



National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence

# Re-Centering

*Indiana's Movement to Ground Domestic Violence  
Programs in Survivor-Defined Success*

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Indiana Coalition  
Against  
Domestic Violence

*Prevention • Awareness • Advocacy  
Until the Violence Ends.*



# National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence ([www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org)) provides a wide range of free, comprehensive, and individualized technical assistance, training, and specialized resource materials.

Mission: To strengthen and transform efforts to end domestic violence.

# Domestic Violence Programs and Services

# Appreciation



# Dissatisfaction



# Mainstream Developments

**Services and  
protections for victims**



**Legal systems of accountability  
for individuals who use violence**



# Participating Programs

*Albion Fellows Bacon Center, Inc.*

*Alternatives, Inc.*

*Beaman Home*

*Center for Nonviolence*

*Coburn Place*

*Council on Domestic Abuse*

*Family Service Association of Howard  
County*

*Hands of Hope*

*Hope's Voice*

*Middle Way House*

*Prevail, Inc. of Hamilton County*

*Safe Passage*

*YWCA North Central Indiana*



# How we worked together...

facilitation tools for ensuring equity in participation

- (progressive) stack
- meeting containers
- hand signals





# Redirection

## *What might different look like?*

- How else might we foster safety for victims?
- What do victims want/need?
- How else might we support accountability for people who cause harm?
- How will we work on the broader vision to create a world free from violence?



# What we didn't do

Post-service surveys

- +convenient

- +quick

- limited sample

- ethical concerns

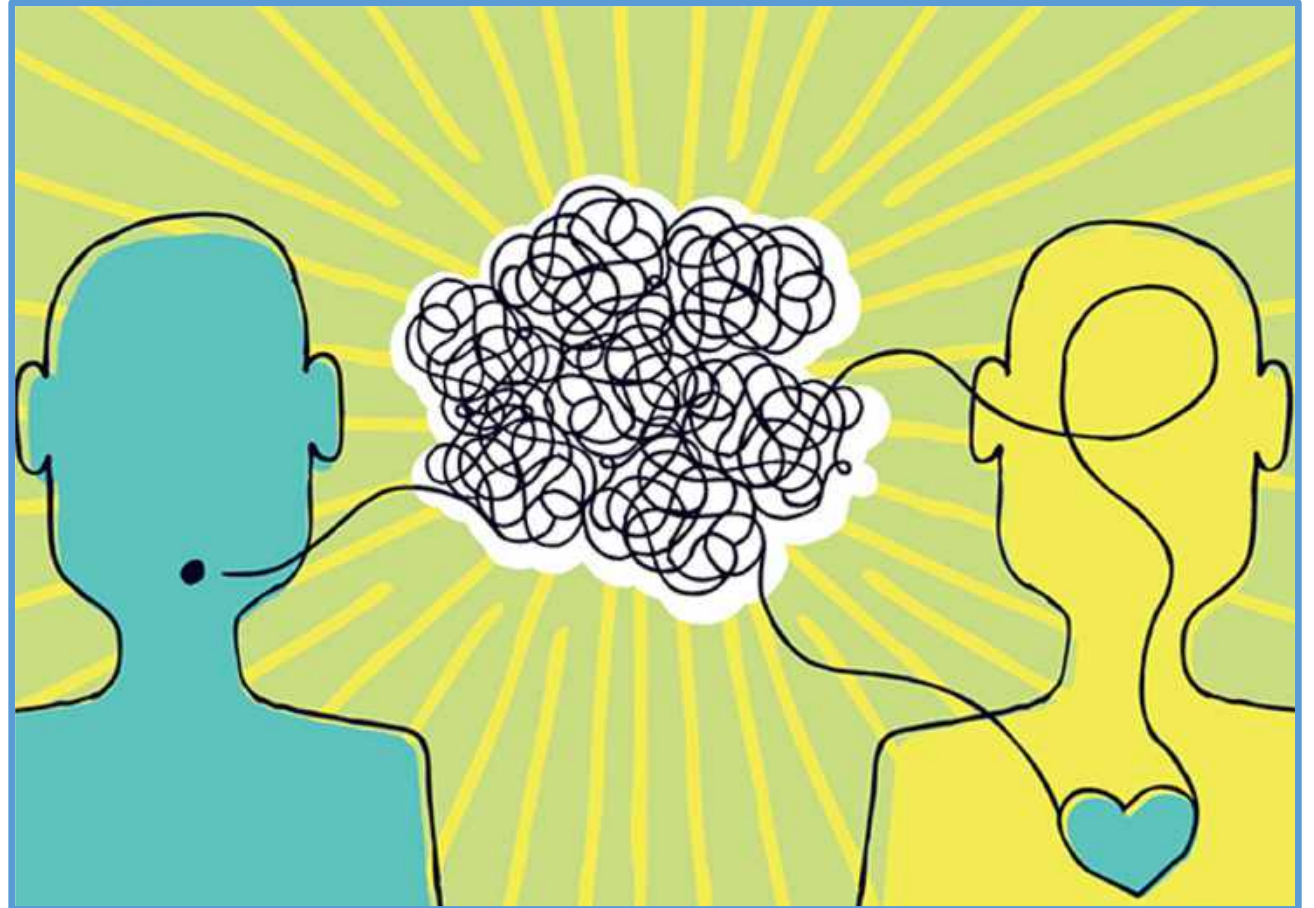


**Organizational  
habits of  
urgency would  
reproduce the  
status quo.**



# What we did: Listening to Survivors

- Survivor interviews (91)
- Focus groups (5 focus groups)
- Literature reviews (4 underrepresented groups)



# Who we heard from



# Who we heard from

**12%**

BIPOC survivors

**11%**

LGBTQ+ survivors

**26%**

incarcerated survivors

**21%**

survivors working w/ homeless programs

**23%**

survivors with disabilities / disabled survivors

**16%**

immigrant survivors

**49%**

survivors managing mental health & addiction

**>50%**

survivors who had not used a DV program



# What We Asked



## Community Safety & Support

What do you need  
in your community  
to have a safe and  
satisfying life?

## Organizational Supports

What can  
community  
organizations do to  
better support your  
safety?  
How would you  
design services?  
What were your  
unmet needs?

## Outreach

Who did you tell?  
Who did you *want*  
to tell? Who was  
helpful? What did  
you feel you  
needed to hide in  
order to get  
support?

## Accountability

How do you think  
communities  
should hold people  
accountable for  
abusive behavior?



# Relationship with Respondents

*Intentionality around how we hold power through this process*

- Provided compensation
- Survivors-controlled decisions
- Invited ongoing participation
  - Progress reports—check backs
  - Final report
  - Additional questions, opportunities
- Responsibility to make it matter



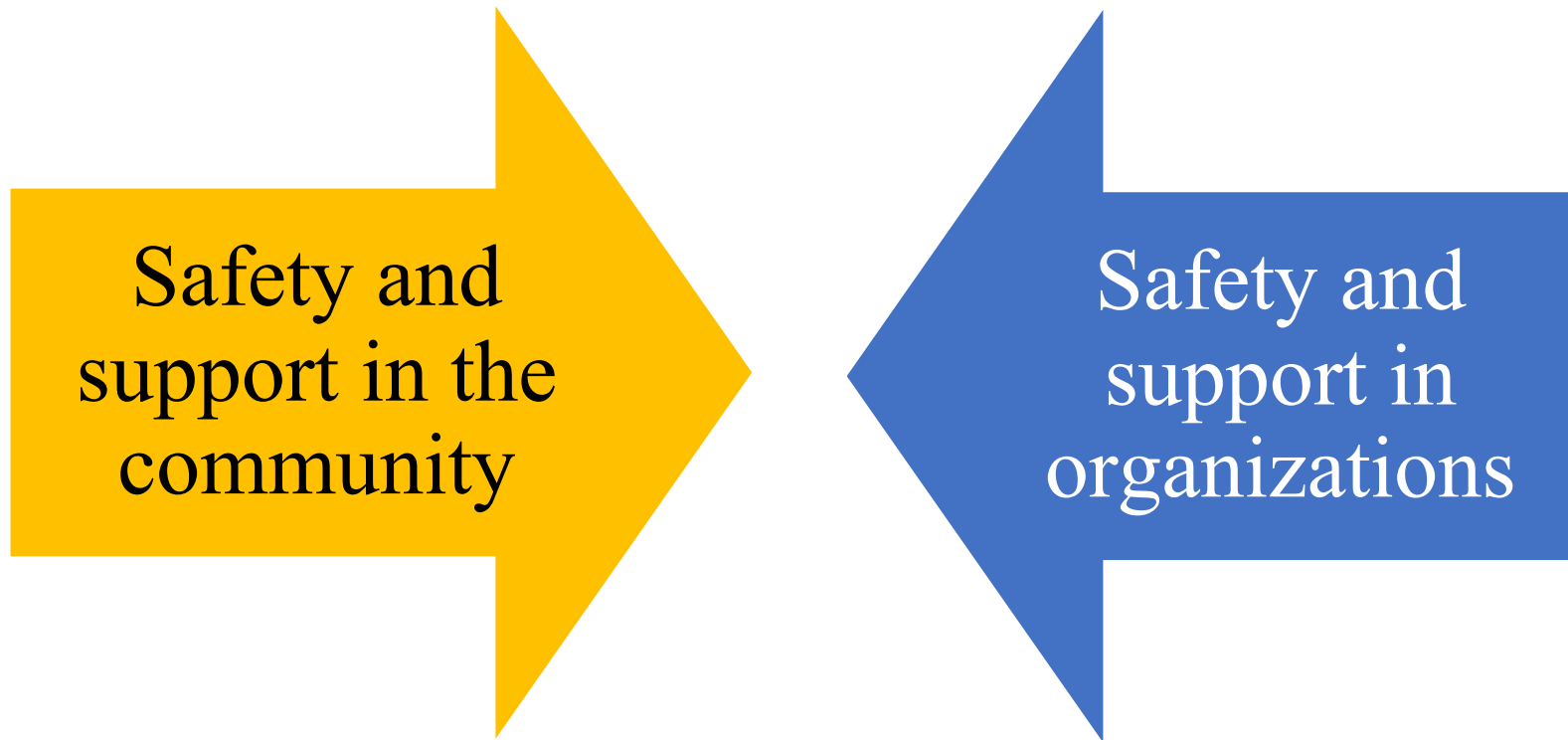


# Coding

- Team of 5 coders reviewed transcripts to determine the coding framework
- Coding framework submitted to survivor group for feedback
- Transcripts and framework entered into Dedoose program for analysis
- 2 coders reviewed transcripts and assigned codes



# Findings and Recommendations



# Key Needs Described by Survivors: Community Safety & Wellbeing



## HOUSING

Increase the availability of safe, stable and affordable housing.



## ASSISTANCE

Expand eligibility for social safety net programs, including increasing income limits, and allowing supports for immigrants and survivors with criminal histories.



## ACCEPTANCE

Educate communities about the dynamics of domestic violence so many people are prepared to help; and to reduce the judgment and stigma around the problem.



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

Work on things like living wages, education and job training opportunities, increasing minimum wage and addressing the gender pay gap.



## NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Promote neighborhood safety and connectedness with things like neighborhood watch programs and free activities that bring neighbors together.

# Financial Stability

*“The biggest risk factor for women is financial instability.”*

## **Economic opportunity & social safety net supports**

*“As a single woman, it’s particularly hard to earn a living wage. Especially if you are experiencing violence. I could go to a shelter, and they would provide me with 6 weeks of help, but what do I do then—because I don’t earn a living wage. I’m just going to have to become homeless again. I have to leave Indiana to move back to where I have a support network for the difficult times because there is no financial safety.”*



# Support and Acceptance



Judgment and the resulting shame were the most consistently reported concerns. Survivors reported experiencing judgment from a range of people in their lives and for every decision that they made.

- *“I just feel like there needs to be so much more education about it and there's a lot of blame that people still put on the victim. Well, if you didn't like it, you should have left or you're stupid for going back, which only makes you feel more like crap and then you are definitely not gonna get away. So, I felt like I didn't really get any support from my family or my friends, really. Because they couldn't understand. They couldn't reason it out. They couldn't rationalize my decisions. They couldn't. They just didn't understand.”*
- *“Society looks down on you—think that you should be punished for your inability to succeed.”*



# Community Connectedness



*Survivors want to live in supportive communities where neighbors proactively look out for one another.*

*“Being in a community where there's people around I know that care. Family, friends, community members, that's all part of feeling safe.”*

*Survivors want community activities and events that can help to facilitate connectedness.*

# Key Needs Described by Survivors: Domestic Violence Programs



## SURVIVOR SUPPORTS

Offer more supports for survivors including support groups, therapy and survivor mentoring programs.



## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Expand the availability of affordable (low-cost/pro bono) and high-quality legal assistance programs for criminal and civil cases.



## COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

Continue to conduct domestic violence training for the broad range of professionals that respond to domestic violence to make sure that survivors get a skilled and compassionate response.



## INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

Make sure that domestic violence programs work for all survivors. Programs should be welcoming to people of all races, ethnicities, sexual and gender identities, and religious groups, and accessible for people with disabilities, as well as for individuals who have been homeless or incarcerated.



## COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Place domestic violence service information everywhere that you can in the community so that people know where to go for help. Also, make sure that community services are well coordinated so that community partners know about each other's programs and can work together to support survivors.

# Increase survivor support programs

## *Survivor mentoring program*

- Credibility, empathy, assurance of non-judgment, knowledge of the systems

*“Having someone that’s already been through it. That would have been the biggest help. They know the feelings about why they stayed or why they left. They have more understanding of what you are going through.”*



# Make it easy: Facilitate access to support programs

- Make domestic violence program information broadly available across the community
- Train community partners and allies to understand one another's services and to collaborate
- Address judgment!

*“I would have felt more comfortable reaching out if I felt confident that there are people, who, for the most part, would understand. Wouldn't ask shaming questions.”*





# Make it easy: Ensure that programs are inclusive

Work to ensure that service programs are accessible and welcoming for all survivors. Identify and address barriers.

*“I feel like there’s no support for people with disabilities....People need to be more receptive of situations where disability comes into play with access to buildings....also removing barriers for using the bathroom including signage that shows respect for those who are trans.”*





# Make it easy! Informed, compassionate community awareness



*Normalize conversations about DV and validate the range of survivor decisions.*

- Help friends and family to know resources
- Address judgment

*“like some people will say something and the thing they're gonna say to you is get out. If you don't leave when they want you to, they're angry. They don't understand the power and control that you're being controlled because they're not in it. So, if you're not in this situation, it is very hard for family and friends...they're just not saying the right things to you. Because if you're already being abused, you do not need to be yelled at for being in an abusive relationship, for not leaving.”*

- Use trauma informed awareness strategies

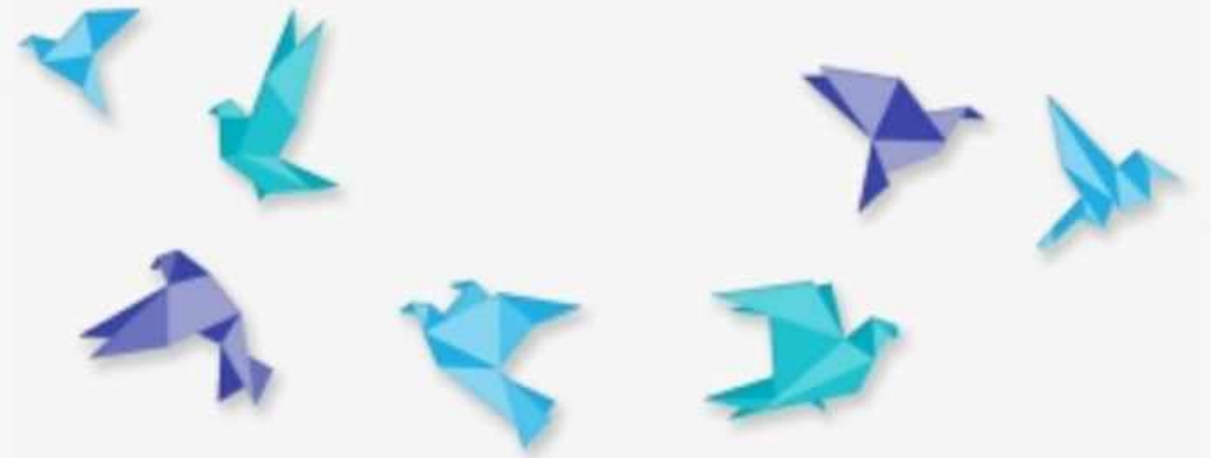
# Survivors' Accountability Priorities



**Only one quarter of respondents thought that the criminal justice system was a helpful/appropriate solution.**

- *“We have some excellent programs to help victims and survivors, but we do not have programs to help the abusers. We’ll just land, oh, we don't wanna help them. We’re just gonna put them in jail. Well, I'm sorry, the jail system is not set up to help people. It really makes them more angry. So, that's what I think.”*
- *“There needs to be a program and not just one. It has to be several programs to kind of really initiate where this root of the problem is. Because we're not gonna end it if we're not finding out what the root of the problem is.”*

# Making it matter



# What we are doing: Housing

- Housing systems involvement
- Created a housing department at ICADV
- Administering federal DV bonus funds for rapid rehousing
- Developing strategies for eviction expungement



# What we are doing: Public Policy

- **Public policy advocacy for economic equity and expanded social safety net**—paid family leave, minimum wage increase, pregnancy accommodation, opposing predatory lending, championing pre-k, increasing and indexing TANF, opposing enhanced charging and sentencing—particularly for children.





# What we are doing: Public Awareness

## *Complicating our understanding of domestic violence and remedies*

- Messaging the complexity of safety—non-violence plus basic needs
- Promoting awareness strategies that center belief, supports and positive outcomes (retiring the crosses)



# What we are doing: Service Delivery Models

- Exploring regional service models
- Increasing mobile advocacy supports:
  - Rapid rehousing, flex funding, virtual support services

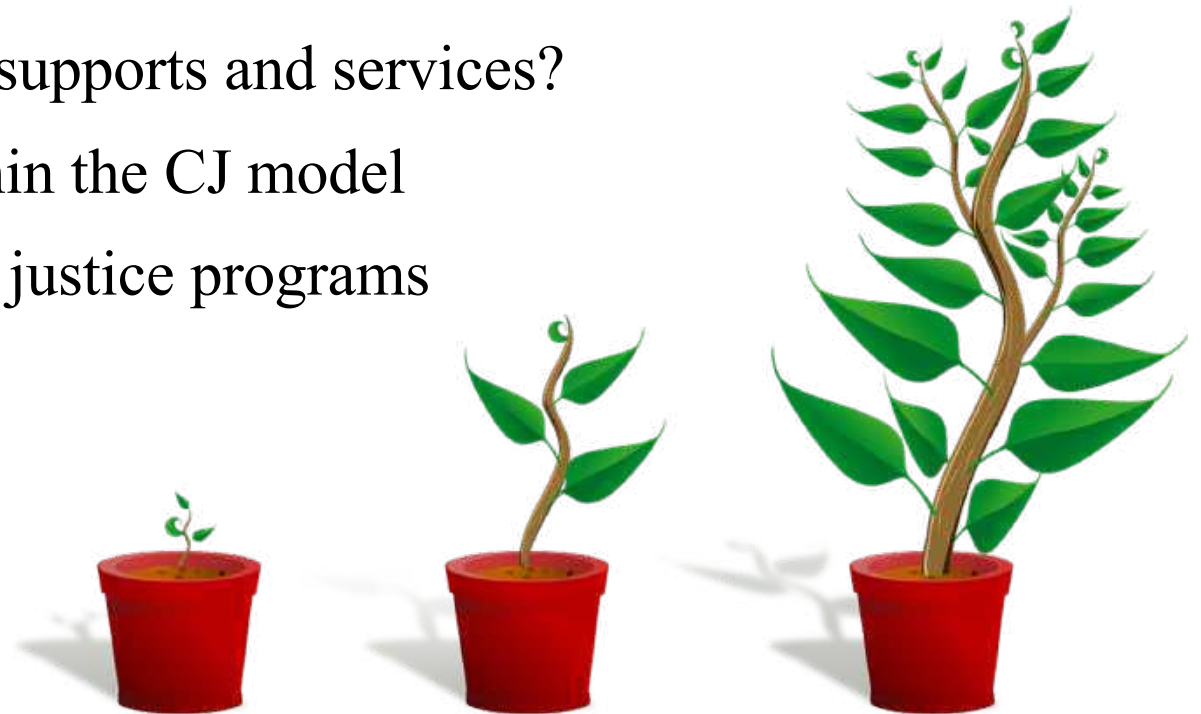


# Accountability Alternatives

*Provide survivors with a range of accountability options*

Cohort is working to evaluate our movements' relationship with law enforcement and accountability alternatives. Asking, *How might we*

- Improve the CJ response for those survivors who choose it?
- Advocate for a redirection of CJ funds to supports and services?
- Create restorative justice alternatives within the CJ model
- Support community-based transformative justice programs



# Reflections on the process





# Questions

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Movement report and materials: <https://icadvinc.org/movement/>







# National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

The National Resource Center  
on Domestic Violence  
([www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org)) provides a  
wide range of free,  
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