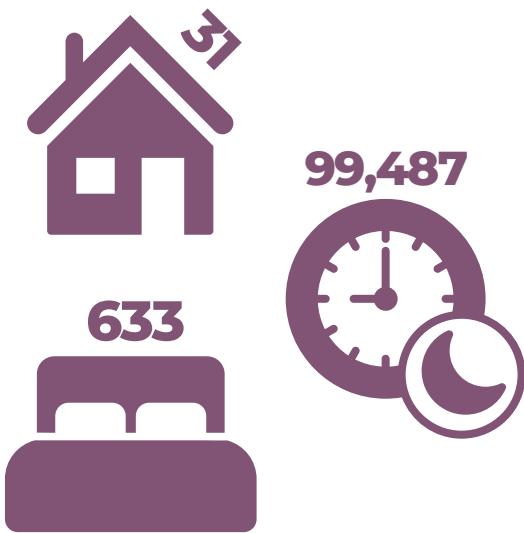
Domestic Violence Program

Service Data from FFY22

In 2022, 46 community-based advocacy organizations in Colorado dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence and their families received DVP funds. These organizations offer a variety of free and confidential services including 24/7 crisis lines, crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, group support, legal advocacy, flexible financial assistance, shelter, rapid re-housing support, and more.



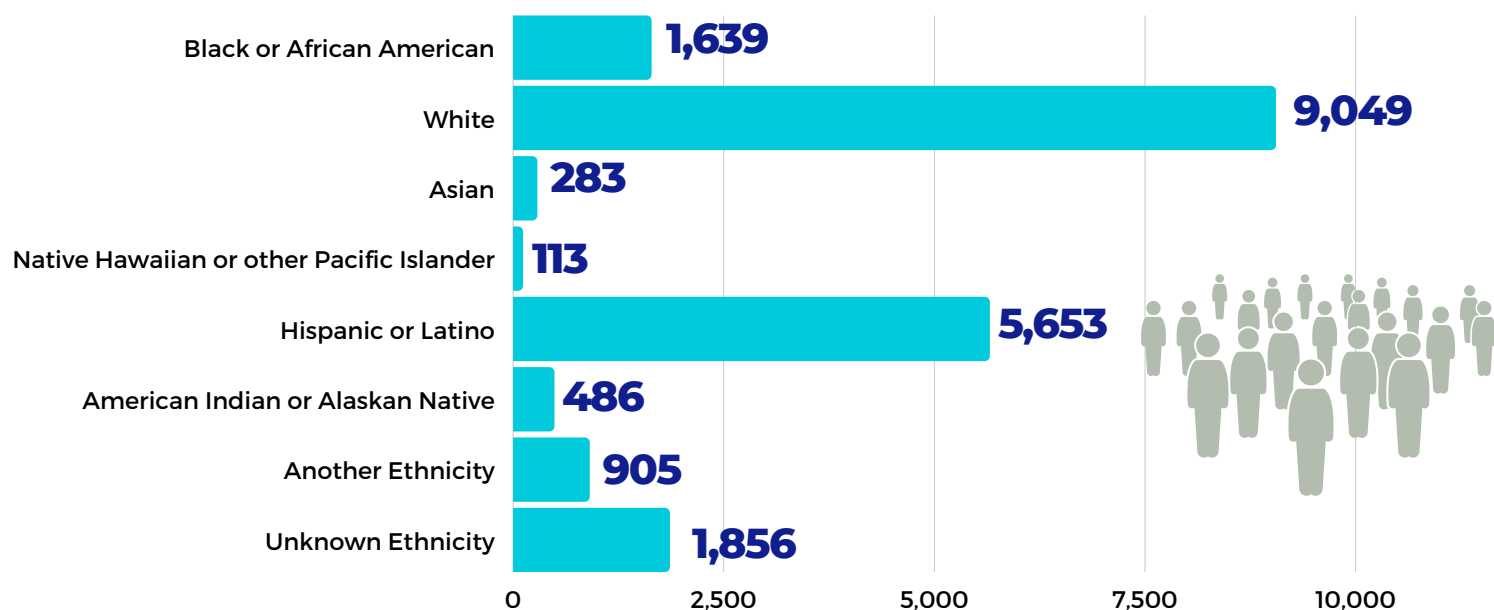
Thirty-one (31) residential facilities with a total of 633 shelter beds provided a combined 99,487 nights of shelter



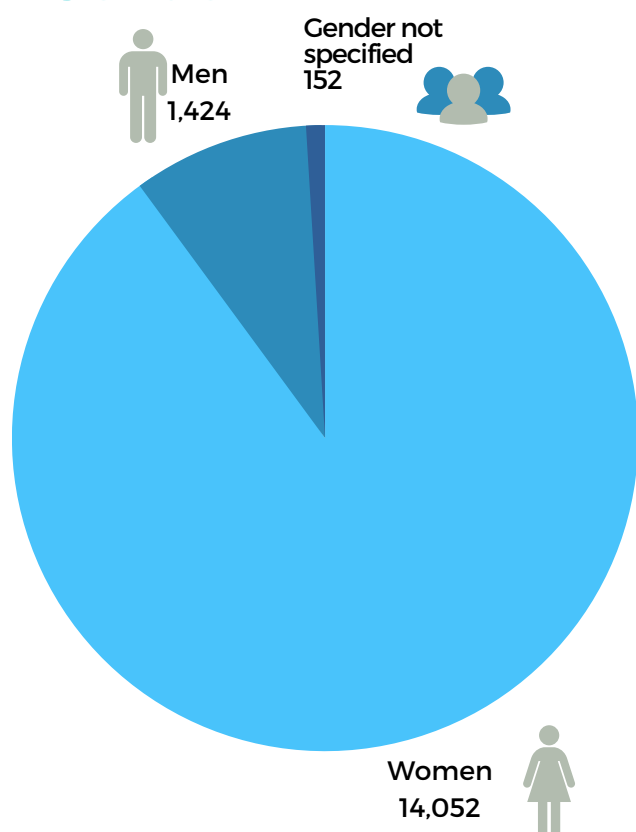
*The above data does not include data from one DVP-funded organization's 4th Quarter.



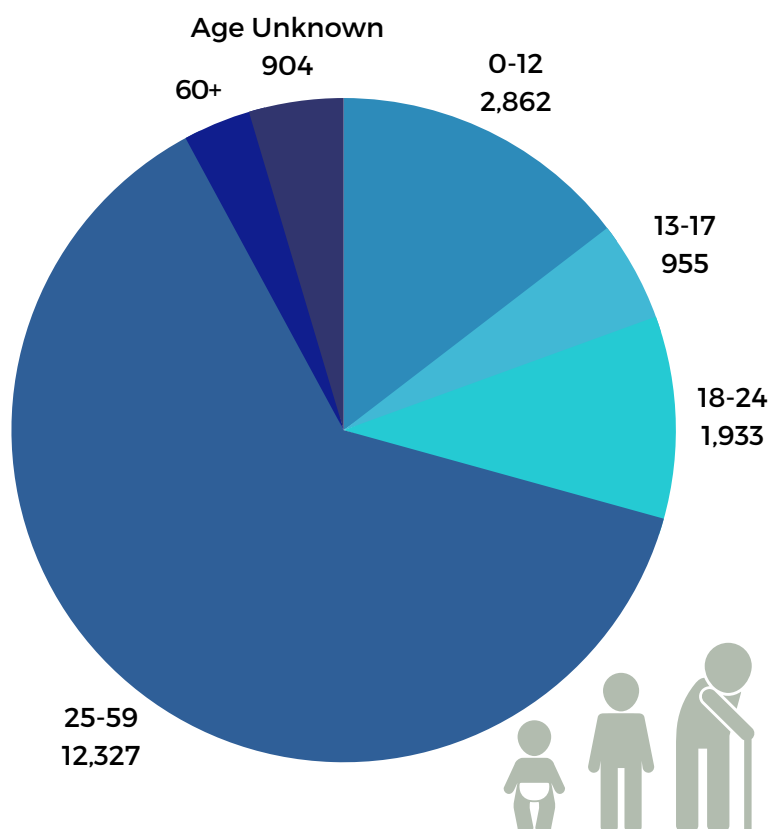
Self-Identified Race/Ethnicity



Self-Identified Gender



Client Age



*The above data does not include data from one DVP-funded organization's 4th Quarter.

Underserved Populations



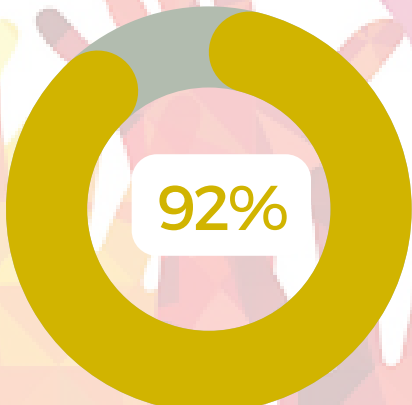
Language Services Needed
1,281

Self-Identify as LGBTQ+
391

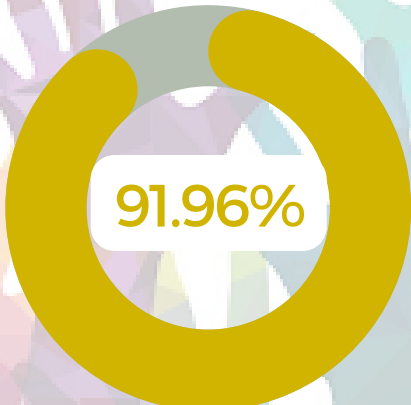
Self-Identified Disability
1,726

Live in Rural Areas
5,299

4,390 clients responded to surveys regarding the community-based services they received



of survey respondents indicated that as a result of services they knew more ways to plan for their safety



of survey respondents indicated that as a result of services they knew more about resources in their community

*The above data does not include data from one DVP-funded organization's 4th Quarter.

COVID Impacts on Survivors

DVP-funded organizations report an increase in survivors' needs, financial challenges for organizations, and increased pressure on staff members. In response, DVP worked throughout 2022 to respond to the ongoing impact of the COVID pandemic on survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

"[Due to COVID,] we were unable to have volunteers answering the crisis line and helping at the Shelter, which put a larger burden on Advocates." - Safehouse Denver

"Crossroads never closed during the pandemic; we provided 24/7 advocacy and support throughout. Yet, 2020 was fraught with intermittent staffing shortages created by suspected exposure, or confirmed cases. [In 2022 we saw] an increase in staff turnover, a ubiquitous trend in for- and not-for-profit organizations." - Crossroads Safehouse

"The sharp increase in prices of basic necessities, along with skyrocketing housing prices, have left many of our donors with fewer resources to donate. These same price increases have put a burden on the assistance items we offer clients. ... One of the largest fundraisers for the agency was held virtually in 2021, resulting in significantly lower net revenue." - The Alliance

"The novelty and speed of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic negative effect on the lives of survivors ... In addition to exacerbating existing risk factors for IPV and sexual assault, such as isolation, economic insecurity and lack of resources (Danis and Bhandari 2010), the COVID-19 pandemic is occurring alongside what is often referred to as a "second" pandemic of racial injustice in the US (Baker 2020, Geiger 1997) ... Financial stability for survivors continues to be seriously impacted by the housing shortage and limited childcare options." - Bright Future Foundation

Solution Projects

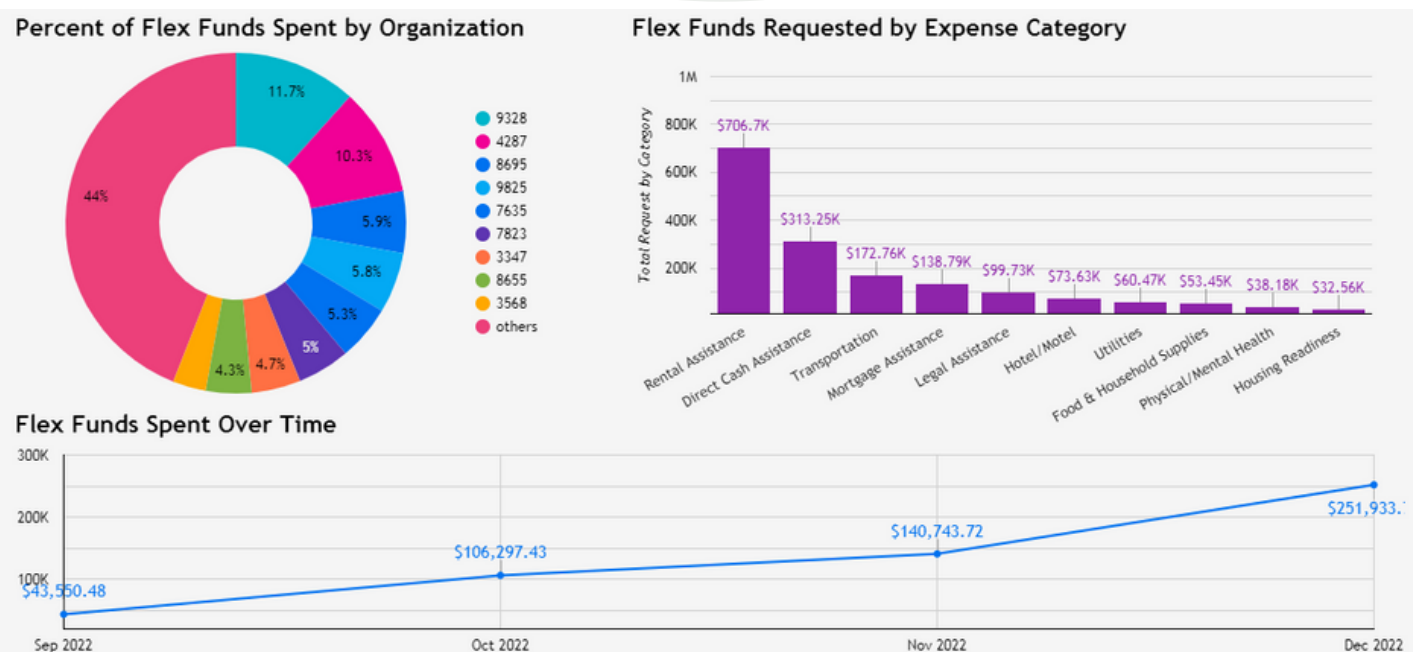
DVP used stimulus funding, originating from the American Rescue Plan federally, to implement several projects in direct response to organization feedback that detailed hardships for survivors, organizational and staff challenges, and financial impacts on organizations.

Small Impact Awards - COVID Mitigation

To support COVID mitigation efforts, in May of 2022 DVP announced that DVP-funded organizations were eligible for immediate reimbursement of related costs. With these funds, 35 organizations received up to \$5,000 for COVID mitigation efforts, such as cleaning services, purchasing personal protective equipment and at-home tests, virtual service supplies, COVID outreach materials, and for providing client transportation related to COVID-19 prevention.

Flex Funds Project

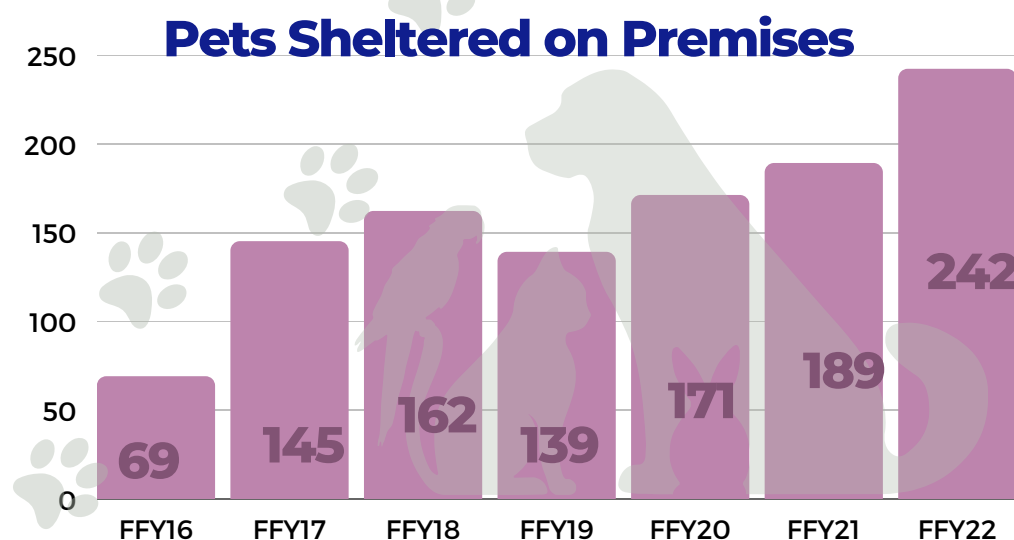
In recognition of the COVID-19 pandemic's safety and financial impacts on survivors of domestic and sexual violence, DVP launched a Flex Funds Project in September of 2022. Flexible financial assistance is a critical tool for advocacy organizations to assist survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in building safety and stability. This project was built on the growing body of research that demonstrates the vital role of low-barrier flexible financial support for survivors. Previously, many advocacy organizations in Colorado had been able to offer small amounts of flex funding through pilot programs or donations. These organizations found that helping survivors pay for immediate safety-related needs positively impacted survivor safety and wellbeing.



Solution Projects

Animal Companion Safety Project

In 2022, DVP engaged with several partners to support organizations in serving companion animals in shelter. RedRover shared information on increasing organizational capacity. Allie Phillips, creator of the Saf-T Model, presented multiple webinars on supporting animal companions at domestic violence shelters. DVP met with Rebecca Niemiec, Manager at the Colorado Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP), to share ideas and build materials - and DVP staff trained animal protection personnel on dynamics of domestic violence at the BAP February conference.



Services for Sexual Violence Survivors

Despite the prevalence of sexual violence, since 1983 DVP has solely been able to administer funds for anti-Domestic Violence work. However, in the 2022 legislative session, DVP's enabling statute was changed to allow DVP to fund anti-sexual violence work and survivor services offered by culturally specific organizations.



In the Fall of 2022, DVP launched its first-ever anti-sexual assault services project, which officially began in 2023. Much more to come on how DVP will meaningfully incorporate anti-sexual violence info our core work.

Looking Ahead



In the legislative declaration for SB 22-183 (Crime Victim Services) it states:

- “A significant number of homicides, aggravated assaults, assaults and batteries, and other types of abuse and coercive control occur within Colorado and that domestic violence and sexual assault is a complex problem affecting families from all social and economic backgrounds...
- Research also shows that individuals from populations underserved due to geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, race or ethnicity, language barriers, disabilities, alienage, and age experience domestic violence and sexual assault at higher rates and face greater challenges in accessing services than the general population...
- Community-based advocates are uniquely positioned to offer victims various options for services and to support the choices victims make... Therefore, the General Assembly declares that community-based advocates are a critical component of a victim-centered response to domestic violence and sexual assault.”

DVP is working with invested partners to plan a statewide needs assessment that will begin in 2023 and will look at both domestic and sexual violence survivors' needs.



Acknowledgments

The Domestic Violence Program, located in the Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Children, Youth, and Families, Division of Community Programs, would like to thank our incredible internal CDHS colleagues. DVP also extends gratitude to the wonderful community members and program staff who volunteer their time to participate in the DVP Advisory and Funding Committees to ensure transparency, equity, and accountability for DVP.

DVP also wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to all employees and volunteers working in community-based domestic violence and sexual violence advocacy organizations throughout the state of Colorado for their immense efforts to assist survivors and their families. Your work is deeply impactful and your dedication to supporting survivors benefits communities across our state and beyond.

Published By:

Colorado Department of Human Services
Domestic Violence Program
1575 Sherman Street, 2nd Floor
Denver, CO 80203
Phone | 303-866-3150
Website | www.cdhs.colorado.gov/dvp

Suggested Citation (whole or in part):

Colorado Department of Human Services, Domestic Violence Program:
Domestic Violence Program - 2022 Annual Report.

A note about this report:

DVP operates on a Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), which means that all activities and data presented in this report are from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.