

Title: Economic Options for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Presenter Information: Krista Del Gallo, Legislative Director at the Texas Council on Family Violence and subject matter expert on economic justice for survivors of domestic violence

Outline of topic: This presentation is about the financial and economic related policies, protections and resources available to survivors of domestic violence.

Teaching objectives:

(A) to increase participants' awareness of the connections and importance of economic stability for survivors of domestic violence;

(B) to increase participants' knowledge of the different policies resources available to survivors of domestic violence;

(C) to increase participants' awareness of the challenges and risks associated with pursuing public benefits for survivors of domestic violence.

Summary: This presentation will discuss the importance of economic stability for survivors of domestic violence and describe different policies and laws related to economic justice for survivors. In addition, participants will be introduced to resources from the fields of health and wellness, employment, public benefits, and consumer protections that can assist survivors as they seek financial stability after abuse.

Krista Del Gallo is the Legislative Director at the Texas Council on Family Violence. Krista has been working within the domestic violence and sexual assault movements since 1994. Krista has significant expertise relating to housing and economic protections and options for survivors, as well as child support, custody and parenting. She has over two decades of experience advocating with relevant systems, the Texas Legislature, and Congress on survivor issues.

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KRISTA DELGALLO

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Legislative Director May 2021- Present

Lead policy related legislative work for the Texas Council including facilitation and coordination of the TCFV Public Policy Committee. Manage staff and oversee the work on several distinct projects and partnerships regarding family law, health and economic well-being, and relief for immigrant survivors with governmental agencies and allied policy groups. Enhance capacity and foster collaborations with between stakeholders and family violence programs.

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Policy Manager Aug. 2007- May 2021

Manage staff and oversee the work on several distinct projects and partnerships with state agencies and allied policy groups. Enhance capacity and foster collaborations with between stakeholders and family violence programs. Coordinate all economic justice research and work at the state coalition level through material and curricula development. Respond to related requests for technical assistance and training on issues regarding child custody, housing rights, health and relief and economic options for immigrant survivors.

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Policy Coordinator Sept. 2006-Aug. 2007

Coordinate all economic justice research and work at the state coalition level. Develop collaborations, materials and trainings in response to the economic obstacles facing survivors, focusing on the remedies, protections and resources available through current law and policy. Expand economic options to survivors through information sharing, partnerships and advocacy.

Texas Council on Family Violence Austin, Texas

Public Policy Analyst Feb. 2002-Sept. 2006

Provide specialized technical assistance and training to domestic violence victim advocates and allied professionals throughout Texas on issues specific to immigrant and low income battered women and their children as well as federal laws affecting victims and to develop, advocate and analyze policy strategies to improve the responsiveness of social service systems and the justice systems to the needs of victims of domestic violence.

SafePlace Austin, Texas

Family Advocate 1998 – 2002

Provide holistic support to families who experienced domestic violence and resulting homelessness

- Advocate for families within various systems settings such as DHS, CPS, the courts and schools

- Educate families in both Spanish and English on tenants' rights, immigration, credit and access to community resources
- Promote change on behalf of families at the macro-level through community and legislative involvement and collaborative projects
- Encourage families to become involved in their communities and assert their rights and opinions within systems that affected their lives
- Conduct trainings in the community and within SafePlace on issues of domestic violence, immigration, immigrants access to public benefits, court process for sexual assault survivors, dynamics of sexual assault, rape culture, SafePlace services, child sexual abuse, healthy relationships, sexual harassment

Middle Way House

Children's Activity Specialist/Hotline Advocate

Bloomington, Indiana

1994 - 1998

- Facilitated recreational and educational activities in a culturally sensitive environment for children residing in this shelter for families fleeing domestic violence
- Answered domestic violence/sexual assault crisis line calls

Luna Nueva

Intern

Tepotzlan, Mexico

1998

- Composed a document citing the mission statement, cosmology and active and future projects of this women's sustainability grassroots agency for prospective international donors through information gathered in interviews with the founders and participant observation of all the agency's activities and meetings
- Participated in children's health education program which promoted awareness among children in various elementary schools around issues of nutrition and dental health using theater, puppet shows, games and stories

White Buffalo Calf Woman Rosebud Lakota Reservation

Intern

South Dakota

1996/1997

- Provided support, legal advocacy, children's advocacy and activities to families residing in this shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence

EDUCATION

Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana

1998

Bachelors of Arts - minors in Women's Studies, Sociology and Philosophy (GPA 4.0)