

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA



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MINNESOTA

Violence Free Minnesota is a statewide coalition of over 90 member programs working to end relationship abuse across the state.



### PROACTIVE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

#### **Increase in Base Funding to Crime Victim Services**

\$12.5 million in Fiscal Year 2023 and \$8.75 million in Fiscal Year 2024 and beyond.

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 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

#### **Survivors Justice Act/Resentencing Bill**

Allows judges to take the domestic abuse experienced by someone who committed a crime into account when determining their sentence; and allows someone already serving time for a crime they committed in connection to their own abuse to apply to have their sentence reduced in light of the abuse.

Many incarcerated individuals are victim/survivors of domestic and sexual violence. According to the ACLU, nearly 60% of people in women's prisons nationwide - and as many as 94% of some women's prison populations - have histories of domestic and/or sexual abuse prior to incarceration. For some incarcerated survivors, early victimization can be a catalyst for behaviors that entangle them in the criminal justice system as young people. For others, the crimes that they are serving time for are directly linked to an abusive relationship, coercion, and threats of violence.

#### **Ending Revocation for Technical Violations**

This bill would end the practice of sending people to jail/prison for technical violations; a technical violation is a violation of a condition of their release, not a new crime. A violation of a condition of release is better addressed through community-based services and programming, as opposed to confinement.

#### **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. Survivors often face evictions based on factors that are tied directly to the abuse they have suffered, and those evictions can impact their housing stability for years to come. 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. Passing these common-sense eviction reforms can stop survivors from being wrongly evicted and unfairly denied housing.

### THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

Contact Katie Kramer at 651.646.6177 x127 or [kkramer@vfmn.org](mailto:kkramer@vfmn.org) to discuss how you can make Minnesota safer for all.  
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**Prohibit Source of Income Discrimination:** Stop source of income 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. Housing benefits, such as 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. This type of discrimination has a dangerous impact on survivors and must be prevented.

**Create Safety Leave Protections for Survivors:** Ensure that survivors can take “safety leave” from work without the risk of losing their jobs or income. Abusive situations often need to relocate, seek legal help, obtain counseling, and connect with other services for themselves and their families. To address these safety concerns, survivors need to take time away from work, but under current law there are no protections for them to do so without losing income or risking job loss. Passing Paid Family and Medical Leave and Earned Sick and Safe Time laws that include coverage for “safety leave” can ensure that survivors will not be punished for securing their basic safety and wellbeing.

**Fund Survivor-Centered Housing Programming:** Domestic violence is one of the top five reasons that people in Minnesota experience homelessness. To combat this crisis, we must create affordable housing options that meet the unique needs of survivors. We must grow survivor-centered transitional housing options and stand-up domestic violence housing first programming that includes flexible financial assistance, mobile advocacy, and community engagement. These efforts must support survivors from historically marginalized communities, and should be led by culturally specific programs. These are essential step to preventing homelessness for survivors and their children.



### INITIATIVES WE SUPPORT

Violence Free Minnesota supports the Minnesota Coalition for Youth Justice legislative agenda which seeks to reform and re-imagine the juvenile justice system by driving policies, practices and programs that reduce racial and ethnic disparities, treat youth and families with dignity, and are informed by anti-racist and culturally sound practices.

- Requiring an objective detention risk assessment instrument, ending indiscriminate court shackling, authorizing police diversion, and eliminating public hearings for certain youth offenses;
- Raising the lower age of juvenile court jurisdiction and detention to 13, ending visual strip searches and the use of punitive solitary confinement for youth in correctional facilities;
- And more.

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**Violence Free Minnesota (formerly MCBW) is an association of over 90 programs that provide critical core public safety and crime victim services in all 87 counties.**

\*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

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, Mahnommen, 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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