

# Promoting Economic Stability

## in Michigan's Disability Community to Prevent Sexual Violence

### Did you know?



People with disabilities are  
**4 times**  
more likely to experience sexual  
violence, and, less likely to report it to  
police than people without disabilities.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS  
2009-2019 REPORT



*'Sexual violence' is any sexual activity that happens without consent, including sexual assault, harassment, abuse, and rape.*

### There is hope!



Communities can help prevent sexual violence by increasing

#### Protective Factors

which are strengths that make it less likely that someone will experience sexual violence or choose to commit sexual violence.

#### Economic Supports

are important protective factors for people with disabilities in Michigan.



#### What are Economic Supports?

Economic supports are workplace, economic, and social supports that create financial independence, stability and security; and laws and policies that create access to resources such as employment, housing, food, healthcare, and debt reduction.

The Michigan Community Sexual Violence Prevention Assessment (CSVPA) heard from members of the Disabled community about how to promote economic stability. The following page shares needs and actions you can take to help prevent sexual violence in Michigan's Disability community.

# What Can We Do to Increase Economic Supports?

**Reform benefit eligibility policies** that have strict income and asset limits which prevent financial independence.

**Improve equitable employment opportunities** by increasing accessible hiring events, paying living wages, improving benefits packages, and implementing workplace accessibility policies and practices.

**Make information and resources readily accessible** so persons with disabilities can easily navigate and receive available economic support services.



“**Access to the same opportunities that other folks have,** like being offered a mortgage at a fair rate or offered housing at an affordable rate—those pieces, if they exist in communities, if there is affordable housing in a community... access to jobs that have paid leave... retirement or health insurance... that would help.

—CSVPA interview participant

**Background:** These are select findings from the Michigan Community Sexual Violence Prevention Assessment (CSVPA). The CSVPA consisted of interviews with individuals from Michigan’s Disabled communities, guidance from an Advisory Council of professionals working in the field of sexual violence prevention, and secondary data collection. To learn more about the CSVPA and sexual violence prevention work in Michigan, visit:

[www.mphi.org/svp](http://www.mphi.org/svp)

I. Harrell, E. (2021). Crime against persons with disabilities, 2009-2019, statistical tables.

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0919st.pdf>