

MOBILE ADVOCACY

BUILDING HOPE AT HOME



What is Mobile Advocacy?

Mobile advocacy is support provided to survivors through a combination of advocacy, safety planning, housing assistance, legal advocacy and flexible funding.

The program works to serve survivors' basic needs while offering in-person support in environments where they feel both safe and comfortable.

A MODERN APPROACH

Mobile advocacy means meeting survivors where they are and reaching those who would never have walked through our shelter doors.

01. Efficiency

- Resources go directly to advocacy, not facility management
- Reduces trauma from shared living environments
- Creates long-term solutions for housing, financial, and legal support

02. Scalable Impact

- Services grow with the number of advocates, not beds
- Expands reach beyond a single building into neighborhoods
- Connects survivors where they live and work

03. Cost

- Lowers overhead and facility fees
- Eliminates unpredictable maintenance costs
- Funds go to supporting client needs, not infrastructure
- Enables on-demand partnerships (e.g., hotel vouchers or short-term rentals)

04. Impact

- Expands reach into rural and underserved areas
- Provides longer-term support beyond the crisis period
- Offers solutions that go beyond traditional short-term shelter services

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP

A mobile model turns the community into a resource, connecting survivors to healthcare, housing, and food support through trusted “warm” referrals in safe spaces.

Addiction programs: Support recovery and holistic healing

Counseling organizations: Provide mental health resources for long-term stability

Domestic violence task forces: Drive systems-level change and advocacy

Food banks: Deliver immediate nutritional support for families

Law enforcement: Safety planning and emergency response

Medical professionals: Physical health and forensic care

Prosecutor's Office: Legal advocacy and justice for survivors

Schools: Protecting and supporting children in transition

THE INDIANA SHIFT: LEADING THE WAY IN MOBILE ADVOCACY

In Indiana, a “one-size-fits-all” shelter model leaves too many people behind, so programs are moving toward mobile advocacy—it’s flexible, private, and exactly what survivors have told us they need.

Hands of Hope (Grant County): Fully transitioned in 2022 to reach survivors across rural counties.

A Better Way (Richmond): Moved to a fully mobile model in 2022 to prioritize survivor-led safety.

Center for Women and Families: An early leader, moving to an entirely mobile model in 2018.

St. Jude House: Recently expanded to include dedicated mobile advocates to bridge the gap in their service area.



EVOLUTION OF ADVOCACY: WHY THE FUTURE IS MOBILE

WHY CHANGE?

In 2018, the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence spoke with survivors across the state to better understand what they needed to stay safe. Their feedback highlighted the need for:

- Easier access to services
- Ongoing, long-term support
- Stronger connections to resources
- Greater stability beyond crisis care

WHY NOW?

Nationally, traditional shelters reach only 5% of survivors. This means 95% of people experiencing violence are navigating their safety alone. At CODA, we believe this change is vital—not just to grow, but to finally reach the people who would never have stepped through a shelter door.

WHAT IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOBILE AND THE TRADITIONAL MODEL?

Mobile advocacy is, at its heart, trauma-informed. It gives survivors the power to choose where they feel safest. By meeting them in familiar spaces on their own terms, we minimize the 'system-induced' stress that often comes with traditional shelter life.

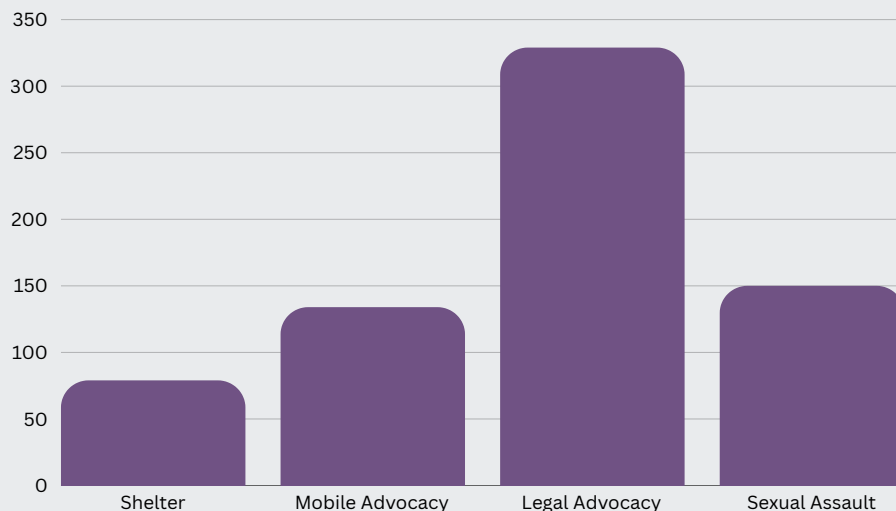
THE FUTURE OF CODA: A COMMUNITY WITHOUT WALLS

Meeting the 95%: We are no longer waiting for survivors to find us; we are actively closing the gap for the vast majority of our community who will never enter a shelter.

Prioritizing Autonomy: By meeting survivors in familiar, safe spaces on their own terms, we restore the power and control that trauma often takes away.

Investing in Impact: Every dollar saved on facility overhead is a dollar reinvested into the advocates and direct resources that change lives.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY: 2025



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