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MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCIÓN LAUNCHES SURVIVORS' FINANCIAL WELLNESS WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ALLSTATE FOUNDATION

The New Initiative Advances the Financial Empowerment of Domestic Violence Survivors on Their Own Path of Healing and Financial Independence

(Chicago) - Mujeres Latinas en Acción (Mujeres) is proud to announce the launch of Survivors' Financial Wellness (SFW). SFW is the newest component of Mujeres' entrepreneurial program, Empresarias del Futuro (EDF). SFW is made up of 100% survivors of domestic violence and focused on their financial stability and upward mobility. The development of this new component was made possible through the seed funding of The Allstate Foundation.

As the longest-standing Latina-led organization in the nation, Mujeres understands the importance of investing in the long-term financial stability of survivors. SFW will support cohorts made up of 100% survivors who are out of situations of crisis by incentivizing financial literacy learning, personalized saving strategies, workforce development, and providing stipends to support the continuation of training in the establishment of a small business, should they choose an entrepreneurship path.

"Mujeres' staff sees it first-hand - most survivors of domestic violence experience financial abuse," says Stephen Cornejo Garcia, Board Chair of Mujeres and Director of Inclusive Diversity & Equity at Allstate Insurance Company. "Survivors' Financial Wellness embodies our commitment to healing survivors because we understand how financial empowerment services can positively impact their lives."

With the goal of providing stability and empowerment opportunities to break the cycle of abuse, The Allstate Foundation acknowledges the importance of financial literacy. Which is why they established a program in partnership with United Way of Metropolitan Chicago to provide financial empowerment services to domestic violence survivors across the city. Their investment to fund the establishment of SFW speaks to their long-time commitment to end domestic violence. With a Latina, immigrant survivor-centered approach,¹ Mujeres' SFW implemented The Allstate Foundation's Moving Ahead Curriculum to support long-term financial planning and management skills.

Facilitated by staff of Mujeres' EDF and Domestic Violence programs, SFW integrates financial literacy into an array of larger services for survivors, including legal advocacy, counseling, safety planning, access to capital to promote the holistic growth of survivors on their path to financial independence.

"We have witnessed time and time again how the program increased the participants' confidence," says Alicia Espinosa, Director of EDF. "Each investment counts. The \$200 to \$700 in monetary incentives that each survivor is eligible for as part of SFW makes a significant financial and emotional difference in their lives."

The successful completion of two cohorts in pilot-phase of SFW in Spring 2021 saw the growth of 19 survivors through a journey of financial discovery and enrichment. Mujeres is proud to partner with The Allstate Foundation and other key collaborators, such as the United Way of Metro Chicago, to strengthen our support to survivors and their families.

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ABOUT:

Today, **Mujeres Latinas en Acción** (Mujeres) is the longest standing Latina-led organization in the nation. Over the years MLEA has honed its offerings including community services that empower Latinas and their families, and supports them as they heal, thrive, and lead through their programs.

The Allstate Foundation advances equity so that everyone can thrive. Since 2005, The Allstate Foundation has invested more than \$85 million to end domestic violence thorough financial empowerment. The Foundation empowers victims with the tools to achieve financial independence and a life free from abuse and educates young people on the elements of healthy relationships to help stop abuse before it starts.

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¹ A Latina, immigrant survivor-centered approach means our program is 100% in Spanish with an understanding of the financial issues that are relevant to the immigrant community.