

# Legislative Agenda

*TCFV will advocate at the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature for the following funding and policy priorities to promote safer communities and freedom from family violence.*

## Our Funding Priorities:



### **Lifesaving Family Violence Program Services**

**\$88M** in the 88th Legislative Session for core family violence services, to address capacity issues, and for targeted violence prevention and community education. (HHSC)



### **Promoting Offender Accountability**

Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs, **\$5M** in level funding and for key staffing needs. (Rider TDCJ)



### **Lethality Risk Reduction**

Domestic Violence High Risk Teams (DVHRTs), **\$600,000** (Rider OAG)

## INVESTING IN SURVIVORS

With nearly 40% of all survivors denied shelter solely due to lack of space, funding for services is critically needed. TCFV supports funding priorities that promote survivor safety and offender accountability.



## Our Policy Priorities:

**TCFV strives to center survivors and promote safer, healthier communities in our Legislative Agenda.**

### **Service Standards**

#### *Updating survivor service provision*

The statute that outlines required services for family violence centers statewide has not been updated in over 20 years. With insight from advocates and survivors all over the state, updating the services standards will allow for comprehensive services centered in survivors' voices.

### **Protective Orders**

#### *Codifying the option for a virtual hearing*

By leveraging technology and innovation that emerged from necessity during the pandemic, codifying the option for virtual hearings will promote greater consistency and access to Texas Family Code Protective Orders across the state.

### **Stalking**

#### *Increasing access to justice for stalking survivors*

Law enforcement and prosecutors note the current stalking statute is difficult to use and confusing to interpret, impeding investigations and prosecutions of this crime. Reordering and clarifying this statute will make it easier to understand and utilize, augmenting safety and justice for stalking survivors.

### **Firearms**

#### *Prompting critical next steps to reduce lethality*

Three times as many victims were killed with a firearm than all other means combined in 2021 and some of these homicides were committed by prohibited possessors under existing Texas laws. Leadership and meaningful action by the Legislature on firearm transfers is necessary to reduce these preventable deaths.