**Equitable and Effective Homicide Response Standard**

**A response to homicide is equitable and effective when…**

1. **Survivor Centered:** In every aspect of homicide response, families of murdered victim’s needs should be at the center. Providing a safe space to listen to family’s needs is essential to an effective and equitable response. Solicit feedback from your clients and implement them. Do not take anything personally.  All families need to be treated with compassion and dignity regardless of the circumstances.
2. **Culturally Competent:** Providers and responders are aware of the physical, financial, emotional and spiritual needs of families and the impact that murder, trauma grief and loss has on the individuals and the community. Providers are aware of the demographics of frontline staff relative to the community they serve and are equipped to provide adequate trainings to their personnel. Agencies have an analysis of institutional racism as a root cause of community violence.
3. **Practical:** A shared understanding of each step that needs to happen between death notification, funeral preparation and coordination to post funeral activities. There is a replicable process in place to meet families’ immediate practical needs as they begin to make final preparation to lay their loved one to rest with dignity and compassion. This include families whose loved ones have a criminal record or whose loved ones were killed by police involved shootings. This includes supporting families who cannot afford final expenses.  Agencies distribute the survivor’s burial and resource guide to all families.
4. **Consistent:** Family members are offered the same of similar services support and resources regardless of where the homicide happened and who the victim was or the circumstances surrounding the homicide.
5. **Collaborative:** Serving survivors of homicide victims is a collaborative effort sustained by partnerships. Agencies in a geographic area can articulate their roles and responsibilities in responding to homicide and the role of their partners.
6. **Communicative:** Clear interagency communication with each other about the status of a case and the needs of the family in the aftermath of a murder. Effective communication prevents gaps in and duplication of services. Communication protocols are in place and all partners/stakeholders have a shared understanding of when, who and how to communicate.
7. **Transparency:** Providers can share their process, procedures and protocols in a way that families can understand, and the intonation is available on the website and /or printed materials that are easy to read and avoid overpromising.