The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness

Barriers to Safety: Understanding the Intersection

As a direct result of the power and control dynamics related to their abuse, survivors often face unique barriers to accessing shelter and affordable housing.

- **Poor Credit & Ruined Rental Histories**: Often caused by abusers running up credit card bills or lying about paying rent, utilities, childcare and other bills. This affects a survivors' ability to pass a landlord background check.

- **Lack of Steady Employment**: Caused when victims are forced to miss work as a result of violence, or are fired as a result of stalking and harassment that occurs at the workplace.

- **Housing Discrimination**: The most common cases of this occur when landlords evict victims from housing due to repeated calls to the police or property damage caused by the abuser.

- **Loss of Subsidized or Other Affordable Housing**: Caused by lease or voucher policy violations committed by the abuser.

This is particularly true for survivors most marginalized in our society and with the least access to resources, including many survivors of color, Native Americans, immigrants, those living in poverty and who are geographically isolated, those with disabilities, and others.