



Tips to Enhance the Economic Focus of Local Domestic Violence Programs

There are important strategies advocacy organizations can utilize to build support for the economic empowerment of domestic violence survivors within their own programs and their communities. The Allstate Foundation and National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund suggest the following:

1. Collaborate with financial institutions to develop emergency assistance funds, individual development account programs or micro-business development programs specifically for domestic violence survivors in your community.
2. Invite a financial professional to facilitate an education session on accessing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit or Child Care Tax Credit with local domestic violence advocates and survivors, as appropriate.
3. Hold focus groups with survivors and advocates to discuss the economic barriers to women and domestic violence survivors in your state or city.
4. Build or participate in an existing task force of anti-poverty organizations, civic associations and financial institutions to discuss ways resources of public and private institutions can support the economic advancement of domestic violence survivors.
5. Collaborate with financial institutions to co-sponsor a community education event on existing economic empowerment programs based in your community.
6. Collaborate with public and private institutions within your community about their privacy policies, their safety options for survivors, their responsiveness to the needs of women and their mechanism for referrals when working with domestic violence survivors. Informing these organizations about the powerful role they can play in ensuring the safety and security of domestic violence survivors locally is a great step towards ensuring the safety and security of survivors nationwide.