

Nevada's Response to Domestic Violence

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence | December 2025

Needs Assessment Snapshot

- Timeframe: September 2024 – October 2025
- Methods: Surveys and listening sessions
- Purpose: Identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities to strengthen Nevada's domestic violence response

Who Participated

- 207 Community Members
- 64 Direct Service Providers
- 26 Victim-Survivors
- 5 Law Enforcement Agencies

Underserved Communities Identified

Most frequently identified underserved populations include:

- Unhoused individuals
- LGBTQIA+ community members
- Individuals with mental health needs
- Older adults
- Immigrant communities
- Youth, children, men, and communities of color

Community Insights

- 76% agree domestic violence is a problem in their community
- 92% recognize emotional abuse as serious as physical abuse
- 89% recognize financial abuse as domestic violence
- Only 67% know where to find domestic violence resources
- 69% report waiting lists for services

"Survivors are not served with relevant programming as when I was a victim of domestic violence I had no clear path on steps to take to get help."

What Survivors Shared

Survivors described ongoing fear, housing instability, and difficulty accessing protection and support. Many reported unmet mental health needs and inconsistent responses to protection order violations. Advocates were repeatedly identified as lifelines helping survivors navigate complex systems.

"My abuser violated his protection order 5 times and the DA refused to press charges."

Law Enforcement Perspectives

Agencies report domestic violence and stalking as prevalent crimes. The hardest services to access for survivors are long-term housing, shelter, rental assistance, and childcare. Law enforcement expressed strong interest in trauma-informed training and improved coordination with service providers.

“The primary domestic violence shelters have been full for ten years. Finding shelter, rental assistance and childcare has been an unmet need for too long. Survivors need to be able to find support for them to leave a violent situation.”

Summary of Gaps & Recommendations



Key Gaps Across Systems

Key Gaps in Services

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Housing Stability & Long-Term Support
 - Lack of long-term & transitional housing
 - Insufficient rental assistance
 - Limited shelter options
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Emergency & Financial Assistance
 - Critical need for cash aid
 - Inadequate emergency resources
 - Lack of immediate mental health services
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Legal Protection & Accountability
 - Limited custody & divorce support
 - Failure to enforce protection orders
 - Offenders not held accountable
- 
Criminal Justice System Failures
 - Lack of victim-centered responses
 - Ignored protection order violations
 - Barriers to seeking legal help
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Services for Undocumented Victim-Survivors
 - Immigration-safe services lacking
 - Fear of seeking help
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Coordination & Navigation Challenges
 - Fragmented & confusing systems
 - Difficult to find support
- 
Training & Capacity Gaps
 - Lack of DV & trauma-informed training
 - Unprepared frontline responders

Recommendations

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Strengthen Training & Professional Competency
 - Implement ongoing DV & trauma-informed training for:
 - Law enforcement & judicial staff
 - Child welfare professionals
 - Healthcare & mental health providers
 - Domestic violence agency staff
 - Enhance competency in recognizing all forms of abuse, including emotional, financial & coercive control.
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Improve Cross-System Coordination & Collaboration
 - Establish formal coordination protocols between:
 - Law enforcement, courts & DV service providers
 - Hospitals, mental health & advocacy agencies
 - Streamline referral pathways for seamless survivor access.
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Expand Access to Legal Support & Protection
 - Increase availability of legal counsel, especially for:
 - Protection orders
 - Custody & divorce proceedings
 - Streamline criminal justice accountability & enforce protection orders.
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Increase Access to Mental Health & Behavior Health Services
 - Address gaps in rural mental health care via:
 - Telehealth & partnerships with regional providers
 - Integrate mental health & substance misuse services within DV programs.
 - Expand counseling options for survivors & their children.
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Address Housing Stability & Long-Term Recovery
 - Develop survivor-centered housing solutions that include:
 - Long-term & transitional housing
 - Credit repair & eviction recovery support
 - Align housing programs with legal & financial advocacy.
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Build Community Capacity & Inclusive Services
 - Increase service capacity to reduce waitlists & delays.
 - Enhance outreach & education on DV resources & how to access help.
 - Develop programs for underserved groups, including **male survivors**.
 - Continue community education on the full spectrum of domestic violence.

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