

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Dr. Maria Corona named executive director of the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

DES MOINES, Iowa – January 7, 2021 – The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is proud to announce that Dr. Maria Corona has been hired as the new executive director. In this role, Dr. Corona will use her extensive experience of community organizing, advocacy and passion for social and racial justice to continue the transformation of domestic violence services and response in Iowa to create the conditions where every person can thrive.

“Maria exemplifies the direction that ICADV has been moving in and continue moving towards. Her personal and professional experience provides her with a keene insight into where barriers exist and where there are opportunities to revamp and re-envision the next iteration of victim services,” says Monserrat Iniguez, chair of ICADV’s Board of Directors. “The conditions our communities exist in created a powerful leader in Maria, and I am excited to work alongside her to bring the Coalition's work to the next level.”

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is the leading voice to end intimate partner violence in Iowa. Through their network of 22 statewide victim service programs, they provide comprehensive services to anyone who has been a victim of a violent crime – before, during and after. ICADV takes a survivor-centered approach to victim services and believes community-based agencies and interventions, healthcare, educational and government systems should work together, centering the voices and experiences of those most vulnerable in our communities, to enhance safety for survivors and their families.

With a unique and intersecting perspective, Dr. Corona brings a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to this role. Prior to joining ICADV, she was awarded the prestigious Mid-Iowa Health Foundation HealthConnect Fellowship to support her dissertation project and bold system change ideas. She worked as a research assistant for four years for the Child Welfare Research Training Project (CWRTP), and in several Iowa State University Extension and Outreach research programs.

The bedrock of her research, policy and system change emphasis were influenced by working as a Diversity Outreach coordinator and advocate for survivors of domestic violence at Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support (ACCESS), a member of ICADV's statewide network of victim service programs.

"I understand that ICADV's work extends through 22 statewide victim service programs and I am excited about forming part of this network of advocates and champions for change," says Dr. Corona. "ICADV is a trailblazing organization with a mission to create a movement to change the socio-political systems that inflict violence is admirable. My experience as an immigrant Latina in the United States has encouraged me to engage with the same noble work of identifying systems entrenched in oppression and transforming them into liberatory environments that promote justice and equity for marginalized communities."

Outside of her extensive professional and educational background, Dr. Corona is an avid supporter and volunteer for a variety of organizations serving communities across Iowa. These include Immigrant Allies of Marshalltown, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC of Iowa), Dream Iowa, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners (ASIP), and Al Exito. In 2020, the Association of American Colleges & Universities named Dr. Corona a recipient of the K. Patricia Cross Futures Leaders Award, thereby earning her national recognition for her academic and civic responsibility and contributions.

Dr. Corona received her Bachelor of Science degree in Women's Studies and International Studies; Master's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences; and her PhD in Human Development and Family Studies; all from Iowa State University.

To learn more about Dr. Corona's background and extensive community organizing, advocacy and professional experience, visit <https://tinyurl.com/DrMariaCoronaICADV>.