



Your impact

Together, we made so much happen last year.
RESPOND Impact Report: July 2020-June 2021 Edition

1. RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS

Amidst the twin crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and Greater Boston's affordable housing emergency, RESPOND has expanded its housing advocacy and homelessness prevention services.

In December 2020, RESPOND launched a rapid rehousing program which provides survivors in need with short- and medium-term rental assistance. With support from the Department of Housing and Community Development and private donors, **RESPOND is able pay survivors' rent for 3-12 months** as they rebuild their lives after abuse. With this assistance, survivors are able to save funds in preparation to take over payments and can also divert funds to other things like school fees, rental arrears, credit card debt, and more.



2. NEXT STEPS

Since March, survivors have faced new barriers to accessing safety. COVID-19 and the lockdowns and precautions taken to limit its spread have made it more difficult for survivors to flee violence and access safe shelter or next-step housing options.

Through socially distanced in-person appointments and meetings over Zoom, RESPOND's Housing Program provided **housing advocacy to 95 survivors and their families**. 37 families found new starts in apartments of their own, while other families received anti-eviction support, help negotiating with landlords and housing authorities, support accessing government programs and applying for vouchers, and more.



3. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

We are becoming increasingly aware of the impact remote schooling has had on young people, in terms of academic learning loss and the interruption of social-emotional learning. Internationally, organizations including UNICEF have pointed to increased online risk-taking, as well as increased incidences of digital violence and cyber bullying.

Through this complicated year, **RESPOND brought 21 healthy relationships and teen dating violence workshops into area schools.**

4. REMOTE ADVOCACY

While lockdowns at the Suffolk County House of Correction and our partner police departments temporarily and intermittently barred our advocates from providing in-person advocacy and support services in these locations, we found other ways to stay connected. Through snail mail, telephone calls, and in-person meetings, **RESPOND supported 114 survivors behind bars**. Additionally, we prepared 20 survivors to face their abusers in court, even accompanying 16 survivors to court sessions over Zoom.



5. PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT

Since its inception, RESPOND has supported clients in emergency situations. Through our tenure, we have weathered recessions, times of funding constrictions and staffing shortages. Yet, nothing has been like the state of emergency we have faced this year. **Thanks to you, we never closed our doors.**

You donated PPE and cleaning supplies, and sustained our programs with critical funding. In partnership with other homelessness prevention organizations, staff and clients received vaccinations. We conduct on-site surveillance testing and had our PPP loan granted and forgiven. **We are still in this, but we are truly in this together.**

