

Investing in Women and Children: Ayuda Honors the Commitment of D.C.'s Leading Women's Foundation

Ayuda is proud to have the support of one of the fastest growing women's foundations in the country. Washington Area Women's Foundation invests \$1 million annually in the D.C. metropolitan area's nonprofits. The Women's Foundation supports organizations that advance the needs of women and girls in the areas of health and safety, financial education, employment and child care and early education.

Ayuda's work to help immigrant victims of domestic violence escape violence and build safe, independent lives first caught the attention of The Women's Foundation in 2002 with a grant to strengthen our victim services. Consistent gifts from The Women's Foundation and other foundations help Ayuda provide legal representation and case management to 300 women and children annually.

Ayuda is proud to report key findings from our *Shattering the Myths: Barriers Faced by Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence* report funded in full by The Women's Foundation in 2006. Ayuda surveyed former and current Ayuda domestic violence clients to assess trends and obstacles related to housing and employment faced by victims.

Examples of key findings include:

- 48% of clients face some form of discrimination in their workplace;
- Only 30% of clients were aware of their rights to sick leave, family, and medical leave;
- 22% of clients are afraid to report problems or abuse by their landlord because of their immigration status; and
- 68% of clients use at least 50% of their income to pay for housing.



Carolee Summers-Sparks, Program Officer at the Washington Area Women's Foundation

By supporting Ayuda and this report on the barriers faced by domestic violence victims, The Women's Foundation demonstrates how investing in women and girls and organizations that improve their lives is one of the most effective strategies for building strong families and communities.

—Carolee Summers-Sparks, Program Officer at the Washington Area Women's Foundation

These findings illuminate the specific difficulties faced by women in gaining economic independence because of domestic violence.

Ayuda is confident this report and continued partnership with the Washington Area Women's Foundation will help community organizations take continued action in strengthening holistic victim services.

To read more about Washington Area Women's Foundation, please visit TheWomensFoundation.org.



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