



## Equal Pay: Promoting Economic Security for Domestic Violence Survivors

*Pay inequality can have devastating consequences for victims of domestic violence. Survivor safety is directly linked to survivor economic security. Pay equity is an important step toward ensuring safety and independence for survivors of domestic violence in Louisiana.*

- Domestic violence victims frequently suffer financial abuse at the hands of their partner. Financial abuse includes actions such as controlling the victim's access to money, preventing the victim from working, sabotaging the victim's employment, or destroying the victim's credit.
- Financial abuse occurs in 99% of relationships where domestic violence is present. <sup>1</sup>
- Financial abuse is a common and overwhelming barrier to leaving a violent relationship. Victims are often unable to restart their lives in safety due to the damage their abuser has caused to their finances.
- Limiting survivors' access to financial resources restricts their ability to seek safety. It also limits their ability to move from immediate safety to long-term stability and independence.
- Wage inequality makes it difficult for domestic violence victims to earn livable wages that will allow them to live independently from their abusers.
- Pay equity benefits all families, but is especially crucial for families in crisis who rely on the wages of a single earner. Victims fleeing violence with their children cannot rely on the wages of an abusive partner to keep their children housed and fed.
- Pay equity saves money. It allows survivors of domestic violence to obtain long-term economic security through gainful employment, thereby reducing the need for shelter and government-funded services to meet survivors' basic needs.
- Domestic violence does not exist in a vacuum, and it cannot be eliminated in a vacuum. Efforts to end domestic violence must address the short- and long-term needs of survivors. Survivors' economic stability is central to our efforts to end domestic violence and promote lives free from abuse.

### References:

1 – The Allstate Foundation, 2014

### **About LCADV**

**Our Mission:** The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is a statewide network of programs, organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence in Louisiana. LCADV empowers its members and communities through advocacy, education, resource development, and technical assistance.

**Our Work:** The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the federally designated statewide coalition of programs and individuals working to end domestic violence in Louisiana. Our programs serve people from everywhere in Louisiana and who come from all backgrounds. LCADV is dedicated to bringing about change in our institutions, laws, politics, attitudes, and beliefs which will allow individuals to live free of violence.