ILLINOIS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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# ICADV & IDHS:

## Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence Statewide

ICADV is the only statewide coalition in Illinois made up of organizations whose primary mission is to provide safety, shelter, advocacy, and education to survivors of domestic violence and communities throughout the state. Our mission is to build networks of support for and with survivors and advance statewide policies and practices that transform societal attitudes and institutions to eliminate and prevent domestic abuse. We carry out this mission through the training, technical assistance, and advocacy provided to and on behalf of our membership. But we can't end domestic violence alone. Stakeholder engagement and partnerships are key to sustaining and expanding the safety net for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Throughout ICADV's 45-year history, working together with private and public entities at the state, local and national levels have been critical to the success of community-based agencies' ability to meet the diverse needs of all survivors.

We hope to shed light on one of our key partners in these efforts. ICADV has a decades-long history of working collaboratively with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) as it strives to assist Illinois residents to achieve self-sufficiency, independence, and health to the maximum extent possible by providing integrated family-oriented services, promoting prevention, and establishing measurable outcomes in partnership with communities. It is this established relationship that has allowed us to greatly expand our ability to support local domestic violence services providers through our training and technical assistance delivery in the past year. Last Spring, as a result of a campaign developed by ICADV's Advocacy, Funding and Accountability Committee, domestic violence services providers were allocated a historical increase in General Revenue Funds to stabilize and expand their life saving services. With this incredible opportunity came a need for additional supports to help them succeed in this growth. IDHS anticipated this need, taking measures to engage ICADV in expanding its training and technical assistance resources setting domestic violence services providers up for maximum success.

In June 2022, ICADV launched the first phase of a needs assessment targeted at informing itself and IDHS about where survivors were getting the support they needed and identify those populations

who were underserved. Next, ICADV hosted a series of virtual technical assistance brainstorming meetings helping agencies strategize around serving survivors from LGBTQIA+ communities, immigrants, those who are undocumented, those with disabilities, those who are deaf, males, teens, those with mental health challenges, survivors whose first language is not English, and survivors in the most rural parts of Illinois. We shared with IDHS the outcomes of those calls and stressed the need to expand our efforts to increase their capacity for community outreach and program development which would help make services more accessible. Like many other employers, providers throughout the state indicated struggles sustaining a trained and committed workforce and expressed apprehensions about how to manage their anticipated growth. In response, ICADV engaged leaders from member agencies in a facilitated discussion about effectively managing growth in not-for-profit organizations which offered tools to help them move beyond a mindset of scarcity into a frame of abundance.

ICADV has been providing technical assistance since its inception in 1978. Year after year, that technical assistance has evolved based on the needs of the agencies and those needs have also evolved, based on the complex needs of individual survivors. In a joint effort with IDHS to help set providers up for success, ICADV expanded its training and technical assistance teams to help better meet today's needs of survivors and the agencies throughout the state who serve them. This expansion has allowed us to develop supports to local programs in the areas of housing, economic supports, community education, prevention, capacity building, financial and grants management, emergency shelter, advocacy, counseling and more. We have been able to offer more one on one assistance, homing in on specific challenges and build strategies to seize opportunities afforded to each individual agency. We have expanded our efforts to help agencies build their own capacity to ensure a strong foundation and infrastructure from which they can construct expanded survivor centered programming in communities throughout the entire state. We continue to expand these efforts. We look forward to continued partnership with IDHS. We look forward to pursuing more opportunities to strengthen the statewide safety net available so when a survivor reaches out, they know where to go for help, safety, and resources to achieve self-sufficiency. We look forward to building bridges with new partners in the public and private sector, working hand in hand to expand the statewide network of support and make Illinois families safer.