The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence envisions a First State where safe, healthy, equitable relationships, families and communities thrive.

2023 Public Policy Priorities

Real Solutions to Maintain Core Services
Ensure victims have access to support for immediate and ongoing safety

Offender & System Accountability
Increase victims' safety and wellbeing in state service and justice systems

Privacy = Safety
Strengthen privacy protections for Delaware victims

Housing is a Human Right
Provide safe and affordable housing

Eliminate Violence
Promote prevention by addressing the root causes of violence

Racial Equity & Social Justice
Advance equity and address disproportionate impact on Black, Brown, & Indigenous people
Real Solutions to Maintain Core Services

**Ensure victims have access to support for immediate and ongoing safety**
- Current requests for service go unmet due to lack of services and funding.
- Domestic violence & sexual violence service programs need increased financial support from the State of Delaware.
- Victims who are LGBTQ+, indigenous or Native American, and those who have immigrated need greater protections nationally.

Offender and System Accountability

**Increase victims' safety and wellbeing in state service and justice systems**
- Victim safety is jeopardized when officials and responders fail to recognize DV's risk of lethality and other lifelong impacts.
- Criminal justice reform efforts must include victims' voices and consider risk.
- Addressing financial abuse helps victims secure safety and independence.

Privacy = Safety

**Strengthen privacy protections for Delaware victims**
- Delaware's Victims' Bill of Rights does not reflect best practice and lacks protections available in many other states (MD, NJ, NY, PA, RI).
- Gaps in privacy within domestic violence and healthcare services leave victims at risk.
- With privacy rights under attack, DE victims need advocate privilege.

Housing is a Human Right

**Provide safe and affordable housing**
- Advances like DV Housing Vouchers & Rapid Rehousing offer the promise of a better life, but survivors face bias and are denied housing.
- Victims are at greater risk of eviction as a result of the violence, but eviction protections can mitigate that.
- DE's housing stock is inadequate, and over 18,000 families remain in need.

Eliminate Violence

**Promote prevention by addressing the root causes of violence**
- Effective prevention of intimate partner/sexual violence addresses to the root causes, and economic justice is a vital determinant in eliminating domestic and sexual violence.
- When victims can address their health and safety needs while knowing their employment is secure, everyone benefits-- including businesses.
- Inadequate and unstable income is a risk factor for violence perpetration. By increasing protective factors with policies that support caregivers/parents (flexible schedules, child care, etc.), individuals are able to continue to produce an income and families thrive.

Racial Equity & Social Justice

**Advance equity and address disproportionate impact on Black, Brown, & Indigenous people**
- Policies that advance equity and reduce the impact of structural and institutional racism will lead to a healthier and safer DE.
- Promoting Community Health Worker (CHW) certification and sustainability will help to address disproportionate impact and social determinants of health.
- Protecting an individual's right to privacy, especially privacy related to medical care and reproductive rights, is essential to the safety of victims of domestic violence.