

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.

## **ADDRESS INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA BY PRIORITIZING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN**

Experiencing domestic violence can have a profound effect on a child's emotional and cognitive development, while simultaneously setting the stage for those learned behaviors to carry over into their adult relationships. This is only compounded by the ongoing impacts of the pandemic on children, many of whom missed some natural phases of social-emotional development with those negative effects felt more acutely by children experiencing domestic violence in their homes. Early intervention is the most effective way to stem the intergenerational transfer of trauma so often seen with domestic violence.

- Provide annual state funding in the amount of \$1,440,000 to support one full-time Child & Family Advocate at each of CCADV's 18 member organizations. There is currently no state funding allocated to support this critical position. An average of 5,000 children are served each year by our members, but a lack of funding means that, on average, each child can only receive 2.26 hours of service annually.

## **STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC JUSTICE, SELF-SUFFICIENCY & ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

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, while access to affordable housing is 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.

- Address both financial and safety barriers by creating common-sense policies that prioritize survivor security and limit unnecessary economic burdens. This may include lease bifurcation, efficient lease termination and security deposit return procedures, and sealing of eviction proceedings until judgment.
- Promote policies that increase access to affordable and reliable health insurance, medical care and childcare, as well as food security, and also prevent "benefits cliffs" as survivors work towards increased self-sufficiency.
- Prohibit convicted domestic violence offenders from receiving alimony from their victims.

## **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 while raising awareness about the intersection of race and domestic violence and its impacts on marginalized communities.
- 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.
- Increase awareness efforts within immigrant communities to ensure that immigrant survivors are aware of their rights and the services available across the state.

OVER

*For questions or additional information, please contact:*

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## ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH IMPROVED WORKPLACE CLIMATE

Domestic violence can impact the workplace whether the violence takes place there or somewhere outside the place of employment. Impacts on victim productivity and the safety of all company employees have been well-documented. Creating safe, supportive, and positive workplace climates that raise awareness about domestic violence and available resources benefit both the employer and all of its employees, including those who may be victims.

- Require all state employees (current, and then upon hire) to receive 1 hour of training on domestic violence, including how to identify domestic violence and how to access services across the state.
- Require all employers with 3 or more employees to post resource and referral information in easily accessible and highly visible locations.

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## 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.

- Safety planning and risk assessment
- Emergency shelter, transitional housing & rapid rehousing
- Individual counseling and support groups
- Advocacy to access basic needs
- Court-based advocacy in criminal and civil court
- Age-appropriate advocacy and support services for children & teens
- Community education

**The Umbrella Center**  
for Domestic Violence Services  
A program of BHcare

ANSONIA/NEW HAVEN



BRIDGEPORT



formerly The Women's Center of Greater Danbury

DANBURY



**United Services, Inc.**  
Creating healthy communities

DAYVILLE/WILLIMANTIC



ENFIELD



GREENWICH



HARTFORD



**CHRYSALIS**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES  
MERIDEN



**NEW HORIZONS**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES  
A PROGRAM OF Community Health Center, Inc.

MIDDLETOWN

**PRUDENCE CRANDALL CENTER**

Empowering Healing & Hope since 1973

NEW BRITAIN



Formerly the Women's Center of SE CT

NEW LONDON



NORWALK/STAMFORD

**Susan B. Anthony Project**  
SAFETY • HEALING • GROWTH

TORRINGTON

**WSS** WOMEN'S  
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**SAFE HAVEN**  
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