



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Support HB 5529
Department of Human Services Budget
March 30, 2021
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee
on Human Services

Founded in 1999, the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women (the Alliance) is a grassroots organization of survivors, advocates, multi-disciplinary community and system-based responders, and allies. The Alliance is dedicated to promoting legislation in Oregon that will protect and empower survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

HB 5529 and the Survivor-Specific programs in the Department of Human Services Budget are legislative priorities for the Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women:

Approximately a third of DHS self-sufficiency and child welfare cases involve domestic or sexual violence. The risks due to violence have only escalated during this past year of the COVID pandemic. Successful work with DHS clients who are at safety risk due to violence requires a trauma-informed, culturally specific, and survivor-centered approach. In times of crisis like the ones that we experienced last year, and the one we are continuing to experience, support for survivors is critical:

- 1) Domestic Violence Co-Located Advocate Program:** This program ensures that survivors who are DHS-involved have access to confidential, survivor-centered services. Specialized domestic violence advocates can provide support to survivors, to help create individualized safety plans and access to a range of community services. This program is the only program specifically creating a link for DHS-involved survivors to community supports that can support long-term safety.
- 2) Temporary Assistance to Domestic Violence Survivors:** The TA-DVS provides critical one-time emergency financial assistance of up to \$1200 to low-income survivors of domestic violence seeking safety for themselves and their children. The program can pay for emergency transportation, motel vouchers, security locks, lock changes, clothing for a family who had to flee abuse, and other emergency expenses. Payments are made to third party vendors, for safety-related emergency services for the survivor. The program saves lives by making it possible for victims with children to escape immediate danger. This program is under-funded, and this makes passage of the SIP and POP #130 all the more critical.
- 3) Survivor Investment Partnership (SIP), Policy Option Package #130:** This POP will invest \$10 million in funding to build upon the TA-DVS and Co-located advocate programs. The SIP was developed in partnership with the Governor's office, Oregon Tribes, culturally-specific domestic and sexual violence service providers, and community-based domestic and sexual violence service providers statewide. Funding for this program will ensure greater accessibility of advocacy services and meaningful financial support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault including Tribal communities, individuals without children, and vulnerable populations. **Importantly, the SIP recognizes that tribes and culturally specific organizations know their communities best, and survivors know their circumstances best.**

The Alliance strongly supports passage and full-funding of HB 5529 so that survivors have access to culturally-responsive and culturally-specific, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed services to help access immediate and long-term safety from abuse.