

# RESPOND Housing Stability Initiative

- A Partnership to Support Survivors on Their Path to Home
- Serving Somerville since 1974
- Somerville's Domestic Violence Prevention Agency
- Somerville's Domestic Violence Homelessness Provider




# respond

*working to end domestic violence*

# Who We Are

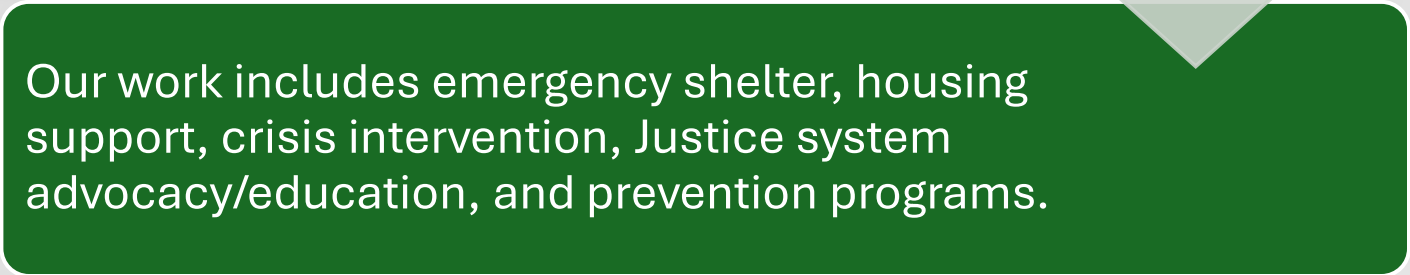
RESPOND is Somerville's only domestic violence shelter and has served the community for more than 50 years.



We provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed services grounded in dignity, safety, and choice.



Our work includes emergency shelter, housing support, crisis intervention, Justice system advocacy/education, and prevention programs.



# The Need

- Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children.
- Even when survivors are ready to leave shelter, the high cost of housing in Somerville can prevent them from moving forward.
- Longer shelter stays mean fewer beds available for families fleeing immediate danger.



# Our Solution

With your support, RESPOND will provide up to two years of rental assistance for three households exiting shelter.

- One individual

- Two families with children

This support allows survivors to rebuild their lives with stability and dignity.

# How Funds Will Be Used

- Rental assistance for up to 24 months

- Security deposits to secure housing

- Ongoing housing stabilization support

Funds will be used exclusively for housing costs to ensure survivors can secure and maintain stable homes.

RESPOND will leverage \$130K in private donations to cover added costs related to running this project including utilities, case management/housing stabilization services, furnishings and admin cost.

# Who This Program Serves

Survivors who are ready to exit shelter but face financial barriers to housing.

Program scale:

- Three Somerville households

- One one-bedroom unit

- Two two-bedroom family units

Approximately 83% of shelter residents are families with children.

# Our Approach

Over 24 months, RESPOND staff work with participants to address barriers to long-term stability.

Focus areas include:

- Increasing income and employment

- Strengthening safety planning

- Addressing housing barriers

- Connecting families to community resources

All services are trauma-informed and survivor-centered.

# Impact

Expected outcomes include:

- Safe, stable housing for survivors and their children
- Reduced length of stay in emergency shelter
- Increased shelter capacity for families fleeing violence
- Stronger long-term stability and independence

# Building on a Proven Model

This initiative expands RESPOND's existing housing programs, including:

- Rapid Re-Housing

- Transitional Housing

Youth Housing

The program integrates with RESPOND's case management, youth services, and advocacy teams.

# Q&A

- At RESPOND, we believe safety includes the certainty of a home.
- For survivors of domestic violence, housing is the foundation for healing, independence, and hope.
- Together, we can ensure survivors remain rooted in the Somerville community they call home.



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