



March 13, 2020

Dear Community Partners and Friends,

We've all been experiencing a bombardment of information regarding the COVID-19 situation here in Iowa, in our country and across the globe. Here at the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) we know that violence takes no break even at times like these and in fact, families will experience an elevated level of stress due to absences from work, school closings and the realities of this illness. We have carefully considered the advisories coming out of the CDC, the Iowa Department of Health and other partners, and for that reason, ICADV is closing its physical office beginning Monday, March 16 through April 30, 2020, dialing back our physical presence in many spaces and working remotely.

Here's what will continue from our end:

- ICADV staff will be working each day. Though we will be working from our homes, we will be available during normal working hours – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. –conducting virtual meetings and the like. Our office phones are set for call forwarding so you can reach us by just calling our office, 515-244-8028. If no one answers, leave a message and the voicemail will be forwarded to the staff person's e-mail for response. As always, the quickest response may come through e-mail.
- We will continue to function in relationship to our 22 Member Organizations, offering to convene conversations, advocate on their behalf and we will be in contact with them as this situation unfolds.
- We will continue our presence at the legislature for vital work to support our legislative priorities, unless the capital is closed, the illness becomes more widespread or affects the staff directly.

Here's what may look different:

- Meetings may be cancelled, rescheduled for a later date or move from in-person to virtual. We will let you know as the meetings come up.
- Any previously schedule trainings will be postponed or provided virtually.
- Although it seems like many of our partners are also moving meetings to virtual platforms, for those who are not, we will evaluate the risk for exposure and will determine if we should attend in person or ask to participate using technology.

Here at ICADV we are taking COVID-19 seriously and recognizing that we are members of a community filled with people who may be at a significantly higher risk than the average Iowan.



We believe we can meet the needs of our constituents while simultaneously minimizing the risk to our staff and to all with whom we come in contact. By centering the most vulnerable among us, we feel that we are taking an active role in preventing the spread of this disease.

We also recognize the incredible privilege that comes with this action and we are working actively to use our voice to support Iowans who have no paid time off, who are looking at the prospect of lost wages, who are vulnerable and have few resources. We welcome anyone who wants to be in community with us.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laurie Schipper'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Laurie Schipper, Executive Director
On behalf of the entire ICADV staff