THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT

Credit-Building through Micro-Lending

Turning pocket change into social change

WHY IS CREDIT REPAIR IMPORTANT TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS?

Financial abuse is present in 99% of domestic violence cases.*

Because of this, NNEDV created The Independence Project—a micro-lending credit-building program that places survivors of domestic violence on the path to credit repair and economic independence.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

HOW DOES THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT HELP WITH CREDIT BUILDING?
Applicants access $100 micro-loans for the sole purpose of credit-building and repair. NNEDV tracks repayments made by the applicant and reports to the major credit bureaus.

HOW DOES A SURVIVOR APPLY?
The program requires survivors to have met with their advocate at least three times before applying. The application form includes terms and conditions, a payment authorization agreement, and a budget outlining the survivors’ monthly income and expenses.

To access the application form, email EJ@NNEDV.org

WHAT IS THE LOAN PROCESS?
Upon review and approval of the application materials, a $100 check with repayment instructions will follow. The loan will be repaid over 10 months. To achieve the best possible credit score improvement, survivors should repay consistently until the loan matures.

17.8% of women who file for bankruptcy are married to or cohabitating with a domestic abuser, which creates significant barriers to conventional banking methods.1

15% of victims of identity theft were also survivors of domestic abuse.2

Between 25-50% of victims report that they lost a job, at least in part, due to domestic violence.

Survivors of domestic abuse are 7x more likely to live in low-income households.4

HOW DOES THE INDEPENDENCE PROJECT HELP WITH CREDIT BUILDING?

“Financial abuse, whether you’re talking about ruining her credit, getting her fired or hiding the money, is just as effective in controlling an abused victim as a lock and key. Women are literally being forced, because of financial dependency, back into abusive relationships.”

Kim Gandy, President
National Network to End Domestic Violence

To learn more about the Independence Project, please visit NNEDV.org/IndependenceProject or email us at EJ@NNEDV.org