



Mayor's Office to
End Domestic and
Gender-Based Violence

HOME+

Home+ Flexible Funding: 180-Day Report Local Law 112 of 2022



In July 2024, the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) established a low-barrier grant program for survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence (DV/GBV) in compliance with Local Law 112 of 2022. ENDGBV refers to this low-barrier grant program as "flexible funding". Flexible funding is a component of Home+, a free citywide program that helps DV/GBV survivors stay safe in their homes. This report provides an overview of aggregated program participant data from four Home+ providers to the extent that the information was provided to ENDGBV. ⁱ This report covers July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024. ⁱⁱ

Background

ENDGBV develops policies and programs, provides training and prevention education, conducts research and evaluations, performs community outreach, and operates each borough's New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs). ENDGBV launched Home+ in 2019. Home+ replaced the Human Resources Administration's Alternatives to Shelter program. The Alternatives to Shelter program provided pendant alarm systems to survivors with orders of protection so that they could quickly notify law enforcement if they felt unsafe in their homes. Home+ expanded the eligibility requirements and services offered to DV/GBV survivors living in New York City by removing the requirement that survivors have an order of protection and allowing survivors to choose who is notified when their pendant alarm system is activated. Survivors can choose to notify trusted family, friends, staff from an organization, and/or police. In addition to pendant alarm systems, Home+ offers survivors additional resources like locksmith services, safety-planning, case management, and referrals. In July 2024, ENDGBV further expanded Home+ services to include flexible funding to help DV/GBV survivors find or maintain stable housing.

The flexible funding component of Home+ is designed to be as low-barrier as possible. Home+ providers meet with clients during the intake process to understand the client's needs and determine eligibility for flexible funding. Documentation or an order of protection is not required to prove a survivor's status as a victim of DV and/or GBV. A survivor's consumer credit history, criminal history, and immigration status have no impact on eligibility. Pursuant to Local Law 112 of 2022, flexible funding grant recipients' income must be 300% or less than the U.S. federal poverty guidelines for 2024. Contracted community-based organizations distribute flexible funding grants in the form of gift cards or purchases or payments directly to vendors on behalf of the client.

ENDGBV contracts with five community-based providers, one in each borough, to provide Home+ services. The community-based providers currently implementing Home+ are the Violence Intervention Program (Bronx); HELP R.O.A.D.S. (Brooklyn); STEPS at Rising Ground (Manhattan); Womankind (Queens); and the Seamen's Society for Children and Families (Staten Island).

To access any component of Home+, survivors of DV and/or GBV can reach out directly to the Home+ provider in their borough. Referrals can also be made by DV/GBV service providers such as community-based organizations, district attorney’s offices, the NYC HOPE hotline, and through the FJCs. Information about Home+ and how to contact Home+ providers is available on ENDGBV’s website: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/programs/home-plus.page>

Home+ Flexible Funding Data

The data provided below covers July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024. This data was provided to ENDGBV by four Home+ providers.

Thirty-two (32) survivors or victims of DV/GBV (hereafter referred to as program participants) were provided with flexible funding grants, which averaged \$1,121.09 (ranging from \$200 to \$5,000). The program dispersed \$35,874.99 between July 1, 2024, and September 30, 2024. Of the 32 (\$35,874.99) flexible funding grants dispersed from July 1 – September 30, none were dispersed in July, four grants (\$2,500) were dispersed in August, and, 28 grants (33,374.99) were dispersed in September. ENDGBV anticipates that providers will continue to scale up disbursement over time.

Table 1: Program participants’ age group (N=32)

Age Group	N	%
18 - 29	3	9.4
30 - 39	15	46.9
40 - 49	7	21.9
50 - 59	1	3.1
60 and older	6	18.8
Total	32	100.0

Table 2: Community District (N= 29)

Community District	N	%
Bronx CD 4	2	6.9
Bronx CD 6	1	3.4
Bronx CD 7	1	3.4
Bronx CD 10	1	3.4
Bronx CD 11	1	3.4
Brooklyn CD 5	1	3.4
Brooklyn CD 8	1	3.4
Brooklyn CD 9	1	3.4

Brooklyn CD 11	1	3.4
Brooklyn CD 12	1	3.4
Brooklyn CD 13	1	3.4
Manhattan CD 3	1	3.4
Manhattan CD 4	1	3.4
Manhattan CD 9	3	10.3
Manhattan CD 10	4	13.8
Manhattan CD 11	2	6.9
Manhattan CD 12	4	13.8
Staten Island CD 1	2	6.9
Total	29	100.0

Note: No data = 3

Table 3: Disability Status (N=24)

Disability Status	N	%
Not disabled	21	87.5
Disabled	3	12.5
Total	24	100.0

Note: No data = 8

Table 4: Race/ethnicity (N=29)

Ethnicity/race	N	%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	14	48.3
Black or African American	11	37.9
White	3	10.3
Multiracial/Multiethnic	1	3.4
Total	29	100.0

Note: No data = 3

Table 5: Gender Identity (N=32)

Gender Identity	N	%
Female/woman	31	96.9
Male/man	1	3.1
Total	32	100.0

Table 6: Household Size N=30

Household Size	N	%
Household size = 1	10	33.3
Household size = 2	9	30.0
Household size = 3	7	23.3
Household size = 4	3	10.0
Household size = 5	1	3.3
Total	30	100.0

Note: No data = 2

Table 7: Housing Status Prior to Flexible Funding (N=31)

Housing Status Prior to Flexible Funding	N	%
Living in stable housing (rent or own)	24	77.4
Living in a domestic violence shelter	3	9.7
Living in temporary housing	2	6.5
Living in a homeless shelter	1	3.2
Homeless	1	3.2
Total	31	100.0

Note: No data = 1

Table 8: Primary Language (N=32)

Primary Language	N	%
English	21	65.6
Spanish	9	28.1
Arabic	1	3.1
Russian	1	3.1
Total	32	100.0

Table 9: Sexuality (N=23)

Sexuality	N	%
Straight	21	91.3
Bisexual	2	8.7
Total	23	100.0

Note: No data = 9

Table 10: The range, average, and median amount of every low-barrier grant provided to each program participant (N=32).

Flexible Funding Grant	Flexible Funding Grant Amount
Range	\$200 to \$5,000
Average	\$1,121.09
Median	\$1,000

Table 11: The range, average, and median time for program participants to receive and use the low-barrier grant (N=32).

Flexible Funding Grant	Amount of Time for Program Participants to Receive and Use the Grant
Range	3 to 124 days
Average	28.2 days
Median	17.5 days

Table 12: A broad list of categories of expenses for which program participants used the low-barrier grant (N=32).

Expense Category	N	%
Housing expenses ⁱⁱⁱ	17	45.9
Living expenses ^{iv}	14	37.8
Emergency aid and safety needs	4	10.8
Expense liabilities ^v	1	2.7
Education/training	1	2.7
Total	37	100.0

Note: Thirty-two program participants responded to the multiple-response question about how flexible funding was used.

Table 13: The table below represents the supportive services program participants were connected to (N=17).

Supportive Service	N	%
Case management	10	28.6
Safety planning	6	17.1
Advocacy services	4	11.4
Counseling	4	11.4
Sexual violence services	3	8.6
Group counseling	3	8.6
Domestic violence education	2	5.7
External resources and referrals	2	5.7
Children's Therapy	1	2.9
Total	35	100.0

Note: Seventeen program participants responded to this multiple-response question. Responses include combined quantitative data from the HELP Roads and Violence Intervention Program (N=15) and qualitative data from the Seamen’s Society for Children and Families (N=2).

A description of how supportive services helped program participants maintain housing (N=8).

- Program participants reported that supportive services helped them maintain housing stability through improved mental health and the ability to cope with stressors (4, 22.2%); financial stability (4, 22.2%); new employment and educational opportunities (4, 22.2%); move to a new place (2, 11.1%), improved safety (2, 11.1 %), ability to stay in their current home (1, 5.6 %); and one person reported they were able to amend their lease and remove the person-causing-harm name from their lease to only the survivor’s name (1, 5.6%).

Note: Eight program participants responded to this multiple-response question.

A description of any changes in the housing status of program participants (N=31).

- All program participants who reported living in stable housing said Flexible Funding enabled them to stay in their homes (24, 77.4%).
- Six of the seven program participants who reported living in temporary housing, domestic violence or a homeless shelter, or reported being homeless said Flexible Funding enabled them to prepare for a housing change (6, 19.4%), and one (1) person said the grant enabled them to stay and not move from their current residence (1, 3.2%)

A description of the office's challenges in implementing the Flexible Funding program and any efforts the office took to address such challenges.

- Balancing a promotional strategy with a limited supply of flexible funding and provider staffing was a concern. To address this concern, ENDGBV has worked closely with providers to manage the flow of flexible funding over the year. ENDGBV proposed that providers divide the annual grant amount by thirteen so that providers have an equal amount each month with one month of emergency reserves. In addition, ENDGBV recommended limiting grant awards to \$5,000.00. ENDGBV is working with the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) to provide workshops to NYC providers to enable victims to access OVS assistance programs to maintain housing, including funding for PERS, locksmiths, and flexible funding.
- Staff turnover and understaffing at Home+ providers have been challenges. ENDGBV has partnered with Home+ providers to address this challenge by allowing providers to progressively increase disbursements over time and by providing provider staff with ongoing biweekly meetings and trainings to support implementation. ENDGBV has also worked to streamline referrals to HOME+, ensuring providers accept referrals from diverse sources, including NYC Family Justice Centers and non-Home+ providers..
- Data collection has been challenging. To comply with Local Law 112, ENDGBV developed an Excel template to collect, store, and analyze Home+ survivor confidential data. Home+ providers have expressed collecting and reporting this data is burdensome because it is a large amount of data and is in addition to similar data they collect and report in the New York State standard flexible funding form. There have also been challenges related to data quality and the integration of data from the five Home+ providers. To address this challenge, ENDGBV has worked closely with providers to train them on data entry and has implemented regular data checks to identify errors, inconsistencies, and missing values.

ⁱ Womankind in Queens launched flexible funding in October 2024 and is not included in this report.

ⁱⁱ Local Law 112 of 2022 required reporting of data on program applicants on the following data points: age group, community district, disability status, ethnicity, gender identity, household size, housing status, income, primary language, race, and sexuality. ENDGBV is working with the contracted providers to collect applicant information.

ⁱⁱⁱ Housing expenses include rent, utilities, and essential furniture and housing items.

^{iv} Living expenses include food, personal care items, technology, and children's needs other than childcare.

^v Expense liabilities refer to credit card arrears.