

Recommendations

ADAPTING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN SYSTEMS RESPONSE TO THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC: AN OVERVIEW OF
RESULTS FROM THE MARCO VAW STUDY

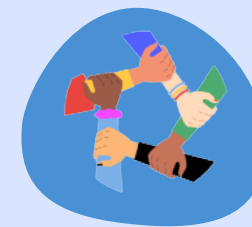
Our recommendations were co-developed by the research team and our Advisory Group based on our findings with feedback from VAW organizations and service partners in the Toronto Region through our knowledge translation events, meetings, and communications.

FOR FUNDERS

Funders, including all levels of government, should provide increased and sustained resources and flexible funding to support VAW organizations in:



Responding to increasing VAW caseloads and survivor needs



Expanding provision of structural supports (e.g., flexible hours, pandemic pay)



Addressing staff mental health needs



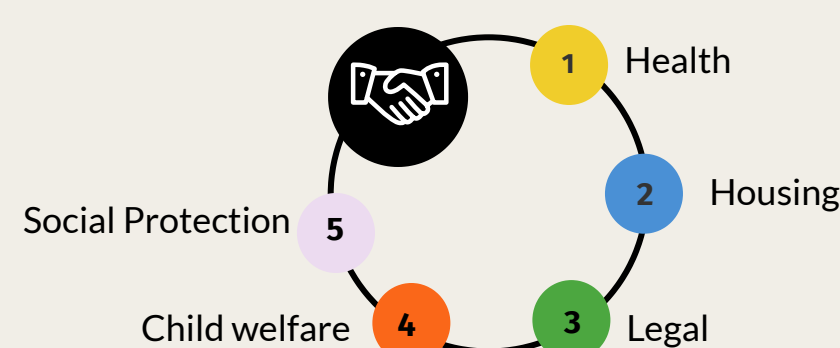
Securing equipment access

VAW organizations should be funded to train and develop staff capacity on monitoring and evaluation strategies, including client engagement to support rapidly responding to client needs in this continuously evolving pandemic context.



FOR GOVERNMENT BODIES AND POLICYMAKERS

Strengthen VAW referral pathways and intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration, including funding permanent coordinators and advocates to work within and across the following systems:



Further financial and social supports are needed for newcomer women experiencing violence, including:



Emergency housing and social supports for women awaiting permanent residency status



Funding for VAW organizations and associated services to provide interpretation supports and culturally competent programming



Invest in more affordable and accessible housing in safe neighbourhoods for women experiencing violence, in coordination with VAW and associated services to ensure wrap-around supports are provided as needed.



Deem VAW services as essential services in public health emergencies and mandate appropriate PPE access and training on PPE use.

Public health units should work in collaboration with VAW organizations, survivors, and other experts to design infection prevention and control protocols for congregate settings and screening tools to determine who should be supported in person and remotely.



FOR VAW ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE PARTNERS

Organizations should use increased funding and collaborative support to establish sustainable wrap-around services, including:

1

housing, legal, employment, and economic advocacy

2

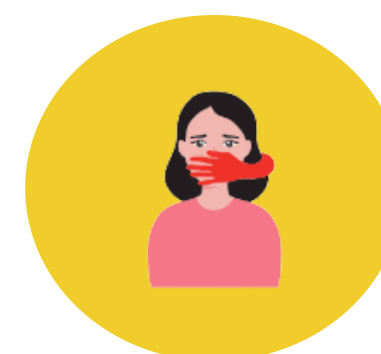
mental health supports

These supports must acknowledge the diversity of survivors' needs (e.g., those of women living with disabilities, who are caregivers, or experiencing racism or discrimination)

VAW services and health systems should collaborate to implement and evaluate best practices related to delivering trauma-informed VAW services during public health emergencies (including the implementation of infection prevention and control protocols) that are grounded in the principles of:



Anti-racism



Anti-oppression



Harm reduction

VAW services should collaborate to identify how to raise community awareness about the different VAW services operating for women fleeing violence.



Non-residential and residential services should plan for and implement a hybrid approach to their programming, including in-person and virtual programming options where possible to accommodate the diversity of needs and preferences of VAW survivors.

