

## At The Intersection of Disability and Domestic Violence /Sexual Assault

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We have a lot of services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Miami-Dade County yet many barriers to those services still exist for persons with disabilities.

### COMMON BARRIERS:

- I didn't know where to turn to for help
- I wanted to attend a support group , but it was held on the second floor and they don't have an elevator
- I couldn't understand all the paperwork they gave me
- They wouldn't let me participate in their confidential programs because I needed to bring a personal care attendant with me.
- They couldn't afford a sign language interpreter, so they just wrote back and forth. I didn't understand.

### WHY BARRIERS EXIST:

- Providers aren't aware of the problem
- Services aren't tailored to account for the unique needs and realities of persons with disabilities
- Partnerships with experts in disability are rare

There are however, promising solutions. They include the Collaborative Partnership of DIG, MUJER, Legal Aid, and CVAC right here in Miami. Building partnerships of essential agencies will increase resources, expertise and create strategies towards addressing these issues. Our goal is awareness first and enhanced services later. This will have a big impact on survivors.