

## **UNITED WAY CONSUMER INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE/ABUSE**

### **Definition of consumer population:**

*Family violence* is the intentional intimidation or abuse of children, adults or elders by a family member, intimate partner or caretaker to gain power and control over the victim.

*Child abuse* is any act or failure to act that endangers a child's physical or emotional health and development. Sexual abuse, neglect and child exploitation are also considered child abuse.

*Elder abuse* is an all inclusive term representing all types of mistreatment or abusive behavior toward older adults. This mistreatment can be an act of commission (abuse) or omission (neglect).

### **Desired outcomes as a result of investing in services for this population:**

- Victims and perpetrators will have access to multi-lingual, culturally competent services (adapted to cultural context of consumers)
- Victims will have access to emergency shelter. Victims will move to transitional/permanent housing.
- Mental health and substance abuse providers are trained to refer/serve consumers who are victims of abuse, neglect, and/or interpersonal violence. Providers are responsive to consumers' customs, culture, and beliefs.

### **United Way's Violence/Abuse Strategies:**

- A. **Intervention, assessment and treatment programs** that provide multi-lingual and culturally-competent services to uninsured victims of abuse, neglect, post traumatic stress syndrome and/or family violence
- B. **Emergency shelters** and residential alternatives that assure consumers' safety and link victims of family violence to safe transitional/permanent housing
- C. **Training programs for mental health and substance abuse providers** focusing on abuse, neglect, post traumatic stress syndrome and/or family violence education and prevention that are sensitive to diverse culture, beliefs, and customs.