

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM STANDARDS

### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence defines "domestic violence" as: a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.

To address the needs of individuals experiencing domestic violence, the PCADV contracts with community-based organizations to provide a range of counseling, advocacy and residential services. Persons for domestic violence services may be:

1. An adult who is subjected to physical abuse or the threat of physical abuse by a family or household member. This individual is referred to as the "**Primary Recipient.**" "**Family or household member**" means spouses, parents and children, other persons related by consanguinity or affinity, current or former sexual or intimate partners, or persons who share biological parenthood.
2. A child, under the age of 18, is a dependent of the Primary Recipient of service or an individual under the age of 18 experiencing intimate partner violence or violence in a dating relationship.
3. Significant Other - a family or household member or any other person, other than the person using physical force or the threat of physical force, who relates to the victim in an important way. Examples might be a parent, a sibling or a close friend, etc.

To assure the protection, health, safety, and well being of persons receiving domestic violence services through the PCADV, a set of program and service standards have been established with which all contractors must comply. All Domestic Violence Programs are required to meet the standards set forth in Sections C1 through C30. Domestic Violence Programs with on-site residential/shelter components are required to meet all standards set forth in Sections C1 through C30 and Sections S1 through S8. Domestic Violence Programs with both on-site and off-site residential/shelter/safe-homes components are required to meet the standards set forth in Sections C1 through C30 **and** Sections S1 through S9.

All programs shall measure their policies, practices, and/or directives against the following four goals:

- A. Justice: Does the policy, practice or directive promote access to opportunities and resources that assure victims/survivors receive responses from systems and communities that maximize safety and hold batterers accountable?
- B. Advocacy and Autonomy: Does the policy, practice or directive advance the individuals' abilities to exercise their own decisions in an informed and independent manner?
- C. Restoration: Does the policy, practice or directive link the individuals with the resources they need to maintain their safety and autonomy?
- D. Safety: Does the policy, practice or directive enhance the individual's safety?

### CORE STANDARDS

#### C1 REQUIRED SERVICES

All Domestic Violence Program shall provide the following support and advocacy services to all battered women, their children and other domestic violence victims: