

NEW JERSEY COALITION TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



STATISTICS

A GLIMPSE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES IN NEW JERSEY
THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS ARE REPORTED FROM NJCEDV MEMBER PROGRAMS*



NJCEDV's 30 member programs provided:

120,742 nights in shelter for women, men, and children who experienced abuse

Transitional housing for **280 survivors**

Intervention services for **1,072** people who used violence in their relationship

54,241 individual counseling sessions

17,874 group counseling sessions

Financial advocacy and education to **16,309** survivors

Advocacy related to immigration remedies and options to **3,381 survivors**

Housing advocacy for **8,793 survivors**

1,230 Victims Served in One Day

521 adult and child victims of domestic violence found refuge in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

709 adult and child victims received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, children's support groups, and more.

Type of Service Provided on DV Counts Day	% of Programs Providing Service
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	73%
Support/Advocacy Related to Public Benefits/TANF/Welfare	67%
Transportation	63%
Therapy/Counseling for Adults (by a licensed practitioner)	60%
Childcare/Daycare	40%

*This does not include all services provided.

New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Annual Report 2019

Dear Friend of NJCEDV,

The New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence continues to demonstrate the transformational power of leadership. Under the direction of our courageous and forward moving Executive Director, Pamela Jacobs, the Coalition's tradition of providing education and advocacy for the disparate shelter and community supports that exist throughout New Jersey has been elevated and expanded in every arena. Her leadership and the associated support to the entire NJ system of care for providers of services to domestic violence survivors during the Covid19 Pandemic has been both inspirational and life saving.



The example set by the Coalition staff of flexibility and creativity, balanced with the need for self care, is a model for the provision of complex services during times of multiple trauma. The public surfacing of the racism that permeates society as a result of the George Floyd murder served to elevate the commitment of the coalition to anti-racism work. Their work in 2019 and beyond highlighted their capacity for timely and meaningful responses.

The Coalition has provided a clear message to funders and legislators that the providers of life-saving services need financial support, fiscal relief, and reduction of wait times for payments. The voice of the most marginalized populations are increasingly being heard and there's a new commitment to bringing men to the table. It says in Ethics of the Fathers, "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." The Coalition is here to inspire, lead and join in raising voices for justice.

Esther East
President, NJCEDV Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

While this letter is intended to introduce NJCEDV's accomplishments in 2019, it is impossible not to acknowledge how our work, and our lives, have changed since then. Our country is hurting. Surpassing a grim milestone of 100,000 lives lost to the COVID-19 crisis, simultaneously, we are faced with continued acts of racism, injustice and oppression in our communities of color. At [NJCEDV](#), we are committed to centering the voices and experiences of those who have been the most marginalized, as well as undoing white dominance and anti-blackness in our systems, our communities, and in our movement.

For those who have been deeply impacted by these injustices:

We see you. You matter. You are not alone. And we will do better.

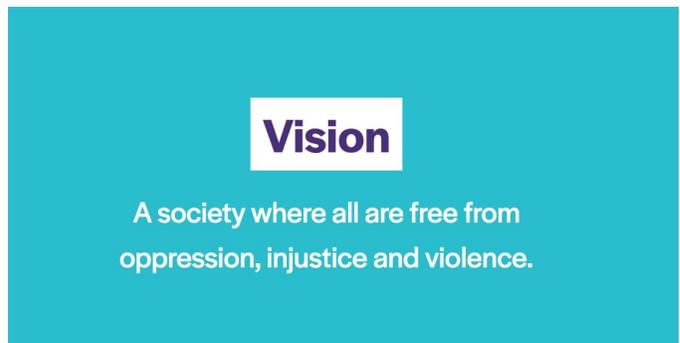
Working with the staff and Board of Trustees, NJCEDV began working on our social change plan in 2019 to give us a clear and unified vision for our future. Considering the current pandemic and the unveiling of injustice in our society today, it was heartening to review this plan and see that our vision for the future remains unchanged. We may go about serving our mission a bit differently, but our goals and objectives have not wavered. Our plan is framed within a single belief: **Working together, we can end domestic violence**. To support this vision, we identified three pathways to change:

1. We will embrace and elevate healing and restorative practices to transform trauma and interrupt violence.
2. We will identify and combat the roots of injustice and oppression, to transform systems and eradicate violence.
3. We will recognize and build connections between domestic violence and critical issues affecting survivors.

We are dedicated to making this change a reality. We believe that a world without domestic violence, and other forms of oppression, is within reach. It's time for action. It's time for change. And we are grateful to you for being a part of this movement for a better and more equitable future.

In community and solidarity,

Pamela Jacobs, Executive Director



Training

One of NJCEDV's core functions is to provide timely, expert training for advocates and allied partners throughout New Jersey. *As part of this effort, we facilitated 37 events through our Training Institute in 2019, training almost 4,000 advocates, attorneys, social workers, and other professionals on best practices for responding to and preventing domestic violence.* NJCEDV staff also provided extensive training for the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Probation, the Department of Children and Families, and the New Jersey Victim Witness Academy at Rutgers University. These partnerships allow us to not only expand the reach of our trainings, but also to form effective collaborations with allied professionals.

“I have attended many trainings over the past 18 years in the field of domestic violence and this has been the best training I’ve ever attended and the facilitator was amazing. Thank you!”

Our 17th Annual Conference, *Fostering Holistic Relationships*, was held on June 26, 2019 at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). Over 350 advocates and allied professionals attended this year's conference, which included a keynote address by Ted Bunch of a Call to Men, and 16 workshops facilitated by experts in the field. Attendees learned about ways to enhance services to survivors, engage men in the work to prevent violence, and improve their own self-care and healing.

“Thank you for providing transformative workshops and the presenters were passionate, knowledgeable, and dynamic! I really enjoyed all of the self care activities that were provided throughout the day as well.



Prevention

Our ultimate goal is to end domestic violence. To do so, we know that our work must start long before violence ever begins. In 2019, Wil DuBose, NJCEDV's Prevention Coordinator, successfully launched our Men of Courage initiative, which seeks to engage men in the work to end domestic violence, and also to transform some of the toxic messages impacting men into healthier, more healing messages.

This effort yielded great results and was made possible through a partnership with NJ Division on Women, and the national organization, A Call To Men. We strategically engaged and activated many advocates interested in prevention work throughout the state. NJCEDV also launched our Prevention Forum; held three regional training institutes with A Call To Men, reaching 150 total participants; and established three regional Men of Courage Core Groups.

“These training sessions are a transformative experience that challenged me personally and professionally to rework ideas of how to really be effective with creating change.”

Outreach and Capacity Building

NJCEDV's Outreach and Capacity Building Project prioritizes identifying and closing service gaps to New Jersey's underserved and unserved communities (communities of color, LGBTQIA, immigrant and undocumented survivors, survivors who are Deaf and hard of hearing, people with disabilities). We accomplish this work through member program visits, conducting statewide needs assessments, and developing strategic partnerships with community stakeholders. Simultaneously, technical assistance and training is provided in areas where programs, advocates, community partners, and allied professionals determine support is needed.



Deaf Advocacy Project

As one of the only programs in the country focused on serving Deaf survivors, NJCEDV's Deaf Advocacy Project (DAP) increased staffing for this program to reflect the growing needs of the Deaf community. Throughout 2019, the DAP team facilitated outreach presentations with several NJCEDV member programs on the impact of domestic violence on Deaf and hard of hearing survivors, as well as understanding Deaf culture. The DAP team also provided extensive technical assistance to other nationwide Deaf agencies and programs, as well as creating and disseminating numerous webinars and vlogs on these issues.



Social Justice

NJCEDV works with advocates across the state to increase equity in all of our systems, and to end oppression, injustice and harm against all individuals and communities. A large part of this work is carried out by specific task forces. Highlights from this year's activities are listed below.

LGBTQ+ Task Force

NJCEDV's LGBTQ+ Task Force is working to improve services and outreach to LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic violence across our state. The Task Force participated in many events and initiatives in 2019, including:



- New Jersey's 28th LGBTQ Pride Parade and Festival in Asbury Park.
- 16th Annual NJ Gay Straight Alliance Forum 2019 at Thomas Grover Middle School. Erica Torsiello and Kasia Toczyłowska presented a workshop titled, *Abusive Relationships & Safe Dating in the LGBTQ+ Community*.
- Presentation by Garden State Equality and NJ Citizen Action, focused on Inclusive Paid Family Leave Program protections for LGBTQ survivors and those who care for them.
- NJ Census 2020 Kick-Off Event at the Pride Center of New Jersey.

Women of Color Task Force

NJCEDV's Women of Color (WOC) Task Force works to provide support for advocates of color, while also striving to improve services and outreach to survivors of color across New Jersey. In 2019, the Task Force hosted and participated in many events, including:

- **Healing From Inside Out:** This two-day conversation in October, hosted at Princeton Community Television, was co-facilitated by WOC Task Force Co-Chair, Hilda Masseburg, and Tamu Lane, CEO of Healing Wounds. The event provided education on trauma, as well as the causes and effects of domestic violence. In addition, information was provided to viewers on how to best support the survivors in their communities.
- **Crucial Conversations: Black Women's Maternal Health & Domestic Violence Conference** on November 22, 2019 at Kean University. The event was a collaborative effort between the WOC Task Force, the YWCA of Union County, and Dr. Christine Thorpe of Kean University, and was sponsored by the NFL's Social Responsibility initiative. The conference featured panel discussions, workshops, and a call to action for 100 domestic violence advocates and community partners.
- The Task Force purchased a memorial brick in honor of Sharon Miller, a pioneer of the DV movement and long-standing member of the WOC Task Force, who passed away in 2017. Task Force members also participated in the dedication ceremony at Kaighn Ave Baptist Church in Camden. Sharon's brick reads, "Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History. Sharon Miller - NJCEDV, Women of Color Task Force."
- The Task Forces Supported Rose Williams, CEO of Harambe Social Services, with her "Respect Me, I'm Worth It" presentation at Camden County College. Over 100 students participated in the activities focused on building self-esteem, coping with social pressure, bullying, and healing.



Legal Project

Legal representation and advocacy remain urgent needs for survivors of domestic violence across our state. NJCEDV provides training and technical assistance to advocates and attorneys to help ensure survivors' safe access to legal options and remedies.

In 2019, NJCEDV's Legal Team launched the [Case Law Brief Bank](#), documenting over 325 cases of domestic violence legal issues. The Brief Bank allows domestic violence

advocates and attorneys to quickly locate relevant case law to support their legal advocacy on behalf of survivors. Advocates have stated that it is a vital resource as they work to offer survivors legal information.

In 2019, the Legal Team launched the Legal Representation Project, reconceptualized our Statewide Domestic Violence Legal Helpline, and continued our partnership with Community Health Law Project to provide legal representation to survivors in Southern Jersey. We also continued hosting monthly forums for domestic violence advocates and attorneys throughout the state.

As part of the Legal Representation Project, **our legal team partnered with private attorneys to provide holistic legal services to domestic violence victims, prioritizing the needs of marginalized survivors located in areas of the state with limited or no access to legal services.** In partnership with advocates from domestic violence service providers, we have implemented screening for all legal matters and offering representation through private counsel in domestic violence and family law matters including but not limited to restraining orders, child support, spousal support, visitation, and custody.

Since beginning the helpline, it's become abundantly clear: it only takes one call to break down barriers to justice. **In 2019, our legal team responded to over 1,000 requests from survivors throughout the state seeking legal assistance to increase their access to safety and well-being in the community.** Our team has focused on serving as many survivors as we can while also maintaining a meaningful level of care and empathy. As advocates we know one of the most powerful services we can provide is deep listening, the kind of listening that can help relieve the suffering of another person.

We have worked to translate our team's combined 30 plus years of legal and advocacy experience into empathy and support for survivors. After reaching out and speaking with an attorney or advocate on our legal team, survivors have shared with us how much they value our services:

“Thank you for being the first person to listen to me. My life has been falling apart and after speaking with you I feel like I can put it back together.”

“I want to share my voice to help other survivors, thank you for helping me to see this is my life's purpose.”

Last year our legal team was able to successfully guide a survivor through a highly contested interstate relocation hearing. Our team worked several weeks with the survivor up until midnight of the day before her hearing providing legal advice and emotional support. After the judge ruled in the survivor's favor, she was elated and sent us a thank you note, “I can start a new life with my babies now, I'm so grateful for your help, you are much appreciated!”

Our team is dedicated to helping advocates as they do the important work of supporting survivors in the courts and helping survivors get the legal answers they need to move

their lives forward. As part of this, we continually remind survivors that they have more power than they believe. We know by empowering survivors and advocates, we build stronger, safer communities.

Economic Justice

In the last few years, NJCEDV has turned our focus to economic justice, as the impact of economic abuse on domestic violence survivors can be devastating. And according to recent studies, women living in poverty experience domestic violence at twice the rate of those who do not, which dramatically increases the connection between abuse and poverty.

99% of survivors of domestic violence experience financial abuse by an intimate partner, and domestic violence can have immediate and long-lasting impacts on a survivor's economic safety and security.

In 2019, NJCEDV continued its participation with the Allstate Foundation's Purple Purse Initiative. Nearly 100 advocates across the state were trained to utilize the Moving Ahead Curriculum in their financial empowerment work with survivors of domestic violence. This year, program participation expanded to 13 Member Programs across the state, implementing their own economic empowerment initiatives. Statewide, 641 survivors participated in financial empowerment programming, including 571 who were trained on the Allstate Financial Empowerment Curriculum. In addition, six Financial Empowerment Advocates presented on our work at the National Network to End Domestic Violence's National Economic Justice Summit in Texas.

Housing

According to NNEDV's annual DV Counts survey, in just *one day* in New Jersey, there were 126 unmet requests for services, of which 65% (82) were for housing and emergency shelter. NJCEDV recognizes the dire need for affordable housing for survivors statewide.

In 2019, we hired Cierra Hart as our Housing Coordinator, to lead this initiative. We also launched the Domestic Violence Housing First Pilot Program, designed to connect survivors with housing and other essential needs. The NJCEDV Housing and Outreach and Capacity Building Team researched rural communities in New Jersey and began developing a needs assessment tool to identify the needs of survivors throughout our state.

Policy

Our movement is stronger when we work together, and creating partnerships and alliances was vital to our policy efforts in 2019. NJCEDV partnered with advocates in other fields to support legislation that increases access to resources and economic opportunities for survivors and their families. This work remains crucial in our desire to build awareness and elevate the issues that victims and survivors of domestic violence face.

NJCEDV partnered with the Time to Care Coalition to support the expansion of New Jersey Paid Family Leave Insurance (FLI) and Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) (A3975/S2528) which expanded benefits from six to twelve weeks, includes a broader definition of family making Family Leave available to more individuals, and now allows benefits to be used to support individuals needing time off to address domestic or sexual violence.

Together with Thrive NJ, NJCEDV supported a package of legislation that would have increased access to reproductive health education, resources, and care for incarcerated women. Thrive NJ is a statewide coalition of organizations working collectively to promote sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice through policy change and advocacy,

With the NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, NJCEDV advocated for the Let's Drive bill (A4743/S3229) to help increase access to a driver's license for individuals who do not have the documentation to demonstrate residence in New Jersey. This bill will help to increase access to services and employment opportunities for survivors and immigrants.

In 2019, NJCEDV advocated with NJ Congressional Representatives to pass the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 1585). NJCEDV continues to work with Senators Booker and Menendez to ensure that the Senate also reauthorizes VAWA with the protections that are in the House version, including key improvements to housing protection options for survivors; increased investment in domestic and sexual violence prevention; economic security for survivors; and efforts to reduce domestic violence homicides.

In June 2019, NJCEDV staff met with Senators and Members of the US House of Representatives on Capitol Hill. Advocates from AVANZAR in Atlantic County and DASI in Sussex County joined NJCEDV for the meetings as part of NNEDV's Advocacy Day in Washington, DC.

Public Awareness

As the collective voice of domestic violence organizations in New Jersey, NJCEDV strives to raise the public's awareness about domestic violence and the ways individuals and communities can work together to support survivors and their families. Throughout 2019, NJCEDV increased its followers on Facebook by nearly 600 people bringing the total number of followers at the end of 2019 to 4,107 individuals and organizations who have helped share NJCEDV's posts, messages and calls to action to more than 350,000 individuals highlighting Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention, Economic Justice and Financial Empowerment, Domestic Violence Prevention and self-care.

NJCEDV's Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month Campaign, "*Face the Facts. Domestic Violence Impacts Us All. And We Can End It.*", highlighted the various ways domestic violence impacts individuals and communities, and the role every person can each play to support healthy communities and relationships. *Face the Facts* was visible to approximately 1.3 million commuters traveling NJ Transit, and to over 34,000 social media users throughout October 2019. This campaign sought to reinforce our core belief that domestic violence *can be prevented*, and by working together, we can create safer homes, families, and communities across New Jersey.

FACE THE FACTS.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IMPACTS US ALL.

AND WE CAN END IT.

VISIT WWW.NJCEDV.ORG TO LEARN MORE.



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- Lori Davenport
- Hilda Massenburg, WOC TF Representative
- Katarzyna Toczyłowska, LGBTQ+ Taskforce Representative

PRIMARY FUNDERS

Federal

- US Department of Health and Human Services
- US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women

State

- NJ Department of Children and Families, Division on Women
- NJ Department of Criminal Justice
- NJ State Police

Corporations and Foundations

- The Allstate Foundation
- Margaret A. Darrin Foundation
- Reshmi & Mahmood Siddique Foundation

MEMBER PROGRAMS

Atlantic County

Avanzar

Bergen County

Bergen County Alternatives to Domestic Violence

Center for Hope and Safety

Burlington County

Providence House Domestic Violence

Services of Catholic Charities

Camden County

Camden County Women's Center

Cape May County

CARA, Inc. Coalition Against Rape & Abuse, Inc.

Cumberland County

Services Empowering Rights of Victims

SERV

Essex County

Essex County Family Justice Center

Family Connections

Partners for Women and Justice

The Rachel Coalition of Jewish Family Service of Metrowest

The Safe House

Gloucester County

Services Empowering Rights of Victims

SERV

Hudson County

Womenrising, Inc.

Mercer County

Womanspace, Inc.

Middlesex County

Manavi, Inc.

Women Aware, Inc.

Monmouth County

180 Turning Lives Around

Morris County

Jersey Battered Women's Services, Inc.

JBWS

Ocean County

Providence House Domestic Violence

Services of Catholic Charities

Passaic County

Passaic County Women's Center

Project SARAH

Wafa House

Salem County

Salem County Women's Services

Somerset County

Safe+Sound Somerset

Sussex County

DASI: Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault

Intervention Services

Union County

YWCA of Union County

Warren County

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault

Crisis Center



The Coalition office is open from 9 am to 5 pm Monday – Friday

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