



Kentucky can...

Promote the Wellbeing and Financial Stability of Survivors of Domestic Violence and Their Children

Domestic violence takes many forms, including chronic yelling, controlling behaviors, isolation, threats of suicide or murder, threats involving weapons, threats to take the children, and serious injuries. Many children exposed to violence in the home are also victims of physical abuse. Children who witness domestic violence, or are victims of abuse themselves, are at serious risk for physical and mental health issues that can last a lifetime.

Employment and financial independence are critical for survivors of domestic violence to be able to support themselves and their children. Financial independence can mean the difference between having to remain in or return to an abusive relationship and leaving for their children's and their own safety.

Quick Facts on Domestic Violence and Child Safety



The homicide rate in 2019 for women in the workplace was almost 3X higher than it was for men.



It's likely that a third of those women were killed by someone they knew, and in most cases, an intimate partner.



In 2020, Kentucky had nearly 17,000 child victims of abuse or neglect and over 50% had family violence as a risk factor, both of which are Adverse Childhood Experiences with immediate and long-term impacts on well-being.



The pandemic has likely exacerbated the issue with prolonged isolation and added economic uncertainty.

Kentucky can take steps to remove barriers to permanently leaving an abusive relationship

- Ensure victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking are not ineligible or disqualified from unemployment insurance benefits if their reason for not working is directly related to their experience of abuse, assault, or stalking.
- Through confidential documentation by police or court records, a sworn statement, or other documentation, survivors of domestic violence should be able to access these short-term benefits as they find safety and stability for themselves and their children.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Ensure unemployment insurance is available to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.