



OFA State and Tribal Technical Assistance
Resources Webinar:
Intimate Partner Violence in the time of
COVID-19: TANF's Vital Role in Prevention

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
1:00pm EDT



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Welcome

- **James Butler, Family Assistance Program Specialist,
Office of Family Assistance (OFA), Administration for
Children and Families (ACF) (Moderator)**

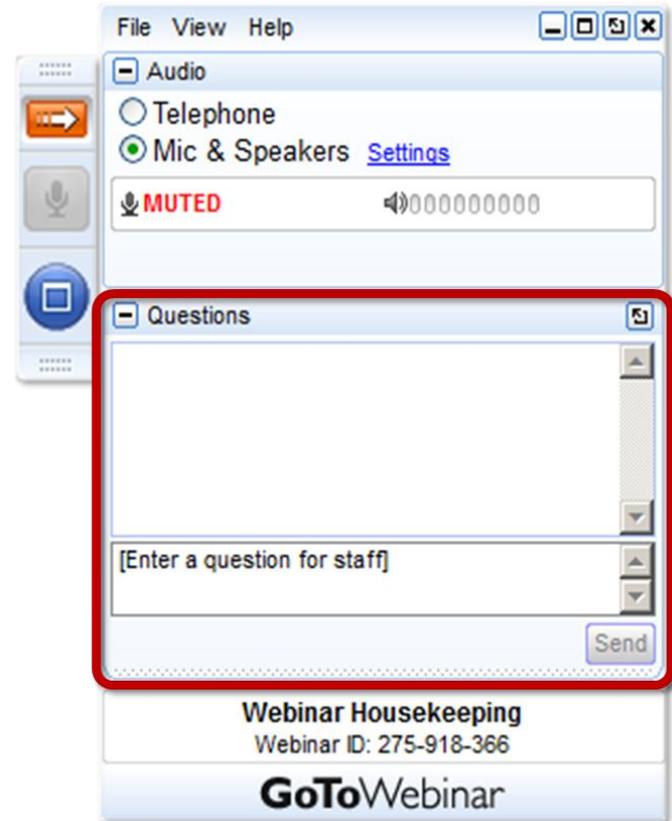


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Using GoToWebinar

Participation

Please submit your questions and comments using the Questions panel on the right hand side of your screen while phones are muted.



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Facilitator



**Jessie Kendall,
Senior Manager, ICF**



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Webinar Overview



Today's webinar will have four main sections:

- ❑ Presentations from our Subject Matter Expert and State representative introducing the topics of IPV and TANF populations.
- ❑ A facilitated discussion with the panelists.
- ❑ Polling questions with the audience.
- ❑ Audience Q&A



Presenters



Marium Durrani, Director of Policy, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence



Jan Mickish, Ph.D., Lead Trainer, Staff Development Division, Colorado Department of Human Services



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Polling Question #1

Choose which of the following best describes your professional capacity of types of services you provide:

- TANF or Human Services Administrator
- Supervisor
- Case Manager
- Researcher/TA Provider
- Other



Polling Question #2

By your assessment, has the prevalence of IPV/DV increased in the time of the pandemic?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know



Intimate Partner Violence in the Time of COVID-19: TANF's Vital Role in Prevention

Marium Durrani, Director of Policy



National Resource Center
on Domestic Violence



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The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (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.

Key Initiatives & Special Projects

ACE-DV

Building
Comprehensive
Solutions

preventIPV
tools for social change



COMMUNITY BASED
PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
EVIDENCE PROJECT**

VAWnet

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
**AWARENESS
PROJECT**

**RHY
TOOLKIT**



SAFE HOUSING
PARTNERSHIPS

Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is **highly prevalent**. According to NISVS, **1 in 4 women** and nearly **1 in 10 men** have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported some form of IPV-related impact.

Associated with a wide range of **negative health and economic consequences**

- Injury and death
- Physical health (e.g., cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, nervous system conditions)
- Mental health (e.g., depression, PTSD)
- Missed days of school or work and economic instability

The Economic Cost of IPV

The lifetime per-victim cost was **\$103,767 for women** and **\$23,414 for men**.

- Reflects differences in outcomes (e.g., rape-related pregnancy), differences in number of affected victims by sex for particular outcomes, and limited research that included male victims.

Study shows the **lifetime economic cost of IPV to the U.S. population is \$3.6 trillion**.

- Includes 32 million women and 12 million men who are victims of IPV during their lives.



Intimate Partner Violence and TANF Recipients

- **Recipients of TANF experience higher rates of domestic violence than the general population.**
- At the time FVO was enacted **15% to 51%** of welfare recipients were experiencing domestic violence or had previously experienced domestic violence.[1]
- More recently available studies have estimated that **29% to 74%** of TANF recipients report recent (within 12 months of interview) domestic violence victimization, versus **22% to 31%** of the general population.[2]

[1] Government Accountability Office. (2005). TANF: State approaches to screening for intimate partner violence could benefit from HHS guidance. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved from <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05701.pdf>

[2] Cheng, T. C. (2013). Intimate partner violence and welfare participation: A longitudinal causal analysis. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28(4), 808–830 . Retrieved from <http://jiv.sagepub.com/content/28/4/808>

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Economic Instability

- Significant numbers of low-income women are abused or assaulted, and violence can make it nearly impossible to climb out of poverty.
- Poverty and economic instability can also make it more difficult to cope with the physical, psychological, and financial impacts of DV/SA.
- People of color experience disproportionate rates of poverty.
- Approximately 1 in 4 Native Americans live in poverty - nearly twice the overall national poverty rate.
- LGBTQ communities experience higher rates of poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, housing instability, and economic vulnerability.
- Immigrants, particularly immigrants without documentation, face significantly higher rates of poverty, hunger, and unstable and low-paying employment.
- Disability is both a cause and consequence of poverty.

Survivors' ability to meet basic needs is central to their decision-making about whether or not they can leave an abusive relationship

“We Would Have Had to Stay”

Survivors' Economic Security and
Access to Public Benefits Programs

A joint report of



National Resource Center
on Domestic Violence

national
latin@
network
Creando Oportunidades

Two-thirds (67%) of survivors surveyed said that they stayed longer than they wanted or returned to an abusive relationship because of financial concerns.

In addition, **37%** of survivors said that they stayed longer or returned to an abusive relationship because they were worried about being able to meet their own or their children's medical needs without their partner's insurance or financial help.

Despite TANF being so clearly identified as a vital resource for victims, respondents described varying levels of access.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SURVIVING AND NOT SURVIVING

Public Benefits Programs and Domestic and Sexual Violence
Victims' Economic Security

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#TheDifference

CENTER ON
POVERTY and
INEQUALITY
www.economicsecurity.org

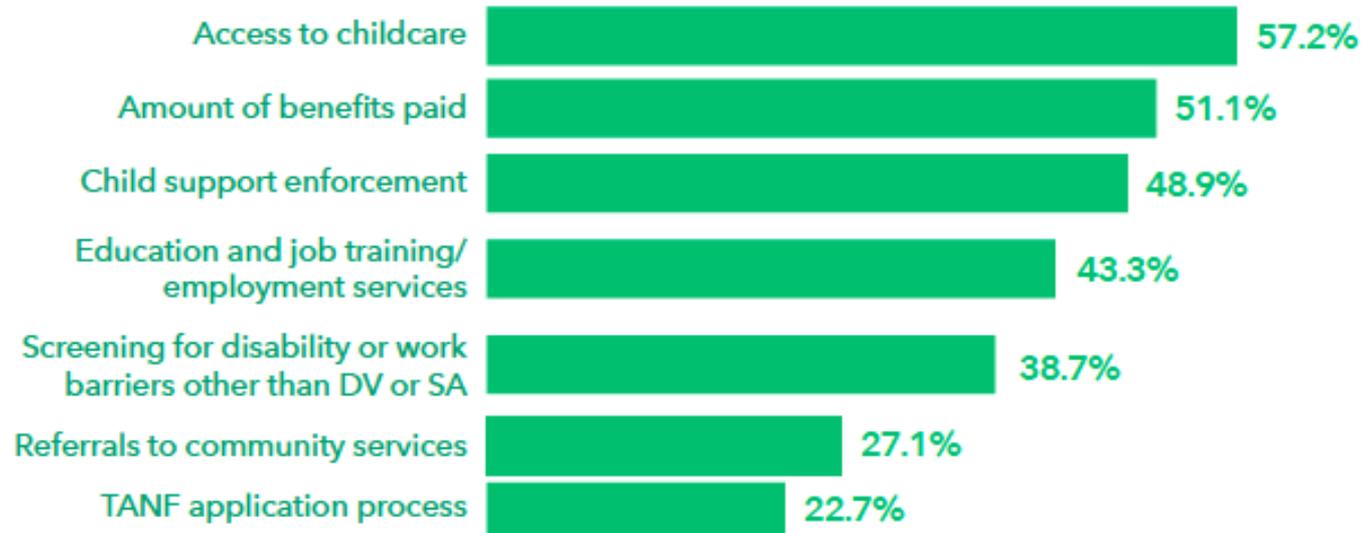
ECONOMIC
SECURITY and
OPPORTUNITY
INITIATIVE

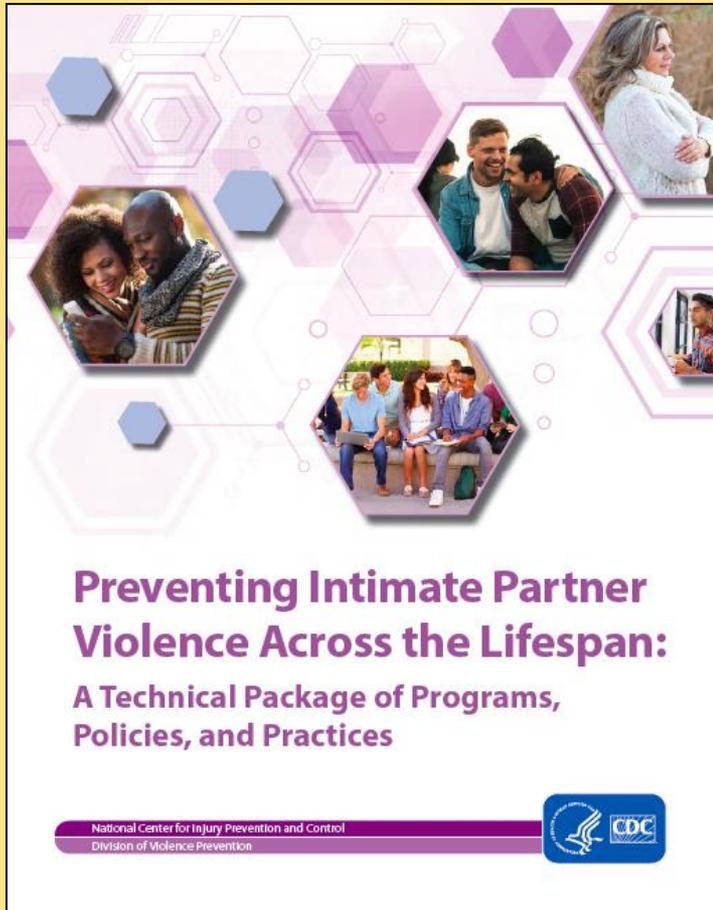
Less than half of respondents reported that domestic violence survivors they work with are able to access TANF when they need it, and even fewer say that sexual assault survivors can access TANF.

“[TANF] is pivotal to clients in crisis. If it was easier to obtain, and clients knew about the [Family Violence Option], it could really change lives.”

Barriers to Accessing TANF

Percentage of advocates responding that the following parts of the TANF system do not work well for victims.



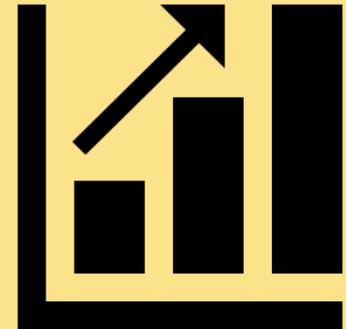


Improving household financial security and work-family supports are ways to strengthen economic supports for families and potentially reduce IPV.

“TANF and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are examples of programs that can strengthen household financial security through providing cash benefits to low-income households.”

Intimate Partner Violence and COVID-19

- **Minnesota:** Statewide crisis hotline reported a 25% increase in calls in the first weekend after a stay-at-home order was put in place.
- **Louisiana:** Statewide coalition reported a sharp increase in calls to the hotline and requests for service at most of its domestic violence programs starting the week of March 30, 2020.
- **Washington, DC:** The city's largest domestic violence crisis intervention agency reports that the traffic on its response line has doubled.
- **New York City:** The city's domestic and sexual violence resource website reported a 250% increase in daily traffic on the website between March 18 and April 5.



COVID-19 Increases and Exacerbates Barriers for TANF Recipients

COVID-19 SURVIVOR STORIES FROM THE LINES

"A caller said they could not file paperwork to remove the abuser from their home, because courts are closed due to COVID-19."

"A caller was experiencing an escalation of abuse. They had tested positive for COVID-19, and the abuser was using isolation to keep them from contacting family. The abuser threatened the survivor with deportation (survivor is currently in the process of becoming a US citizen)."



"A chatter stated that they have known for a long time that there were red flags in the relationship, but things are escalating with the pandemic, and they can't even go to therapy."

"A chatter mentioned that the abuser was using the virus as a scare tactic to keep the survivor away from their kids."

- Stay at home orders
- Job loss
- Unemployment
- Economic Anxiety
- Loss of Childcare
- Travel Restrictions
- Court closed
- Isolation
- Stress

Increasing Partnerships and Education Around TANF and FVO Helps Survivors

- Only **1/5th** of advocates working in domestic violence and/or sexual assault programs report that they regularly work with the offices in their area that administer TANF.
- About **1/2** of domestic violence advocates report that they work with the TANF office on a case-specific basis only.
- More than **2/3rd** of respondents said they had not received training on any key topics related to public benefits programs and access for survivors.





National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

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Poll Question #3

What do you see as the primary challenges that have emerged or increased during the pandemic related to IPV? Select all that apply.

- Increased prevalence of IPV among TANF recipients
- Increased family financial instability
- Lack of privacy to access needed IPV supports
- Increased family stressors
- Other



TANF and Intimate Partner Violence

Janet Mickish, Ph.D., Lead Trainer, Staff Development Division
Colorado Department of Human Services



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TANF: Purpose

- Children cared for in their homes
- Prevent/reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies
- Job preparation, work, marriage
- Two parent families



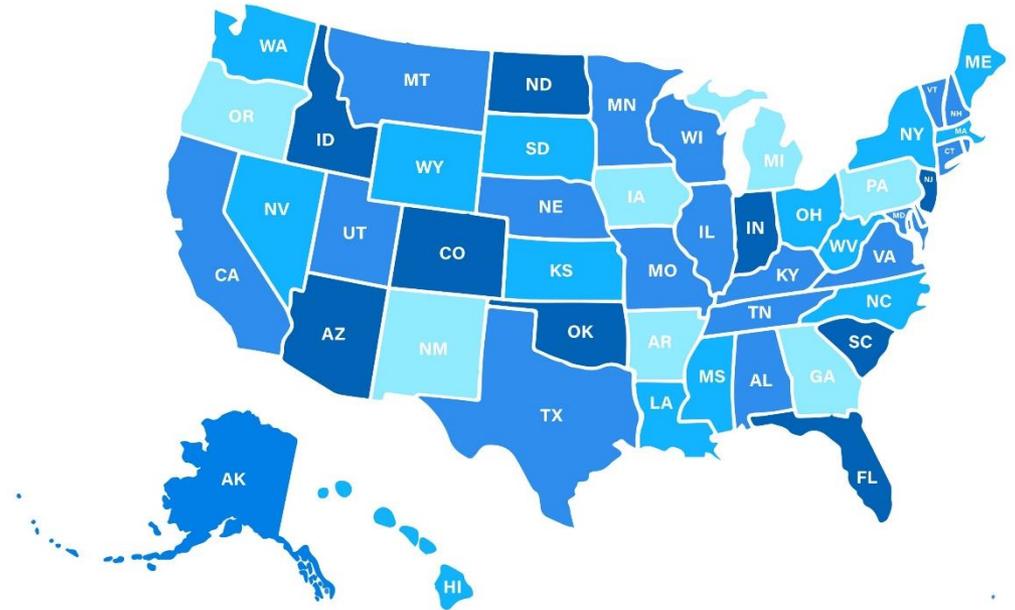
TANF: General Overview



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TANF: How It Works

- Block Grant
- Federally supervised
- State administered



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TANF: Support

Case management

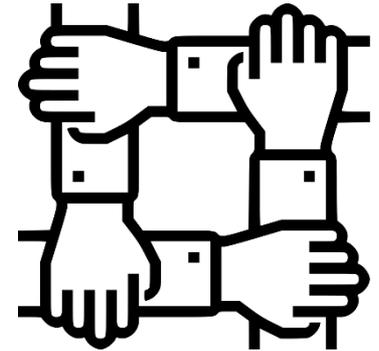
- Individual
- Strength based
- Family centered
- Employment focused



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TANF: Collaboration Support

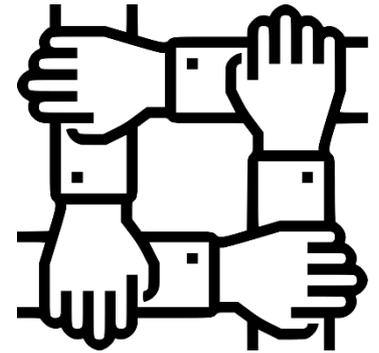
- Earned Income Tax Credit (not counted as income for eligibility)
- Child Support Services (100% pass through)
- Transitional Food (for 6mo after TANF)
- Child Care (for 12mo after TANF)
- Address Confidentiality Program



TANF: Collaboration Support



- Non-custodial parent services
- Additional financial assistance
- Behavioral health services
- Relocation assistance
- Employment support
- Education / training
- Diversion
- Referrals



TANF: IPV



- **Prevalence:** ~74% report recent IPV victimization
- **Consequences:**
 - *Physical and behavioral health issues:* asthma, stroke, substance abuse, depression
 - *Job insecurity:* In the U.S., women miss 8 million paid workdays each year due to domestic violence.
 - *Homelessness:* IPV is one of the leading causes for homelessness among women and children
 - *Financial issues:* exhaust finances to address IPV



TANF: Supports For Survivors

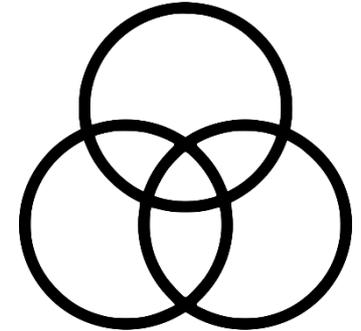
- **Screening**
- **Assessment**
- **Colorado:** Prudent Person Principle to determine good cause
- **Family Violence Option (FVO) “Good Cause” Waivers**
 - Child Support Services referral
 - Work / program participation
 - Extension beyond established time limits
- **Referrals**
- **Staff training**
- **Payment for treatment & advocacy**
(perpetrators, children, survivor)



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Intersection: TANF, IPV, COVID -19

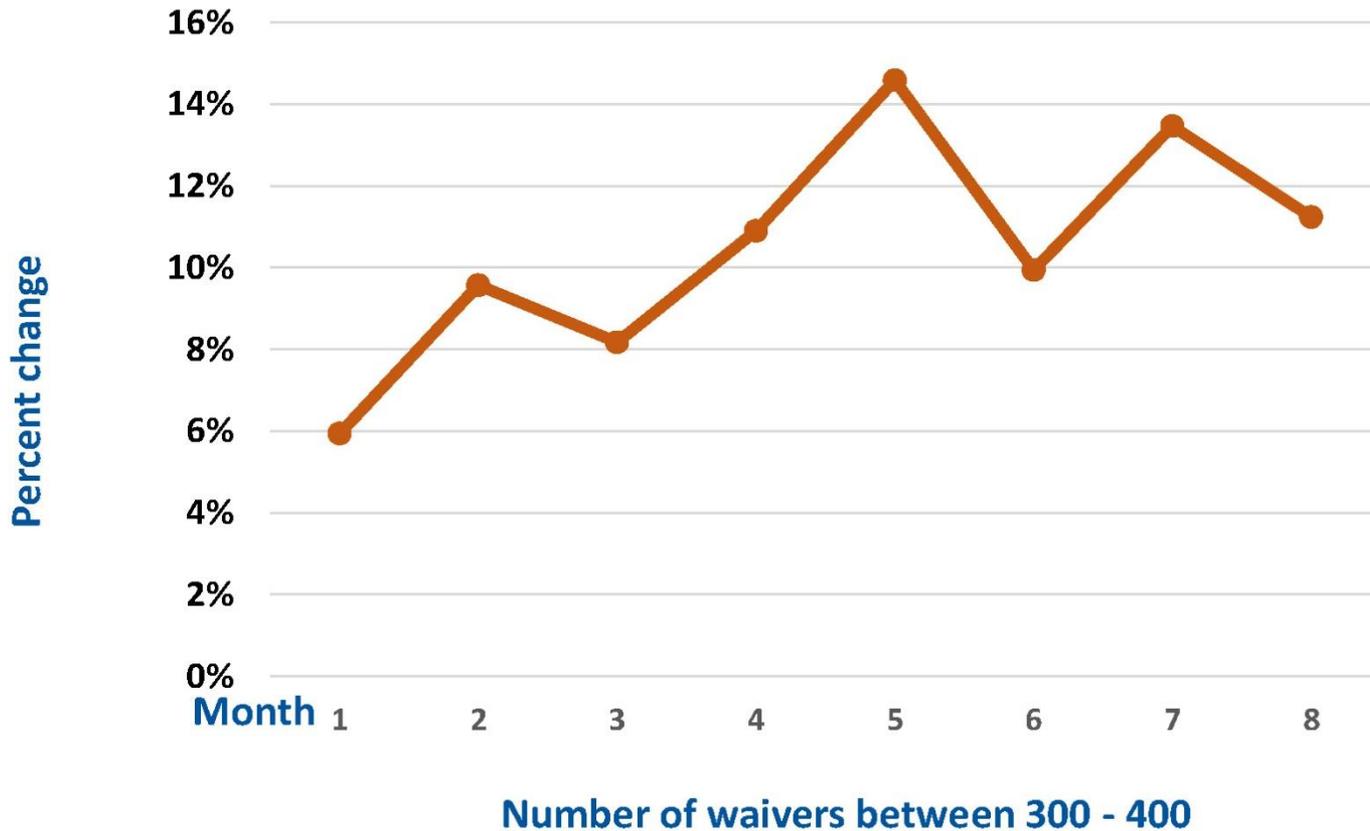
- Increase community collaboration & leveraging of community resources
- Increased creativity: work activities
- Apply for CARES Act funds
(Colorado received \$900,000+)



Colorado Change in Percentage of FVO Waivers



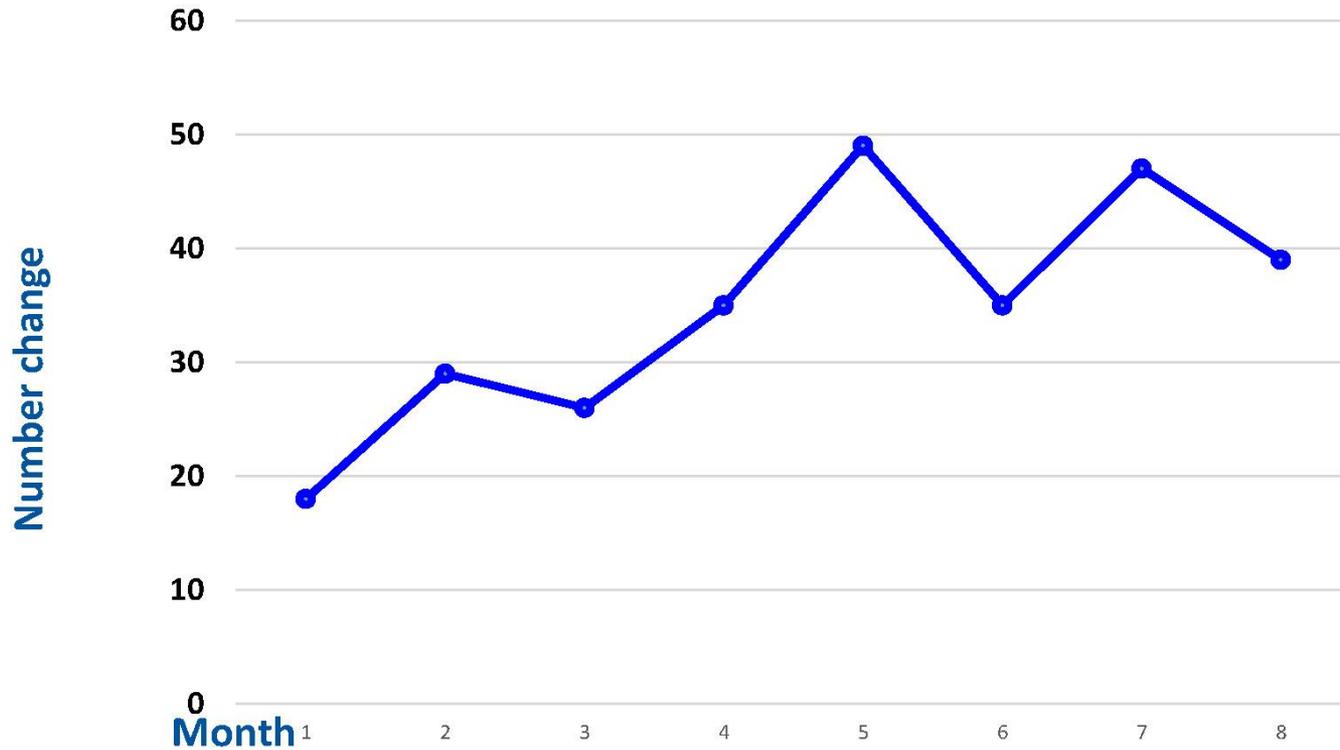
January - August 2019 & 2020



Colorado Change in Number of FVO Waivers



August 2019 - August 2020



Number of waivers between 300 - 400



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Facilitated Panel Discussion

Jessie Kendall, Facilitator

Marium Durrani, Subject Matter Expert

Jan Mickish, State Representative



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Poll Question #4



What kinds of resources/ support services does your agency currently provide to participants experiencing IPV? Select all that apply.

- Referrals to partner organizations
- Domestic Violence hotline telephone numbers
- Screenings during intake
- Childcare
- Other



Q&A



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Poll Question #5



What topics would you like to see in future webinars?

Please submit responses in the Questions box.



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Additional Information

- ❑ OFA PeerTA website (<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov>)
- ❑ A transcript and audio recording of this webinar will be available shortly on the PeerTA Network website at: <https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/>. We would also like to hear from you about future webinar topics. Please send us your ideas by e-mail to peerta@icf.com.
- ❑ Future webinar topics (peerta@icf.com)



Webinar Feedback

- Please remember to provide your feedback using the brief survey that will launch when the webinar ends.

Thank you!



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