



Oregon Alliance to End Gender Based Violence

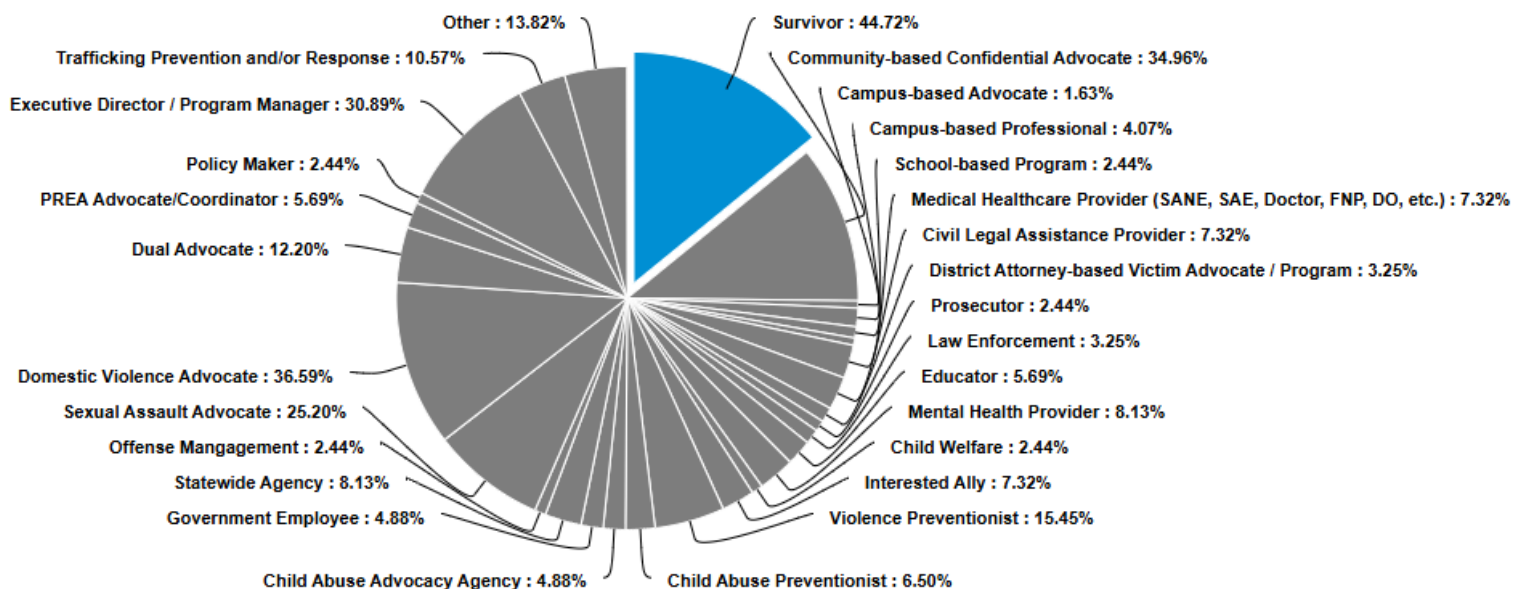
Priority Setting Survey Results

April - May 2026



Respondent Summary

- Number of Responses: 118
- Responses came in from every Oregon county
- 44.72% of respondents identified as survivors
- 34.96% of respondents identified as community-based confidential advocates
- 30.89% of respondents identified as Executive Directors or Program Managers
- 15.45% of respondents identified as preventionists



Questions Related to Funding + Services



Funding Priorities

Ranked from highest priority to least *
(average rank in parentheses)

1. Housing Assistance (2.38)
2. Legal Services for Survivors (2.75)
3. TA-DVS or other emergency financial assistance (4.31)
4. Advocacy Agency Facility Infrastructure (4.53)
5. Co-located Advocacy Programs (4.65)
6. Culturally-specific Community-Based Programs (5.0)
7. Sexual Assault Specific Funding (5.19)
8. Violence and Abuse Prevention Programs (5.21)
9. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Funding (5.52)
10. Other **see comments below* (6.88)
11. Family Justice Center Funding (7.04)
12. SARTs, CCRTs, MDTs (7.17)
13. System-based Advocacy Services (7.85)
14. Training + Certification for Advocates and Preventionists (8.42)
15. Training for Parents (8.56)

***When counties with urban centers were filtered out, Legal Services ranked #1, with housing #2 and SANE Funding also rose to #7.**

Other:

- 5 mentions of funding for trafficking specific services
- 2 mentions for prevention funding
- Other one-time mentions:
 - Economic justice
 - Statewide Strangulation Coordinator
 - Campus-based Confidential Advocates
 - 24/7 on-scene crisis response
 - Rural-specific funding
 - Abuse litigation tactics



What effects have funding cuts had on your ability to provide services to survivors in your community over the last five years?

The responses to this question revealed a **clear and profound story of a field facing a crisis** in sustainability with insufficient staffing and resources leaving survivors at high risk.

- 48 comments specifically spoke to staff lay-offs + increased caseloads leading to staff burn-out + turnover
- 32 comments cited the lack of housing and dollars to support access to housing as a critical need for those they are serving
- 9 comments cited frustration with the lack of investment in violence prevention and the reality that prevention programs are often the first ones cut when funding is reduced
- Several comments noted reductions in civil legal support, hospital response for survivors of SA, and emergency financial assistance being detrimental

Notable theme: Reduced funding from federal and state sources + an increase in survivor needs is leading to scarcity mindsets among programs, **reducing systems coordination, and breaking down previously coordinated networks** as programs turn inward and compete against one another for few resources.

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“**Many doors are closed.** We are very creative in our field, yet there is not a lot to gather or it feels like very little **you feel the hope drain out of survivors reaching out for help** and it is exhausting in its own unique way at the end of the day for me and others doing this work. I am a very positive, hopeful person who still finds resources or light in the darkness, but there is just not much funding or programming to piece together. “

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“It feels untenable in the current environment to feel confident that work being done is going to be sustained, let alone grow to meet the needs. **It consistently seems like sexual and domestic violence services are not as valued or seen as nearly as important by funders and policy makers as other social and behavioral issues**, such as addiction and mental health, which have significant financial investments. I wish that those with the power of the purse would be able to see that **investing in prevention and effective, fully resourced response systems will help alleviate those other problems** at least to some degree.”

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“This issue has a **system-wide impact, affecting shelters, housing availability, and access to supportive services**. When one part of the system is strained, it creates a ripple effect across all areas, making it harder for individual to access stable housing and the support they need.”

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“We are doing more with less. This is **causing extreme burnout in staff** and impacts our ability to hire. It also has lead to non profits having to compete even more against one another for funding rather than work collaboratively.”

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“Federal funding cuts have not only had direct program impact they have created a **devastating ripple effect** on state funding reductions and financial market fluctuations, but that also directly impact/ reduce/ delay private donor contributions. It is a horrific situation that creates more chaos (job insecurity, layoffs, etc) in our agencies and **pulls staff and volunteers to do more to shore-up funding and away from direct services.**”

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Legal Needs

Based on your observations, please prioritize legal needs of services in your community
(average rank in parentheses)

1. Protection orders (2.57)
 2. Divorce, custody, and parenting time (2.57)
 3. Landlord-tenant/housing (3.03)
 4. Immigration (3.79)
 5. Employment (4.49)
 6. Bankruptcy/debt/credit (4.67)
- 



What is/are the greatest unmet needs of victims and survivors in your community?

Safe, accessible, and affordable housing is by far the largest identified unmet need.

Other responses demonstrate gaps filtered across the service system.

- Affordable, accessible housing (including shelter, transitional, and permanent housing): 77 responses
- Flexible financial assistance and basic needs, such as food and transportation: 34 responses
- Legal services (pro-bono or low cost): 32 responses
- Mental health/counseling/therapy: 23 responses
- Services for children, including affordable childcare: 12 responses
- Long-term support and advocacy: 8 responses
- Culturally and linguistically specific services: 7 responses
- Prevention programming: 5 responses
- Training for law enforcement and courts: 5 responses
- SANE training and services: 5 responses
- Medical care/insurance: 4 responses
- Community education: 2 responses
- Job training/education programs: 2 responses

Questions Related to Laws and Policies





Potential Issues Being Taken Up in 2027

Below is a list of ideas we've heard about so far. Please rate your level of interest in the following concepts from most to least interest.
(average rank in parentheses)

1. Hidden Homicides (2.42)
 2. Prohibition of bodycams being worn by law enforcement during forensic exams in medical settings (2.66)
 3. Coerced debt relief (3.09)
 4. Parenting evaluator certification (3.28)
 5. Accountability for abuse by massage therapists (3.43)
 6. Military victim advocate privilege (3.85)
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Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

A wide variety of items were suggested for this question. They are grouped by themes below and on the following pages.

(a (xX) notation indicates the number of times that response was provided)

- **Changes related to housing and/or employment:**
 - Removing barriers to housing based on debt and credit **(x3)**
 - Eliminating barriers to keeping a pet with a survivor in shelter or other housing
 - Employment and housing law improvements when a survivor has prior drug, theft, or assault charges, esp from forced criminality
 - Previous evictions on records
 - Stronger support for anti discrimination in housing and workplace for survivors.
 - End the statewide ban on rent control
- **Changes related to courts in general:**
 - Increase/require judicial education **(x10)**
 - Survivors should be allowed to have screens between them and their perpetrators in the courtroom, to reduce fear and intimidation and allow for more comfort in testifying. Many other states have managed to pass such laws.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to finances + economics:**
 - Help for survivors who have debt from/with their abusers.
 - Improved laws around ability to separate bank accounts and assets when there is a suspicion of abuse

- **Changes related civil legal issues:**
 - **Custody/Parenting**
 - Custody court is heavily in favor of the abuser; needs for legal support advocates **(x3)**
 - Legal enforcement of parenting plans (without the burden on survivors to pay to file contempt of court)
 - Make it easier to terminate parental rights in situations of extreme abuse
 - Many survivors are scared that their abuser will have access to their children and that is often why they seek shelter. I think a policy in order for child safety from the abuser would take a lot of stress off of the survivor.
 - I think that in custody cases there should be better support for custody exchanges in safe ways that the court supports. Family exchange centers



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

○ **Protective Orders**

- Increase access to economic remedies in FAPA and SAPOs (lost wages, pay for property damage, etc)
- Add a provision to the FAPA statute that allows tolling of the 180-day period of abuse for the time when the respondent had a pending criminal case in which the petitioner was a named victim
- Stalking orders are incredibly difficult to get. There should be levels to stalking orders for severities of stalking.
- Make TRO's easier to serve - have some ability to post them if a survivor is actively trying not to get serviced. In most civil cases if an individual can't be served you can ask the judge if substitute service (posting) can be allowed. This would seem reasonable for abusers intentionally avoiding service.
- I hear clients saying all of the time..."I have a restraining order and when the police are called, they don't even take it seriously". "So, basically having a piece of paper that says RO on it means nothing".
- One important policy change would be to make the process for obtaining a restraining order easier, safer, and more survivor-centered. Currently, the process can be complicated, overwhelming, and intimidating—especially for survivors who are already experiencing trauma, fear, and ongoing abuse. Simplifying paperwork, expanding online and in-person assistance, and creating clearer step-by-step guidance would help remove significant barriers.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Statutes of Limitations + Torts**

- There is a very limited statute of limitation (2-3 years) for civil intentional torts that are committed against adults, including most torts that cover typical domestic violence situations; that needs to change. Most people think of "justice" in terms of the criminal justice system. If victims choose to engage first with the criminal system, they either may never know they have civil options, or they think they have to wait until that process is completed before proceeding in the civil system which very frequently leaves them outside the SOL for civil claims.

- **Civil Standbys**

- Clearer language regarding civil standbys. Often survivors lose both valuable (identification documents) and sentimental items when they flee an abusive relationship. Almost equally as often, survivors receive contradicting advice from Law Enforcement agencies about how they do civil standbys. In my experience, many survivors end up not going through with a civil standby because an LE agency will only provide the service under a specific set of circumstances that is not realistic to this specific dynamic. Also, civil standbys are usually only provided to survivors who file a TRO, not to survivors involved in a criminal case. So expanding civil standbys to include not just civil proceedings but other other legal proceedings as well.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to criminal justice system:**
 - **Required training for law enforcement** to interview survivors with a trauma-sensitive approach and addressing their own bias about survivors **(x6)**
 - We need to find a way to make **arrest warrants discretionary** (with some minimal exceptions for high-level violent offenses) for law enforcement officers when survivors are reporting criminal DV or SA incidents. For LE to have discretion to issue a citation in lieu of a custody arrest would be a significant improvement. As it is now, survivors may be reluctant to make a report if they have the potential of having a warrant for fear that they will be arrested, and abusers will capitalize on that knowledge to perpetrate additional violence. **(x3)**
 - Eliminate a **criminal statute of limitation** on sexual assault and child sexual abuse
 - Stronger laws and focus on **technology facilitated abuse**
 - Making **financial control** and abuse illegal
 - Helping law enforcement and DISTRICT ATTORNEYS refocus on actually **moving sexual assault cases forward** would be good. Since 2016 the willingness of DA's to take cases forward has drastically decreased.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to criminal justice system (cont'd):**
 - **Perpetrator Accountability + Treatment**
 - Holding perpetrators longer when they've been arrested; not releasing quickly due to overcrowding (x2)
 - Abusers should not be able to get DV charges expunged after a short period of time & a survivor should have the right to deny the expungement.
 - An abuser should have to legally prove their innocence & proof, not the other way around.
 - A **hearsay law** for testimony for DV/SA criminal cases similar to the law for trafficking cases
 - **Strangulation + Hidden Homicides**
 - Increase the seriousness of strangulation charges (charge as attempted murder)
 - Pass the Hidden Homicide law. It will protect future violence and signify advocacy for survivors.
 - Increased emphasis on strangulation forensics is important, but there has not been additional funding to provide the training and advocacy needed to support survivors who are getting SKITS – SA agencies can't provide advocates for non-SA-related forensics.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to criminal justice system (cont'd):**
 - **Sex work + Prostitution**
 - I think minors should not be allowed to be charged with prostitutions in the state of Oregon, a bill was declined years ago.
 - Penalties for solicitation of prostitution should be increased, esp for repeat offenders. Since demand drives the commercial sex industry and perpetuates trafficking dynamics, we need to use the law to make sure that the public who are not engaged in anti-trafficking work and who may not understand the many violence and harmful dynamics that exist within the commercial sex industry are addressed by our system. If initial offenses are addressed by programs like Sex Buyers Accountability Diversion, I would recommend making any repeat offenses a felony rather than misdemeanors.
 - **Increased Protections for Survivors**
 - Stop criminalizing houselessness & addiction & take abuse & survivors lives seriously.
 - Legal protection against holding someone who has experienced DV/SA/ST in custody to testify.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to criminal justice system (cont'd):**
 - **Increased Protections for Survivors (cont'd)**
 - Any requirements for victims to participate in prosecution create a barrier to people receiving victim resources
 - We need a law that protects survivors that commit crimes related to their abuse. If an abuser forces a survivor to steal something, there should be a law that protects the survivor from criminal charges. Maybe there needs to be an easier expunction process for survivors in these situations or a law that prevents the DA from charging a DV/SA?ST survivor with a crime if there is evidence that the crime was done as a result of force or coercion.
 - There are deferred sentencing programs for DV. The law does not allow the courts to collect restitution in these cases. As a result, victims' rights are regularly violated. There is a deferred sentencing program for DUIs that allow the courts to collect restitution. The DV deferred sentencing law needs to mirror the DUI deferred sentencing law around restitution so restitution can be collected for victims that have suffered financial damage as a result of the DV defendant.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to survivor rights + access to services:**
 - More services should be required to **provide interpretation** services, and have materials in multiple languages for their clients. One of the biggest barriers I see survivors face is not speaking English, and being unable to navigate an already difficult system due to lack of resources of info in their native language. **(x2)**
 - Ensuring survivors have access to **affordable legal counsel**; eliminate income restrictions to legal help for survivors **(x2)**
 - Increased **accessibility to victims rights information** and legal forms/information
 - Provide greater **access to ACP**
 - **Crime Victim Compensation**
 - Increase amounts of Crime Victim Compensation limits for funerals and counseling
 - Many survivors report crime victim compensation is too long and difficult process to want to pursue but could benefit from the money



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to survivor rights + access to services:**
 - **Paid Leave Oregon/Safe Leave**
 - Increase speed of people receiving Safe Leave
 - Safe leave via paid leave Oregon is wonderful. However there are currently multiple barriers to accessing safe leave: (1) must have a computer and most survivors do not have access to a computer - it is almost impossible to apply on a phone and some of the questions are confusing on Frances; (2) the application takes on average 25 minutes to complete which is a long time (3) survivors need to have their w-2 for the past two years which is often not possible or takes a long time to obtain, as well as the name and address of every employer in the last two years, also hard to obtain or remember (4) survivors need to have worked within the base period in order to get more than the minimum of approximately \$87 per week which means over a year before seeking leave and many survivors of have struggled to maintain connectivity to the workforce so requiring that much continued employment makes it almost impossible for them to get pay that makes it worth it to apply; (5) the average length of time it takes to obtain a decision from Paid Leave Oregon after applying for safe leave is 24 days which is too long for it to matter
 - Make the Paid Leave Oregon application accessible via a phone; Change the base period calculator for Safe Leave so that survivors do not have to establish that they worked over a year before applying



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related hospital response + medical care:**
 - Regulations on **body cam footage** of people reporting sexual assault **(x3)**
 - Better **training** for hospital staff
 - More expansive **Oregon Health Plan** or free health insurance
 - We need a law to **prevent the arrest of survivors** with warrants who present for care in a medical setting. (note: similar to above about discretionary warrants)
- **Changes related to use of funding:**
 - **Related to restricted access to funding for survivors:**
 - More resources for survivors who identify as single, esp financial support similar to TA-DVS **(x3)**
 - DV funds being used primarily for IPV instead of general familial violence as well.
 - I would suggest creating more stable and accessible funding for rural and frontier victim service programs. Many grants are highly competitive, short-term, or designed in ways that unintentionally favor larger urban agencies with more administrative capacity. I would also like to see increased investment in rural housing solutions for survivors, including emergency housing, transitional housing, and long-term affordable housing options. In many rural communities, survivors stay in unsafe situations simply because there is nowhere else to go.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Changes related to federal laws and policies:**
 - **Getting ICE out of Oregon** would allow targeted communities to feel safer in engaging in any kind of services, as the fear of ICE has impacted the way communities are engaging with all types of services. (x3)
 - The biggest issue is the **undermining of legal protections** due to the Trump Administration and MAGA, including but not limited to: attacks on gender equity, racial justice, and economic support for people doing the work of prevention and support.
 - **Title IX**, it is very complicated and difficult to understand, especially for survivors. I would love to see continued advocacy at the federal level on this topic. At the state level, policies to enhance training to judges and the legal system overall about impacts of violence would be incredible.
 - **CFA/DV Funds no more than five percent may be used to cover administrative costs** in accordance with ORS 409.304 and 42 U.S. Code (USC)10402(a)(2)(B)(i); - this should be changed. We have a history of underpaying staff doing this pivotal work, and ignoring the nonprofit starvation cycle that caps admin costs which makes it difficult to staff programs and positions. If any laws can make any funding to DSV organizations truly flexible, that would be huge.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Other changes suggested:**
 - How can we **move policy away from incarceration and more towards supporting prevention** and survivors.
 - I think my biggest suggestion in re: law/policy would be to **rethink unfunded mandates or policy choices** the have knock-on costs for community-based agencies. While well intentioned, mandates (like the one requiring higher education institutions to develop MOUs with community-based S/DV agencies) ultimately end up requiring action from those community agencies without compensation. In order to actually develop meaningful programs for campuses, we need financial investment
 - an **expansion to Kristils law** which enables qvsp's to request unmasking of VOIP users
 - **Mandatory Reporting**
 - Elimination of any mandatory reporting of abuse for people over 60 who are competent to make decisions for themselves;
 - Elimination of mandatory reporting laws for healthcare workers regarding serious bodily injury
 - Mandatory reporting. We know it does not serve survivors' healing journey.



Is there a law or policy change you would like to suggest to help remove barriers for survivors?

(continued)

- **Other changes suggested:**
 - **Regarding youth/minors**
 - The "failure to protect" policy within ODHS child welfare. Many survivors of domestic violence experience further trauma because their children are taken away from them because of what their partner has done.
 - More requirements for engagement with home schooled families.
 - expansion to erins law for Oregon youth correctional facilities which create a requirement for them to partner with D/SV agencies for service delivery
 - Legal access to confidential advocacy services for minors without guardian permission/involvement.

Strengths + Successes





What are the greatest strengths of your community for supporting survivors and/or prevention work?

A resounding theme was our ability to collaborate, both amongst community based programs and with systems partners.

The grit, resilience, and commitment of advocates was cited multiple times.

- Collaboration and ability of programs to work together strategically: 38 responses
- Dedication and resiliency of advocates: 28 responses
- Coordinated Community Responses (SARTs, MDTs, etc): 6 responses
- Creativity: 5 responses
- Support from community: 5 responses
- Knowledge of prevention: 5 responses
- Partnerships + coordination with state/government systems: 5 responses
- Confidentiality + privacy for survivors: 5 responses
- Elevation of survivor voices: 4 responses
- Co-located advocacy: 4 responses
- SANEs: 3 responses
- Strong protective order laws and practices: 2 responses

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Advocates dedication to this work - even though there are funding and resource barriers, **they put in 110% to the people they serve.**

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Statewide agency alignment - organizations who work at that level are coordinating and I think that is benefiting folks on the local level.

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I think one of the greatest strengths are that there are **multiple organizations working toward a common goal of helping survivors**. Often one resource can't do it all, so it's important for survivors to have multiple resources they can turn to and rely on.

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Our trauma-informed approach is the greatest strength. Often times **survivors go through multiple systems while escaping violence, and our efforts to prevent re-traumatization** while they go through the journey of gaining stability often makes the biggest impact on their emotional well-being.

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Specific programs and people were mentioned as strengthening our system:

- Center for Hope and Safety
- Mei Pomegranate
- The Family Peace Center
- Florence's SOS Program
- SASS
- OLC
- Civil Justice Clinic at U of O
- Clackamas County (CWS, FJC, SAFE Center)
- Multnomah County's DV Advocates



What laws, policies, and/or practices have been the most supportive for survivors having access to support they need?

Included in this list are many issues that the Alliance and our partners have worked on over the years.

The responses clearly show that we have made meaningful, supportive change for survivors.

(responses only cited once are not in this summary - see raw data)

- ODSVS + Funding for survivor-centered advocacy in general: 13 responses
- Protective order laws, esp SAPO and extension of FAPA to 2 years (12 responses)
- Advocate privilege and confidentiality, esp for rural regions: 11 responses
- The TA-DVS grant + it's increase in recent years: 9 responses
- VAWA (esp housing protections): 7 responses
- Paid Leave Oregon: 5 responses
- Survivor Housing Funds + rental assistance: 5 responses
- Multidisciplinary collaborations, including FJCs: 5 responses
- Funding to train allied professionals, inc law enforcement: 5 responses



What laws, policies, and/or practices have been the most supportive for survivors having access to support they need?

(continued)

- Funding for Sexual Assault Forensic Exams + SANEs: 4 responses
- Housing protections in general: 4 responses
- Ability to break leases: 4 responses
- Funding for emergency shelter + transitional housing: 4 responses
- Advocates at courts + embedded in LE: 3 responses
- Advocate call-out response law to hospitals: 2 responses
- Erin's law: 2 responses
- SKITs: 2 responses
- Expungement: 2 responses
- U and T visas + support for undocumented survivors: 2 responses
- Flexible funding sources: 2 responses

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“Survivor Housing Funds have been a godsend.”

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Eviction defense programs here in the Portland Metro area have been huge, along with expungement, and barrier reduction funds.

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Funding for SA exams has been very important for many survivors.

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Policies that **protect survivor information and allow advocates to provide confidential services** help build trust and make survivors more willing to seek support, especially in small communities where privacy concerns are significant.

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The most supportive practices for helping survivors access the support they need have been **survivor-centered, multidisciplinary response models** that reduce the burden of navigating disconnected systems.

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Creative Solutions + New Ideas





Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention?

A wide variety of items were suggested for this question. They are grouped by themes below and on the following pages. (a (xX) notation indicates the number of times that response was provided)

- Related to violence prevention:
 - Mandatory prevention education for all students, faculty and admin on all college/university campuses. Prevention education incentives for all
 - More prevention education support.
 - We need teeth behind Erin's law, the HRTA, and similar prevention policies. we are seeing massive opt out state wide and even the very law bar that both of these pieces of legislation create are not being met in schools
 - We must figure out a way to fund prevention work in our state. We will never make real change until this happens and prevention is actively supported across the state.
- Related to housing:
 - End the statewide preemption on rent control.
 - Just housing first.
 - There should be more in place for people being abused or taken advantage of by their landlords
 - SHELTER NOT JUST A HOTEL



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention?

(continued)

- **Related to children, inc custody + child welfare:**
 - The problems with parenting or "coparenting" with an abusive ex-partner.
 - Increased training and resources for ODHS around supporting minor survivors of sexual violence, with tangible action steps.
 - CPS policy adds to victim blaming, shaming and harm. Those who do escape from a partner or circumstance with their children (depending on circumstances obviously) should not inherently be charged or there should be a pathway to clear the record.
 - I feel like the hospital community could use more education on Karly's law. Adding champions who specialize in child abuse awareness
- More parenting classes and resources for child victims or children who have witnessed abuse.
- I am concerned about CPS and their tactics and lack of training.
- Protections against criminalizing parent experiencing abuse in child welfare cases.
- More attention to power and control dynamics post-separation or divorce - how custody/parenting time decisions are used to continue dynamic through children - we'd like to see the law (or at a minimum culture) change to protect survivors ongoing.



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention? (cont'd)

(continued)

- **Related to children, inc custody + child welfare:**
 - I would like to see more emphasis on access to privileged advocacy for youth. While the law clearly extends privilege to minors, many youth-serving settings make actually accessing privileged advocates more challenging than they should. I would love to see some kind of policy push to help ensure that access. In particular, I think that schools have often lacked the willingness or bravery or capacity to create meaningful privileged advocacy partnerships -- they are often afraid of public response to the presence of people who aren't mandated reporters, or their risk management balks at the idea of having professionals on campus who won't make reports. There has been a lot of messaging and guidance (thanks in large part to SATF) regarding the best practices for providing privileged advocacy to youth, but I think that there is still resistance or lack of investment. I would like to see some legislation that pushes for (and ideally helps to fund) greater access for youth.
 - **Related to courts:**
 - The biggest flaw that I see is a victim not having an attorney. Please require that Judges have training in DV/SA cases
 - Implementation of DV courts statewide (we are working on the first in Oregon in Marion County).
 - Legal help for children and survivors of DV SA.
 - More education for judges on what it looks like for survivors to show up in court & testify



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention? (cont'd)

(continued)

- **Related to courts:**

- Separate spaces in courtrooms so survivors don't have to see/be near their abusers
- We need to have a law that understands that abusers will delete or remove evidence of DV, and so during contested restraining order hearing evidence should not be required. Judges should be trauma informed and understanding.

- **Related to trafficking:**

- Require agencies to screen for potential labor trafficking.
- As a community doing anti-trafficking work, language is always shifting or changing, and oftentimes language defines reality, for both individuals and society. I would love to see conversations surrounding the definition of consent increase, including its nuances- like the fact that it's not only explicit, but it's also freely given, ongoing, and based on equal power- so that agencies and individuals can have a better framework for language based on consent, rather than fear or moral ideology.

- **Related to perpetrator accountability:**

- Many survivors don't feel abusers have the proper consequences when they break NCO or TROs. Also, why do abusers get custody/parenting time with children especially when they have harmed the children? I hope the laws in our system improve for our community to have the peace and justice we deserve.



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention? (cont'd)

(continued)

- **Related to perpetrator accountability:**
 - Many survivors don't feel abusers have the proper consequences when they break NCO or TROs. Also, why do abusers get custody/parenting time with children especially when they have harmed the children?
 - Repeat abusers have virtually no consequences. Breaking a protective order for the second time after assaulting someone or stalking your ex? Slap on the wrist, maybe a small fine or a night in jail.
 - We wish that the laws would be more stringent when dealing with abusers. The victims feel that their pain and suffering does not matter when the abuser is let off with a charge that is much lesser than what is deserved. It leaves the victim continuing to feel fear for their life as the abuser is free to repeat offending
 - More serious consequences for abusive [and sexual] violence
- **Related to economic justice and financial support:**
 - Support: both financial and educational for survivors of DV, both those who report and those who don't.
 - More programs promoting economic equity
 - Connecticut passed a law that prohibits DV survivors from being held liable by collections agency for coerced debt. It went into effect 1/1/25. Maybe that law would be helpful to explore?



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention? (cont'd)

(continued)

- **Related to grant making and funding practices:**
 - I would like to see more trust and flexibility built into grant funding for victim service programs, especially in rural communities. Many grants are extremely restrictive about how funds can be used, even when agencies are trying to respond to urgent and changing survivor needs in real time.
 - There is also a need for grant processes that recognize the realities of small organizations with limited administrative capacity. Rural programs spend a significant amount of time trying to navigate complex reporting requirements and restrictions while simultaneously responding to crises and maintaining direct services. Simplifying processes and allowing more trust-based funding approaches would help agencies focus more energy on survivors and community response. Ultimately, stable and flexible funding helps keep advocacy services available, prevents staff burnout, and allows programs to respond creatively and quickly to survivor needs.
- **Related to changes/improvements in services and programs:**
 - Extension of the SAVE fund deadline beyond 168 hours.
 - Provided some info in a previous answer about Paid Leave Oregon.



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention? (cont'd)

(continued)

- **Related to changes/improvements in services and programs:**
 - We have also experienced that the certification requirement for advocates for the address confidentiality program is proving a barrier to accessing the program because many of the advocates with this certification have been laid off due to funding.
 - Please get rid of the requirement for campus based operations required to have MOU with community based advocacy.
 - Clarify intent of safe leave under PLO and verbalize intention of longevity of time...
- **Related to law enforcement + criminal justice system:**
 - Arrest Warrant Discretion
 - Allowing for police officer discretion on arrest warrants for victims reporting sexual assault and domestic partner violence - to allow for a citation in lieu of custody arrest in most situations (with limited exceptions of violent-only high level offenses). This should be allowed in all reporting circumstances.
 - Detectives should be the primary investigator for allegations of sexual assault, and should have at least 40 hours of training.
 - Coordination between counties regarding SA investigations.
 - I am interested in the hidden homicide law fixes and what could be done to mandate those types of investigations for suspicious suicides/suicides after a DV assault etc.



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention? (cont'd)

(continued)

- **Related to protective orders:**
 - Amend the SAPO statute to allow qualification for adult victims of incest (currently not eligible due to the family or household member definition).
 - One policy issue worth consideration is creating a process for survivors with restraining orders or lifetime no-contact orders to access verification of an offender's death when that offender dies. For many survivors, particularly those with long-term or lifetime protection orders, knowing in clear and official terms that the person who harmed them is deceased can have a significant impact on safety planning, emotional closure, and healing.
- **Related to healthcare, inc SANEs:**
 - Co-located healthcare advocacy.
 - A way that supports nurses who want to be SANE certified that doesn't over extend them or add to their workload or burnout.
 - Better environment at hospitals for SANE/SKIT - more trauma informed staff.
 - I wholeheartedly agree that there needs to be better oversight and/or administrative policy / rule changes related to licensing/regulation of massage facilities.
 - Also need checkups and after care from leaving there are lots of medical issues women have never been seen for because the abuser would not let them see a Dr. even after head injuries.



Our community is full of creative solutions - what other policy ideas or issues would you like to bring to our attention? (cont'd)

(continued)

- Other:

- Trauma informed and **culturally appropriate trainings** for all aspects and institutions that are part of the chain of care to combat chilling effects.
- Changes to the **Sex Offense Treatment Board Certification**. A Proposed change includes reduced cost for certification
- More services that are **population specific**: sex trafficking, LGBTQ+, etc.
- Requirements that **family law attorneys** take DV dynamics CLEs
- Opening more PPS roles- **peer support persons**- I think having someone that they can identifying with would be great advocacy
- Victims should not suffer due to budget cuts because they reside in a "**Sanctuary State**".
- **Restorative justice** as an option for SA survivors, most survivors of SA know the perpetrators and a huge barrier to seeking support is not wanting to hurt that person with the criminal justice and law enforcement systems. Restorative justice is an option that could allow folks to get justice, accountability, and support.
- More **community outreach**. Support for those fearing law enforcement. Empower survivors to come forward safely and with dignity and results.
- I would like to see a **mobile adult forensic interview service**.
- **Faith community leaders** as mandatory reporters
- **Decriminalize sex work!!** Rights and protections for sex workers creates safety for sex trafficking survivors.

Lived Experiences





If you identify as a survivor sexual assault and/or domestic violence and sought services in your community, what was supportive for you meeting your needs? What were barriers?

Once again, the support of advocates was cited most often as supportive, while the lack of trauma informed responses from other systems was shown as a common barrier.

- **Things that were identified as most supportive:**
 - Advocates and Advocacy Programs: 11 responses
 - Family, Peers, + Support Groups: 5 responses
 - Legal Assistance: 4 responses
 - Housing and Financial Assistance: 3 responses
 - Law Enforcement: 1 response

- **Things that were identified as significant barriers:**
 - Lack of trauma-informed support + understanding of DV/SA: 5 responses
 - Lack of knowledge about services existing: 4 responses
 - Insufficient type of amount of services available: 4 responses
 - Stigma, shame, and stereotypes: 3 responses
 - Complexity of systems/overwhelm + Lack of coordination: 3 responses
 - Finances: 2 responses

”

In the very beginning of the situation, I felt supported by my advocate. Then the communication became less and less. It seems as if there aren't enough advocates to support the amount of survivors. My worker was often times mistaking me for someone else, they had a big caseload and seemed as if they were very stressed. **Having an advocate that doesn't have a large caseload and can focus on my needs would have been very beneficial. I appreciate their support but I believe there needs to be funding for more advocates so they aren't overworked.**

“

“

The greatest **barriers I encountered were systems that misunderstood abuse and trauma, particularly within legal and child welfare contexts.** At times, trauma responses and the realities of surviving abuse were misinterpreted as evidence against me rather than understood in context.

”

”

As a survivor, the most supportive aspect of meeting my needs was access to advocates and survivor-centered professionals who understood abuse dynamics, believed my experiences, and helped me navigate complex systems during times of crisis. **Having spaces where I felt heard, validated, and supported by individuals with trauma-informed and abuse-informed approaches made a meaningful difference in both my safety and healing.**

“

**What else should
we know?**





Is there anything else that you'd like to share with us?

The gratitude shared was immense. I've included each comment left here so that the appreciation and love can be felt. :)

- **Gratitude!**

- Thank you for all your efforts - both seen and behind the scenes
- Thank you!
- Couldn't be more thankful for SATF.
- Thank you for your important work. I look forward to getting to know our community better and getting more education on the needs here.
- Thank you for doing this survey. I am very interested in the results.
- Your work and continued advocacy is appreciated and impactful. As someone who was trafficked in late 2019 to see the changes that have been made since then brings an immense sense of hope.
- Gratitude!
- Above all else - I hope we can at the very least sustain the next biennium. Thank you!!
- Thank you for asking!
- Thank you for doing the asking
- Thank you for all you do everyday for survivors & the community
- I appreciate your work!
- Thank you for this work
- Thank you for everything you all do.
- Thanks y'all!
- Thank you to the Alliance for its incredible work!
- Thank you for the difficult and critically important work that you accomplish for Oregon.
- I am forever grateful for the hard work, partnership, and advocacy of everyone at SATF! I wouldn't want to do this work without y'all!



Is there anything else that you'd like to share with us?

- Call for changes:
 - **Preventative knowledge** we can educate our younger generations with how we are supposed to be treated and how we are supposed to treat others and how this applies to our behavior towards the outside world and in our homes.
 - I have worked with a number of children that have experienced abuse and they are not often offered support following the abuse. **Schools are lacking counselors and a safe person for the children to talk to.** I would love to create a safe space for children or a way for them to process their abuse. I think it is critical to intervene as soon as possible to help the child heal in a healthy way.
 - **Court ordered psych evaluators should be trauma informed.** They should have DV training, training on abuser tactics. The trainings should be a requirement and be 12 weeks long. They should have a test after the training with a comprehensive score.
 - **Training for judges**
 - It would be good to have a **statement at the beginning about if this survey is going to be anonymous or confidential.** Some of the responses to the questions could possibly identify who the person is answering the question by process of elimination. People might feel more free to answer honestly if they knew if their responses were confidential.



Is there anything else that you'd like to share with us?

- **Offers for collaboration:**

- Thank you for seeking community and survivor input in this process. As both a survivor and advocate—and as Vice Chair of the Survivor VOICES Advisory Committee for the Family Peace Center of Washington County—I **believe meaningful systems change requires ongoing partnership with those who have lived experience navigating these systems firsthand. I encourage continued investment i survivor-informed policy development** and welcome opportunities to support efforts that advance trauma- and abuse-informed practices in our community. Our committee also welcomes collaboration and would be glad to share insight or perspective in future discussions if helpful.
- I am very interested in helping out during session and with any advocacy. I have been trained nationally as a fellow at the American Nurses Advocacy Institute as well as Oregon Emerge. I have experience testifying/writing testimony and speaking with representatives.

- **Other:**

- Es la priumera vez que hago algo como esto, sorprendeme :) (*AI translation: This is the first time I've done something like this—surprise me! :)*)
- I don't have much time right now to complete this survey or help out, as I am busy helping survivors.

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