#### Welcome, this web conference will begin soon

## CENTERING SURVIVORS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE:

EXPLORING ECONOMIC SUPPORTS
TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND INTIMATE
PARTNER VIOLENCE WITH FREEFROM

Monday, October 25, 2021 11 AM-12:30 PM PT/2 PM-3:30 PM ET







#### Meet the PreventConnect Team



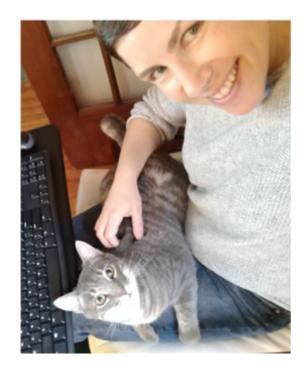
Ashleigh Klein-Jimenez
Director of Prevention
she/her/hers



**Tori VandeLinde**Project Coordinator
she/her/hers



#### Meet Our Collaborative Partners



**Casey Keene** 

Director of Programs & Prevention, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence she/her/hers



**Shenna Morris** 

Director of Policy
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Black/she/her/hers





#### **PreventConnect.org**

info@PreventConnect.org

PreventConnect.org/email - email group

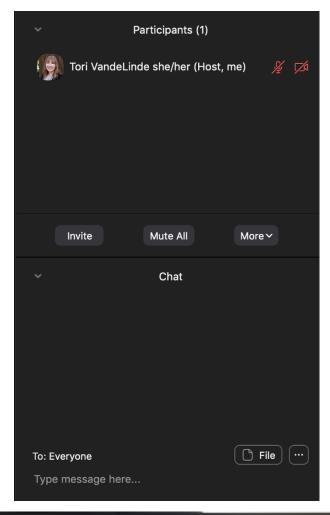
Learn.PreventConnect.org - eLearning

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#### How to use Zoom + Housekeeping

- Text chat and private chat
  - Please send a private chat message for help.
- PowerPoint Slides
- Polling Questions
- Phone
- Closed Captioning
- Web Conference Guidelines







#### PreventConnect

- Domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Sexual violence
- Violence across the lifespan, including child sexual abuse
- Prevent before violence starts
- Connect to other forms of violence and oppression
- Connect to other prevention practitioners



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PreventConnect is a national project of ValorUS, formerly known as the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The views and information provided in this web conference do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. government, CDC or VALOR.



#### Objectives

- Describe the connections between survivor-supportive and survivorcentered economic security and preventing sexual and intimate partner violence
- Identify additional economic support strategies for sexual and intimate partner violence prevention including and beyond those already widely supported in the field
- Discuss opportunities and challenges for our own organizations and the sexual and intimate partner violence movement to support the financial security of those whose labor is critical to serving survivors and preventing violence



Welcome,
This Web Conference
Will Begin Soon



#### Organizing for economic opportunity

Strategies to improve economic opportunities for sexual and domestic violence prevention

http://www.preventconnect.org/2017/06/organizing-for-economic-opportunity-strategies-to-improve-economic-opportunities-for-sexual-and-domestic-violence-prevention/



Getting Started
on Supporting
Economic
Opportunity for
Sexual and Domestic
Violence Prevention



http://www.preventconnect.org/2018/11/getting-started-on-supporting-economic-opportunity-for-sexual-and-domestic-violence-prevention/



By Tori Vandelinde on April 11, 2019

## Economic security and safe relationships: Pathways and actions for partner violence prevention

http://www.preventconnect.org/2019/04/economic-security-and-safe-relationships-pathways-and-actions-for-partner-violence-prevention/

#### From paid leave to rent stabilization: Research and practice on strengthening economic security for violence prevention

Thursday August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 11 AM-12:30 PM PT/2 PM-3:30 PM ET

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http://www.preventconnect.org/2019/08/from-paid-leave-to-rent-stabilization-research-and-practice-onstrengthening-economic-security-for-violence-prevention/





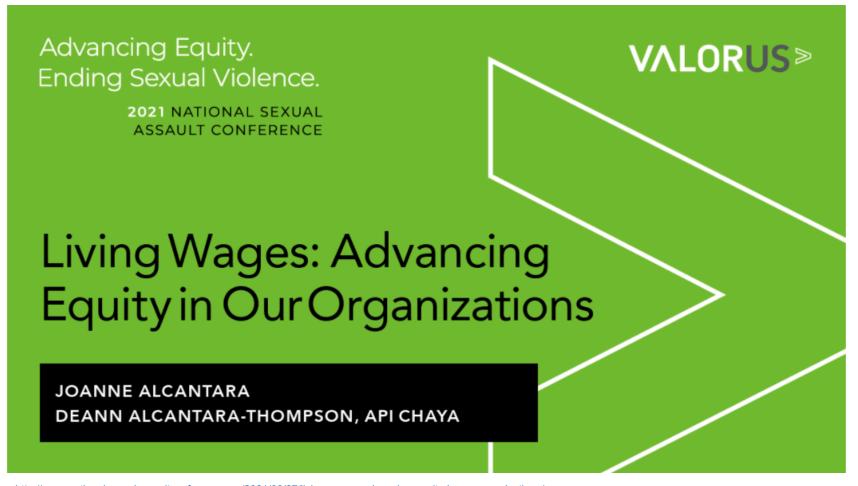
http://www.preventconnect.org/2020/07/messaging-the-connections-explaining-the-links-between-strengthening-economic-supports-and-preventing-sexual-and-intimate-partner-violence/

By Tori Vandelinde on September 28, 2020

## Disproportionate Economic Impacts of COVID-19 & Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention

http://www.preventconnect.org/2020/09/disproportionate-economic-impacts-of-covid-19-sexual-and-intimate-partner-violence-prevention/

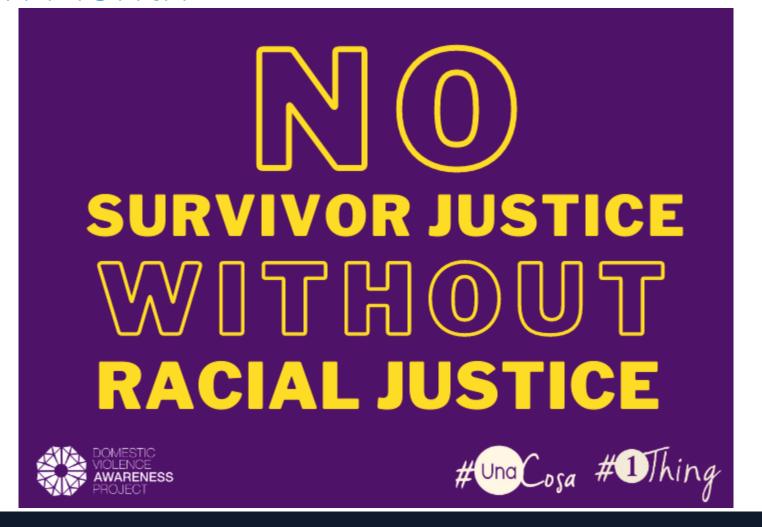




http://www.nationalsexualassaultconference.org/2021/06/27/living-wages-advancing-equity-in-our-organizations/



October is Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month





## Where do you see the connections between racial justice and economic justice?

**Text Chat Question** 

## Use the Text Chat feature to answer the question.

Chat

#### From Me to Everyone:

Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!

To: Everyone ▼

Type message here...

#### CDC Violence Prevention Technical Packages

STOP SV		
	Strategy	Approach
S	Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence	Bystander approaches     Mobilizing men and boys as allies
T	Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence	Social-emotional learning     Teaching healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to adolescents     Promoting healthy sexuality     Empowerment-based training
<b>(</b>	Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women	Strengthening economic supports for women and families     Strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls
P	Create Protective Environments	Improving safety and monitoring in schools     Establishing and consistently applying workplace policies     Addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches
sv	Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms	Victim-centered services     Treatment for victims of SV     Treatment for at-risk children and families to prevent problem behavior including sex offending

Preventing IPV		
Strategy	Approach	
Teach safe and healthy relationship skills	Social-emotional learning programs for youth     Healthy relationship programs for couples	
Engage influential adults and peers	Men and boys as allies in prevention     Bystander empowerment and education     Family-based programs	
Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence	Early childhood home visitation     Preschool enrichment with family engagement     Parenting skill and family relationship programs     Treatment for at-risk children, youth and families	
Create protective environments	Improve school climate and safety     Improve organizational policies and workplace climate     Modify the physical and social environments of neighborhoods	
Strengthen economic supports for families	Strengthen household financial security     Strengthen work-family supports	
Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms	<ul> <li>Victim-centered services</li> <li>Housing programs</li> <li>First responder and civil legal protections</li> <li>Patient-centered approaches</li> <li>Treatment and support for survivors of IPV, including TDV</li> </ul>	



#### National Prevention Town Hall



https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sc-ChpiMpH9EPe6sKixiZXv\_EJg-hFq2q



## National Capacity Building Center on Safe & Supportive Housing for DV Survivors

#### **Demonstrated Needs:**

- A. Safe, accessible and affordable housing and the economic means to maintain stable housing
- B. Domestic violence programs assistance in helping survivors navigate housing programs and accessing resources
- C. Housing programs struggle to meet competing demands, and they lack survivor-centered, trauma-informed and culturally appropriate approaches
- D. The majority of domestic violence, homeless/housing and runaway/homeless youth services are mainstream programs that replicate oppressive and discriminatory practices
- E. Strong correlations between domestic/dating violence, racism, housing instability and economic security resulting in disparate outcomes for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) survivors and families





#### DVHTAC & Housing Insecurity

#### **DV & Housing TA Consortium**

#### **Federal Partners**

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD
- · US Interagency Council on Homelessness

#### Technical Assistance Providers

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)



#### The Cycle of Housing Insecurity







#### Meet Our Guest



Tannia Ventura
Director of Service Provider Engagement
and Education,
FreeFrom
she/her





#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Intro to FreeFrom
- 2. Financial Capacity Building within the Movement
- 3. Building Survivor-Centered Workplaces
- 4. Collective Power
- 5. Systems Change
- 6. Q&A







#### FREEFROM'S APPROACH

We envision a world where survivors have sustaining income, savings, and credit with which to build wealth and the resources to support individual, intergenerational, and community healing.

To that end, we are taking a holistic approach using technology, peer-to-peer networks, training programs, policy advocacy, social enterprise models, and cross-sector solutions.





#### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE NATIONALLY

1 in 2 trans folks

1 in 4 women



#### IPV + WOMEN/GIRLS/FEMMES



41.2%

of Black women experience IPV

40%

of lesbian women experience IPV

60%

up to 60% of Native American women experience IPV

61%

of bisexual women experience IPV



#### **GENDER AND RACIAL WEALTH GAPS**



#### For every \$1 white men earn

Asian women earn only

90¢

Black women earn only

62¢

Native American women earn only

**57¢** 

Latinx women earn only

54¢

#### For every \$1 white men own

Black and Latinx women own only

pennies

Native American women own

less than 1/10

of the median wealth of all Americans





#### **COST OF ECONOMIC ABUSE**

98% of survivors report being subjected to economic abuse.

On average, survivors reported:

- Harm-doers steal \$1,280 from them each month.
- Harm-doers restrict their freedom to spend an additional \$1,090 of their own money as they see fit each month.
- Harm-doers incur \$15,936 in coerced or fraudulent debt in their names each year.
- They lose out on \$23,076 of income every year.





#### **FREEFROM PILLARS**

- Building a Sustainable Movement: Supporting the anti-violence movement in centering economic security for all survivors and building their financial capacity.
- **Growing our Collective Power:** Creating tools, resources and environments to support survivors' collective economic and community power.
- Catalyzing Societal Action: Bringing in our society's institutions as part of the ecosystem of support.
- Advancing Culture Change: Data collection, storytelling, and research to shift the narrative from crisis response to systemic change.



# How can policies and practices that support survivors' financial independence prevent sexual and intimate partner violence?

**Text Chat Question** 

## Use the Text Chat feature to answer the question.

Chat

#### From Me to Everyone:

Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!

To: Everyone ▼

Type message here...



### FINANCIAL CAPACITY BUILDING







#### COMMON WORKPLACE FINANCIAL PRACTICES

- Conversations with survivors about employment, housing, public benefits
- Anything related to salaries/hourly rates, including submitting timecards
- Organizational and program budgets
- Grant writing and reporting
- Money conversation among teammates
- Employee benefits and policies
- Hiring
- Staff turnovers

What others can you think of?





## PRIORITIZING FINANCIAL SECURITY IN THE MOVEMENT TO END IPV: A ROADMAP

- The #1 obstacle to safety for survivors is financial insecurity. It follows, then, that the key to safety—and in particular long-term safety—is financial security.
- The goal of this report is to illuminate what will enable staff working in the intimate partner violence (IPV) movement to prioritize client economic security and, from there, provide a roadmap for what building financial work could look like.

https://www.freefrom.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Prioritizing\_Financial\_Security\_Report.pdf





- Staff working in the IPV movement are not able to support clients in building financial security as much as they would like, but given the opportunity, they have very clear ideas of what more they could do and a willingness to do it.
- The key obstacles to prioritizing financial security at an organizational level revolve around a lack of flexible funding. Funding specifically for financial work with clients and training staff is needed, along with more unrestricted funding to foster greater innovation.
- The key obstacles to individual staff doing more financial work are a lack of training and financial education and the need for greater financial security themselves. They feel ill-equipped to teach what they have not experienced.
- Prioritizing financial security in the movement requires meaningful investment in staff well-being.

  We must begin by acknowledging that many staff not only experience financial insecurity but also identify as survivors.



#### Average number of clients assisted with various types of financial work (n=44)



## On average, no clients were assisted with:

- Identity fraud
- Support for gig/contract workers
- Small business education

- Business planning
- Permits, licenses, or other start-up business legal support

## On average, a few clients were assisted with:

- Saving/building a savings plan
- Opening a checking or savings account
- Credit building/repairing
- Paying down debt

- Resume building
- Work readiness
- Searching for a job
- Applying for a job

## On average, some clients were assisted with:

- Financial literacy
- Budgeting





#### Client financial needs (n=52)

- Building Income
- 2 Budgeting
- 3 Managing Debt
- 4 Building Savings
- 5 Building/repairing credit score

There is clearly a disconnect between staff's perceived understanding of their client's financial needs and the support offered.





#### They said:

- Expanding funding specifically targeted for the financial security of clients
- Training and resources for staff on assisting clients with income building, debt management, credit repair, etc.
- Greater financial security for staff

4 More flexible funding





#### FINANCIAL CAPACITY BUILDING OFFERINGS

- Training and webinars: agencies can contract us to lead workshops, trainings, or a series of trainings on a variety of financial topics (for staff)
  - Typically starts at \$800/hr but can work with different budgets
- Special projects and consultations: contracting FreeFrom as a subject matter experts to assist with a project (research, launching a new program, organizational change efforts, etc)
  - \$300/hr or can quote a project price





#### FREE OFFERINGS TO SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Become a member of our newest Starting From Within Listserv to connect with other service providers committed to advocating for living wages and healthy work conditions in the anti-violence movement.
- Sign up for our Service Provider Newsletter to receive information, tips, info on free webinars, and resources about doing financial security work with survivors
- Sign up for an upcoming Q&A with FreeFrom & Peers to join our monthly service provider support groups.

Sign up here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PFSMSurvey





## BUILDING SURVIVOR CENTERED

WORKPLACES







#### SURVIVORS WORKING IN THE MOVEMENT

1 in 2

staff members we spoke to **identified as survivors**  1 in 4

staff who identified as survivors reported **still being in contact with their harm-doer**  1 in 5

staff members do not feel completely safe at home

The average salary reported by staff was \$35,436 after tax.

This means that, on average, none of the staff in our study currently earn enough to support themselves and a child.





#### FROM A SERVICE PROVIDER:

"I feel like if we were all financially secure that, we [could] all work better. Because we wouldn't have to worry about that car bill that's due next week and stuff like that, and that we could just focus more on the clients...and not have to be stressed about how we're going to keep paying our bills."





#### Some recommendations from staff in our study included:

- Living wage salaries
- 2 More comprehensive benefits, including coverage for family members and part-time employees
- Expanding paid time off by creating wellness days and encouraging staff to take vacation
- Improvements to schedules and workload, such as lightening caseloads, hiring more staff, and flexible work schedules
- **5** Building an open and supportive culture for survivors on staff



#### WHAT FREEFROM IS DOING & SHARING





BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK POLICY



100% COVERED HEALTH, VISION
AND DENTAL INSURANCE



UNLIMITED MENSTRUAL LEAVE



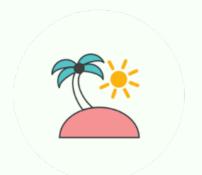
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PAID
AND PROTECTED LEAVE



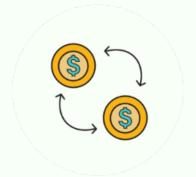
**BUILDING WEALTH STIPEND** 



PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH STIPEND



UNLIMITED VACATION + VACATION STIPEND



5% COMPANY MATCH OF 401K



What would it mean for sexual and intimate partner violence prevention and survivor support if sexual and intimate partner violence organizations prioritize the economic security of those working in the movement?

**Text Chat Question** 

## Use the Text Chat feature to answer the question.

Chat

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To: Everyone ▼

Type message here...



## **COLLECTIVE POWER**







#### WHAT IS COLLECTIVE POWER

- Building a survivor led movement
- Collective voices with shared experiences uniting to bring about change on the local and federal level
- Storytelling through data and research that centers and uplifts survivors of marginalized groups (e.g. BIPOC, transgender, system impacted, folks who are undocumented)
- Community

How are you currently supporting survivors creating collective power?





#### **SURVIVOR SAFETY FUND**

Over 7,200 survivors received cash grants of about \$244 over the last year.

- Only requirements:
  - Self identify as a survivor of GBV
  - Safe way to receive money
- Trust-based giving meaning survivors could use that money however they wanted and we did not require follow-up on what money was used for or proof/receipts
- Of those who did follow up, most commonly used for food and utilities





## **SURVIVOR SAFETY FUND - SURVIVORS HAD TO SAY:**

"I was able to pay my car payment without feeling worried. I was able to purchase a new bed for my daughter, too. It was the first time in almost two years where I felt free(!) to purchase something, without guilt. That FEELING is what you most afforded me. Some breathing room and a sense of normalcy."

"The cash came just in time to fix my car. Not having a vehicle makes it difficult to get groceries (I use EBT so I can't order online). Also, my child's dad has threatened to keep her or change custody when I don't have transportation to drop her off at the court ordered time and location. So, the timing of this grant was a huge relief."





#### SURVIVORS KNOW BEST AND TRUST SURVIVORS

FreeFrom released two reports on what we have learned thus far from providing survivors with flexible cash grants. Our last Safety Fund round closed in 6 hours due to high demand and we currently have 2,000 survivors on our waitlist. Our hope is to encourage more agencies and institutions to create their own flex fund programs or re-design existing grant programs to be more flexible.

- Survivors Know Best (data to support flexible cash funds):
   <a href="https://www.freefrom.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Survivors-Know-Best.pdf">https://www.freefrom.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Survivors-Know-Best.pdf</a>
- **Trust Survivors** (7 steps to ensure flex cash grants as survivor-centered and data to support): <a href="https://www.freefrom.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/TrustSurvivorsReport.pdf">https://www.freefrom.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/TrustSurvivorsReport.pdf</a>





#### SURVIVOR FINANCIAL PEER-TO-PEER GROUPS

Survivors come together in a **peer-to-peer** setting focused on achieving financial freedom and building community while sharing and receiving resources that encourage healing, safety, financial security, and overall well-being. These are survivor led peer-to-peer financial support groups **independent of any agency.** 

Contact Em Jackson at <a href="mailto:em.Jackson@freefrom.org">em.Jackson@freefrom.org</a> for more information.





#### PROGRAM DESIGN

- Hands-off
- Flexibility
- Trusting survivors to navigate their healing and providing support
- Reaching ALL survivors, regardless if they stay or leave
- Offering groups nationwide
- Continuously innovating to meet survivors where they are





#### SURVIVOR-CENTERED SAVINGS PROGRAM

Survivors get matched up to \$40 a month for a consecutive 6 months

- Optional and survivors decide when they want to start
- Eliminating restrictions like needing a bank account
- Trust-based reporting system
- Motivating
- Create a habit of saving

Contact Em Jackson: em.jackson@freefrom.org





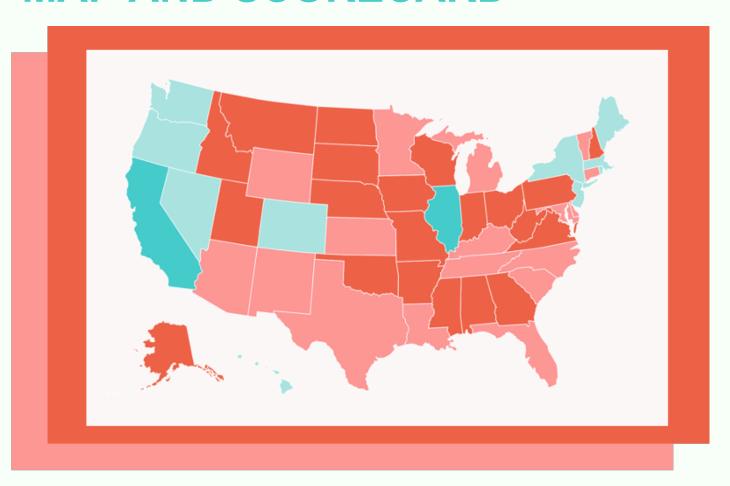
## **SYSTEMS CHANGE**





## FREEFROM'S NATIONAL SURVIVOR FINANCIAL SECURITY MAP AND SCORECARD





Visit the map and scorecard: <a href="https://mapandscorecard.freefrom.org/">https://mapandscorecard.freefrom.org/</a>



#### THE MAP AND SCORECARD



- Offers accessible, plain language information about the laws in each state that impact survivors' ability to build and protect financial security
- Evaluates each state based on how well (or poorly) it supports survivors' financial security
- Provides model legislation and tailored state-specific recommendations for policy change







#### **EXPANDING THE ECOSYSTEM OF SUPPORT**

## of survivors were not seeking services at a DV/SA org when they applied for a Safety Fund grant

- Survivors who identify as women were 2x as likely to be seeking services from a DV/SA org as survivors who don't identify as women.
- Heterosexual survivors were more than 3x as likely to be seeking services from a DV/SA org as queer survivors.
- Only 17% of Indigenous survivors were seeking services from a DV/SA org compared to 31% of survivors who do not identify as Indigenous.



## **Employers**



70%

have never sought support from an employer as a survivor

59%

of those who have sought support, **59% received no help** or reported **the support they received was unhelpful** 

47%

would seek support if they knew **services and support for survivors were available.** 





#### STEPS EMPLOYERS CAN TAKE

- Implement a survivor paid leave policy
- Create a savings match plan for employees
- Facilitate peer groups to foster community amongst staff (e.g., self-care, financial, or savings groups)
- Start an emergency fund to cover expenses and payroll in emergencies
- Create a flexible schedule and working environment
- Cover the cost of childcare
- Offer emergency grants to survivors experiencing abuse
- Offer health insurance to all employees and allow low-cost addition of family members onto policies







**75%** 

have never sought support from a bank as a survivor

64%

of those who have sought support, **64% received no help** or reported **the support they received was unhelpful** 

51%

would seek support if they knew **services and support for survivors were available.** 



#### STEPS BANKS CAN TAKE



- 1. Offer accounts that meet BankOn's National Standards
- 2. Keep survivors' contact information confidential and secure
- 3. Implement enhanced fraud protections on survivors' accounts
- 4. Offer Safety Accounts for survivors
- 5. Designate internal team to handle survivor accounts
- 6. Hire FreeFrom to train bank staff to detect, prevent, and respond to economic abuse
- 7. Allow survivors to open accounts with ID and address alternatives
- 8. Offer interest-free deferred payment emergency loans to survivors
- 9. Refrain from reporting defaults on coerced / fraudulent debt to credit reporting agencies
- 10.Offer flexible repayment plans for survivors in default
- 11. Provide paid and protected leave and other resources to employee's experiencing abuse



#### **CLOSING**



Honor the feelings, thoughts, and ideas that came up in this training.

- Write them down. Draw them out. Sit with them. Make a
  To-Do List. Talk about them with someone. Give them
  space in whatever way is meaningful to you.
- Take a couple deep breathes, move your body, look away from your computer, drink water, and/or grab a snack and think through your last thoughts.







#### Thank you!









Tannia Ventura - <u>tannia.ventura@freefrom.org</u>



# What is needed from ourselves, our organizational leadership, and our funders to create the economic support needed to prevent violence?

**Text Chat Question** 

## Use the Text Chat feature to answer the question.

Chat

#### From Me to Everyone:

Use this text chat box to respond to our questions, ask your own, and connect with others!

To: Everyone ▼

Type message here...

#### Q&A



Tannia Ventura
Director of Service Provider Engagement
and Education,
FreeFrom
she/her



## What does it mean to be survivor-centered in prevention work, both within organizations and within communities?

**Text Chat Question** 

## Use the Text Chat feature to answer the question.

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Type message here...



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PreventConnect.org/email - email group

<u>Learn.PreventConnect.org</u> – eLearning

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