



Office for the
Prevention of
Domestic Violence

Flexible Funding for Survivors Town Hall

July 13, 2023



Welcome from

Kelli Owens, *Executive Director*

Agenda

- Flexible Funding Overview
- Funding Appropriation
- Procurement Overview
- Stakeholder Feedback

Purpose of Town Hall

- Feedback requested from:
 - Survivors
 - Any non-profit, educational organization, or government entity that provides services to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence
- Feedback focus:
 - identify factors the State of New York should consider in determining how to allocate the funding in a trauma-informed, survivor-centered, culturally responsive manner

Comment Period

- **During the Town Hall**

- Participants will have 3 minutes to speak.
- Comments may also be provided in the chat sent to “all participants.”

- **After the Town Hall**

- OPDV will accept written comments through COB 7/14/23 DVSafeHousing@opdv.ny.gov
- OPDV will transcribe the comments and make them available on our website.

Flexible Funding Overview

- Financial concerns are a barrier to safety.
- Flexible funding is effective because it is:
 - Survivor Driven
 - Each survivor has unique needs. How survivors use the funding should not be compartmentalized or merit based.
 - Removing Obstacles
 - Low barrier requirements means that funding can be provided quickly to address immediate crisis.

Understanding the Funding

- FY24 NYS Budget:
 - 5,000,0000
 - For services, expenses and grants to government entities and not-for-profits...
 - ... to provide financial assistance to victims and survivors of domestic violence...
 -distributed pursuant to a plan prepared by OPDV and approved by the Director of the Budget.

During past programming, we heard:

- Success stories showed the need for this type of funding
- Even more flexibility in allowable expenses is needed
- Income level should either be raised or eliminated
- Citizenship & Immigration status should not be considerations
- Funding should be available for longer periods of time
- Advances for programs should be increased to the extent possible
- Allow for administrative costs
- Limited availability of housing stock made it hard to use funds

Introduction to Procurement

- Under New York State Finance Law, State agencies must procure commodities, services, and technology.
- Goal: to promote agency mission, protect taxpayer interests, and promote fairness in contracting.
- For more info: <https://ogs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/draft-procurement-guidelines-2023.pdf>

Common Procurement Methods

- Competitive: Procurement awarded pursuant to a solicitation such as an RFA or RFP.
- Noncompetitive:
 - Sole Source: There is *only one* entity that can provide the services required.
 - Single Source: A competitive procurement is not feasible, and it is in the best interest of the State to procure from a particular bidder or clear set of bidders.

Note: All subject to approval of OSC

Guiding Questions to Inform Comments

What is the lowest barrier way to get this funding out to survivors?

1. What hurdles do survivors face when trying to access financial resources from the system?

Guiding Questions to Inform Comments

What is the lowest barrier way to get this funding out to survivors?

2. How should the State determine how funding passes through individual programs to ensure the most equitable reach to all survivors?
 - grants to many programs to distribute funds directly in their community; or
 - grants to regional or state HUBs to distribute funding across the state as requested by survivors; or
 - other options.

Guiding Questions to Inform Comments

What is the lowest barrier way to get this funding out to survivors?

3. What are the administrative or operational concerns for programs related to getting this money to survivors the most flexible way possible?
 - What are the compliance and risk management concerns?
 - What are the documentation and auditing concerns that a program might have?

Guiding Questions to Inform Comments

What is the lowest barrier way to get this funding out to survivors?

4. What type of training and technical assistance should the state provide grantee programs to effectively distribute this funding?

Wrap Up & Next Steps

- Comments will be transcribed and made available on OPDV's website.
- Procurement launch expected in the fall.

How to Contact



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DVSafeHousing@opdv.ny.gov