



Summary of Responses to the Partnership’s 2021 – 2022 Policy Priority Survey

Overview

71 individuals began the survey, although 18 did not proceed past the first two contact information questions. Of the 53 respondents who responded to at least one question regarding priority areas, we had representation from all seven Partnership regions.

Far North: 6 (11%)
 North: 8 (15%)
 Bay Area: 13 (25%)
 Central Valley: 5 (9%)

Central Coast: 2 (4%)
 Los Angeles: 8 (15%)
 South: 11 (21%)

Economic Justice

This section asked respondents to identify the importance of various economic justice issues, and the responses are summarized in this chart. A majority of respondents ranked each item as Important or Extremely Important. Income and employment instability due to COVID-19 was scored as the most important item.

	NOT IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Income/employment instability due to COVID-19	0% 0	2% 1	2% 1	21% 11	74% 39	2% 1	53	4.69
Employment issues	0% 0	0% 0	13% 7	38% 20	46% 24	2% 1	52	4.33
Repairing credit or rebuilding assets	0% 0	2% 1	13% 7	36% 19	44% 23	4% 2	52	4.28
Paid leave policies and benefits	0% 0	4% 2	23% 12	42% 22	27% 14	4% 2	52	3.96
CalWORKs / CalFresh	0% 0	8% 4	15% 8	46% 24	25% 13	6% 3	52	3.94

Respondents had the opportunity to share up to three different pressing problems and potential solutions within Economic Justice. The same opportunity was provided within the Housing and Homelessness and Addressing the Criminal Legal System sections. Within Economic Justice, we received 60 responses to these open-ended narrative questions. Themes that emerged were:

- Impacts of COVID on survivors’ employment, housing, and stability. Several respondents specifically noted the need for COVID-19 relief that includes immigrant communities.
- COVID-19 impacting program funding and the ability to support survivors.
- Childcare needs, including the lack of available childcare and the high costs.
- Debt burdens survivors face, and the need for debt relief.
- Survivors’ poor credit scores or credit history resulting from the abuse and the impact this has.

- Several legal service organizations (Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, UC Davis Family Law Clinic, and the Family Violence Appellate Project) suggested specific economic justice barriers and solutions related to the family court process.
- Housing was also a prevalent theme, and this topic is discussed in more detail below.

Housing and Homelessness

This section began by asking respondents to identify the importance of various housing or homelessness issues, and the responses are summarized in this chart. Access to affordable housing was nearly unanimously identified as Extremely Important.

	NOT IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Access to affordable housing	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	6% 3	94% 45	0% 0	48	4.94
Challenges in renting/securing housing	0% 0	0% 0	4% 2	25% 12	71% 34	0% 0	48	4.67
Income/employment instability due to COVID	0% 0	2% 1	4% 2	21% 10	72% 34	0% 0	47	4.64
Limited access to homelessness funds (including Continuum of Care funding)	0% 0	6% 3	10% 5	21% 10	58% 28	4% 2	48	4.37
Housing Discrimination against DV survivors	0% 0	0% 0	17% 8	35% 17	48% 23	0% 0	48	4.31
Addressing housing discrimination against LGBTQ+ survivors	0% 0	2% 1	28% 13	26% 12	43% 20	2% 1	47	4.11
Landlords not complying with current housing protections	0% 0	6% 3	19% 9	32% 15	38% 18	4% 2	47	4.07
Other tenant/landlord issues	0% 0	5% 2	21% 9	30% 13	12% 5	33% 14	43	3.72

We received 43 responses to the open-ended questions asking about pressing problems and potential solutions are within housing and homelessness. Respondents repeatedly highlighted the lack of affordable housing in their communities. In addition to that issue, several items were mentioned in multiple responses.

- Challenges with landlords accepting third party checks
- The need for rent relief related to COVID-19

- Challenges with the Continuums of Care (CoCs), with a repeated recommendation for a set aside amount of funding for domestic violence to ensure the issue is prioritized and funded by CoCs.
- The need to fund legal services for eviction defense and other housing-related legal services
- Suggestions for Know Your Rights information to renters and similar education for landlords.
- Recommendations to support rent control or caps on the allowed amount for rent or deposits.
- Recommendations to strengthen eviction protections for survivors, including preventing a survivor from being evicted based on the acts of the abusive partner
- Challenges related to credit scores and the role they play in the ability of a survivor to secure housing.

Addressing the Criminal Legal System

This section asked respondents to identify the importance of various housing or homelessness issues, and the responses are summarized in this chart. Language access was identified as a top need, followed closely by a need to improve law enforcement response and create or support alternatives to law enforcement.

	NOT IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Language access during law enforcement contact and/or court proceedings	0.00% 0	2% 1	9% 4	17% 8	72% 34	0% 0	47	4.60
Improving law enforcement response	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6% 3	30% 14	62% 29	2% 1	47	4.57
Creating/supporting alternatives to law enforcement	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6% 3	34% 16	53% 25	6% 3	47	4.50
Advocacy by and for arrested/incarcerated survivors	0.00% 0	2% 1	9% 4	28% 13	60% 28	2% 1	47	4.48
Judicial response	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	15% 7	23% 11	57% 27	4% 2	47	4.44
Restorative and/or transformative justice	0.00% 0	2% 1	13% 6	26% 12	51% 24	9% 4	47	4.37
COVID-19 Impacts to issuance of Emergency Protective Orders and Criminal Protective Orders	0.00% 0	6% 3	11% 5	34% 16	49% 23	0% 0	47	4.26
Enforcement of Victim's Rights (Marsy's Law)	0.00% 0	2% 1	24% 11	20% 9	50% 23	4% 2	46	4.23
Prosecution response	2% 1	4% 2	15% 7	36% 17	38% 18	4% 2	47	4.09
Survivors Access to Law Enforcement during COVID-19	0.00% 0	9% 4	15% 7	32% 15	40% 19	4% 2	47	4.09

	NOT IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Batterers Intervention Programs	2% 1	6% 3	19% 9	38% 18	30% 14	4% 2	47	3.91
Corrections Response (incl. Parole/Probation)	2% 1	9% 4	21% 10	38% 18	21.28% 10	8.51% 4	47	3.74

We received 39 responses to the open-ended questions asking what the pressing problems and potential solutions are within addressing the criminal legal system. A clear theme that emerged among the problem statements was negative and harmful interactions with law enforcement. Respondents shared challenges with law enforcement not taking restraining order violations seriously, arresting the survivor and misidentifying the dominant aggressor, victim blaming attitudes and behaviors, and more. Additional response themes included:

- Suggestions for addressing the challenges with law enforcement ranged from requiring additional training for law enforcement to increasing funding for alternatives to the criminal system response. Several respondents suggested re-allocating current law enforcement funding to community service programs.
- Several respondents identified safety concerns for survivors when the abusive partner was quickly released from prison, and proposed longer period of incarceration.
- Several individuals identified the need for programming for those who have committed domestic violence, with better funding for these programs.

Supporting Policy Engagement

The next section of the survey asked about a range of supports to assist programs in deepening their state-level policy engagement and support local advocacy efforts. This information will help the Partnership's Policy Team to tailor its future training and technical assistance offerings.

Policy Trainings

Fifty percent or more of respondents indicated they were very interested in future trainings on systems change advocacy, local policy advocacy, and developing bill ideas and legislative language. Significantly fewer respondents indicated interest in training on the state budget process or nonprofit lobbying rules.

	VERY INTERESTED	SOMEWHAT INTERESTED	NOT INTERESTED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Systems change advocacy	70% 30	28% 12	2% 1	43	1.33
Local policy advocacy	61% 27	30% 13	9% 4	44	1.48
Developing bill ideas/legislative language	50% 22	41% 18	9% 4	44	1.59
State legislative process	49% 21	35% 15	16% 7	43	1.67
Local budget advocacy	47% 20	37% 16	16% 7	43	1.70
Using social media for advocacy	45% 20	36% 16	18% 8	44	1.73
Organizing supporters for advocacy	40% 17	44% 19	16% 7	43	1.77
State budget process	39% 17	43% 19	18% 8	44	1.80
Nonprofit lobbying rules and laws	34% 15	36% 16	30% 13	44	1.95

Policy Resources

All of the suggested possible resources received strong interest, with the highest level of interest for infographics/shareable images and the least interest in white paper/position papers.

	VERY INTERESTED	SOMEWHAT INTERESTED	NOT INTERESTED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Infographics/shareable images	69% 29	26% 11	5% 2	42	1.36
Talking points	63% 27	28% 12	9% 4	43	1.47
Advisory/consulting services from an outside expert organization	50% 21	43% 18	7% 3	42	1.57
In-depth research	50% 21	36% 15	14% 6	42	1.64
Social media templates or toolkits	53% 23	28% 12	19% 8	43	1.65
White papers/position papers	40% 17	45% 19	14% 6	42	1.74

Respondents provided additional comments about what resources would be most helpful. Individuals highlighted the need for easily shareable content, especially on the issue of domestic violence and homelessness. Suggested research topics included child welfare, custody, and criminal system alternatives.

Coordinated Policy Activities

Perhaps directly in keeping with the current COVID-19 realities, respondents were most interested in a Virtual Policy Advocacy Day, and least interested in attending an in-person Policy Advocacy Day. As our Members know, the Partnership and CALCASA quickly pivoted to adapt our April 2020 Policy Advocacy Day to a virtual setting, and we hope you all found it to be a success and as impactful as we did! As we consider our advocacy strategies for 2021 we will continue to follow all public health guidance and keep your health and well-being at the forefront of our decision-making. While we hope to see you all in person together soon, we will only do so when it is safe.

	VERY INTERESTED	SOMEWHAT INTERESTED	NOT INTERESTED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Virtual Policy Advocacy Day	59.09% 26	34.09% 15	6.82% 3	44	1.48
Mini action/advocacy days of coordinated meetings/calls	52.27% 23	40.91% 18	6.82% 3	44	1.55
In person Policy Advocacy Day	37.21% 16	46.51% 20	16.28% 7	43	1.79

Conclusion

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete this survey. The input of our members is essential to establishing our policy agenda for each legislative session, and we strive to ensure your voices and the needs of survivors are well represented at the state Capitol. Your feedback on various trainings, tools, and activities also helps us to plan items that will be of the greatest benefit to your work. The Partnership's Policy Team will review the survey results closely with our Policy Advisory Council. This is the first step in our agenda-setting process; we will host listening sessions with the Membership, disseminate a survey for survivors to complete, and provide additional opportunities for input as we develop specific legislative and/or systems change priorities.

We value your time and input, and encourage you to reach out at any time. You can always contact us at policy@cpedv.org.