The following priorities highlight focus areas for CCADV over the coming year 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.

**ENHANCING VICTIM SAFETY IN FAMILY COURT**

A priority for CCADV is improving and strengthening family court processes to increase safety for survivors and their children. Many survivors of domestic violence find themselves in family court when seeking a restraining order, divorce or custody of their children. Unfortunately for many survivors family court can become one more tool for their abuser to continue their pattern of control and coercion. Litigation abuse, or the continuous and vexatious filing of repetitive and/or frivolous motions, has become all too prevalent and is a consistent concern voiced by survivors. Strengthening outcomes for survivors and their children will require a multipronged approach:

- Establish a legislative task force of advocates, survivors, judges, family court personnel, and other key stakeholders to develop a judicial benchbook focused on domestic violence in the context of family court.
- Enhance recognition of the ways in which abusers may attempt to use the family court to continue to control their victim after a relationship ends by strengthening training for judges and other family court personnel with a particular focus on recognizing and limiting litigation abuse.
- Increase survivor safety and emotional well-being in family court by providing in-court supports such as a safe space for survivors to wait out of the presence of their abuser and by allowing domestic violence advocates to stand with survivors when facing the judge.

**STRENGTHENING SYSTEMIC RESPONSES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES**

Coordinated systemic responses are essential to promoting victim safety and abuser accountability. Stakeholders, both public and private, must communicate in an efficient and effective manner to prevent gaps in protection. Data management and sharing must also be prioritized to inform and facilitate necessary changes in policy and practice. CCADV will work to implement or strengthen coordinated systemic response policies such as:

- Establish a reliable funding source for domestic violence child advocates, an essential role within domestic violence organizations that provides critical supports to children who have witnessed intimate partner violence, which has traditionally only received partial funding.
- Create a consistent response statewide to violations of court orders, which, through extensive evidence-based research, have been shown 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 they have access to police reports.
- Ensure landlords, at the tenant's expense, change locks when an order of protection has been issued by a court.
- Improve access to justice and safety for immigrant survivors by working with law enforcement to ensure the expeditious processing of U-Visa applications.