



celebrating
25 years
of
growth



National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

celebrating
25 years
of
growth

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence celebrates 25 years of strengthening the capacity of programs responding to domestic violence survivors and their families by promoting effective programs, policies, research and engagement in prevention.

Established in 1994 under the umbrella of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NRCDV became an independent nonprofit in 2011.

Today, NRCDV's mission is to strengthen and transform efforts to end domestic violence, and we are proud to collaborate with other activists and organizations committed to gender, racial, economic and social justice as we strive to secure real change while keeping a clear focus on the work still to be done.

NRCDV knows that domestic violence is preventable and ending domestic violence takes vision. We are committed to leading boldly in centering and amplifying the voices of traditionally marginalized communities in our work to attain safe and thriving communities for all. We value and celebrate the rich diversity of people in this country and the vitality and strength they bring to our community and society.

1994

Leading efforts to expand access to and improve services in the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)

Since receiving its first funding from the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) Program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NRCDV has played a key leadership role in efforts to enhance the scope and reach of the FVPSA Program. NRCDV has worked with its national policy partners to raise awareness of the critical role that FVPSA plays in our nation's response to domestic violence and guide FVPSA reauthorization efforts. This has included working with the other FVPSA-funded resource centers to leverage funding for a Tribal resource center in 1994-1995 (providing funding to Sacred Circle and its successor organization, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center).

1994-Today

Helping to secure FVPSA funding for culturally specific resource centers

As a stable, well-funded leading mainstream organization, NRCDV has had both the opportunity and the responsibility to take leadership from others in lifting up and helping to secure additional resources and support for our partners who have not historically had the same access or resources as NRCDV. Sometimes this has meant helping to secure and hold space – or give up our space – for others who need to be at the table; sometimes this has meant working as a deep ally to support our partners' efforts to secure funding and advance their leadership, priorities and goals; often this has meant literally sharing NRCDV funds and other resources with our partners.

1994-1995

Providing leadership to the DVRN's efforts to leverage funding for Sacred Circle, the first FVPSA-funded Tribal resource center.

2010

Securing FVPSA formula funding for 3 culturally-specific resources.

2019

Tribal Housing Workgroup (2019) – A priority for NRCDV under its housing supplemental grant has been to hold space for tribal DV and housing organizations to come together to share experiences and ideas for creating more safe housing options for American Indian and Alaska Native survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking.

Ongoing

NRCDV is also currently serving as a fiscal agent for the Harrisburg, PA Community Responder's Network, in which 2 NRCDV Senior Leadership Team members are active.

1995

International Advocacy

NRCDV Delegation to the 1995 Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO) Forum on Women in China

In September 1995, NRCDV organized and led a multi-generational delegation of 12 girls and women to the NGO Forum on Women, which was connected to the [U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women](#). The Forum was held outside Beijing, China and engaged 30,000 women and girls from 200 countries with thousands of workshops, plenaries, training sessions and cultural programs. The 10-day event included many opportunities for lively cross-cultural sharing on global issues affecting women and girls -- often in brightly covered tents -- and network building with women activists determined to achieve equality, development, and peace.

1995

VAWnet

For over two decades, NRCDV's VAWnet has been recognized as an unparalleled, comprehensive, go-to source of free and reliable information and resources. Created in 1995, [the VAWnet online resource library](#) continues to be a vital resource to meet the needs of anti-violence advocates at all levels – community-based, tribal, statewide, and national – as well as human service professionals, educators, faith leaders, and others interested in ending gender-based violence. VAWnet has global reach and impact, with more than **500,000 views and 300,000 visitors per year** – an average of **800 visits per day** from **210 countries and territories** around the world. In 2015, it was selected by the United States Library of Congress for inclusion in the Library's historic collection of Internet materials related to public policy topics.

1995

Domestic Violence Advisory Project

In 1995, NRCDV convened several national domestic violence organizations including Futures Without Violence (formerly the Family Violence Prevention Fund), the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and the National Network to End Domestic Violence to launch a new effort to support domestic violence programs' awareness and education efforts for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), observed annually in October. This collaborative effort became the [Domestic Violence Awareness Project \(DVAP\)](#), which has evolved into a diverse and unique partnership of local, tribal, state and national domestic violence organizations and networks that guide national awareness initiatives for DVAM and throughout the year.

1996-1998

Intensive Welfare "Reform"

Since the passage of the 1996 federal Welfare 'Reform' bill creating the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, NRCDV has worked with its national anti-poverty and anti-violence allies to call attention to the critical intersections of poverty and domestic and sexual violence and provide vision and policy guidance to ensure that safety net programs are both accessible and responsive to survivors. NRCDV collaboratively designed 2 national surveys and published related reports in 2010 and 2018 focusing on how public benefits programs impact diverse domestic and sexual violence survivors' economic security. These intensive and long-term efforts reflect NRCDV's values and commitment to gender, racial, economic and social equity.

1996

Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence

With support from the Ford Foundation, [the BCS initiative](#) was created to build the capacity of advocates to respond to the new and increasing demand for collaboration and policy advocacy. The complex range of issues for victims living in poverty was an early priority. BCS co-founders were Susan Schechter (University of Iowa), Anne Menard (National Resource Center on Domestic Violence), and Jill Davies (Greater Hartford Legal Aid). In 2012, NRCDV launched the new BCS website to reintroduce the project to the domestic violence advocacy community.

2006

Access Initiative

[The Access Initiative](#), a multi-year effort, represented NRCDV's organizational commitment – as an employer, service provider, and community member—to individuals with disabilities and accessibility. The Access Initiative served as a catalyst for significant changes in NRCDV's culture and processes as we increased our capacity to educate staff, provide accommodations, and become better equipped as a resource to the field on this issue. “The Access Initiative not only made me a better TA Provider, but also a better person.” - NRCDV staff member, 2013

2008

Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative

In 2008, the Domestic Violence Runaway and Homeless Youth Learning Resource Team came together in the interest of cross-movement collaboration and partnership in working toward a common goal: enhancing the safety and healing of young people living situations marked by violence and abuse. The shared learning from this effort resulted in the development of the [Runaway and Homeless Youth and Relationship Violence Online Toolkit](#), developed in 2009 and updated in 2013 and 2019.

2008

Advocacy Beyond Leaving Initiative

NRCDV published and launched a training and TA initiative based on Jill Davies' [When Battered Women Stay... Advocacy Beyond Leaving](#). The initiative, which embraces Davies' framework for practice, underscores the importance for the domestic violence movement to do more to protect and advocate for survivors who stay in relationships with their abusers who use violence. It asserts that advocacy must preserve each victim's right to make decisions about their relationship, including whether to stay or leave. In 2011, the advocates' guide [Advocacy Beyond Leaving: Helping Battered Women in Contact with Current or Former Partners](#) was published by Futures Without Violence in partnership with NRCDV.

2009

Meeting Survivors' Needs Research Project

A collaborative effort between NRCDV and the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, the [Meeting Survivors' Needs Research Project](#) documented the impact of our collective movement work to provide both residential and non-residential services to survivors of domestic violence and their loved ones. The Multi-State Study of Domestic Violence Shelter Experiences (2008) captured the voices and experiences of over 3,400 shelter residents in 215 programs across eight states. It was followed by the parallel 2011 report on Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services & Supports that included 90 urban, rural and suburban community-based domestic violence programs and the voices and perspectives of nearly 1,500 domestic violence survivors.

2009

1st Annual Call of Unity

The first annual Call of Unity to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was an opportunity for survivors, advocates, and partners from national, state and community-based organizations to come together in solidarity to celebrate our movement's accomplishments and reflect on our shared experiences in moving forward together. In this year, the Domestic Violence Awareness Project released Part II of the foundational guide, [Domestic Violence Awareness: Action for Social Change](#), exploring organizing and communication strategies for DVAM.

2010

International Women's Day observances

For ten years, NRCDV has celebrated [International Women's Day \(IWD\)](#) by partnering with an artist, art collective, or organization to commission or purchase a piece of artwork that honors the struggles and successes that women face. Our goal is to lift up our partner and share their message, campaign, vision, and work nationally. The first IWD card featured art by Gina Livingston Murray.

2011

NRCDV becomes an independent national nonprofit organization

In late 2011, after discussions with key stakeholders (other domestic violence coalitions, national partners, consultants, funders, and NRCDV staff) and a thoughtful assessment, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Inc. was formed as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to carry on this work.

2011

PreventIPV Project

The IPV Prevention Council was formed in 2011 as a voluntary association of domestic violence coalitions working in partnership with allied national organizations. The Council started the PreventIPV project to enhance the capacity of state/territory domestic violence coalitions and community-based domestic violence programs to advance a comprehensive national prevention agenda and broaden support for its full implementation at the national, state, territory and local levels. The PreventIPV.org [Tools for Social Change website](http://PreventIPV.org/Tools-for-Social-Change-website), launched in 2014, features a searchable tools inventory with materials and campaigns for replication in communities across the country, and has grown to include key resources to inform engagement strategies across sectors and lessons learned from CDC-funded DELTA FOCUS states engaged in innovative prevention work.

2012

Domestic Violence Evidence Project

DVEP was designed to assist state coalitions, local domestic violence programs, researchers, and other allied individuals and organizations better respond to the growing emphasis on identifying and integrating evidence-based practice into their work. NRCDV developed a [Domestic Violence Evidence Project online resource center](#) to house a conceptual framework, theory of change and comprehensive evidence reviews, and profiles of innovative programs and practices related to the project's initial focus area of domestic violence core services.

2012

SAF-T Collaboration

NRCDV partnered with Allie Phillips, founder of [Sheltering Animals & Families Together™ \(SAF-T\)](#), the first and only global initiative guiding domestic violence shelters on how to house families together with their pets. NRCDV promoted [National SAF-T Day](#) to raise awareness about the need for shelter services for pets of survivors and sent packages of materials – including purple dog leashes – to the local DV shelters participating in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Annual National SAF-T Day.

2013

Adult Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (ACE-DV) Leadership Forum

After sharing space with other [ACE-DV identified advocates](#) who offered their stories to inform the development of the Minnesota Coalition Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) [Honor Our Voices project](#), participants from NRCDV and MINCAVA identified the need to amplify the voices and experiences of ACE-DV to enhance our movement work. They called together a diverse group of advocates in the end gender based violence movement who identified as having experienced domestic violence in childhood, and who became the driving force behind this initiative to 1) promote the leadership of ACE-DV within the end domestic violence movement and beyond, 2) provide technical assistance, training, and guidance related to this issue, and 3) support the development of trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, asset-based research and information to influence policy and practice impacting children exposed.

2014

Enhancing Services to Male Survivors Initiative

In an effort to enhance services for male-identified survivors, NRCDV undertook a literature and practice review, gathered input from a wide range of collaborative partners and key informants (including male survivors themselves), reviewed current anti-discrimination laws and grant conditions, and secured guidance from a diverse team of expert advisors. NRCDV's Final Project Report, *Shame, Stigma and Surviving: Recommendations to Enhance Services to Male Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking* (2015), documented and analyzed the victimization and help-seeking experiences of male-identified survivors of domestic violence (DV), dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and provided recommendations to OVC about strategic investments that could be made in training and technical assistance to enhance responses to these victims. The initiative has since included a national roundtable and convening, and the development of a TA Guidance document, [Serving Male-Identified Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence](#), in 2017.

2015

NRCDV Embraces New Mission & Vision

NRCDV's strategic planning process led to a bolder new approach and resulted in a dynamic new mission statement for the organization: To strengthen and transform efforts to end domestic violence. NRCDV also embraced a new vision, which more clearly articulated our accountability to survivors and advocates: NRCDV strives to be a trusted national leader and sustainable organization, renowned for innovation, multi-disciplinary approaches and a commitment to ensuring that policy, practice and research is grounded in and guided by the voices and experiences of domestic violence survivors and advocates.

2015

NRCDDV establishes the National Capacity Building Center on Safe and Supportive Housing for Domestic Violence Survivors

2015

[The Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium is launched](#)

The Consortium is an innovative collaborative approach to build and strengthen capacity for providers and programs working at the critical intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness and housing.

It is a unique partnership funded by U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development and consists of a collaborative TA Team that includes the National Alliance for Safe Housing, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Collaborative Solutions, Inc., the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and Corporation for Supportive Housing.

NRCDDV serves as the lead coordinating organization for the Consortium.

2017

[SafeHousingPartnerships.org](#) the website for the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium, is unveiled.

A collection of strategies, resources, and reports that providers and advocates can use to enhance services and better meet the housing-related needs of survivors.

NRCDDV is the oversight agency for the resource website.

2019

Implemented year-long focus on Advancing Accessible, Safe, Culturally-Responsive and Trauma-Informed Housing Options for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors which includes research and evaluation.

2016

Racial Justice Initiative Launch

NRCDV's Racial Justice Initiative is an effort led by a cross-team coordinating group that strives to move NRCDV along the continuum of becoming an anti-racist organization by providing opportunities for staff to address the impact of racism in our work and ensure that racial equity is front and center in our efforts to eradicate domestic violence. Modeling NRCDV's racial justice work, the Domestic Violence and Housing Consortium TA Team created a Change Committee to center racial equity.

2016

NRCDV Stands Statement

In response to the escalating violence and oppression perpetrated against marginalized communities, NRCDV issued a bold statement articulating its commitment to standing with those who experience harm and centering their experiences in our work. The We Stand Statement continues to guide NRCDV's policy, practice and research efforts, internally and externally.

2017

NRCDV Radio

Dedicated to lifting up and honoring the voices of survivors and advocates, NRCDV Radio features interviews with advocates and collaborative partners from the field, real life stories from survivors, and innovative practices in advocacy. Stories of Transformation and Policy & Advocacy in Action radio shows can be found on the NRCDV website and [YouTube channel and where ever you find your favorite podcasts](#).

2018

Launch of the Public Benefits Report

[The Difference Between Surviving and Not Surviving: Public Benefits Programs and Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims' Economic Security](#)

This report discusses the findings from a 2017 survey of over 1,100 domestic and sexual violence advocates, legal services/legal aid providers, social services program staff, and housing/homelessness and anti-poverty advocates. It details barriers survivors encounter when trying to access public benefits programs, cross-sector collaboration and systems-level advocacy, and possible legislative changes to these critical programs.

2018

#1Thing Campaign Launch

In 2015, the Domestic Violence Project Advisory Group (DVAP) developed the [Awareness + Action = Social Change campaign](#) to acknowledge and promote the importance of “being part of the equation” to end domestic violence by engaging in proactive efforts to shift our culture. In 2018, DVAP expanded upon this campaign by developing and [launching a unified message of #1Thing](#) for inspiring action during DVAM and beyond. The group intentionally created a message that is easy to say, easy to remember, and easy to personalize and adapt; providing a simple point of access for movement engagement. The #1Thing message helps individuals and communities to articulate and understand how our collective “one things” can lead to the social transformation we all desire to see.

2018

Release of Community Based Participatory Research Toolkit

The [Community Based Participatory Research \(CBPR\) toolkit](#) was designed for researchers across disciplines and social locations who are working in academic, policy, community, or practice-based settings. It can also be helpful to practitioners and students. In particular, the toolkit provides support to emerging researchers as they consider whether and how to take a CBPR approach and what it might mean in the context of their professional roles and settings. Domestic violence advocates will also find useful information on the CBPR approach and how it can help answer important questions about their work.

2019

Training Institute Launched

[NRCDV's Training Institute](#) centralizes the organization's initiatives to provide high-quality and accessible training opportunities designed to increase individual and organizational capacity for those wanting to learn about domestic violence and its intersections. The goals of the Training Institute include centering the voices and lived experiences of diverse survivors in our work and ensuring all training efforts and educational resources are relevant, forward thinking and innovative.