

What Communities Can Do To Make a Difference

- ◆ **Eliminate the economic crisis that often follows victimization.** Expand emergency financial assistance available to victims of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking and their families.
- ◆ **Implement policies and programs that support both the safety and self-sufficiency of welfare clients.** Provide welfare, job training, and employment services that are comprehensive, culturally and linguistically competent, and lead to permanent employment and economic security.
- ◆ **Promote the safe pursuit of child support whenever possible, and consider exemptions from paternity and child support requirements in cases in which risks to the custodial parent or child cannot be overcome.** Design comprehensive strategies that protect victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking and protect mothers whose children are at risk of physical or sexual abuse.
- ◆ **Increase the responsiveness of housing policies and programs.** Develop comprehensive responses to the housing-related risks facing victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.
- ◆ **Increase the availability of job training programs and educational opportunities.** Invest in job training and education programs for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- ◆ **Enhance the safety and economic security of at-risk families and survivors of abuse.** Support the design, development, evaluation, and replication of community development initiatives, including microenterprise development programs.

Chapter 6

Promoting Women's Economic Security

Violence against women raises complex economic issues for individual women and their children and for the entire nation.

Regardless of their prior economic circumstances, many women are placed at financial risk or are impoverished after being sexually assaulted, battered, or stalked. Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey for 1992 through 1996 indicate that during each of these years, more than 42,400 women were sexually assaulted while they were working or on duty.¹ Regardless of whether sexual assault occurs in or out of the workplace, it can impair an employee's work performance, require her to take time away from work, and undermine her professional life. Young women fleeing child sexual abuse may drop out of school with limited job skills, lack any source of income, and become homeless. Mental health services that assist adult women in recovering from the trauma of child sexual abuse or severe abuse as an adult are often not available, not routinely covered by health insurance plans, or too expensive.

Batterers frequently control their partners by limiting their partner's access to cash, checking accounts, and transportation and by sabotaging their educational, job training, and employment opportunities.² Some abusers purposefully damage their partner's credit, which affects the partner's ability to secure housing and other economic resources. Some victims of sexual assault and domestic violence become economically vulnerable due to liability for property damage or because of medical and legal fees; others lose insurance coverage, housing, or childcare as a result of a

perpetrator's violence. The scarcity of safe, affordable housing for victims undermines the efforts of many survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking to get away from perpetrators of violence and find safety.

Over the past several decades, welfare and other government benefits—including subsidized housing programs—have provided financial assistance and other economic supports to adult survivors of child sexual abuse and countless battered and abused women. Assistance programs must consider the safety needs of survivors of sexual and domestic violence, particularly those from poor and economically at-risk families, to avoid endangering lives or limiting the ability of survivors to escape from abusive partners, other abusive family members, or unsafe neighborhoods.

Economic security is the availability of a steady and reliable source of income to sustain daily living for oneself and one's family and to allow planning for the future. To increase economic security for victims of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking, a coordinated, interdisciplinary, and multilevel response is required. For more women to be free from the constraints of violence, access to real economic options must be available. Such options include affordable and safe housing and childcare, adequate employment opportunities, financial assistance when necessary, and comprehensive, affordable health services (including mental health services).

Secure the Economic Safety Net: The Need for Community Action

Battered women and sexual assault victims have demonstrated remarkable courage and resilience in the face of violence. Many women have been able to rely on family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, or members of their faith community for the necessary support to survive. Others have received assistance from community programs that have helped them recover and find safety. For some women, however, the physical and emotional trauma of sexual assault or dating or domestic violence, either as children or adults, is debilitating and longlasting, interfering with education and employment throughout their lives, as well as daily living. For too many women and their children, sexual assault and domestic violence cause, exacerbate, or prolong poverty and homelessness.

Research and practice have shown that violence against women occurs in all social groups regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances. However, the intersection of poverty, welfare, and violence against women is particularly important. Most single mothers live below or close to the poverty level. It is estimated that between 9 and 23 percent of current welfare recipients have experienced domestic violence in the past 12 months, with upwards of 70 percent reporting abuse in their lifetime.³ In one study involving public assistance recipients, 20 percent of the women surveyed reported being sexually abused as children and 18 percent reported being physically and sexually abused while growing up. Significant numbers of adolescents who become pregnant report being sexually abused as children.⁴

In 1996, Congress adopted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. The new law replaced the Aid to Families With Dependent Children program with the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program and made profound changes to this nation's welfare system. TANF funds are tied to a new 5-year

limit on federal welfare benefits, tougher work requirements, stricter child support cooperation provisions, and increased pressure on states to reduce overall welfare caseloads. Many states adopted even shorter lifetime limits on welfare receipt or requirements for recipients to stop receiving benefits for a period of time before they are eligible to reapply. The new federal welfare rules also allow states to voluntarily adopt a Family Violence Option under which greater flexibility and protections can be offered to individual welfare recipients who will be endangered by the new provisions.⁵ Many states, however, have been slow to put in place the policies, procedures, and training necessary to support women and children most at risk.⁶

A large number of battered women are interested in establishing paternity and pursuing child support if they can do so safely.⁷ They recognize that time-limited welfare benefits or the wages from a low-paying job will not be adequate to support their families. Other women, including some battered women and the mothers of sexually or physically abused children, justifiably fear that paternity and child support actions will renew violence if they alert the abuser to the victim's location, precipitate contact between the abuser and victim, and/or result in custody or visitation arrangements dangerous to the mother or child. Flexible responses are needed to help custodial parents safely pursue child support whenever possible and to protect them when child support actions would place the mother or child at risk.⁸

Another safety net issue is insurance discrimination. Although many states have adopted legislation to prohibit insurance discrimination against victims of domestic violence and, less frequently, victims of sexual assault, such efforts have not reached all states and territories, leaving many women unprotected. Insurance practices may unfairly deny or limit these victims' access to insurance or result in higher premiums or exclusions. These practices penalize and discourage victims from seeking necessary medical and criminal justice services for fear that information contained in their court or medical records will be used

against them by insurance companies. They also deter victims from filing necessary and rightful insurance claims.

Ensuring that a safety net remains in place for all women who seek escape from violence requires coordinated attention to a wide range of policy and practice issues: welfare and other public benefits programs, child support, childcare, transportation, and insurance.

Enhance All Women's Access to Safe and Affordable Housing

Without adequate housing options, women often cannot leave an abusive relationship or unsafe neighborhood. Victims of sexual assault or stalking by strangers or relatives other than an intimate partner may not qualify for emergency shelter, housing subsidy programs, or transitional housing programs designed specifically for victims of abuse by an intimate partner. Teenage girls who flee child sexual abuse at home or violence in their dating relationships often are turned away from homeless and domestic violence shelters due to their status as minors. Many battered women's shelters and other emergency housing programs limit residents' stays to only 30 or 60 days because of high demand and funding restrictions. Women with a substance abuse problem—a problem often directly related to their victimization—have even fewer options. As a result, these women often find themselves homeless or in inadequate, unsafe, or unstable housing conditions.

A significant number of homeless women have histories of child sexual abuse⁹ or domestic violence.¹⁰ Recent research shows that women who live in public housing face high rates of violence, particularly by people they know.¹¹ In addition to these pressures, recent changes in public housing policy and programs may place some women dependent on such housing at additional risk.

This nation is experiencing record-low vacancy rates and rents that are rising at twice the rate of inflation. More than 5 million families pay more

than 50 percent of their incomes in rent.¹² The wait for a public housing unit can exceed 2 years. The shortage of affordable housing is particularly challenging to women survivors of violence who are older and live on fixed incomes, single women with children, women of color who also face racial discrimination, and women with low or no incomes.

Communities are urged to place a priority on creating affordable housing units and upgrading the existing public housing stock. Economic incentives can be employed to encourage private housing management companies and public housing authorities to offer safe and affordable housing to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.

Invest in Women's Safety and Economic Security: Job Training, Education, Employment, and Government Benefits

Efforts to ensure equal employment opportunities, job security, and real economic options for all women will increase a woman's ability to leave an abusive relationship and unsafe living conditions. Many survivors of violence risk losing their jobs when they take time off from work to go to court, move out of a dangerous home, or seek medical, mental health, or advocacy services. In most states, if a person voluntarily leaves a job for reasons unrelated to the job, that person is disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance. Workplace policies and government benefits programs, such as unemployment and worker's compensation and family and medical leave, can be better structured to respond to the safety and economic security needs of survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Over the past 50 years, women's enrollment in higher education programs has increased dramatically. Women now account for more than one-half of all undergraduate students, although women continue to earn fewer graduate and postgraduate

degrees. Studies have found that postsecondary education increases women's income, improves their self-esteem, increases their children's educational ambitions, and has a dramatic impact on their quality of life.¹³ Research also shows that women with college and advanced degrees spend less time on welfare and earn more than women with a high school education or less.¹⁴ To support women's long-term economic security, educational opportunities must be enhanced at multiple levels, including increasing opportunities to earn a general equivalency diploma (GED), enroll in literacy programs, and obtain a higher education. Educational programs should be structured to take into account those students whose histories of child sexual abuse or sexual, dating, or domestic violence as an adult has affected their educational attainment.

Long-term economic security is particularly crucial for older women who are victimized by physical and sexual violence. Because women in later life may be unemployed, facing discrimination in employment, or living on fixed incomes, public policies that specifically improve older women's economic security are needed.

Outlined below are specific actions communities can take to promote women's economic security and play a role in ending violence against women. Community members who will want to consider these recommendations include community social service agencies, welfare and child support agencies, state victim compensation programs, and sexual assault and domestic violence programs; businesses and trade associations involved in security and communications, such as home security companies, cellular phone companies, and locksmiths; national, state, and county bar associations, law school clinics, state judicial systems, and lawyer's organizations; credit reporting agencies and consumer groups; state and local law enforcement agencies and state victim compensation programs; state and local government and childcare provider networks; insurance industry associations and insurance companies; public and private housing agencies; and public and private employers, institutions of higher education, job training and employment programs, and advocacy groups.

Secure the Economic Safety Net for Victims of Violence Against Women

1. Eliminate the economic crisis facing many victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking by designing and implementing programs to provide stability to victims and their families immediately following victimization.

- ◆ Create or expand emergency assistance programs to provide funds for mortgage, security, or rent payments for victims forced to relocate; repairs and maintenance of property damaged during an attack (including the replacement of phones and clothes or equipment required for work); the installation of security systems; and other expenses associated with the recent victimization.
- ◆ Widely publicize that these funds are available and ensure that they can be easily and quickly obtained through multiple access points.
- ◆ Ensure that survivors of violence have routine access to safe and reliable transportation to assist them in relocating and obtaining medical and mental health care, justice system protections, sexual assault and domestic violence services, and other assistance available in the community. To respond to the crisis needs of victims, consider providing grants or low-cost loans to be used for car repair or purchase, bus or subway passes, or the development or expansion of special transportation.
- ◆ Create and adequately fund emergency childcare and respite care programs that support the survivors' ability to pursue court protections, secure other emergency services, and stabilize their families after victimization. Situate these programs in places that are accessible to necessary crisis intervention and protective services, such as in courthouses, social services agencies, sexual assault and domestic violence crisis agencies, and medical and counseling programs.
- ◆ Provide emergency sexual assault and domestic violence program services without restriction to "nonqualified aliens" per order of the U.S. Attorney General (Attorney General Order Number 2049-96, U.S. Department of Justice), and work with immigrant and refugee rights

organizations to raise awareness of this policy within immigrant and refugee communities.

- ◆ Authorize state compensation funds to cover expenses related to the emergency housing, transportation, relocation, childcare, and security requirements of abused and stalked adults and to cover gaps in worker's compensation coverage for otherwise eligible victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.
- ◆ Consolidate and make readily available information on financial assistance, housing, health care, and other benefits available to seniors, and expand advocacy and services networks.

2. Donate security and communications services or underwrite the costs of security-enhancing products and services for women requesting such assistance through community-based programs or the courts.

- ◆ Increase the number of programs that provide cell phones or e-mail accounts and cover the costs of phone installation or monthly service charges for women in ongoing danger. Provide women needing to relocate or engage in job searches with safe and private access to those accounts.

3. Provide incentives, including technical assistance, for private law firms and individual attorneys to offer free, low-cost, or sliding scale representation for women survivors of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating and domestic violence.

- ◆ Increase the availability of representation in all areas of civil law, including divorce, child custody, public benefits, property/real estate, and landlord/tenant disputes, and help women explore the feasibility of filing personal injury suits against perpetrators.

4. Design and implement credit policies and programs to help women survivors recover from damage to their credit caused by an abuser, establish or reestablish credit in their own names, and protect themselves against future economic abuse.

- ◆ Protect privacy and confidentiality interests of survivors in all policies and programs.

5. Explore ways to fully cover the costs of forensic medical exams for sexual assault victims without seeking reimbursement from the victim or from any public or private health insurance under which she might otherwise be covered, and without requiring the victim to report the crime to any public or private health insurance plans.

- ◆ Consider earmarking state, county, and local law enforcement funds; designating fees and fines; or modifying state victim compensation program policies and funding priorities to ensure coverage of forensic medical exam costs.

For related recommendations, see Toolkit chapter "Improving the Justice System Response."

6. Design and implement welfare policies and practices that enhance both safety and self-sufficiency for all welfare clients, including victims of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking.

- ◆ Develop and implement welfare policies and practices that provide for the following:
 - Clear and multilingual notices that fully describe welfare and child support program services and requirements, any temporary relief from program requirements that is available, the process to access such programs and relief, and any rights to appeal adverse decisions.
 - Informed, confidential, and voluntary disclosures of past or current sexual, dating, or domestic violence by applicants and recipients.
 - Individualized assessments by trained staff of a client's support needs and any barriers to participation in training or employment activities, including past or current abuse.
 - Referrals to sexual assault and domestic violence victim services.
 - Referrals to other support services, including substance abuse and mental health services as appropriate, without being inappropriately classified as mentally disabled.
 - Flexible, individualized, and culturally and linguistically competent responses to the

safety and support needs of each applicant or recipient.

- When appropriate, temporary waivers, exemptions or extensions from work, time limits, child support cooperation, or other requirements as allowed under the Family Violence Option and other provisions.
 - Face-to-face presanction screenings to determine when noncompliance with requirements is related to sexual abuse or dating or domestic violence and a plan to respond if disclosure of abuse occurs during the assessment process.
 - Assurances that the confidentiality of information provided on abuse and all records containing such information is safeguarded.
- ◆ Provide public assistance to otherwise eligible immigrants, refugees, and persons seeking asylum who are survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking regardless of their legal status.
- Ensure the ongoing availability of benefits necessary to protect life and provide safety, such as emergency shelter, food assistance, and crisis counseling, to immigrants regardless of their immigrant status.
 - Note that battered immigrants who are eligible for relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and refugees and persons seeking asylum also may be eligible to receive public assistance.
- ◆ Provide multilevel training to welfare intake staff, caseworkers, and supervisors, including
- Basic training for all agency personnel on violence against women and its implications for families seeking welfare benefits.
 - Advanced training for caseworkers and supervisors on the state's policies and procedures and other related responses to violence against women.
 - Periodic inservice training on new research and program developments, including policy revisions.

- ◆ Provide training for all employment, training, and welfare-to-work placement staff and contractors.
 - Incorporate information about violence against women, including child sexual abuse, and its impact on women's employment and the types of educational, employment, mental health services, and/or protections some women will need to move safely from welfare to work and to sustain employment.
- ◆ Develop formal memorandums of understandings or other agreements between public welfare, employment, and training agencies and sexual assault and domestic violence victim advocacy programs.
 - Define how referrals of welfare applicants and recipients will occur, the specific services and support available from each agency for survivors of abuse, and how ongoing communication and collaboration will be structured.
 - Develop similar agreements between welfare-to-work agencies and substance abuse and mental health and other social service agencies to ensure that a comprehensive network of services and supports is available.
- ◆ Where available, use TANF surpluses, current TANF block grant funds, and state Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and welfare-to-work dollars to expand the services available to victims of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking.
 - Expand the availability of sexual assault and domestic violence services and mental health and substance abuse services responsive to victims of sexual assault and dating and domestic violence, including adult survivors of child sexual abuse who are applying for or receiving public benefits.
 - Where allowed, use such funds to expand training and cross training of welfare and child support staff, employment and training personnel, and sexual assault and domestic violence program staff.

7. Help custodial parents to safely establish paternity and pursue child support whenever possible, and provide exemptions from paternity and child support requirements only when the safety risks to custodial parents or children cannot be overcome.

- ◆ Develop and disseminate clear and multilingual materials that explain how the child support system works, including the court’s role in the process and the protections available to custodial or noncustodial parents who are themselves at risk or whose children are at risk.
- ◆ Protect the confidentiality of at-risk custodial parents or their children, including the use of flags in case files and registries, and minimize or eliminate any face-to-face contact between the abuser and victim.
- ◆ Train all child support, welfare, court, and paternity establishment program personnel who will come into contact with survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking to identify and discuss child support issues with custodial and noncustodial parents who are victims of abuse and interact effectively with abusers.
- ◆ Colocate welfare and child support staff, where appropriate, and form joint working groups to develop and implement policies and protocols that address safety concerns.
- ◆ During civil or criminal protection order proceedings, inform victims if and how temporary or permanent child support orders or other orders for payment of household expenses can be included in *ex parte* (without notice to the other party) or temporary orders and final orders.
- ◆ Explore mechanisms to address child support, safety, and advocacy issues within the context of domestic violence court proceedings, particularly protection order hearings, and other civil and criminal proceedings in which domestic violence or child abuse concerns have been raised.
- ◆ Implement statewide Address Confidentiality Programs to enable survivors to receive child support and other public benefits without disclosing their home or work addresses or the location of their children.¹⁵

- ◆ Train all matrimonial, family, and surrogate court judges on the issues of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking and their relationship to divorce, custody, and visitation agreements.

8. Communicate options for safe, affordable childcare available in the community to victims of domestic violence.

- ◆ Develop and implement policies and procedures responsive to the safety interests of women and children.
- ◆ Train childcare and early childhood program workers to recognize possible exposure of children to sexual assault or domestic violence, and make appropriate referrals to services for both mothers and children.

For related recommendations, see Toolkit chapter “Early Intervention and Prevention with Children and Youth.”

Enhance All Women’s Access to Safe and Affordable Housing

9. Review and modify, as necessary, existing housing policies and programs to increase their responsiveness to the needs of women who have experienced or are at risk of violence.

- ◆ Collaboratively develop and use tools to assess the impact of current and future national, state, and local housing policies and programs on women’s short- and long-term safety and housing needs. Modify policies and practices determined to place women in danger or at risk of homelessness.
- ◆ Continue to identify how the crime prevention policies of the public housing authority enhance or compromise housing-related safety for survivors, and implement solutions to the problems identified in policy and practice. Of particular concern are crime reduction policies that expose a victim to the risk of eviction because her partner or ex-partner is violent, has caused property damage, has threatened other tenants, or has violated family one-strike policies.

- ◆ Design and implement procedures to ensure that victims of sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking who need to transfer between public housing units for safety reasons can do so in a timely fashion.
- ◆ Design and implement policies to ensure that sexual assault or domestic violence victims who hold joint Section 8 certificates with an abusive family or household member are able to keep the Section 8 certificate if they choose to vacate their apartment for safety reasons.
- ◆ Identify and implement strategies to ensure that all women with Section 8 certificates have information about and access to sexual assault and domestic violence services.
- ◆ Identify and remove barriers that may discourage residents from seeking help concerning violence against women. Of particular concern in the course of seeking help are the handling of disclosures that might represent violations of tenancy agreements (for example, information about a batterer's presence in the apartment) and concerns about confidentiality.

10. Review and modify national, state, and local housing policy, and explore funding opportunities to increase women's access to safe and affordable housing.

- ◆ Prioritize local housing development policies that support the creation of affordable housing units. Include nonprofit and for-profit developers, investors, and lenders in collaborative efforts with community advocates to ensure that local housing needs are met, especially in suburban communities with high housing costs and few rental units.
- ◆ Encourage commitments to maintain and expand the number of available affordable housing units to upgrade existing public housing stock.
- ◆ Implement fair housing laws and regulations to specifically protect housing subsidy recipients from discrimination based on their source of income.
- ◆ Explore the use of TANF surpluses, current TANF block grant funds, state MOE, and

welfare-to-work dollars to expand the availability of housing to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.

11. Incorporate women's safety and security in the design, development, management, inspection, and financing of public and private housing.

- ◆ Explore economic incentives such as federal loan requirements, tax policies, and subsidies to encourage private housing management companies and public housing authorities to develop emergency, short-term, transitional, and long-term housing for women survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- ◆ Adopt and enforce housing codes and regulations that provide minimum safety standards for all residential properties, including lighted walkways, secure doors and entrances, and working pay phones. For larger properties, include emergency call boxes and screen security officers and all onsite personnel to see if they have a history of violent behavior. Ensure that shared laundry facilities or other service areas are well lit and secure.
- ◆ Vigorously enforce city ordinances that protect tenants of both residential and commercial property from sexual assault or abuse by landlords and other housing personnel. Provide safe ways for tenants to report abusive managers to landlords.
- ◆ Require landlords to be diligent in ensuring the safety of all tenants.
- ◆ Educate local government authorities about sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking and the need for safe, affordable housing for victims.

12. Collaboratively develop and implement training and technical assistance programs specific to violence against women for federal, state, and local housing agencies, campus housing programs, and nonprofit and community-based organizations.

- ◆ Design and implement cross-training programs that address violence against women and the housing, safety, and service issues that arise from such violence.

- ◆ Ensure that law school courses and continuing education courses on housing law, including fair housing and landlord-tenant law, incorporate information about sexual assault and dating and domestic violence.

Enhance Job Training, Education, and Employment for Women

13. Expand efforts to ensure a safe work environment for all employees, including job protection for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence who are temporarily unable to work or work full time.

14. Provide unemployment benefits, worker's compensation, and family and medical leave that are responsive to the needs of survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.

- ◆ Consider providing worker's compensation benefits to employees who are assaulted or harassed in the workplace or during work-related activities and incur medical or mental health costs as a result of the abuse.
- ◆ Encourage the use of state Family and Medical Leave laws to allow victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking or their family members to use leave to address issues related to their victimization.
- ◆ Ensure that disclosure of a history of sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking shall not be adequate cause for failure to hire, promote, or terminate an employee.

15. Ensure that the design and implementation of Welfare-to-Work and related job-training programs are responsive to both the safety and self-sufficiency needs of victims of violence.

- ◆ Include related training information on how current or past sexual or physical abuse might affect a trainee's participation and success, and appropriate responses to disclosures of child sexual abuse, or current or past adult sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking.
- ◆ Implement workplace safety policies and practices to protect participants in job training programs from stalkers, abusive partners, and other trainees.

For related recommendations, see Toolkit chapter "Promoting Safety and Nonviolence in the Workplace."

16. Provide increased resources to develop job training programs for women survivors of violence and increase the range of women's educational opportunities and access to them.

- ◆ Foster and support collaboration between educational institutions (e.g., literacy and GED programs, vocational schools, community colleges, other colleges and universities, and adult education programs) and sexual assault and domestic violence programs.
- ◆ Increase access to safe, affordable, and accessible childcare and access to transportation for student victims of violence against women.
- ◆ Widely disseminate information about college options, application and selection processes, career mapping, and distance learning opportunities. Ensure that financial aid information is user-friendly.
- ◆ Encourage girls and young women to participate in nontraditional studies and work, particularly in math, the sciences, computer science, information technology, and the trades.

17. Expand the capacity of sexual assault and domestic violence programs to help women achieve greater economic independence.

- ◆ Through targeted funding, training, and technical assistance, increase the ability of advocates to build effective partnerships with training and employment programs, and provide direct assistance to women seeking to set and achieve their education and employment goals.

18. Design community economic development programs that support women's safety, economic self-sufficiency, and long-term economic security.

- ◆ Dedicate funds to support the design, development, evaluation, and replication of community development initiatives, including microenterprise development programs, that enhance the safety and economic security of survivors of abuse and at-risk families.

Resources

Center for Impact Research (formerly the Taylor Institute)

926 North Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: 773-342-0630
Fax: 773-342-5918
Web site: www.impactresearch.org

The Center for Impact Research (CIR) works toward the elimination of poverty through grassroots research and poverty solutions crafted in collaboration with low-income persons, community-based organizations, and governmental agencies. CIR's publications include several documents addressing the relationship between poverty and domestic violence as well as a newsletter that covers developments in the field.

Center for Law and Social Policy

1616 P Street NW., Suite 150
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-328-5140
Fax: 202-328-5195
Web site: www.clasp.org

The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) focuses on increasing economic security for poor families with children and securing access to the civil justice system. CLASP efforts include policy advocacy, policy research, technical assistance, preparation of manuals and guides, training, conferences, and publications.

Commission on Domestic Violence—Law School Initiative Project

American Bar Association
740 15th Street NW.
Washington, DC 20005-1022
Phone: 202-662-8637
Fax: 202-662-1594
Web site: www.abanet.org/domviol

This American Bar Association Web page provides online links and resources for people who need counseling following a domestic violence incident and people who are searching for publications about violence against women.

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300
Harrisburg, PA 17112
Phone: 1-800-537-2238
TTY: 1-800-553-2508
Fax: 717-545-9456

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC) is a valuable source for information, training, and technical assistance regarding domestic violence issues. NRC also is a clearinghouse for resources and statistics that may be used to enhance policies and publications that are in research stages.

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

123 North Enola Drive
Enola, PA 17025
Phone: 1-877-739-3895
TTY: 717-909-0715
Fax: 717-909-0714
Web site: www.nsvrc.org

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is a clearinghouse for resources and research about all forms of sexual violence and assault. NSVRC works with its partner agency, the University of Pennsylvania, to provide new policies for establishing sexual violence interventions and prevention programs.

Violence Against Women Online Resources

Web site: www.vaw.umn.edu

This Web site provides up-to-date information on interventions to stop violence against women for professionals in the fields of law, criminal justice, advocacy, and social service.

Welfare Information Network

Web site: www.welfareinfo.org

This Web site is a clearinghouse for information resources, policy analysis, and technical assistance on welfare reform.

YWCA of the U.S.A.

350 Fifth Avenue, Third Floor
New York, NY 10118
Phone: 212-273-7800
Web site: www.ywca.org

YWCA's mission—to empower women and girls and eliminate racism—is the guiding principle for all YWCA child care, shelter, health, fitness, and social justice programs. YWCA is a leader in violence prevention; provides shelter and child care services; offers employment training and placement; oversees sports and physical fitness programs for women and girls; provides breast cancer referrals, screenings, and education services; and is a pioneer in the fight for social justice.

Endnotes

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