



# Survivor Access Financial Empowerment (SAFE)

## SAFE Overview

- ▶ Financial concerns are a barrier to safety for victims and survivors of domestic violence.
- ▶ 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 mean that funding can be provided quickly to address immediate crises.

## SAFE Can Be Transformative for Survivors

A recent study<sup>1</sup> on the use of flexible funding recorded the following outcomes:

- ▶ 68% of flexible funding recipients remained stably housed (i.e. remained in their homes or moved from one home to another).
- ▶ 67% reported an increase in well-being and capacity to move from just surviving to thriving.
- ▶ 26% moved from homelessness to temporarily or permanently housed.

## What Are the Allowable Uses of This Funding?

The following examples are ways this funding can be used. Distribution of these funds is not limited to these suggestions. A description of each category can be found on the reverse side of this document.

- |                                   |                       |                                |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▶ Children’s needs                | ▶ Housing readiness   | ▶ Utility Assistance           |
| ▶ Communication                   | ▶ Legal assistance    | ▶ Transportation assistance    |
| ▶ Education, training, employment | ▶ Mortgage assistance | ▶ Physical/Mental health needs |
| ▶ Food & Household Supplies       | ▶ Rental Assistance   | ▶ Pet supplies & support       |
| ▶ Personal supplies               | ▶ Hotel/Motel         | ▶ Other                        |

## How Do Survivors Access the Funding?

The awards are distributed by the [New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence](#) to programs that directly serve survivors and victims of domestic violence.

65 non-residential domestic violence service providers recognized by the New York State Office for Children and Family Services (OCFS) accepted the awards and will distribute this funding to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Please see the full list of programs on our [website](#).

<sup>1</sup> Oyesola Oluwafunmilayo Ayeni, PhD. and Clarice Hampton, M.A. (2023). Evaluation of a Flexible Funding Pilot Program to Prevent Homelessness among BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Survivors. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV).

