We hope you enjoyed last week's webinar, *From Surviving to Thriving: What Gender-Based Violence Survivors Say Funders Need to Know About Economic Security*. A brief recap and resources are below — please share widely.

What We Covered

The webinar made the case why economic security is central to gender-based violence survivors' safety and healing, and that asset funders, whether or not they name gender-based violence explicitly in their portfolios, are already funding work that touches survivors' lives. It also offered funders concrete guidance—like investing in flexible cash assistance, housing, and long-term, unrestricted funding—for supporting survivors' journey from surviving to thriving.

Speakers from FreeFrom, Community Forward SF, the Violence Intervention Program, Blue Shield of California Foundation, and the New York Women's Foundation grounded the conversation in both data and lived experience. Speakers noted that the current climate is deepening economic harm for survivors, especially immigrant survivors. Fear of engaging with institutions—banks, government benefits, even shelters—is keeping survivors from resources they are entitled to, compounding existing economic abuse.

Key Takeaways for Funders

- **Small, flexible cash has an outsized impact.** Trust-based cash infusions get most survivors to safety—funders shouldn't second-guess the value of direct cash.
- **Fund for the long term, not just crisis response.** Recovery is a multi-year (sometimes multi-generational) process; short-term, restricted crisis funding has been the default for decades and isn't enough. Speakers urged funders to commit to five-plus years and unrestricted dollars.
- **Housing is the top unmet need.** Across both NYC and SF, gender-based violence is the leading driver of family homelessness, and without stable housing survivors can't access jobs, childcare, healthcare, or anything else in the "wraparound."
- **Existing financial structures can be adapted rather than reinvented.** Funders don't need new asset products; existing tools (matched savings, credit-building products, employer/bank partnerships) just need to be made flexible enough for survivors' realities.
- **Systems change is part of the funding opportunity alongside direct service.** Survivors have already identified concrete policy targets—protections from coerced and fraudulent debt, ending default dual-arrest practices that criminalize survivors, and formally naming survivors as a population in housing and homelessness response—as high-leverage, funder-supportable advocacy.
- **Embrace more than a "single story" of survivors.** Survivors are everywhere but not always visible: they are parents, entrepreneurs, immigrants and refugees, people of color, queer and trans people, and gender-expansive people. Gender-based violence is common and cuts across gender, gender identity, sexuality, age, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, disability, and immigration status, and family structures. No community is untouched, yet the burden is not equally shared due to deeply interconnected systems of oppression. Build for excluded populations. Immigrant, undocumented, and other marginalized survivors are often shut out of traditional safety nets (shelters, housing vouchers, formal employment), so flexible alternatives—like support for survivor-owned businesses—matter.

The speakers' message to funders was clear: survivors already know what they need—immediate cash, stable housing, and sustained, flexible investment over years, not months—so philanthropy's job now is to listen to that guidance and act on it.

Resources

The recording, slides, and additional resources shared during the conversation are below.

- AFN - *Advancing the Economic Security of Gender-Based Violence Survivors*
- Webinar recording and slide deck
- FreeFrom
  - Insights
  - Policy Map & Scorecard
- Violence Intervention Program - Economic Justice Program
- Community Forward San Francisco - Overview (PDF attached)
- San Francisco Women's Housing Coalition (PDF attached)
- Her ex racked up $7,000 of credit card debt, crumbling her finances. Now, a new law could require abusers to pay. - CBS News
- Survivor Economic Equity Data Dashboard - Center for Survivor Agency & Justice
- Reinvesting in Economic Justice, Equity & Solidarity for Survivors in New York City - Center for Survivor Agency & Justice

Thank you for all the thoughtful questions submitted during the webinar. Our new brief addresses some of those questions, and we will be addressing more in a blog post coming out in the next month.

We are grateful to **FreeFrom**, **Blue Shield of California Foundation** and **New York Women's Foundation** for sponsoring the conversation. The webinar was presented in partnership with **Philanthropy of New York** and **Philanthropy California.**

The conversation doesn't stop here. Join us on LinkedIn for real-time ideas, conversations, and voices shaping the future of equitable wealth building—**follow AFN!**

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