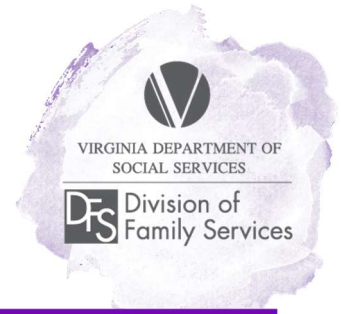


Promising Practices Guide – Introduction



Virginia Department of Social Services, Office of Family Violence (OFV) is proud to introduce the Promising Practices Guide (PPG), a project of the Domestic Violence Action Team (DVAT), a statewide multidisciplinary team focused on improving domestic violence services.

The PPG was developed based on requests from the field and with a recognition of gaps in service across the Commonwealth. The audience for the PPG is the full spectrum of staff and volunteers working at local Domestic Violence Programs (DVP). The focus of the PPG is on the diverse needs of survivors and individuals impacted by domestic violence.

The Promising Practices Guide was developed by a Promising Practices Workgroup made up of OFV staff and contractors with tremendous input from DVAT, local DVP staff, and survivors, including individuals who have accessed DVP services and individuals who have not. Input from survivors came from the Survivor Voice Survey which was distributed electronically during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the experiences of survivors supported elements of the PPG. A full survey report is included as part of the PPG.

The PPG includes a series of entries highlighting various subject areas that were identified through a DVAT exploratory process and that relate to domestic violence programming and services. Sections of the PPG include: Shelter, Non-shelter/Community Based Services, Data & Evaluation, and Community Connections. The Shelter section will be released first, followed by the other sections.

The PPG is unique in that it will advance the needs of survivors through a trauma-informed lens while including opportunities to reflect on the racial justice and social justice impact of a particular entry. These entries include concrete strategies for implementing promising practices and highlight DVPs in Virginia who are already making strides in certain

programmatic areas. The existing research and feedback from survivors and DVP staff gathered by the Promising Practices Workgroup has been synthesized into easily digestible written materials with accompanying videos (where available), infographics, and links to informational websites.

All DVP staff and volunteers have access to ALL of the PPG information in an effort to break down silos, provide up to date tools and resources, and ensure Virginia's DVPs are able to respond to diverse survivor needs in the most affirming, survivor-centered manner possible.

The PPG is a living document which will be updated regularly. It will continue to provide opportunities to expand what trauma-informed domestic violence programming steeped in racial and social justice could look like in Virginia.