

The following priorities highlight focus areas for CCADV to strengthen both statutory and administrative policy and practice that help domestic violence survivors to achieve safety and stability. The policy priorities seek to address the large number of complex factors that impact the ability of both the survivor and the family as a whole to live a life free from violence.

PROMOTE EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Survivors from marginalized communities, particularly communities of color, face profound barriers in accessing the culturally-relevant advocacy, services and resources they need to be safe. Biases, whether implicit or explicit, impact how individuals experience violence and how systems respond to their needs. For example, approaches to domestic violence have historically relied heavily on the criminal justice system, yet many survivors from marginalized communities express a desire for alternative ways to achieve safety and stability.

- Uplift the voices of survivors from marginalized communities, particularly survivors of color, to ensure an equitable and accessible domestic violence service system. CCADV will establish a working group with our member organizations to develop a strategic plan to improve bilingual/multicultural advocacy and administrative leadership. Further, CCADV will assess its advocacy capabilities and identify strategies for sustainable improvements in how we serve families from communities of color whether residing in shelter or in the community.
- Seek to increase the availability and efficacy of various support options for abusers, including substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and batterer intervention programs as an alternative to traditional criminal justice responses.

STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC JUSTICE & SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A myriad of economic barriers often compound the effects of domestic violence. Financial independence and access to basic needs are often cited by survivors as their primary safety concern for themselves and their children. We must also center the experiences and needs of survivors of color as economic and self-sufficiency challenges are often felt more acutely by these communities of survivors.

- Promote policies that increase access to affordable and reliable health insurance (e.g., Medicaid expansions, public option, etc.), medical care and childcare, as well as food security, and also prevent “benefits cliffs” as survivors work towards increased self-sufficiency.
- Address barriers to survivor safety created by insurance procedures that limit survivor healthcare privacy and that allow for discriminatory practices.
- Ensure that immigrant survivors have access to legal representation by supporting funding for legal services, allowing for successful referrals that meet the complex needs of these survivors.

ENSURE ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Access to affordable housing is one of the most requested services by survivors of domestic violence and one of the largest barriers to achieving safety and stability. Housing services should be flexible to meet the unique circumstances experienced by domestic violence survivors, many of whom experience some form of financial abuse by their partner. Common-sense policies that prioritize survivor security will serve to keep survivors safely in their home and prevent unnecessary homelessness.

- Work with the housing and homelessness system to ensure flexible, survivor-centered, trauma-informed policies are put in place for Connecticut’s Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Rapid Rehousing Program that meet the unique needs survivors.
- Ensure that, upon request of the tenant, landlords are required to change locks when an order of protection has been issued by the court.
- Promote housing policies that ensure survivors are not penalized for the actions of their abusers (e.g. eviction prevention) and that proactively enforce non-discrimination practices.

OVER

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ENHANCE LEGAL SAFETY MEASURES

It is critical that legal system remedies are designed to address the real experiences of survivors with all forms of domestic violence, not just physical abuse. Coordinated, collaborative responses are essential to promoting survivor safety and offender accountability in an effective and equitable manner.

- Expand the definition of family violence in Connecticut’s restraining order law to address coercive control and ensure court-ordered relief from the emotional and psychological tactics abusers use to gain and maintain control over their victim. Ensure that victims have the continued option to apply for a restraining order remotely through the successful online process established during the pandemic and that State Marshals accept electronic documents for service.
- Create a consistent response statewide to violations of court orders, which have been shown through extensive evidence-based research to represent potentially escalating and lethal violence in abusive relationships.
- Strengthen the ability of Family Violence Victim Advocates to perform their duties and enhance victim safety by ensuring that criminal court advocates have access to police reports.

OUR MEMBERS

Our members, the state’s 18 domestic violence organizations, provide critical services to survivors across the state 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.



ANSONIA/NEW HAVEN



BRIDGEPORT



DANBURY



United Services, Inc.
Creating healthy communities

DAYVILLE/WILLIMANTIC



ENFIELD



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CHRYSLIS
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MERIDEN



MIDDLETOWN

Prudence Crandall Center

Providing Comprehensive Services for Victims of Domestic Violence Since 1973.

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