**Survivors Recovery Fund (SRF)**

*A community-advised fund of the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts dedicated to promoting the recovery of survivors   
of partner abuse and sexual assault*

In 2015, the Survivors Recovery Fund awarded $10,000 in Now and Match My Savings grants to 18 survivors throughout western MA.

**Survivors in abusive relationships need financial resources to get and stay safe.**

* Partner violence often results in a dramatic loss of income for survivors, who are coping with the impact of emotional, physical, and/or financial abuse. Loss of income may be due to expenses associated with injury from abuse, safety planning, and/or violence-induced employment instability.
* Practical experience tells us that survivors remain in abusive relationships longer or return to the abuser more often if they cannot provide for their basic daily living needs or those of their children.
* Partner violence is consistently recognized as a major contributor to financial instability and homelessness.
* Creating opportunities for survivors to save money expands survivors’ options for physical safety.

**Stories of Recovery**

|  |
| --- |
| *Maria runs a small business, working 12-hour days while also raising two children.  It is her business in all but name – the business is owned by her abuser, who comes in daily to take the store's profits, leaving her unable to save any money.  An immigrant, Maria wants to take courses at a local community college to learn English and expand her professional opportunities.  Thanks to a 12-month Match My Savings grant from the Survivor Recovery Fund (SRF), Maria has been saving $50/month and receives $100/month in matched savings from SRF.  At the end of the match period, Maria will have a total of $1,800 in funds for a future that includes English classes as well as increased options for safety and financial stability.*  *Sarah received a 4-month Match My Savings grant from SRF. With the help of the Fund, Sarah was able to move from a domestic violence shelter to an apartment with her young children.*  *Quinn recently left an abusive relationship and was struggling financially. While Quinn had a job prospect, they had no transportation.  Quinn received a $500 Now grant from SRF for a down payment on a car and is now driving to and from work.* |

**Two Types of Funding: Match My Savings & Now Grants**

* SRF supports survivors’ efforts to create savings by offering matching grants for survivors’ self-identified financial goals. SRF provides $2 for every $1 saved for an annual maximum of $100 per month. For example, if a survivor saves $25 per month for six months, SRF will provide a matching grant of $300.
* SRF offers non-matching grants of $500 maximum for survivors’ immediate needs for economic relief.
* SRF Match My Savings and Now grants can be used for any purpose or expense of importance to survivors.

**Who is Eligible to Apply for a SRF Grant?**

To be considered for a SRF grant, applicants must be survivors of partner abuse, live in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, or Hampshire Counties, and have a relationship with a registered 501 (c)(3) organization that agrees to sponsor the applicant. The sponsoring organization may be a nonprofit organization or educational institution. SRF will distribute funds directly to the sponsoring organization. SRF will only consider one application per applicant.

**Apply for a SRF Grant** (enable online completion and submission of attached application)

**Share your Ideas for Recovery or Words of Encouragement with Survivors**

Enter text

Enable website admin to delete content in the event of personally identifying information or other reason

**Donate** (enable online donations)

Donate here to the Survivors Recovery Fund.

Your tax-deductible gift to the Women’s Fund of Western MA – SRF will go a long way in helping survivors to create savings, pursue self-identified goals, and cover essential expenses.

Help survivors to recover from abusive relationships and re-build new lives. Please be as generous as you’re able. *THANK YOU!*

**Become a SRF Advisor** (activate email with subject line…I’m Interested in Becoming a SRF Advisor)

Raise and/or contribute a minimum of $500 per year.

Make decisions regarding funding allocation.

Identify and support the recruitment of prospective SRF Advisors.

Help to connect survivors with community resources.

SRF Advisors

Becca Bradburd, Elizabeth Freeman Center

Trish Bonica, Founder, SRF

Marianne Winters, Safe Passage

Amy Waldman, MA Department of Public Health

**Contact Us**

Please contact SRF Director, Trish Bonica, at survivorsrecovery@gmail.com with any questions.