

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SHELTERS DURING COVID-19

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has increased during COVID-19. Shelters are concerned about women and children suffering in isolation and the sustainability of service provision with capacity, funding, and service restrictions.

Funding

Advocate for an increase in government funding to sustain service adaptations necessary during and after COVID-19.

Risk Mitigation

Within VAW shelters, restrict, rotate, and designate the use of common spaces; increase cleaning and hygiene protocols; and provide meals to reduce kitchen use.

Provide Safety at Alternative Locations

Provide women/families with panic buttons and cellphones; provide groceries, food, and if possible a suite with a kitchen; provide virtual/in-person check-ins on a daily basis; and have a staff member stay in a room close by if possible.

Creative Communication

Develop creative ways people can connect to services, such as writing letters, a safe word to text for help, and available chatlines.

Technology

Provide technology with private platforms that may be used for accessing support.