

ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
& SHOWCASE  
**OCTOBER 27 - 29**

VIRTUAL  
**2020**


# Group Violence Intervention – Housing Partnership

# Group Violence Intervention

https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/25/us/cdc-gun-violence-wilmington.html

The New York Times

*When Gun Violence Felt Like a Disease, a City in Delaware Turned to the C.D.C.*



The West Center City section of Wilmington, Del. Mark Makela for The New York Times

By Jess Bidgood

Dec. 24, 2015

WILMINGTON, Del. — When epidemiologists from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) came to this city, they were not

- History of gun violence in Wilmington
- High priority
- CDC study assessing risk – very small number of individuals
- National model developed by local professor – Group Violence Intervention (GVI)
- Consolidating supports, interventions

Delaware.gov Agencies News Topics Contact

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Office of the Governor  
**JOHN CARNEY**

The Family Services Cabinet Council is breaking down silos to better serve Delaware families. The Council is **coordinating public and private services** that are often fragmented, **making the delivery of state services more effective.**

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### State brings group violence prevention strategy pioneered nationally to Wilmington

By SOPHIA SCHMIDT • JUL 30, 2019

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David Kennedy, director of the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College, will provide technical assistance on the project.

# State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP)

- Established program and partnership between DSHA, Dept of Health and Social Services, and Dept of Services for Children, Youth & Families
- Partner agencies refer and provide supportive services
- Have used model in other pilots and special initiatives – family homelessness, veteran homelessness
- Small set-aside for GVI
- Two years of rental assistance

# Group Violence Intervention



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# Building Your Financial House Readiness\$ for Reentry

Holly Zugay, CFP®  
Senior Financial Education Officer



# Financial Education: Here?



# Background



The Need

The  
Challenges

The Program



# Topics

- 7 **Borrow to Grow**
- 6 **Protect Your Potential**
- 5 **Make Money Work**
- 4 **Check Taxes**
- 3 **Spend Sensibly**
- 2 **Maximize Earnings**
- 1 **Invest in Yourself**



# Program Design

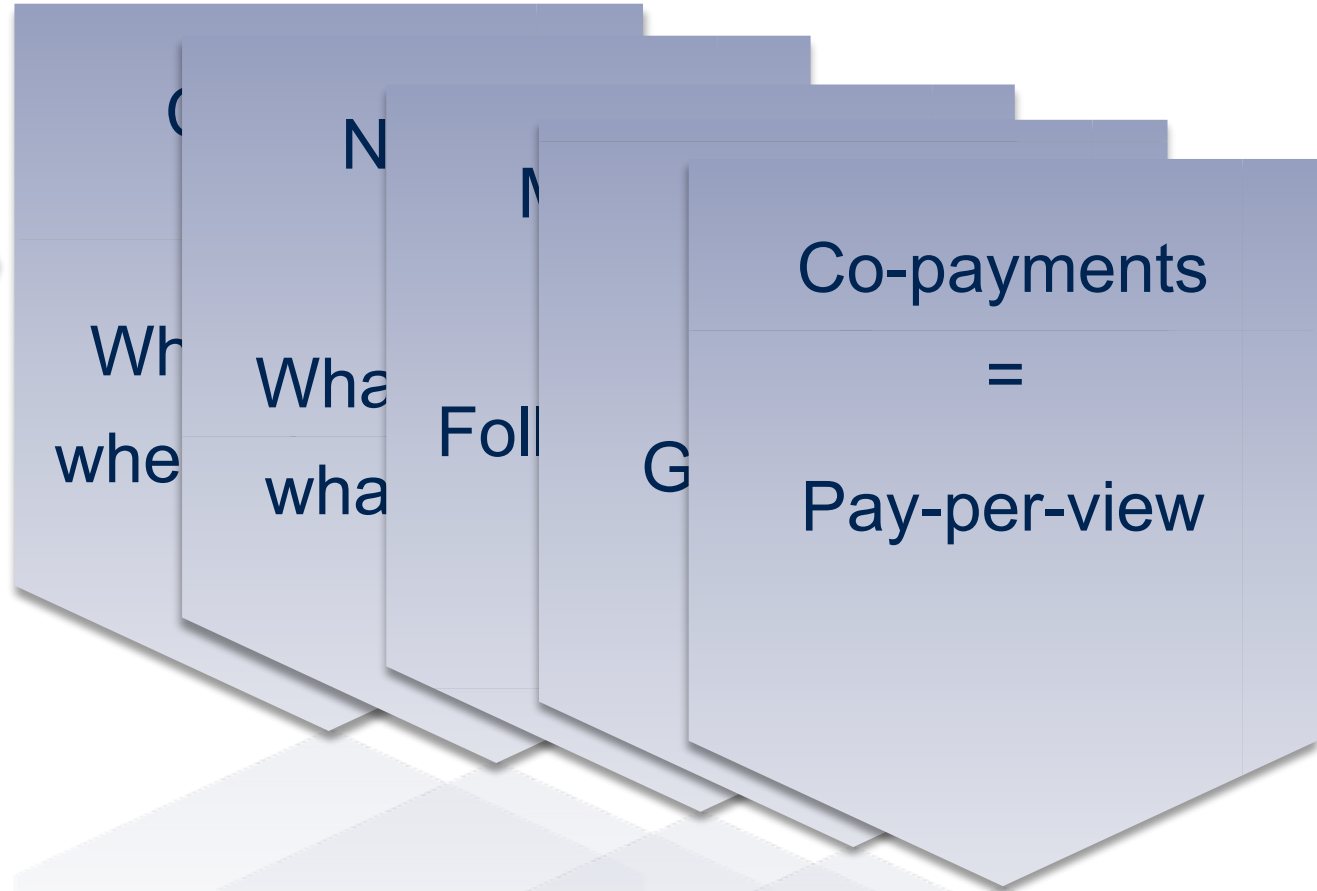
- 1 Relevant and timely
- 2 Simple language
- 3 Practical and self-directed
- 4 Engaging

# Program Design



# Program Design

2 Simple language



# Program Design

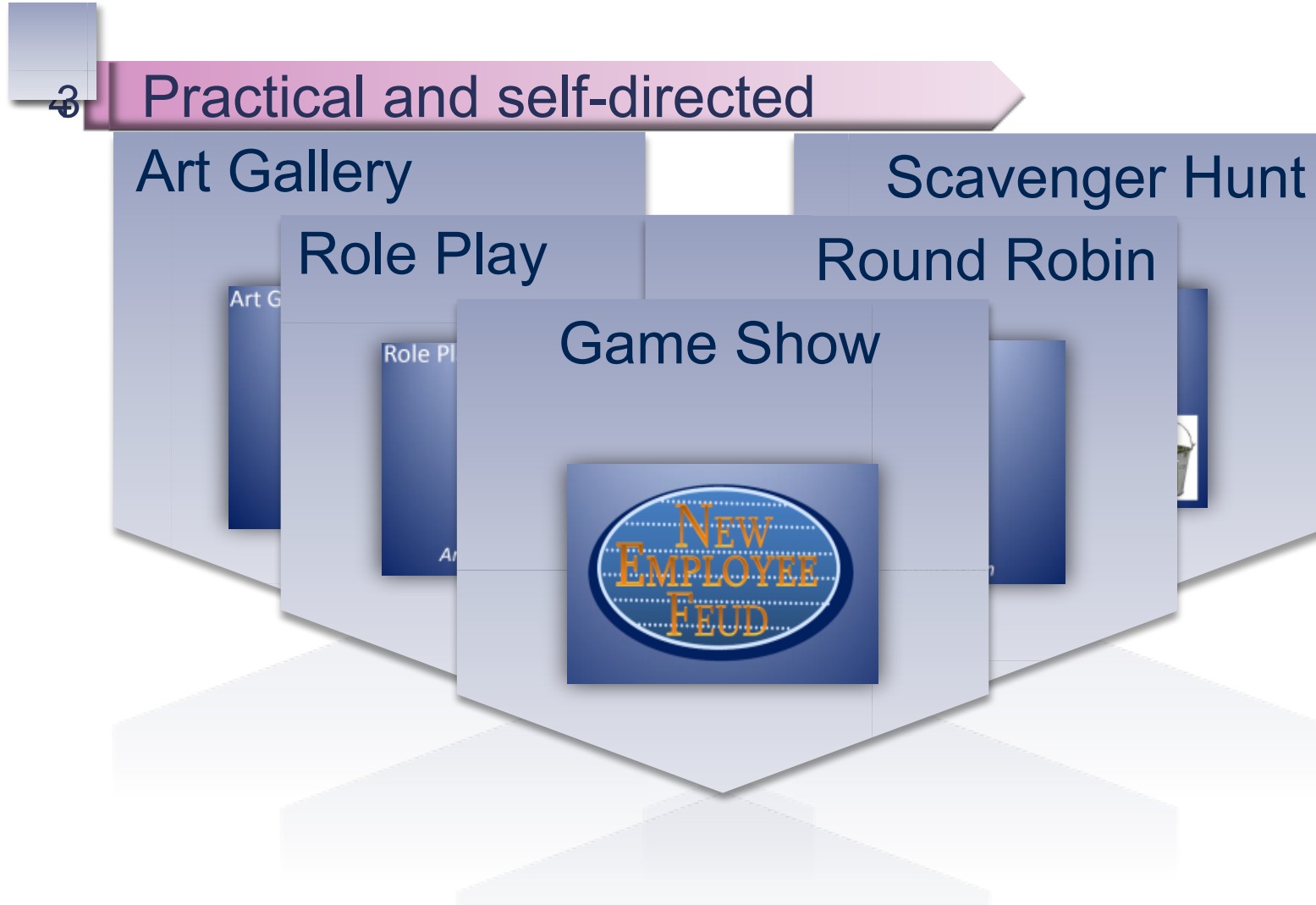
2

Practical and self-directed



Case Study:  
Meet Anna R. Client

# Program Design



# Multi-family Partnerships



# Expanded Partnerships





# New Partnership



Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



PHFA



Department of Corrections

# The Participants



# The Actions



# Reentry Preparedness

Clear about my goals

More hope and understanding

Less desperate, more empowered

Adapt what I new before

Fears are gone

Better informed decisions

BYFH opened my eyes

Changed my thinking

Responsible for my future

Very prepared:

bring it on!

I have the tools

I can move on

My perspective has changed

Great learning experience

# The Impact\*

54 Inmates Completed  
25 Released (46%)  
2 Reincarcerated (8%)  
\$27,500 Program cost

DOC Statistics  
60% Recidivism (3yr)  
\$45,288/year/inmate



\* Updated 10/1/2020

# Challenges

- 1 Time intensive
- 2 Institutional limitations
- 3 Institutional variables
- 4 Inmate limitations

# Moving Forward

Long-term inmates trained and adapted version for transitional housing units

Heightened awareness of reentrants as an at-risk population in housing services

Research partnership with Oklahoma State University

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Questions?

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**Partnerships for Housing  
Vulnerable Populations:  
*Housing Protections for Domestic  
Violence Survivors*  
*Kara Pillsbury Johnson, MassHousing***



# Housing Protections for Domestic Violence Survivors

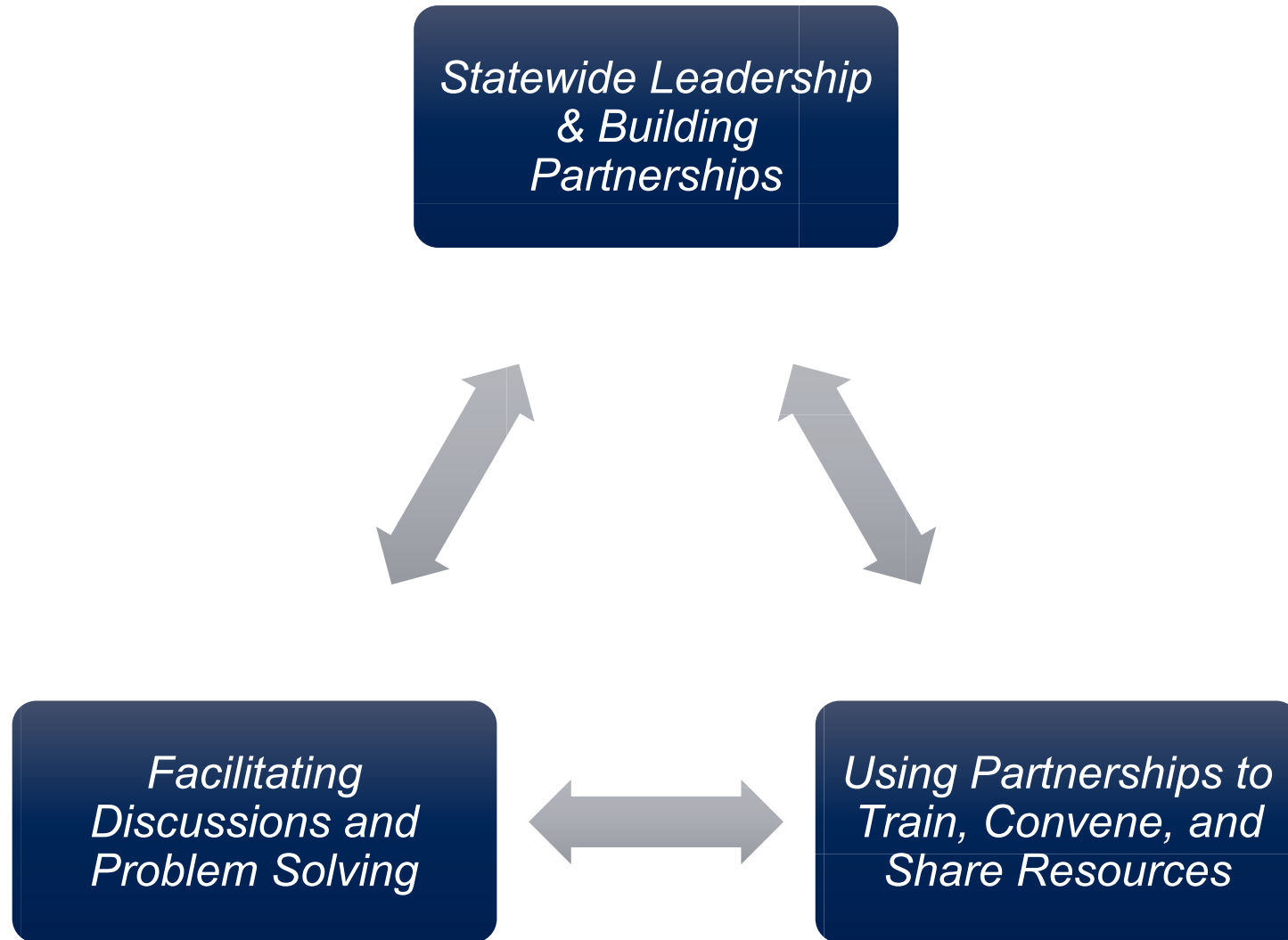
## The Need:

- Sexual and domestic violence (SDV) survivors face numerous challenges, one of which is housing status. One in five Massachusetts residents reports domestic violence as a reason for their homelessness. Additionally, 92% of homeless mothers experience sexual violence in their lifetimes.

## The Goal:

- For residents/survivors: seek safety through emergency transfers or lease enforcement against the perpetrator;
- For applicants/survivors: to be able to access affordable housing opportunities;
- For owners and agents: to have the tools, knowledge, and resources to assist survivors in accessing and maintaining affordable housing.

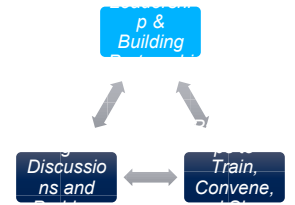
# MassHousing's Approach



# MassHousing's Approach: *Statewide Leadership & Building Partnerships*

Co-chair of Housing and Self-Sufficiency, a Subcommittee of the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. Working with state agencies, SDV service providers, and other organizations through 2 work groups:

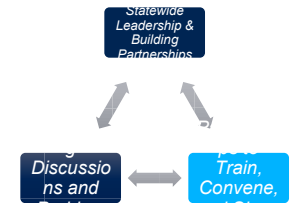
- Housing Policy: housing solutions that best support survivors.
- Training & Collaboration: identify best practices and make recommendations that support survivors



# MassHousing's Approach: *Using Partnerships to Train, Convene, and Share Resources*

## Overview of Initiatives:

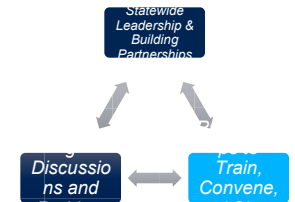
- Training
  - Two-part training
  - COVID-19 specific webinars
  - Housing literacy webinars
- Handbook: *The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Massachusetts State Law and Housing*
- Annual Conference
- Regional Resource Forums



# MassHousing's Approach: *Using Partnerships to Train, Convene, and Share Resources*

## Training:

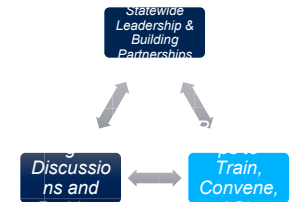
- In person two-part training:
  - 9 trainings to date- 232 attendees
- COVID-19 Focused Webinars
  - 6 webinars- 331 participants
- Housing Literacy Training
  - Being offered in October & December to all SDV advocates across the Commonwealth



# MassHousing's Approach: *Using Partnerships to Train, Convene, and Share Resources*

## Handbook: *The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Massachusetts State Law and Housing*

- Digital file, available for free at [masshousing.com/vawa](https://masshousing.com/vawa)
- 5 authors, 26 reviewers
- Structure
  - Chapter 1: Introduction to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (DVDVSAS)
  - Chapter 2, Part 1: Applicable Laws, the Legal Framework and General Questions
  - Chapter 2, Part 2: Application Process
  - Chapter 2, Part 3: Occupancy and Termination of Assistance & Tenancy
  - Chapter 3: Removing Barriers
  - Appendices A-L



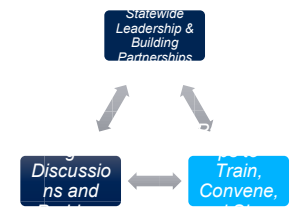
### The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Massachusetts State Law and Housing An Overview for Housing Providers

Massachusetts, January 2020

Written by:

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# MassHousing's Approach: *Using Partnerships to Train, Convene, and Share Resources*



## Annual Conference:

- *Supporting those affected by SDV in Housing-*  
267 Attendees, 30 resource tables

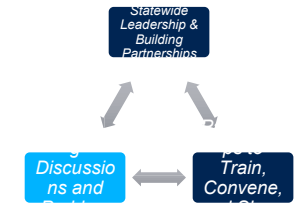
## Regional Resource Forums:

- 5 forums, 141 attendees





# MassHousing's Approach: *Facilitating Discussions and Problem Solving*



## MassAccess Housing Registry Searchable Database

- MassHousing worked with the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) to add a VAWA module allowing property managers to also identify whether their development offers a waiting list preference for VAWA Emergency Transfers

## Roundtable discussions with New England Affordable Housing Management Association (NEAHMA)

- Done in conjunction with MassHousing Asset Management team to discuss questions about VAWA implementation and community resources- 46 attendees

## Waiting List preference for Involuntary Displacement by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (DVDVSAS)



# Thank you!

Questions?

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