



**Not Enough:  
What TANF Offers Family  
Violence Victims**

# THE SURVEY - Fall 2009

- Nearly 600 respondents, including individuals from all 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- The majority (78%) of respondents work at domestic violence or dual domestic violence/sexual assault programs. Also responding were staff from legal aid or other anti-poverty programs (13%) and from TANF/CSE agencies (5%).
- Most respondents (82%) provide direct services to victims.

# KEY RESULTS

- TANF is important to domestic violence victims (96%).
- TANF can make a significant difference - when it works well.
- TANF can make a significant difference - when it doesn't work well.

# KEY RESULTS

## When it works well --

- Collaboration between DV and TANF/CSE agencies
- Trained responders
- Flexible use of TANF funds
- Streamlined processes
- Benefits for immigrant victims

# KEY RESULTS

## **TANF fails too many victims --**

- *Application process creates barriers*
- *Benefits too low and often delayed*
- *Screening is often inconsistent and ineffective*
- *Notification of FV specific waivers, services is often ineffective*
- *Disclosures may not lead to needed help*
- *Some responses make things worse = less safe*
- *CSE also inconsistent re: safety and financial concerns*

# MAKING TANF MORE EFFECTIVE

(top ranked from 1st)

- Employment services
- Child care
- DV training for CSE/TANF workers
- Relocation assistance
- Transportation
- Improve FV screening
- Increase TANF benefits

# OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Shorten application process/less documentation
- Flexible FV exemption and work requirements
- Access to mental health, substance abuse, trauma
- Onsite advocates, TANF workers
- Reduce sanctions
- Improve confidentiality
- Improve CSE and coordinate exemptions
- Remove barriers for immigrants
- More specialized/ relevant services

# For More Information

- **National Resource Center on Domestic Violence**

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**[www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org)**

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