

2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA



Violence Free Minnesota is a statewide coalition of over 80 member programs working to end relationship abuse across the state.



PROACTIVE AGENDA

- **\$50M Biennial Increase in Base Funding to Crime Victim Services (H.F. 1437, S.F. 1475)**
 - In collaboration, Minnesota's crime victim coalitions request the State increase the investment in victims/survivors and the programs that serve them. Programs need additional government funding in order to provide critical safety services to survivors and their children. This funding would help fill the direct needs of programs and survivors by providing direct client assistance to survivors, competitive wages for direct service staff, hotel stays, culturally responsive programming, prevention programming, and more.

Administered by the Department of Public Safety's Office of Justice Programs (DPS/OJP).



SUPPORTIVE AGENDA

- **Coerced Debt (H.F. 2413)**
 - Provide relief to victims/survivors related to coerced debt. Coerced debt is debt that an abusive partner has taken out in the victim/survivor's name without that person's knowledge or debt taken out by the victim/survivor under force or threat from an abusive partner.
- **Housing and Economic Justice Policies**
 - Reform Minnesota's Eviction Laws
 - **Protect the rights of survivors to access affordable housing by passing legislation to require increased notice prior to an eviction and more accessibility to eviction expungement.** We must pass legislation that requires landlords to provide increased notice prior to filing eviction, prevents eviction filings from being added to a tenant's public record, and provides more access to eviction expungement.
 - End Source of Income Discrimination for Minnesota Renters
 - Stop discrimination against survivors who use vouchers and other forms of financial assistance to access safe and affordable housing by amending the Minnesota Human Rights Act to prohibit source of income discrimination. Housing benefits like vouchers provide critical financial support many survivors need to leave an abusive situation. Yet landlords can - and often do - deny rental applications from voucher holders, leaving many survivors unable to locate affordable housing, often leading to them choosing between homelessness or returning to an abusive situation. This type of discrimination must be prohibited.

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

Contact Shenika Chambers at 651.646.6177 x111 or schambers@vfmn.org to discuss how you can make Minnesota safer for all. 60 East Plato Boulevard, Suite 230 · Saint Paul, Minnesota 55107 · Voice: 651.646.6177 · Fax: 651.646.1527 · www.vfmn.org

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SUPPORTIVE AGENDA CONTINUED

- **Housing and Economic Justice Policies Continued**
 - Allocate Funding to Support Affordable Housing for Survivors
 - **Dedicate funding and resources to create and support affordable housing for survivors.**
 - Victim service providers must be funded to provide trauma-informed housing advocacy services for survivors.
 - Funding must be allocated to create and sustain flexible housing options for survivors, including permanent and transitional housing units with survivor-centered supports.
 - Culturally specific programs must be funded to provide culturally appropriate housing options and programming for survivors from historically marginalized communities.
- **Healing House Program Funding**
 - The Healing House is a dedicated space that serves justice-system involved Native American women to begin their journey towards healing and housing stability. The Healing House was conceptualized by individuals with lived experiences, and predominately focuses on the victims of sexual and domestic violence.
- **Office of Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls (H.F. 55)**
 - Provide funding to establish the office of MMAAW. Rates of violence and abuse disproportionately impact Black women and girls in our state. These cases deserve dedicated attention and resources.



INITIATIVES WE SUPPORT

- **Youth Justice (Juvenile Restorative Justice Act, H.F. 46)**
 - Violence Free Minnesota supports the Juvenile Restorative Justice Act, a bill that would establish the Office of Juvenile Restorative Justice and require local steering committees to create juvenile justice programs in their communities. Violence Free Minnesota also supports the Minnesota Coalition for Youth Justice legislative agenda.

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*360 Communities/Lewis House, Dakota, Carver, Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey
 Advocacy Center of Winona, Winona
 Advocates for Family Peace, Itasca, Northern St. Louis
 Advocates for Human Rights, International
 Advocates of the Bemidji Area, Beltrami
 *Alexandra House, Anoka
 *American Indian Community Housing Organization, St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake, Cook, Itasca
 *Anna Marie's Alliance, Sherburne, Benton, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Wright
 ARRC Shelter, Hubbard
 *Asian Women United of MN, Hennepin, Ramsey
 Battered Women's Justice Project, National
 Bluff Country Family Resources, Fillmore, Houston
 Bois Forte Tribal Government - Victim Services, Nett Lake, Koochiching, St. Louis
 Brave of Heart, Washington
 Breaking Free, Ramsey
 *Casa de Esperanza, Hennepin, Ramsey
 *Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Brown, Nicollet, Blue Earth, LeSueur, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan, Faribault, Martin
 Community Health Services, Polk, Norman, Clay, Pennington
 Community Stabilization Project, Ramsey
 Community University Health Care Center, Hennepin
 Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicios (CLUES), Hennepin, Ramsey
 *Cornerstone Advocacy Services, Hennepin
 Crime Victim Resource Center – Mayo Clinic, Mower
 Crisis Resource Center of Steele County, Steele
 CURA-POT, Ramsey
 Division of Indian Work, Hennepin
 Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, St. Louis
 Domestic Abuse Project, Hennepin
 East Side Neighborhood Services, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey
 *Equay Wiigamig, Red Lake Reservation, Beltrami
 *Family Pathways, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Carlton
 Family Safety Network, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard
 Freeborn County Crime Victim Crisis Center, Freeborn
 Friends Against Abuse, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods
 Gender Violence Institute, Statewide
 Global Rights for Women, International
 Hands of Hope Resource Center, Morrison, Todd
 Hmong American Partnership, Ramsey
 Healing Opportunity Provided Equally (HOPE), Aitkin, Crow Wing
 Hope Center, Rice
 *Hope Coalition, Goodhue, Wabasha
 Indigenous Women's Life Net, Ramsey, Hennepin
 Kissy's Stay Put Services, Hennepin
 Karen Organization of Minnesota, Statewide
 *Lakes Crisis and Resource Center, Becker & surrounding area
 Martin County Victim Services, Martin
 McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence, McLeod
 Men As Peacemakers - Men and Masculine Folk Network, Statewide
 *Mid-Minnesota Women's Center, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, Wadena
 Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Hennepin

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Family Violence Prevention Program, Aitkin, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pine
 Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, Statewide
 Minnesota Elder Justice Center, Statewide
 Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Hennepin
 *Missions, Inc. - Home Free, Hennepin
 New Horizons Crisis Center, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Redwood
 North Shore Horizons, Lake
 Northwest Indian Community Development Center, Beltrami
 *Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter, Beltrami, Cass
 Oasis of Love Crisis Intervention, Hennepin
 OutFront Minnesota, Statewide
 Pearl Crisis Center, Mille Lacs
 Phumulani: Minnesota African Women Against Domestic Violence, Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington
 Pillsbury United Communities, Hennepin
 Praxis International, National
 Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead, Clay, Wilkin
 Rivers of Hope, Wright
 *Safe Avenues, Kandiyohi, Swift, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Renville, Meeker, McLeod
 *Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center, St. Louis, Carlton, Aitkin, Itasca, Lake, Cook, Koochiching
 SEWA-AIFW (Asian Indian Family Wellness), Hennepin, Ramsey
 Sexual Violence Center, Hennepin, Carver, Scott
 *Sojourner Project, Hennepin, Carver, Dakota, Ramsey
 Someplace Safe, Big Stone, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Douglas, Traverse, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Wadena Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS), Southern Minnesota Southern Valley Alliance, Carver, Scott
 Southwest Crisis Center, Noble, Pipestone, Rock, Cottonwood, Jackson
 St. Paul and Ramsey County Intervention Project, Ramsey
 Standpoint, Statewide
 Stevens County Victim Witness, Stevens
 ThinkSelf, Statewide
 Transforming Generations, Ramsey, Hennepin, Washington, Dakota
 *Tubman, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington
 *Violence Intervention Project, Red Lake, Pennington, Marshall, Kittson, Roseau
 Violence Prevention Center, Cook
 White Earth DOVE Program, White Earth Reservation, Mahnomen, Becker, Clearwater
 WISE, Statewide
 *Women of Nations, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington
 *Women's Advocates, Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington
 WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Lincoln, Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Redwood
 *Women's Shelter and Support Center, Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted & surrounding counties
 WOVAN, Ramsey
 Yellow Medicine County Victim Services, Yellow Medicine

*Emergency Shelter Program

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