

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2025 State Policy Priorities

Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains a preventable but persistent [public health problem](#) impacting almost 1 in 2 women and 40% of men over a lifetime; including 26% of women who are raped. The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence represents 22 local service provider organizations offering crime victim support services throughout Iowa. ICADV is committed to advancing policies supporting a vital victim service provider workforce; statewide access to effective victim support services; and promoting comprehensive responses to violence and effective solutions for ending and preventing it.

Fully support crime victims - Invest at least \$10 million in state funding for victim services to ensure statewide access to support. For the last decade, Iowa has provided just \$5 million per year for victim services despite significant unmet need and increased demand. Service providers are stretched well beyond capacity and are now [turning away](#) many crime victims requesting support. Access to services in rural areas and to the post-crisis support most crime victims want are the most limited by a lack of funding. Without a significant increase in state funds, service providers must continue making difficult decisions about which services they can provide and where victims can access services. Failing to fully support victims keeps violence alive in every community and preventable costs high for every business, workplace, and ‘system’ (school, legal, human services, corrections). It increases the workload of other service providers and is ultimately more expensive as victims lacking stability continue to need support. Federal grants awarded to Iowa are intended to improve access to victim services- not to excuse state responsibility to support crime victims.

Enhance Economic Security. Escaping violence routinely results in losing economic security and the means to regain it. Ensuring victims can meet basic needs enables them to recover, care for families, and enhances their capacity to become contributing members of communities and valued employees. People do well when their needs are met, e.g., improving access to housing, livable wages, food, and health care- help prevent violence.

- Allow [early lease termination](#) for IPV victims to reduce a major economic barrier to seeking safety.
- [Seal eviction records](#) to remove a major barrier to housing access and economic security.
- Expand access/eliminate barriers to support services like health care including mental & reproductive health care; food assistance; economic supports. (barriers incl language access; digital access; transportation; service specific restrictions or prohibitions on access, etc.)
- Bolster employment & economic security, e.g., paid leave, living wages, earned income and child-care tax credits, prize-linked savings programs, financial & consumer literacy education; address unfair consumer practices impacting family income, e.g., towing and vehicle impoundment fees; user/application fees.

Ensure victims are not punished for seeking help or for surviving. Promote policy changes to ensure violent crime victims can access justice in the civil and criminal legal systems; and create multiple options for accountability and violence intervention responsive to the needs of victims/communities.

- Prioritize a victim-centered response in education and training of legal professionals to prevent victim intimidation, victim arrests, threatening victims with prosecution, courtroom safety.
- Ensure immigrant survivors can access legal protections available in federal law (U/T/VAWA visas).
- Promote policy and practice changes, e.g., effective reforms (probation, commutation); improve access to behavioral change interventions; trauma-informed court response; address ‘litigation’ abuse.

Promote meaningful access to safety, services, and freedom from violence for all. Individual characteristics and life experiences impact how people are impacted by violence; how victims access safety; how people who harm others are held accountable; how governments and communities respond; how needs are met. Uphold and promote policies ensuring meaningful access to support for all.