

# 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.

