

MOBILE ADVOCACY

FAQS



Beginning in summer 2026, CODA will transition to a mobile advocacy model to better support survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence in our community. This approach expands access by bringing services directly to individuals through more flexible locations and options. Below are answers to frequently asked questions, which will continue to be updated as we move through this transition.

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.

What are the benefits of mobile advocacy?

Mobile advocacy removes many of the common barriers survivors face—such as transportation, childcare, and time—by bringing services directly to them. Instead of requiring survivors to come to a single location, advocates meet individuals where they live, work, and feel safe.

This approach offers several important benefits:

Greater Access & Reach

- Expands services beyond a single building into neighborhoods and rural or underserved areas
- Connects with survivors who may never seek traditional shelter-based services

Survivor-Centered Support

- Places power in the hands of survivors to lead their own journey
- Allows individuals to set goals and define what safety looks like for them
- Reduces trauma that can come from shared or communal living environments

Long-Term, Meaningful Solutions

- Focuses on sustainable outcomes like housing stability, financial independence, and legal support
- Provides continued support beyond the immediate crisis period

Efficiency & Cost Effectiveness

- Directs resources toward advocacy and direct services—not facility management
- Lowers overhead and eliminates unpredictable building and maintenance costs
- Ensuring funds go to supporting client needs, not infrastructure

Flexible & Scalable Impact

- Services can grow with the number of advocates rather than being limited by bed space
- Enables flexible, on-demand solutions such as hotel stays or short-term housing partnerships

Why is CODA making this change now?

Nationally, domestic violence shelters serve only about 5% of individuals experiencing abuse. That means many survivors are not being reached.

CODA is committed to expanding access and continuing to lead with innovative approaches that better support survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Mobile advocacy allows us to reach more individuals and provide critical services in a more accessible way.

How is mobile advocacy different?

Mobile advocacy is a more trauma-informed approach. It recognizes the emotional and logistical barriers survivors may face and removes those barriers by offering support in familiar, comfortable environments.

This model empowers survivors by giving them more control over how and where they receive help.

Has this model worked elsewhere?

Yes. Mobile advocacy has been successfully implemented across the country. For example, Hands of Hope in Indiana adopted this model in 2021 with strong results.

In Iowa, programs that transitioned to mobile advocacy:

- Doubled the number of domestic violence survivors served
- Quadrupled the number of sexual violence survivors served

Will CODA still provide services?

Absolutely—this approach allows us to serve even more people.

Through mobile advocacy, CODA will continue to offer:

- **Support Services**
- **Children’s Program**
- **Education Programs**
- **Legal Advocacy**



What if someone needs immediate help?

Immediate help is always available. CODA’s 24-hour hotline will continue to operate, providing support and emergency response at any time.

For high-risk situations, additional options such as hotel placements and relocation assistance will be available.

What alternatives are available for survivors?

CODA is actively developing a range of community partnerships including:

- **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

When will the shelter close?

By summer 2026, all residents will transition out of the traditional residential facility. The official launch date for mobile advocacy services will follow.

CODA remains fully committed to survivor safety, with strong community partnerships and protocols in place to ensure continued support.

Is this change about funding?

This is not a decision driven by financial instability. CODA remains supported by strong community and funding partners. While funding challenges exist across shelter-based approaches to survivor services, we are proactively transitioning to a mobile advocacy model to expand access and better meet survivor needs, even as we continue to navigate broader funding pressures.

Will children still be served?

Yes. Supporting children remains a core part of CODA’s services.

Through mobile advocacy, we will continue to support children and families in safe, stable environments. Advocates will assess each child’s needs and connect families with resources such as childcare, school support, case management, and assistance with programs like SNAP and WIC. Our goal is to provide personalized support that helps children and their caregivers move toward safety and stability.

How will the community learn about these changes?

CODA is working with community partners to raise awareness.

Ongoing outreach and strategic communication efforts will help ensure survivors know how to access these expanded services.

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