“I remain committed to supporting all Floridians in their efforts to combat domestic violence crime. I applaud the efforts of individuals throughout our communities who share the common vision of a safer tomorrow for Florida’s families. As we work together to prevent domestic violence through our criminal justice system, our human services providers and advocates, we affirm our commitment to reducing domestic violence within Florida’s families and communities.”
Greetings Governor Crist, Esteemed Lawmakers, and Colleagues:

Once again on behalf of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), I am pleased and proud to present to you the 2008-2009 Domestic Violence Annual Report as mandated by Section 39.904, Florida Statutes.

This past year has been particularly challenging due to Florida’s repressed economy; however, we continue to remain committed and determined to provide optimum services to all vulnerable citizens needing assistance. It is often in times like these that we are forced to stretch our resources to the limit. Fortunately for agencies like DCF, we’re accustomed to doing more with less, and this year has been no different for us, as we remain always focused on the agency’s fundamental core principles of promoting strong, resilient, and economically self-sufficient families.

This year’s annual report highlights the total commitment and tireless efforts demonstrated by the Department’s Domestic Violence Program in providing leadership to communities, facilitating strong partnerships with domestic violence and child welfare community advocates, and providing state-of-the-art training initiatives that provide the Department’s regions with unique and creative opportunities for addressing domestic violence.

I want to thank the Governor and the Legislature for always considering the needs of Florida’s families first and foremost. Without your commitment to addressing the social problems that continue to plague our families and tax our resources, we would not be able to enjoy the many successes the Department achieves everyday.

We always hear about devastating news, and so often the good stories go unnoticed. Let me assure you, the Department is proud of its many accomplishments both within the context of assisting families, as well as honoring the value of our highly regarded employees.

Domestic violence touches all of our citizens, either directly or indirectly, from numerous losses such as those associated with income, medical costs, mental health and substance abuse reimbursements, and housing assistance. Sources of hope require advocacy services, and without the Governor and Legislature’s continued support, our ability to provide financial support would be greatly compromised.

The Department extends its gratitude to the Governor, Legislature and community partners for the continued commitment and collaboration given to this important issue.

Sincerely,

George H. Sheldon
Secretary
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What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners or former partners to establish power and control. It may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and economic abuse. It may also include threats, isolation, pet abuse, using children, and a variety of other behaviors used to maintain fear, intimidation and power over one’s partner. Domestic violence knows no boundaries. It occurs in intimate relationships, regardless of race, religion, culture, or socioeconomic status.

Child abuse is also prevalent and often occurs in the same families as domestic violence. Research indicates, as well, that merely witnessing domestic violence can have profound effects on children. Childhood exposure to domestic violence is associated with increased aggression, depression and anxiety, lower levels of social competence, and poorer academic functioning. “Family violence threatens child” is the alleged maltreatment most reported to the Florida Abuse Hotline every year. Childhood exposure to family violence also significantly increases the likelihood of either perpetrating or being the victim of violence as an adult.

The effects of violence are visible in the burdens placed upon our health care, educational, social service, child welfare, and criminal justice systems, and in the workplace.

Domestic Violence Program Mission

Ensure the safety of victims of domestic violence by developing partnerships with community organizations to create a seamless system of services.

Program Description

The Domestic Violence Office serves as a clearinghouse for information relating to domestic violence and provides supervision, direction, coordination, and administration of statewide activities related to the prevention of domestic violence (Section 39.903, Florida Statutes).

Service Description

Support community-based domestic violence services; promote coalition building at the local, state, and federal levels; conduct certification and evaluation of the state’s domestic violence centers and batterer’s intervention programs; provide resources to local communities; identify and improve service quality and performance; promote public awareness and education initiatives; develop and direct policy; and provide information and technical support to public and private agencies.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIME IN FLORIDA

Some experts surmise Florida’s economy may play a significant role in the increase in domestic violence crime.

Each year the Department of Children and Families (DCF) analyzes data provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in order to assess victim needs, address fiscal responsibility, conduct research, and most importantly to present a clear picture of what crime categories contribute most to the ever-increasing social problem of domestic violence crime.

Statistically speaking, crime in Florida started to decrease in 2004, even though the population has increased. Florida began to see a slight increase in crime in 2007 and 2008; however, so far in 2009, there has been a significant drop in overall crime by 7.6 percent. This does not explain the increase in domestic violence crime for the first half of 2009, raising concern that for the same period in 2008 and 2009 there has been a 5.2 percent increase in domestic violence related crimes.

Fiscal year 2008-2009 had a total of 115,976 total domestic violence crimes compared to 113,123 for fiscal year 2007-2008. For the same reporting periods, overall crime was up by a staggering 2,853 crimes. Additionally, experts know that, unlike many general crimes, and even though there has been an increase in victims reporting domestic violence crime, domestic violence is still substantially underreported, supporting anecdotal research suggesting only one-third or less of domestic crime is ever reported. A general sense of concern is shared by all that for the same reporting period in 2008, domestic violence crime in 2009 increased by astonishing numbers for the following domestic violence related crimes:

- DV homicides up 8.9 percent
- DV manslaughter homicide increased from six murders in 2008 to 12 murders in 2009. Up 100 percent
- Aggravated stalking up 36 percent
- Simple assault up 6.4 percent
- Threat/Intimidation up 10.4 percent

So what does all this mean? Some experts surmise Florida’s economy may play a significant role in the increase in domestic violence crime. One premise may explore the possibility that the “nature” of the crime may be more significant than the “type” of crime committed. For example, we see that, for the same reporting period in 2008, 2009 general homicide crimes are down nearly 19 percent, and robberies are down 13 percent. As an example, this may arbitrarily be attributed to better community policing, such as having higher concentrations of officers on the streets, or even criminals having less opportunity to commit crime. Still, it doesn’t explain the premise that the economy may be a cause for higher incidences in domestic violence crime, since one would think that if the economy is suffering then there would be more crime in general.

One theory suggests that possibly general crime is decreasing, in spite of the economy, since
By strategically reversing the level of blame, by holding perpetrators accountable for crimes, and by not blaming victims, we begin to address the sociological, psychological, and ethical root causes of domestic violence crime.

general crime can be thought of as an “impersonal crime,” opposed to domestic violence, which is known as a very “personal crime.”

Experts agree that the stress caused by losing jobs, lack of employment opportunities, and changes in living habits due to economic restraints may all contribute to a general sense of “losing control”, a key component necessary for domestic violence crime to occur. We know that perpetrators of domestic violence display a strong propensity for not only controlling their victims, but also for blaming others for their problems. Since the perpetrators have little to no control over the loss of employment, home, or hobbies, they will often take their anger and frustration out on those who they are most able to control. Most notably, the victims in these situations are intimate partners.

In an article co-authored by domestic violence experts Mary Lauby, executive director of Jane Doe, Inc., and Sue Else, president of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the researchers describe “domestic violence programs reporting victims experiencing an increase in abuse, in part because out-of-work abusers having more opportunity to batter.” Similarly, numerous states are seeing an increase in felony-level domestic violence crimes. Rhode Island has seen a 25 percent increase in this type of crime. Arizona is presently experiencing some of the same economic hardships as Florida, related to housing foreclosures and unemployment, and it currently ranks 10th in the nation in the number of women killed by men, according to the National Violence Policy Center, a national research and advocacy non-profit located in Washington, D.C. “Noted researcher Jaclyn Campbell has identified two key risk factors in relation to domestic violence homicides: limited access to services for victims and unemployment for batterers.” Lastly, the National Domestic Violence Hotline released a study in January 2009 “suggesting a link between financial stress and domestic violence. The hotline saw a 21 percent increase in the number of calls it received, compared to the previous year.”

Children who are exposed to domestic violence in the home are also victims. Last year domestic violence ranked only second behind substance misuse as the two highest reported maltreatments in Florida. Child welfare experts report 77,775 allegations of family violence occurring in Florida’s homes from June 2008 through May 2009. According to the National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, nearly 1 in 10 (9.8 percent) of children saw one family member assault another.

The Department of Children and Families in partnership with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) remains committed to addressing these concerns. Through continued research, funding, and training opportunities in both intervention and prevention initiatives, the Domestic Violence Program aims to assist Florida’s 42 community-based domestic violence centers in providing law enforcement and prosecutors the tools and resources necessary to hold perpetrators accountable. By strategically reversing the level of blame, and starting to hold perpetrators accountable for crimes, we all collectively begin to address the sociological, psychological, and ethical root causes of domestic violence crime.
The Department of Children and Families (DCF) Domestic Violence Program has long known the importance of reaching out to communities through training and education to enhance the public’s awareness of domestic violence crime. Since 2005, the Department’s Domestic Violence Program has assisted its primary partner, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV), in coordinating for Florida’s communities critical and unique training opportunities, developing specialized projects, enhancing victim services, and holding offenders accountable for their crimes.

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). In May 2009, the DCF Domestic Violence Program was awarded $6,976,652 to assist domestic violence service providers to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking crimes. Specifically, the funding was awarded through a formula grant by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and funded through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The funds are directly earmarked to provide new jobs, as well as to retain jobs at risk in the courts, prosecution offices, law enforcement agencies, and victim service provider programs.

In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Domestic Violence Program received nearly $13 million in DOJ funds to expend on Florida’s quest to confront the overarching and pervasive issues involving domestic violence and sexual assault crimes.

Following is a description of how the Department functions as a catalyst assisting Florida’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions who are tasked with supporting community-based agencies working tirelessly to resolve these devastating crimes. Additionally, we will demonstrate the important role played by communities in shaping social change, and how the Department of Children and Families, under the leadership of Secretary George Sheldon, has been, and continues to be, innovative and instrumental in pioneering this strong initiative.

The cost of intimate partner violence nationally exceeds $5.8 billion each year, $4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services. In 2007, a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs across the nation found that 53,203 victims were served in one day. Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, there were 7,707 unmet requests for services. In fiscal year 2008-2009, the FCADV reports that 6,656 women and children seeking shelter services had to accept alternate accommodations due to a lack of capacity at their local domestic violence shelters.

Resources are vital to anyone trying to elude a tragic situation, and domestic violence survivors are no different in needing community support to assist in keeping themselves and their children safe. We know that the leading reason why women stay in harmful relationships is a lack of financial means of taking care of themselves and their families. We also know that community support is key to community member safety and well-being.

Following is a description of how the Department functions as a catalyst assisting Florida’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions who are tasked with supporting community-based agencies working tirelessly to resolve these devastating crimes.
As previously stated, the grant money received each year from the federal government is slated for training judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel in how to appropriately respond to domestic violence and sexual assault crime. The funding is also earmarked to creatively initiate new projects that focus on victim safety and offender accountability. The Domestic Violence Program’s many partners have greatly benefitted from the reoccurring STOP (Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution) and ARRA funds by creating new employment opportunities along with creating new projects that align with the Department’s mission to “Protect the Vulnerable and Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families”.

The following are several projects made possible with Department of Justice funding:

**Courts:** The Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) was tasked this year with increasing the number and quality of domestic violence education opportunities for judges, court administration staff, attorneys, clerks of court, and others involved in the family court system. After extensive research, the courts decided to purchase the rights to train judges on a virtual court module obtained from New Mexico. Training judges in the appropriate methods of working with domestic violence and sexual assault victims remains paramount to victim safety. The virtual court program is designed to introduce judges and court staff to issues and challenges that arise in civil domestic violence cases.

The Department recognizes the obstacles judges encounter in seeking training opportunities because of their heavy court schedules. The virtual court training allows judges the convenience of acquiring essential information within the context of their private offices. It is the intent of the Domestic Violence Program to provide the courts with support and funding in order to accomplish this goal. Additionally, advocacy recognizes the need for building critical relationships with the courts so judges may obtain the skills necessary for making knowledgeable critical decisions in domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases.

**Prosecution:** In Florida there are 20 judicial circuits, each represented by a state attorney. In addition, the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association (FPAA) is the executive leadership group that provides training and technical support to Florida’s 20 state attorneys. All 20 state attorneys and the FPAA have the opportunity to receive the Department’s allocated grant funding for prosecution services. In fiscal year 2008-2009, 16 state attorneys elected to receive federal grant funds, as did the FPAA. The state attorneys primarily utilize their funding by setting up specialized domestic violence and sexual assault prosecution units, hiring highly skilled investigators, and adding supportive victim advocacy services to specialized units.

The Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association is a highly strategic group that researches state-of-the-art training and organizes those seminars for Florida’s prosecutors. John Hogenmueller, the association’s executive director, works tirelessly to select, develop, and present the most critical and unique seminars for Florida’s attorneys.

The grant money received each year from the federal government is slated for training judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel in how to appropriately respond to domestic violence and sexual assault crime.
The goal was to establish specialized child protection units, each enlisting the aid of domestic violence expert protective investigator/case managers.

and produce the most up-to-date, evidence-based training for prosecuting domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases. The FPAA works closely with the Florida Council Against Sexual Assault (FCASV) to collaborate training for prosecutors working with sexual assault nurse practitioners (SANE). The goal is to have every prosecutor in Florida proficient in prosecution techniques specific to sexual assault crimes.

Law Enforcement: The original Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST) is an investigative unit within the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO) established in 1999 as a community-based collaborative response to domestic violence homicide. The team reaches out to domestic violence victims in the community identified as at high risk of lethality by working with a JSO specialty trained detective, administrative support person, and two advocates from Hubbard House, the certified center in the area. Hubbard House and the JSO provide a variety of services and interventions to both the domestic violence victim and the perpetrator. The project was credited with a 30 percent decrease in domestic violence homicides in Duval County during the first year of operation.

In response to the success of this program, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) partnered with the Attorney General’s Office and the Department of Children and Families to pilot a similar effort in 2007 in five of Florida’s counties with the highest rate of domestic violence homicide based on FDLE 2006 data. This effort is now being expanded in 2009 to an additional six counties with ARRA stimulus funding.

The Attorney General’s Office is providing Victims of Crimes Assistance (VOCA) funding to certified domestic violence centers for advocate positions to develop partnerships and establish memorandums of understanding (MOU’s) with the local police agencies. The VAWA STOP Program managed by the Domestic Violence Program Office at the Department of Children and Families funds the law enforcement officers needed for the projects.

The project is designed so the sheriff investigator collaborates daily with the domestic violence advocate to review all domestic violence arrests, identify potentially lethal cases, and keep track of perpetrators of domestic violence. Victims receive safety planning and domestic violence education, and are connected to a wide variety of community services. Perpetrators receive increased monitoring from the law enforcement agency. The investigator attends several sponsored trainings to develop domestic violence expertise, as well as participates in the statewide domestic violence fatality-review team meetings. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides ongoing training and technical assistance to the projects. In fiscal year 2008-2009, Department of Justice funding is helping support four local InVEST projects, with ten additional proposed projects supported with ARRA funds.

Victim Services: In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Domestic Violence Program embarked on a crucial mission that produced an unprecedented partnership between the Department’s Domestic Violence Program and Family Safety child welfare investigative and case management systems. The
In fiscal year 2008-2009, a series of three statewide coordinated community response workshops were hosted to demonstrate the Domestic Violence Program’s continued commitment to train and retrain community partners in the connection between domestic violence and child welfare maltreatment. The training events were held regionally in Sarasota, Ft. Lauderdale, and Destin. David Mandel and Olga Trujillo, a former Department of Justice attorney currently working for a Hispanic Women’s shelter in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a survivor of profound child abuse and domestic violence, co-presented to audiences around the state consisting of child welfare professionals, attorneys, law enforcement personnel, mental health and substance abuse providers, do-

goal was to establish specialized child protection units, each enlisting the aid of domestic violence expert protective investigator/case managers. The Domestic Violence Program contracted with national consultant, David Mandel, whose background includes over 20 years of collaborative work with batterer intervention programs and child welfare agencies seeking to establish cohesive working relationships between domestic violence advocates and child welfare proponents. Mr. Mandel is known for his unique subject matter consultative work in Oregon, Colorado, New York, and Connecticut. The project was hosted by the Department’s North-east Region, and centered in Duval, Clay, Columbia, and Alachua counties.

Child protection supervisors, selected child protective investigators and case managers, child welfare attorneys, and local domestic violence center advocates were provided specialized training regarding the importance of having a domestic violence expert located in each child protection unit providing staff with the needed knowledge and skills for appropriately identifying and assessing domestic violence in the home. This project has been so successful that the Region has requested the same service be provided in the coming fiscal year to newly hired staff, as well as that the program be expanded into other areas of the Region. Additionally, other areas of the state have expressed strong interest in duplicating the same processes in their respective communities.

In fiscal year 2008-2009, a series of three statewide coordinated community response workshops were hosted to demonstrate the Domestic Violence Program’s continued commitment to train and retrain community partners in the connection between domestic violence and child welfare maltreatment. The training events were held regionally in Sarasota, Ft. Lauderdale, and Destin. David Mandel and Olga Trujillo, a former Department of Justice attorney currently working for a Hispanic Women’s shelter in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a survivor of profound child abuse and domestic violence, co-presented to audiences around the state consisting of child welfare professionals, attorneys, law enforcement personnel, mental health and substance abuse providers, do-
The fundamental theme conveyed throughout the training series, is that in order for any process to be effective it’s essential that a collaborative approach be enlisted within the community…

The Department received ARRA funding in May 2009 inspiring new hope for small community-based victim-service programs by extending the ability to expand services to both rural and urban underserved populations of domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Most of the programs receiving DOJ funds have developed services targeting disadvantaged victims suffering from issues surrounding poverty, elderly populations, person with disabilities, and victims experiencing specific language barriers. The ARRA funds have allowed agencies to hire and retain Spanish-speaking advocates, target elderly populations, and direct services towards migrant women working in rural isolated communities. ARRA funds will also support seven collaborative sheriff’s offices and child protection unit projects to enable sheriff child protective investigators and local domestic violence center advocates opportunities to develop partnerships and share information, training, and expertise in appropriate assessment and referral practices.
FLORIDA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FCADV is the agency responsible for administering state funding to the certified domestic violence centers.

FCADV Hotline
1-800-500-1119
Each year the Department’s Domestic Violence Program’s primary partner, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV), provides a detailed analysis regarding the state of domestic violence service delivery and its implications for future needs and change. The FCADV is the professional organization for the state’s certified domestic violence centers. Its mission is “to create a violence-free world by empowering women and children through the elimination of personal and institutional violence and oppression against all people.”

FCADV is the agency responsible for administering state funding to the certified domestic violence centers. That responsibility includes providing educational services to the centers; assisting centers in resolving problematic agency challenges; maintaining the privilege communications database; and overseeing the statewide domestic violence hotline. FCADV also provides leadership, advocacy, education, and public policy development on domestic violence and related issues to private and public organizations, as well as researches and invents new ways to improve upon existing services, and identifies resources necessary to promote victim safety.

During fiscal year 2008-2009, FCADV received $22,507,757 from state and federal funding through a contract with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Funding was dedicated for victim services, technical assistance and training to certified domestic violence centers, and the expansion and enhancement of those services through special programs. Programs supported with this funding are described in this section.

**Capital Needs Assessment**

As part of the Department’s mission to provide support and services to domestic violence centers, the Domestic Violence Program developed the Capital Needs Assessment which is conducted annually.

The Department’s 2008 capital needs assessment indicated that repairs, renovations, and additions to existing shelters and the construction of new shelters continue to prevail as the two most urgent needs of certified domestic violence centers. Ten of the centers’ shelters were built prior to 1950 and 11 between 1950 and 1970. Their outdated infrastructures and air and heating systems place a drain on the centers because of the costs of repeated repairs.

The needs assessment revealed that 28 centers require substantial expansion, renovations, and repairs to existing shelter facilities; 6 centers require new structures; and an additional shelter for one
center. Renovations, repair, and additions include ADA accommodations, air and heating systems, appliances, bed space, fences, fire alarm systems, furniture, generators, hurricane and lightning protection, parking lots, plumbing systems, roofs, security, sewer systems, and storage areas.

**Capital Improvement Services**

Another source of funding channeled through the Department and earmarked for increasing services to domestic violence victims is the Capital Improvement Grant. The Domestic Violence Program in collaboration with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is responsible for implementing the Capital Improvement Grant Program as provided for in Section 39.9055, Florida Statutes, and subject to legislative appropriation of funds.

Established in 2000, the grant program provides funding to Florida’s certified domestic violence centers for construction, acquisition, repairs, improvements, and upgrades to systems, facilities, or equipment in accordance with the annual needs assessment. Additionally, domestic violence centers may use the funds to supplement existing capital improvement efforts.

The 2008 Legislature approved an appropriation of $3 million for the grant program. Six centers serving Broward, Citrus, Lake, Manatee, Marion, Orange, and Sumter counties were the recipients of this award in October 2008.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT AWARDS FOR 2008-2009

<table>
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<th>NAME</th>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>COUNTIES SERVED</th>
<th>REGION/CIRCUIT</th>
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<td>Citrus CASA Inverness</td>
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<td>Central/Circuit 5</td>
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<td>Creative Services Ocala</td>
<td>$66,160</td>
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<td>Harbor House Orlando</td>
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<td>Manatee</td>
<td>SunCoast/Circuit 12</td>
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<td>Women in Distress Fort Lauderdale</td>
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<td>Broward</td>
<td>Southeast/Circuit 17</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,000,000</strong></td>
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The Capital Improvement Grant Program has played a crucial role in ensuring that victims have a place for refuge and safety in times of crisis. From previous years’ awards, some of the shelters have upgraded and renovated their shelters to ensure that services continue to offer a safe and secure environment. In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program of Brevard County completed the building of their new shelter facility. Citrus County
Florida’s 42 Department-certified domestic violence centers collectively provide 1,842 beds, ranging from 16-bed shelters to larger 102-bed shelters. Abuse Shelter Association (CASA) and HOPE Family Services in Manatee County replaced their shelters and outreach buildings with new facilities. Creative Services in Marion County renovated bathrooms and kitchen in their existing shelter to bring them to code and make them ADA compliant. They were also able to add a fixed playground for the children surrounded with new security fencing. Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties completed their shelter renovations to add beds and upgrade security with modern equipment and fencing. Women in Distress in Broward County are extensively renovating a newly acquisitioned older facility that will open in early 2010 to replace their current facilities. Harbor House in Orange County renovated to add beds and is currently in the process of adding more beds and retrofitting an aging sewage system. These upgrades and renovations provided 60 more shelter beds statewide during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Florida’s 42 Department-certified domestic violence centers collectively provide 1,842 beds, ranging from 16-bed shelters to larger 102-bed shelters. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that during fiscal year 2008-2009, centers provided emergency shelter to 14,667 women, children, and men, an increase of 1 percent from the previous fiscal year. Additionally, 3 percent of shelter residents and their children had to sleep on cots, sofas, or in sleeping bags due to lack of shelter beds. Over 6,500 victims received alternative housing accommodations because shelter space was not available.

Centers are designed to provide temporary emergency shelter for a standard length of stay of approximately 42 days; however, it may take the survivor much longer to secure resources and safe, affordable housing. With a 23 percent increase of victims given alternative housing accommodations, the numbers suggest that survivors receiving shelter are staying longer. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, in their 2007 Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America’s Cities: A 23-City Survey, reports that domestic violence is one of the top three causes of homelessness for households with children. Of the 23 cities reporting data, 12.1 percent of the homeless population is women with children in a domestic violence situation.

Many victims and their families stay with their abuser because of the lack of safe shelters. In 2008, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement reported that there were 113,123 reported incidents of domestic violence and 67,615 arrests. However, it is well known that many offenses are not reported to law enforcement. Of the reported incidents, 180 were for murder, 14 for manslaughter, 1,965 for forcible sex offenses, and 20,462 for aggravated assault. These numbers make it clear that there is a need for emergency shelters to protect and save lives.
Child Protection Investigators (CPI) Initiative

Central to creating effective child protection intervention where domestic violence exists is building partnerships between child protection investigators and certified domestic violence centers. This collaboration building has been a high priority for FCADV. FCADV created and disseminated a Child and Youth Program Advocate Survey and created a CPI Training Curriculum and Train-the-Trainer Curriculum for Child Protection Investigators and domestic violence advocates.

After developing and printing the Train the Trainer CPI Curricula, FCADV staff conducted three regional one-day Train the Trainer Institutes in Miami, Orlando and Gainesville. FCADV staff established a detailed list of FCADV Authorized Trainers to be used as reference for future CPI Trainings.

Twelve four-hour CPI Trainings titled Building the Bridge to Collaboration were conducted during FY 2008-2009 in five DCF regions, training over 200 participants.

Economic Justice

The mission of the FCADV’S Economic Justice Initiative is to provide training, information and resources to address the economic conditions that create barriers to the long-term independence and safety of survivors and their children. Ultimately, economic justice means fairness and equality for survivors to have the ability to make decisions about their lives, and about intimate relationships, without fear of negative financial impact.

Financial instability is reported to be the number one obstacle for someone escaping domestic violence and the reason that survivors most often give for why they stay or have returned to their abuser. The ability to survive financially without the abuser, presents challenges, whether it be due to loss of income, a place to live, childcare, healthcare or other money issues, including access to credit.

Safe options include making informed decisions about how to avoid predatory lending and consumer scams, building good credit, accessing resources for affordable housing, financial education and for building assets through savings, home ownership or entrepreneurship. In addition to reforms in the criminal justice system and resources to create safe options for women and children in immediate danger that have occurred over the past decade, implementing economic justice strategies can improve the many social conditions that prevent long-term independence and safety for survivors.

As a part of the Economic Justice Initiative, FCADV provides on-site, regional and statewide...
The project was funded through an award from the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, administered by the U. S. Department of Justice.

Fatality Review Steering Committee - Collaborative Training and Teams

The Department of Children and Families collaborated with FCADV to create a Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Steering Committee. The project was funded through an award from the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, administered by the U. S. Department of Justice. During fiscal year 2008-2009, the statewide fatality review steering committee met in Tallahassee on November 18, 2008, and in Jacksonville on April 6, 2009. Representatives from DCF, FCADV, Department of Corrections, Office of the Attorney General, sheriffs’ and police chiefs’ associations, state attorneys, domestic violence centers, batterer intervention programs, Office of State Court Administration, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and local fatality review teams discussed gaps in services and opportunities for collaboration to reduce the number of domestic violence fatalities in Florida.

A statewide training on domestic violence fatality review was also held in conjunction with the Jacksonville meeting. National experts and project consultants, Dr. Neil Websdale and Matthew Dale, provided training on recent trends in domestic violence fatality review, and led participants in mock fatality reviews. FCADV staff also provided technical assistance visits to local fatality review teams at various locations around the state, developed and disseminated an electronic newsletter related to statewide and local domestic violence fatality review activities, as well as maintained information and resources relating to trainings, as well as, technical assistance, to Florida’s certified domestic violence centers. Over 250 individuals were trained during fiscal year 2008-2009 throughout Florida. Center advocates learn how to build skills for working with survivors of domestic violence on economic justice related issues. Skills include the following:

- Understanding the dynamics of financial abuse
- Financial literacy – learning personal financial management, building spending plans, planning to save, banking options,
- Alternatives to predatory lenders in the community
- Accessing Earned Income Credits,
- Affordable housing resources and VAWA housing protections, and
- Opportunities for building financial stability including matched savings programs and micro-business

The project was funded through an award from the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program, administered by the U. S. Department of Justice.
fatality review teams in Florida and other states on FCADV’s webpage. For more information on local Fatality Review Teams refer to page 45.

**Legal Initiatives**

The Legal Clearinghouse Project began in 1997 as a pilot program, the first in the country, to provide legal representation to victims of domestic violence at final hearings for Injunctions for Protection Against Domestic Violence and legal advice and consultation to victims. FCADV subcontracts with legal services providers (Clearinghouse Attorneys) who accept client referrals from Florida’s certified domestic violence centers throughout the state. The Clearinghouse Project has served as a national model for other state coalitions to provide legal services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Additionally, FCADV’s Legal Department provides training and technical assistance to the Legal Clearinghouse Project attorneys, domestic violence center advocates, and other professions to increase their knowledge and share information about legal issues related to serving survivors of domestic, sexual, and dating violence and stalking.

During fiscal year 2008-2009, FCADV’s Legal Department Clearinghouse Attorneys provided 4,677 legal consultations and 1,366 legal representations at injunction for protection hearings to survivors of domestic, sexual and dating violence.

FCADV subcontracts with Florida Legal Services, Inc., to operate the domestic violence legal hotline to provide advice to domestic violence victims, as well as attorneys and advocates who assist victims. Over 2,917 callers received legal advice, information and referrals from legal hotline staff.

On January 13, 2009, the Legal Department held a one-day training for Legal Clearinghouse attorneys and domestic violence center advocates in Tampa. A total of 36 participants attended the event and heard presentations on interstate custody issues, cross examination of custody evaluators, supervised visitation, and a view from the bench from a sitting judge on the domestic violence injunction court. The Florida Bar awarded CLE credit to attorneys who attended.

The Legal Department also provides training on legal issues that impact victims of domestic violence at trainings and conferences sponsored by other organizations in the civil and criminal justice systems. During FY 2008-2009, FCADV’s Legal Department presented the following information at conferences throughout the state:

- Domestic violence and child welfare issues for investigators, caseworkers, domestic violence center advocates, and other mental health professionals at summit hosted by the Miami-Dade Children’s Initiative, January 30, 2009, Miami.
Domestic violence issues at Florida Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual meeting, February 27, 2009, Tampa.

Domestic violence and parenting plans, Dade County Court System’s Lunch and Learn series, April 22, 2009, Miami.

Divorce and custody issues at the FCADV Battered Women Formerly Battered Women Caucus, May 11, 2009, Orlando.


In addition, the Legal Department conducted the following onsite trainings at domestic violence centers on legal issues impacting survivors of domestic violence:

- The Lodge, Miami, September 22, 2008, injunctions for protection and divorce/custody laws.
- Domestic Abuse Council, Daytona Beach, October 21, 2008, injunctions for protection, alternative dispute resolution, and a legislative update.
- Shelter House, Ft. Walton Beach, November 17, 2008, injunctions for protection and divorce/custody laws.
- SPARCC, Hope Family Services, and CARE, Venice, April 27, 2009, divorce/custody laws and alternative dispute resolution.

Listening Project Focus Groups

The goal of this project is to ensure that the voices of survivors remain central to, and continue to inform the work of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV).

According to FCADV, a central theme of this project is the understanding that the insight provided by survivors is crucial to their work and the Battered Women’s Movement. With this as their focus, FCADV will continue to provide opportunities for battered/formerly battered women to share
their successes, challenges, and lessons learned from their encounters on the road to safety.

FCADV heard the voices of 106 females and one male survivor of domestic violence representing rural (27 percent), urban (39 percent) and suburban (24 percent) communities across the state, as well as from young, middle age, and elder survivors. Fifty-five percent of those who completed our demographic survey had children living in the home. Thirty-one percent were single, 25 percent of the women were separated, 20 percent were divorced and 18 percent married. Forty-eight percent were unemployed and looking for work, 4 percent were retired, and only 18 percent were employed full time.

Survivors told FCADV over and over that their two most pressing needs are for affordable housing and for a fair, better educated and sensitive justice system: judges, family law attorneys, law enforcement and prosecution, including immigration laws and enforcement. Survivors also voiced that the next most pressing need is for jobs that paid a living wage, and quality and affordable childcare.

In addition to listening to the voices of survivors of domestic violence, the project also focused efforts from the Listening Project on hearing the voices of domestic violence advocates. Participation included 55 female advocates, and one male domestic violence advocate, all employed full time in domestic violence centers across the state.

Hearing from advocates is crucial in that they are the usually the initial point of contact when a survivor seeks shelter assistance. They also build a strong rapport with the survivor and understand first hand the numerous issues and obstacles presented in trying to seek and maneuver through supports and services during this critical and often dangerous time.

The project focused on asking advocates to describe needs and suggested improvements to the following areas of housing, law enforcement contact, judicial and legal assistance. Advocates reiterated the needs identified by the survivors including a need for affordable housing and affordable living wage job opportunities. They too identified that an emphasis on a heightened awareness of domestic violence issues, through education and training of law enforcement and the judicial system, should continually be at the forefront of addressing needs.

For a full copy of the report, please visit www.fcadv.org and click on “Projects and Programs,” then “Survivor Listening Project.”
Quality Assurance

The FCADV Quality Assurance (QA) Unit provides procurement, management, and monitoring of service providers under agreement or contract. During fiscal year 2008-2009, the QA Unit provided contract management for 86 contracts and conducted oversight-monitoring review on all of the certified domestic violence centers. The oversight reviews incorporated the FCADV standards, contract terms and conditions, as well as other applicable laws and regulations. The FCADV Standards were revised during fiscal year 2007-2008 and were incorporated into the existing monitoring tools used to monitor the certified domestic violence centers for compliance during fiscal year 2008-2009. The QA Unit also provides training opportunities to centers related to various topics including the Alice data system that provides case management and definitions, accounting, cost allocation, contracts, budgets, and incident reporting.

Resources and Educational Materials

FCADV operates the statewide domestic violence hotline with information available in English, Spanish, and Creole. From anywhere in Florida, a survivor can access the nearest domestic violence center for emergency services by dialing 1-800-500-1119 and pressing the No. 1 after the prompt. FCADV subcontracts with Florida Legal Services to operate the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline. Legal advice, referrals, and information for victims are available by pressing No. 3 on the menu. Services are also provided in English, Spanish, and Creole. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, 19,686 calls were received by the certified domestic violence centers and FCADV. The legal hotline received 2,710 calls and the Spanish/Creole hotline received 676.

FCADV also operates a lending library and webpage with resources on domestic violence issues of interest to everyone. Library resources include videos, books, and articles on a wide variety of issues related to domestic violence, including teen dating violence, elder abuse, the effects of domestic violence on children, and more.

Rural Initiative

The mission of the Rural Initiative is to provide for the safety of the most isolated and endangered victims of domestic and sexual violence in rural areas within the state of Florida. The initiative is based on the community-organizing model whereby community and judicial organizing is essential to the long-term success of direct services provided to rural victims. Communities participating in the initiative include DeSoto, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Lake, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Nassau, Pasco, Sarasota, St. Johns, Sumter, Taylor, and Wakulla counties through subcontracts with six certified domestic violence centers. Services provided include facilitated trainings on domestic
violence and/or sexual violence for community-based organizations; facilitated trainings on elder domestic violence; and facilitated trainings on domestic violence and/or sexual violence for diverse populations including the African-American and Hispanic communities.

Training and Technical Assistance

As presented in several of the above-mentioned projects, FCADV offers a variety of training and technical assistance statewide to certified domestic violence centers, legal providers, and other allied partners during the 2008–2009 fiscal year. Resources are offered to increase the knowledge of and services for survivors of domestic violence.

Below are several highlights of training and technical assistance for the 2008-2009 fiscal year provided by FCADV.


The FCADV Prevention Team held both statewide and regional events related to primary prevention of intimate partner violence for member centers and their community partners. Such events included: three regional evaluation trainings, three regional learning exchanges, and a statewide primary prevention institute. These events included numerous training topics delivered by experts from the intimate partner violence prevention field.

The Third Annual Statewide Primary Prevention Institute was held on April 15 - 16, and was titled; Planning for a Violence Free Future. There were 69 center employees at this training. Speakers included: Pippin Whitaker, FCADV’s Empowerment Evaluator; Shelley Serdahely and Bernard Ellis from Men Stopping Violence; Colleen Gallopin and Tabitha Joyner from Break the Cycle; Aimee Thompson from Close to Home; and David Lee from the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

The two-day training institute provided center staff with new tools to use in their primary prevention work. Presentations included: Community Mobilization: A Promising Strategy, Using Social Marketing to Prevent Violence Against Women, Engaging Youth & Changing Policies, Because We Have Daughters, and Evaluating Primary Prevention Change: Advanced Issues. Participants particularly enjoyed the information regarding social marketing and engaged in a discussion about what types of marketing strategies to implement in Florida to prevent intimate partner violence.
During the 2008-09, FCADV began its first round of Survivor Listening Projects. The goal of the project was to ensure that the voices of survivors remain central to and inform the work done by FCADV.

More than 200 domestic violence and sexual assault advocates, executive directors, and community partners convened in Orlando for this year’s Statewide Institute, Embracing Diversity: Bridging the Cultural Divide held May 12 and 13. The tone of the conference was set by a moving keynote presentation, entitled: We Are the Ones They Have Been Waiting For...by Elaine Whitefeather, co-founder of Whitefeather Bassinger & Associates. This presentation was a perfect lead in for the next day’s keynote presentation where the audience was captivated by Rosie Hidalgo, director of policy for Casa de Esperanza, who spoke about cultural approaches to community engagement. Workshops included: Working with Native American Survivors, Domestic Violence in Faith Communities, Understanding Domestic and Dating Violence as a Global Human Rights Issue, and the cross generational/ethnic panel discussion entitled A Return to our Roots: Listening to the Voices of Survivors Domestic Violence, and the energetic Emotional Intelligence and Valuing Diversity: Exploring the Interconnections. FCADV staff provided a workshop entitled: Reconociendo Nuestras Contribuciones y Movilizando Asesoras Hispanas/Latinas Dentro del Movimiento Feminista, (Recognizing the Contributions and Mobilizing Latina and Hispanic Advocates in the Feminist Movement) at this year’s Annual Institute. FCADV received several workshop evaluations requesting more Spanish speaking workshops.

This year’s annual conference featured the successful Healthy Advocate Initiative. Centers from throughout the state responded to the four-week Challenge to Change by exercising more, making healthy food choices, and smoking less. Some centers worked as a team to increase their health while at other centers other advocates acted individually. Robin Basinger’s two presentations on building healthy advocates were very well received. In the follow up survey, an advocate stated, “You don’t realize the link between health and attitude until something like this challenge comes along. I feel so much better and my work is a lot less stressful since I started working out at the gym and walking with a friend. I seem to be able to achieve more tasks and feel more energized.”

FCADV’s Child and Youth Training Institute brought together 122 individuals to explore the unique needs of children and youth who have experienced domestic violence.

FCADV held two leadership and management issues trainings for shelter directors/managers in 2008-2009. Increasing Options for Immigrant & Refugee Survivors of Domestic, Assisting Immigrant Survivors: A Collaborative Approach, and Advocate Self Care and Increasing Shelter Capacity was provided to shelter managers/directors.

Florida’s Domestic Violence Centers

The Department of Children and Families Domestic Violence Program Office serves as the state’s clearinghouse on domestic violence information. Certification of the leading providers of domestic violence programs in Florida is a principle role. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the Department not only renewed certifications for 42 domestic violence centers, but also provided supervision, direction, and administration of activities related to the intervention and prevention of domestic violence.
Certified domestic violence centers provide free and confidential services in undisclosed locations for any person victimized in an abusive intimate relationship. Core services include a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter for more than 24 hours, counseling, case (service) management, child assessments, information and referrals, community education, professional training, and safety planning. Individuals may access services through each center’s individual hotline or through the statewide toll-free hotline at 800-500-1119.

Centers enhance their services to women, children and men by offering a wide array of additional services, including transportation, legal advocacy, relocation assistance, transitional housing, life skills training, prevention programs in schools and much more. While the adult domestic violence survivor is the primary individual receiving services, several centers also provide additional specialized services for children beyond the required child needs assessment and advocacy, such as on-site public school classes and daycare. Through community school-based programs and support groups, centers work to prevent domestic violence crimes. Several centers also offer batterer intervention programs for individuals adjudged as committing an act of domestic violence or dating violence.

Florida’s certified domestic violence centers continue to increase their capacity to provide services throughout the year. Currently, some centers are renovating older facilities or constructing new shelter facilities to increase bed space. In 2008-2009, shelters ranged from small 16-bed shelters to larger 102-bed facilities, averaging 40 beds per shelter and totaling 1,794 beds available for survivors and their children. The centers strive to offer homelike settings where survivors may seek refuge and feel safe.

In fiscal year 2008-2009, Florida’s certified domestic violence centers provided emergency shelter to 14,667 women, children, and men, a 1.1 percent increase from the previous year, with women and children as the primary recipients of services. Children who fled the violence with their parent accounted for 46 percent of the shelter residents. A child’s exposure to a parent’s violence increases his or her risk of becoming an abuser or the survivor of violence as an adult. As mentioned above, many centers have established specialized prevention programs in an effort to prevent violence in the adult lives of these children.

Florida’s domestic violence centers reported 419,338 days of shelter this fiscal year. Each center is designed to provide temporary emergency shelter for a standard length of stay of approximately 42 days, or six weeks. However, the survivor may take much longer to secure necessary resources to attain independent living, such as safe and affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing and the time needed to earn or acquire funding for the first and last month’s rent, utility deposit, and other housing expenses may force the survivor to stay in emergency shelter much longer than intended.

Domestic violence survivors come from all ethnic, economic, and religious backgrounds and are various ages. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the most common ethnicities given emergency
Domestic Violence Program

shelter were 6,036 Caucasians, 4,455 African-Americans, and 3,074 Hispanic-Americans. Centers also continue to focus on reaching underserved populations. Centers provided emergency shelter to 105 Asians, 157 Haitians, 67 Native Americans, and 62 Middle Easterners. The Middle Eastern population served by the centers almost doubled with an increase of 45 percent. The great diversity of ethnicities in both shelter and outreach has created a challenge for the centers to increase culturally specific services. More centers are requesting multilingual speakers, many times using local volunteers for assistance. Some centers provide language classes for their employees.

Today, centers are offering many new programs to expand services and the centers’ visibility in their communities. Services include rent and utility assistance, food, clothing and much more. During fiscal year 2008-2009, the centers provided outreach services to 40,421 women, children, and men. Partnering with other organizations and institutions in their communities provides opportunities for educational programs or support group services such as county health departments to work with fathers and children, juvenile detention centers to provide educational sessions on domestic violence dynamics, school systems to provide anti-violence and teen dating violence programming, and chambers of commerce to develop economic empowerment programs. The centers work collaboratively with the various legal providers in their services areas and many centers have court advocate programs in their respective courthouses.

The majority of adult individuals served during the year are ages 30 through 44, with 3,248 served in shelters and 14,778 served in outreach programs. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 29 are close behind with 3,177 served in shelters and 12,881 served in outreach. Domestic violence centers also reach out to Florida’s elder populations. Abuse in elder relationships has the same signs and symptoms as other forms of domestic violence. In fiscal year 2008-2009, 107 individuals 60 years and older were served in emergency shelters, with 1,211 served in outreach. As the numbers of baby boomers enter this age group, the figures are anticipated to rise.

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, centers provided 446,867 hours of counseling to survivors of domestic violence, including support groups, individual face-to-face counseling, and telephone counseling—an increase of four percent from the previous year. Centers counseled 53,520 people face-to-face and 59,856 people via telephone. Centers have renovated and built new outreach facilities in the last few years with multi-purpose spaces to accommodate the growing need for individual and group counseling and to provide room for training opportunities to professionals and participants of the programs.

Centers also responded to 101,299 hotline calls this year. Each domestic violence center operates a hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week, staffed by specially trained advocates. Hotlines...
are a critical link to survivor safety that provides safety planning, advocacy, and information and referrals to individuals in crisis who are seeking assistance. It is for this reason that the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence funds and coordinates not only the statewide domestic violence hotline but also the Spanish and Haitian/Creole speaking domestic violence hotline.

Community education and public awareness are powerful tools in changing attitudes and understanding about domestic violence. The opportunities for the public to learn about the dynamics of domestic violence are essential to ensuring survivor safety. Throughout the year, center advocates provide their communities with numerous educational and public awareness activities. They present to classrooms, boardrooms, social/service clubs, and churches. They hold rallies, dedications, and memorials. They provide professional trainings for law enforcement, healthcare providers, social service agencies, court personnel, the State Attorney’s Office, the military, law schools, homeless organizations, and the public. Center advocates also write articles for their local paper and media outlets and conduct many other activities. Collectively, the centers provided 9,210 educational events with 255,723 people in attendance. While the number of attendance only increased by 4 percent, the total events increased by 7 percent from the previous fiscal year. In addition, the centers provided 986 media presentations during the year that included television and radio advertisements and talk show programs.

The Department collects performance evaluation data established by the legislature for certified centers. The performance measure requires the completion of a family safety and security plan for each adult and child survivor in shelter for 72 hours or more. Successful safety planning is based on a variety of factors that involve education on the dynamics of domestic violence, knowledge and availability of community resources, and assistance in implementing the safety plan. In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, 97 percent of these survivors reportedly received a safety plan after 72 hours or more. Upon entrance to the shelter, each survivor works with an advocate to create an individual safety plan updated as their circumstances change during their shelter stay with a final plan completed prior to their exit from the shelter. Ongoing safety planning assists survivors in planning how to remain safe during their stay at the shelter and after they leave.

Overall, center services and the number of clients served have generally remained stable from previous years. Variations in some data are due to a new statistical reporting system and collection methodology making it difficult to compare data from year to year. The new system, called Alice, was implemented by the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence during the fiscal year.
# Service Provided in Fiscal Year 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Emergency Shelter</strong></th>
<th><strong>Community Education</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Individuals Served</td>
<td>14,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>7,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>6,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Days of Shelter</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attendance at Events</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling</strong></td>
<td>419,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Counseled</td>
<td>113,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling Hours</td>
<td>446,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>Information and Referrals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33,197</td>
<td><strong>Hotline Calls</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Assessments</strong></td>
<td><strong>Individuals Provided</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,483</td>
<td>Safety Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individuals Provided</strong></td>
<td><strong>Safety Planning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Planning</td>
<td>112,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individuals Leaving Shelter After 72+ Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Adults</td>
<td>6,112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Client Demographics for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Age of Individuals Served in Shelter</strong></th>
<th><strong>Age of Individuals Served in Outreach</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17 years</td>
<td>6,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29 years</td>
<td>3,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44 years</td>
<td>3,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-59 years</td>
<td>1,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 years and older</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ethnicity of Individuals Served in Shelter</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ethnicity of Individuals Served in Outreach</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>4,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>6,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haitian</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>3,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information and resources please visit the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence website at: www.fcadv.org. A listing of local center’s contact information is available on this website.
The National Census of Domestic Violence Services
Florida Summary

On September 17, 2008, 40 out of 42, or 95 percent, of identified domestic violence programs in Florida participated in the 2008 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The following are a few statistics representing information provided by those 40 Florida programs who participated in reporting about services provided during the 24-hour survey period:

- 814 hotline calls answered
- 1,239 individuals in communities across Florida attended 46 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention
- Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 34 hotline calls every hour.
- 2,942 victims served in one day
- 1,859 domestic violence victims found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.
- 1,083 adults and children received nonresidential assistance and services, including individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children’s support groups.

(taken from www.nnedv.org)
The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) has made substantial progress this year working to improve the response to victims of sexual violence in Florida. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Response Team (SANE/SART) project, provided by FCASV, trains healthcare professionals seeking to become medical examiners. In addition, the project trains law enforcement officers, advocates and prosecuting attorneys on how to function more effectively as part of a Sexual Assault Response Team. The 2008-2009 training reached 113 allied professions through four, 40-hour regional trainings. In addition, this training was provided to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines medical staff. This marked the first time training has been provided to cruise line staff, in the United States, in the provision of forensic medical exams to victims of sexual assault.

Four STOP grant funded regional Sexual Assault Response Team development trainings and four regional trainings for law enforcement officers/investigators geared toward investigating acquaintance rape were also provided. These trainings reached 94 allied professionals and 105 law enforcement professionals, respectively. Each of these projects is part of a multi-faceted strategy designed to improve the response to victims of sexual violence statewide through support, and enhancement, of local coordinated community response.

In addition to projects deployed locally and regionally, FCASV has established a statewide Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Committee. A broad representation of members includes: Department of Health, Department of Children and Families, Legal Affairs, FDLE Crime Lab, Florida Hospital Association, local rape crisis programs, system-based advocates, law enforcement agencies, State Attorneys’ Offices, and forensic medical examiners. FCASV, the Office of the Attorney General and the Florida Sheriff’s Association began the statewide SART Advisory Committee’s work by convening a planning committee in June, 2009. Other noteworthy accomplishments this fiscal year include:

- Support of legislation requiring law enforcement agencies to distribute the Sexual Battery Victims Rights and Remedies brochure. Every victim of sexual violence, who law enforcement responds to, will receive the brochure. FCASV oversaw the development, printing and statewide distribution of 70,000 brochures. The brochure provides contact information for each jurisdiction’s local, certified rape crisis center

- FCASV developed and distributed the 40-hour Advocacy Core Training (ACT) via CD. This training is required of every certified rape center employee who has direct contact with a victim/survivor of sexual violence. The CD is an on-going effort to deliver effective training and technical assistance in a highly cost-effective manner

- For more information and resources please visit the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence website at: www.fcasv.org
BATTERERS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Batterer intervention programs provide educational services to domestic violence offenders who have committed domestic violence against their current or former intimate partner. Florida law requires the court to order a defendant who had been found guilty of, has had adjudication withheld on, or has pled nolo contendere to a crime of domestic violence to attend a batterer intervention program, unless it can be stated on the record why batterer intervention might be inappropriate. The batterer intervention program must be a state-certified program (Section 741.281, F. S.). Offenders are referred to intervention using several methods, including by the civil courts through the injunction process or by the criminal courts because of misdemeanor or felony probation. Referrals may also come from pretrial or diversion programs in state attorneys’ offices, from the Department of Children and Families, or by self-referral.

Batterer intervention is a key ingredient in a community’s domestic violence prevention effort and not intended to act alone to solve domestic violence or as a substitute for jail, probation, or fines. Ending domestic violence takes a coordinated community response, and batterer intervention serves as an additional tool for the courts and communities to hold batterers accountable for their violent acts. Intervention is not therapy, but an educational approach that provides the batterer with tools for creating and maintaining non-abusive relationships.

The certification of Florida’s batterer intervention programs and assessors was established by the 1995 Legislature following recommendations by the Florida Commission on Minimum Standards for Batterer Intervention. The goal of the initiative was to provide standardized programming to further the safety of victims and their children and to hold batterers accountable for their violence. The Department of Children and Families Domestic Violence Program Office is responsible for the promulgation of the minimum standards, including the certification and monitoring of both programs and assessors based on these criteria. (Section 741.32-327, F. S., and Chapter 65H-2, F.A.C.). To assist with the onsite annual monitoring of providers, the Department contracted with ENSYNC Diversified Management Services, Inc.

During the 2008-09 fiscal year, initial certifications were approved for 6 programs and 9 assessors. In addition, 24 assessors and 9 programs did not renew their certification. Reasons for non-renewal included health issues, retirement, and lack of referrals. As of June 30, 2009, 15 programs were not conducting group sessions due to lack of referrals. Based on numbers reported by 82 percent of the certified programs, there has been a 12.7 percent decrease in referrals statewide. Currently, there are 132 programs and 219 assessors certified by the Department.

Certified programs operate by a set of minimum stan-
The state standards require that programs be a minimum of 29 weeks in length, including intake/enrollment, assessment, orientation, and a minimum of 24 weekly classes.
The Legislature concluded its extended regular session on May 8, 2009. The following bills relating to domestic violence were adopted.

Committee Substitute for CS for Senate Bill 126, Confidential Records of Children, by Senator Dockery and others. (Chapter No. 2009-34) This bill authorizes the sharing of confidential and exempt information among all state and local agencies and programs that provide services to children or are responsible for the children’s safety, if the information is reasonably necessary to assure access to services or the safety of the child. However, the bill specifically excludes information relating to clients and records of certified domestic violence centers from the sharing provision. Effective July 1, 2009.

CS/SB 412, Service of Process, by Senator Crist and others. (Chapter No. 2009-215) This bill allows sheriffs to serve a facsimile copy of a protective injunction instead of a certified copy in domestic violence and sexual violence cases. Thus, faster service of process could be accomplished in these cases. The bill also amends current law to provide that law enforcement may arrest a person who has violated a condition of pretrial release when the original arrest was for an act of dating violence. Effective July 1, 2009.

CS/CS/SB 904, Parental Responsibility and Time-Sharing, by Senator Deutch and others. (Chapter 2009-180) This bill amends current law to provide that the rebuttable presumption for domestic violence apply to a first-degree misdemeanor or higher rather than to third-degree felony or higher. The bill also prohibits the court from referring parents to parenting coordination if there has been a history of domestic violence, unless both parties have given consent freely and voluntarily. This bill provides qualifications for the parenting coordinator to include a minimum of four hours of domestic violence training, and disqualifications to include offenses of child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence, parental kidnapping, or interference with custody. Effective October 1, 2009.

CS/SB 1312, Sexual Battery Victim Services, by Senator Fasano and others. (Chapter 2009-184) This bill creates a new statute that requires the investigating law enforcement officer to notify sexual battery victims of their legal rights and remedies, assist them in obtaining any necessary medical treatment resulting from the incident, and advise sexual battery victims that they can contact a certified rape crisis center about services. (This new statute is comparable to the existing domestic violence statute providing these same protections for domestic violence victims.) Effective July 1, 2009.

CS/SB 1718, State Judicial System, by Senator Crist and others. (Chapter 2009-61) This bill allows the clerk of courts to charge fees up to $295 in all cases in which the party is instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding. This law would have impacted domestic violence victims seeking injunctions for protection by requiring in some instances the victim to pay for the protection order. In a June 19, 2009 opinion issued by the State’s Attorney General, this law “does not require a clerk of court to assess a filing fee for the filing of a petition for a domestic violence injunction,” based on conflict with existing law F.S. 741.30 which mandates fees may not be assessed.

For additional information about these bills and others, go to the Legislature’s website at: www.leg.state.fl.us/
The Domestic Violence Program Office supports prevention efforts by working with our community partners through collaboration of innovative and creative programs and projects. These partnerships are building the foundation to have far reaching effects on the futures of Floridians of all age groups. Education and public awareness are two key elements helping to promote healthy attitudes and lifestyles to foster a climate in which we can all “promote peace and prevent domestic violence”.

“Most domestic violence programs in the United States have set prevention as a part of their mission. This goal is most often achieved through local efforts, such as presentations in schools and places of worship, among training sessions offered to social service and criminal justice professionals, via informational campaigns in health care settings, and to any other audience that will take time to listen. Let’s continue to reach out and be available for victims who need us today while focusing on prevention activities that will position all of our communities for a complete absence of violence in the future.”

Laurel Lynch, FCADV Board Chair and Executive Director; HOPE Family Services, Bradenton, FL, Florida Voice, Fall 2008.
BUILDING CAPACITY TO PREVENT INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

DELTA
(Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances)

Prevention Vision: The people of Florida will have nonviolent and respectful intimate partner relationships.

Mission: To prevent the occurrence of intimate partner violence by identifying and removing its causes at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels, including by promoting healthy relationships.

DELTA is a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sponsored effort aimed at preventing intimate partner violence before the first occurrence which is termed “Primary Prevention.” Primary prevention of intimate partner violence is a long-term social change effort that requires work at various levels of society to prevent intimate partner violence before it occurs. DELTA is designed to help state domestic violence coalitions and local Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams to start on the long-term process of making social change. Preventing intimate partner violence requires forward-thinking and long-term, sustained efforts to achieve positive social change. Since 2002, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence has worked with the CDC to develop and implement the DELTA program.

State statute defines IPV to include “physical violence, sexual violence, threats of physical or sexual violence, psychological/emotional abuse, financial abuse, and stalking between those who are or have been involved in a marital, sexual, or dating relationship.”

In Florida, the DELTA program is a collaboration of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the DELTA State Steering Committee (steering committee), and six prevention programs in counties throughout Florida. The overall emphasis of this prevention work is on reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors that contribute to intimate partner violence perpetration of victimization.

The steering committee membership represents Florida’s racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. The committee also includes individuals representing advocacy groups, representatives of diverse communities (including Haitian, Native American, and agricultural worker communities), multiple service sections (including local domestic violence centers, public health, sexual violence prevention, and workforce development), and individuals with expertise working with men and boys.

The DELTA State Steering Committee collaborated with FCADV and the local DELTA programs to develop and implement a state intimate partner violence prevention plan. The steering committee followed a formal planning process called Getting to Outcomes to develop this plan. In addition, the steering committee infused all planning processes with the principles of empowerment evaluation.

There are currently six local-level DELTA sites. These include Alachua, Okaloosa/Walton, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, and Pinellas counties. Prevention and outreach efforts, developed and implemented by these programs for the 2008-2009 period, include:
Alachua County (Peaceful Paths)
• Working with 14 schools during the school year
• Providing in excess of 100 presentations
• Providing a student internship at Peaceful Paths through the University of Florida and the “Ignite” program. Incoming freshmen are most likely to be victims of IPV, so efforts are focused on working with resident advisors. Students focus on social change issues.
• Providing training using two curricula, “Expect Respect” and “Safe Dates,” to mixed gender groups.

Okaloosa/Walton Counties (Shelter House)
• Conducting groups (one composed of middle school-age females; one composed of high school-age females, and one mixed gender group ages 11-13 at Youth Village);
• Providing teacher training on prevention and addressing issues with students
• Making contacts with the faith community
• Using the “Expect Respect” curriculum.

Orange County (Harbor House)
• Providing a nine-week group to create leadership through the “Coaching Boys into Men” curriculum. Graduates of this program often provide facilitation to future groups.
• Providing groups at four sites
• Increasing community involvement through recruiting new members to the local Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams and as partners
• Working with Coordinated Community Response teams to focus more on prevention rather than their traditional approach of intervention.

Palm Beach County (YMCA Harmony House)
• Working with primarily with Latino and Haitian teens ages 13-18 and other prevention groups such as child abuse prevention and children ages 0-5 through Healthy Beginners
• 17 youth are participating on the local CCR as part of the goal setting and strategic planning
• Participating in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes for DVAM (Domestic Violence Awareness Month) – first time in Palm Beach County
• Planting a garden with youth and developing a movie with teens (related to nonviolence and healthy relationships).
Pasco County (Sunrise of Pasco)

- Building organizational capacity of the CCR
- Through strong relationship building with the Department of Education (DOE), this project has been working with schools in Pasco for an extended time.
- Started in high schools, students wanted to start their own programs, this led to working with elementary schools as well.
- Pirates of Peace Club in middle school, has been working with them for four years – currently 67 members.
- Providing a full day of training with teens, then teens decide on what awareness projects should be done and work on the logistics.

Pinellas County (Haven of RCS)

- Training the Coordinated Community Response on Primary Prevention for Haven of RCS staff
- Participating in the Prevention Summit
- Adapting “Expect Respect” curriculum and developing comprehensive pre/post assessment to quantify proved learning
- Teaching five groups of middle school students the adapted “Expect Respect” curriculum and, of these five groups, two had a mixed gender component
- Continuing an 11-week, male-orientated program at Day Springs
- Continuing education on what it is to be a “man” and a “leader;”
- Positive article in local weekly paper on the many activities planned and participated in by young boys, focusing on the benefits of “nonviolence training.”

A primary component of the DELTA project is outreach to Florida’s youth. During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the project has provided training to 4,801 school-age children. Annual Prevention Institutes and Child and Youth Institute are held by FCADV to bring attention to the unique needs of children and youth who have experienced domestic violence as well as prevention of violence. Partners come together during this forum to learn about issues affecting today’s children and youth.
More than 140 teens and adults from around the state joined together in Orlando to address teen dating violence issues facing Florida’s youth. In-depth training was provided on prevention programs, youth/adult partnerships, and teen dating violence. Participants selected one of four action planning groups to join including: high school education initiatives, middle school education initiatives, communications and marketing, and policy.

In addition to enjoying activities, both the youth and adults rolled up their sleeves and participated in these forums to discuss critical issues facing our youth. Some of the ideas generated for future action include:

- Implement school-based curriculum across the state
- Create youth clubs to support prevention efforts
- Create public awareness campaigns about preventing teen dating violence
- Incorporate educational opportunities into the health curricula
- Use social networking sites to engage youth in prevention
- Encourage student-led activities
- Hold concerts for teens
- Establish mentoring programs
- Develop a youth advisory board to advise on policy issues and initiatives
- Develop regional board representation
- Meet twice a year at the Preventing Teen Dating Violence Summit and the FCADV Annual Conference
- Develop a media plan and promotional items to have available at schools and hospitals
- Promote mandatory teen dating violence prevention training among school staff
- Train teachers on the effects of teen dating violence
- Amend school zero tolerance policies to include teen dating violence.

The youth voice at this event will be extremely important in advancing primary prevention initiatives and efforts to the next level in Florida.
Important Facts about Teen Dating Violence...

- One in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating violence (CDC 2006)
- One in four adolescents reports verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual violence each year (Foshee et al. 1996; Avery-Lead et al. 1997)
- One in five adolescents reports being a victim of emotional violence (Halpern et al. 2001)
- One in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner (Silverman et al. 2001)
- Dating violence occurs more frequently among black students (13.9 percent), then Hispanic (9.3 percent) and white (7.0 percent) students (CDC 2006)
- 72 percent of eighth and ninth graders reportedly “date” (Foshee et al. 1996). By the time they are in high school, 54 percent of students report dating violence among their peers (Jafe et al. 1992)

(All information taken from www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/datingviolence.html)

- Nearly three in four tweens (72 percent) say boyfriend/girlfriend relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger (Liz Claiborne, Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008).
- 62 percent of tweens (ages 11-14) who have been in a relationship say they know friends who have been verbally abused (called stupid, worthless, ugly, etc.) by a boyfriend/girlfriend. (Liz Claiborne, Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008).
- Only half of all tweens (ages 11-14) claim to know the warning signs of a bad/hurtful relationship. (Liz Claiborne, Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008).
- More than three times as many tweens (20 percent) as parents (6 percent) admit that parents know little or nothing about the tweens’ dating relationships. (Liz Claiborne, Inc. study on teen dating abuse conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited, February 2008).

For more information on teen dating violence prevention and information, visit: www.loveisnotabuse.com or www.chooserespect.org.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-SAFE/7233
TTY 1-800-787-3224
www.ndvh.org

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline
1-866-331-9474 or
TTY 1-866-331-8453
Love is Respect
GOVERNOR’S INITIATIVE

In 2007, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) received funding dedicated to initiating statewide prevention initiatives among FCADV’s 42 member programs from the Governor’s Office and the Florida Department of Children and Families. Funding is provided at $1 million each year for fiscal years 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. FCADV’s primary prevention initiatives work toward preventing first-time victimization and perpetration of intimate partner violence by working with communities to develop activities which promote healthy relationships at all levels of society. Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers are currently engaged in implementing portions of their primary prevention plans which include the following five items:

1. Community Partnerships with non-traditional partners
2. Prevention activities with youth
3. Building Organizational Capacity
4. Evaluation of prevention programming
5. Sustainability

Primary Prevention is...

• Health promotion based
• Based on skill and knowledge building
• An ongoing process, which requires leadership and commitment
• Community owned and integrated into the fabric of the community

Primary Prevention is not...

• A one-time program or event
• One skill-building session
• A program that is entirely planned, implemented, and evaluated by the local domestic violence agency

(from the FCADV website
www.fcadv.org)
## Prevention Principles

Building on the social ecological model and learning theories, nine prevention principles guide primary prevention programs:

1. Prevention program planning, implementation, and evaluation should address all levels of the social-ecological model (individual, relationship, community, and society).

2. Strategies should include multiple teaching methods, including some type of active, skills-based component.

3. Participants need enough exposure to have desired effects. Research shows that changes in attitudes and behaviors need at least seven-nine “doses.”

4. Prevention strategies should have a scientific justification or logical rationale. For example, base program planning on behavior and social change theories.

5. Programs should foster strong, stable, positive relationships between children/youth and adults, youth and youth, adults and adults.

6. Program activities should happen at a time that will have maximum impact in a participant’s life.

7. Tailor programs to fit cultural beliefs and practices of specific groups and communities.

8. A systematic evaluation is necessary to determine whether a program or strategy worked. This includes using results to inform future prevention programs and activities.

9. Staff should be sensitive, competent, and should have sufficient training, support, and supervision before implementing programs.

Taken from the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence website www.fcadv.org
On October 1, 2008, Domestic Violence Awareness Month was launched at the State Capitol in Tallahassee. This event was hosted by the Domestic Violence Program Office and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV). In recognizing exemplary efforts aimed at preventing domestic violence, two agencies that have developed and demonstrated commendable programs which are raising awareness in their local communities, were given the Promote Peace, Prevent Domestic Violence, annual award. Governor Charlie Crist was joined by FCADV Executive Director Tiffany Carr in presenting these two programs with the award. Penny Morrill accepted the award on behalf of Sunrise of Pasco County, which has created an innovative prevention project for schools. Carol Wick accepted the award on behalf of Harbor House of Central Florida, which has developed a program called “Coaching Boys Into Men” that engages them in efforts to end domestic violence.

Governor Crist has a longstanding record of supporting domestic violence prevention efforts. As attorney general, Charlie Crist established the Cut Out Domestic Violence program with the help of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The program trains licensed hair stylists, cosmetologists, and nail technicians to identify the signs of domestic violence, listen to victims and connect them with appropriate resources and authorities. Since taking office, Governor Crist has signed budgets setting aside nearly one million dollars each year to domestic violence prevention and education.

In 2008, Governor Crist signed several bills that reinforce Florida’s public safety laws and criminal justice system by strengthening penalties for those who commit domestic violence. House Bill 313, Relating to Dating Violence, The Barwick-Ruschak Act, provides that victims of dating violence be notified of their legal rights and remedies. The law is named after Tiffany Barwick and Michael Ruschak, two University of Central Florida students who were killed in September 2007. Senate Bill 622, Relating to Orders of No Contact with Crime Victim, expands the list of violent offenses requiring a court to issue a no-contact order with the victim. The law previously applied only to victims of sexual crimes. House Bill 7077, relating to Child Protection, clarifies the responsibilities of the Department of Children and Families and law enforcement agencies in cases where children become missing while in the care of the Department and specifically authorizes courts to enter injunctions relating to domestic violence issues in certain child welfare cases to prevent an act of child abuse or protect the child from domestic violence.

Also during October, Governor Charlie Crist was presented the 2008 HopeLine Hero Award by Verizon Wireless for his ongoing efforts to prevent domestic violence in the state. The HopeLine program accepts no-longer-used wireless phones and accessories from any wireless service provider, turns them into help and support for victims of domestic violence and the non-profit agencies and shelters that serve them.

“The HopeLine Hero Award was created to thank dedicated people who have gone above and beyond to support domestic violence awareness and prevention. “Governor Crist has made this a high-profile and high-priority effort to punish offenders and protect victims, which will help so many families across the state.”- Pam Tope, President - Florida Region, Verizon Wireless
PROCLAMATION -Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 2008

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of behavior that threatens the lives of many Floridians through fear, intimidation and the use of violence; and

WHEREAS, the under-reporting of domestic violence hinders victims from receiving services and exposes them to future victimization; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence homicide is typically the culmination of an escalating pattern of abuse; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence related homicide increased 15 percent in 2007 from 164 to 189 deaths in Florida; and

WHEREAS, children who witness violence in the home are at a greater risk for emotional and behavioral problems and are at a high risk for becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers provide a vast array of intervention and prevention services aimed to support victims, and provide educational opportunities for professionals who work with victims in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida remains committed to providing its community partners every available means of support to enhance emergency services, counseling and educational opportunities for domestic violence victims and their children; and

WHEREAS, Florida remains committed to fight domestic violence by both passing legislation to prevent domestic violence and punish offenders, and appropriating over $28 million for domestic violence programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

IT WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida, to be affixed at Tallahassee the Capital, this 1st day of October in the year two thousand eight.

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-500-1119

Rape Crisis Hotline 1-888-956-RAPE/7273

In 2005, 1,510 people in the United States died at the hands of an intimate partner (CDC website, www.cdc.gov)
Florida’s Fatality Review Teams (FRTs) were first established in the mid-1990s as local initiatives supported with federal grant funds. Florida statute allows the establishment of FRTs at the local, regional, or statewide levels. Their overarching purpose is to review fatal and near-fatal incidents of domestic violence, related domestic violence matters, and suicides.

The community-based teams demonstrate true partnerships and, although each team varies in their composition, local community representation typically will consist of local law enforcement agencies, the State Attorney’s Office, the Medical Examiner’s Office, Domestic Violence Centers, victim services, the Clerk of the Court, the Court Administrator’s Office, batterer’s intervention program providers, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health Child Death Review Teams, local shelters, parole officers, faith-based representation, and other community partners.

A primary goal is to identify trends and factors leading up to the incident, and through analysis and data collection, make changes in policies and/or procedures that may prevent future deaths. Because unique circumstances may not always be captured in data, the community-based team approach has an added value to help shed light on a local community’s service systems, pre-incident coordination, and potential solutions to any gaps identified. FRTs help open up lines of communication across all facets of a community with the ultimate goal of developing a more effective coordinated community response.

On July 1, 2000, Section 741.316(2), Florida Statutes, was enacted which provides that:

A domestic violence fatality review team may be established at a local, regional, or state level in order to review fatal and near-fatal incidents of domestic violence, related domestic violence matters, and suicides. The review may include a review of events leading up to the domestic violence incident, available community resources, current laws and policies, actions taken by systems and individuals related to the incident and the parties, and any information or action deemed relevant by the team, including a review of public records and records for which public records exemptions are granted. The purpose of the teams is to learn how to prevent domestic violence by intervening early and improving the response of an individual and the system to domestic violence. The structure and activities of a team shall be determined at the local level. The team may determine the number and type of incidents it wishes to review and shall make policy and other recommendations as to how incidents of domestic violence may be prevented.
As of June 2009, local fatality review teams are active in the following Florida counties: Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk/Highlands, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. John’s and the Third Judicial Circuit (which includes Columbia, Madison, Taylor, Dixie, Lafayette, Hamilton and Suwannee counties).

As of June 2009, local fatality review teams are active in the following Florida counties: Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk/Highlands, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. John’s and the Third Judicial Circuit (which includes Columbia, Madison, Taylor, Dixie, Lafayette, Hamilton and Suwannee counties).

Historically, from 2000 through 2008, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was the lead agency provided with authority to gather data and report on behalf of the local FRTs. An annual report was written by FDLE and submitted to the Governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chief justice of the Supreme Court. A standardized reporting form was used to capture specific data but also allowed reporting of salient issues specific to each incident. The fatality review teams have been assigned, for administrative purposes, to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) since the 2000 statutory enactment. During the 2008 legislative session, the requirements for the annual reporting by FDLE and the standardized reporting format were removed from the statute. DCF does remain active in its administrative duties by providing technical assistance and support and scholarships for training.

In April 2008, DCF received an award from the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders program to partner with the FCADV to create a statewide domestic violence fatality steering committee. This grant provides the statewide steering committee to meet to address the following objectives:

- Identify gaps in service delivery to domestic violence victims and identify potential systemic breakdowns
- Promote training and cross-training to professionals
- Coordinate the activities of agencies involved and share and exchange information.

The steering committee is comprised of representatives of the following state agencies and organizations: Florida Department of Children and Families; Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Florida Sheriff’s Association; Florida Police Chiefs Association; Florida Prosecuting Attorney’s Association; Office of the Attorney General; Office of the State Courts Administrator; Florida Department of Education; Florida Department of Corrections; Clerk of Courts Association; Comptroller’s Office; Medical Examiner’s Office; Office of the State Attorney; Florida Department of Health; Certified Domestic Violence Centers; Batterer’s Intervention Program; and a citizen-at-large, who is a survivor of domestic violence.

This grant award came at a critical time in
Florida, when in 2007, 16 percent of the homicides were domestic violence related (Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Annual Crime Report). Of these offenses, the spouse or live-in partner was the victim of 56 percent of the cases, and children accounted for 12 percent of the victims. Of the 189 domestic violence homicides reported statewide in 2007, sixty-six, or nearly 35 percent, were committed with the jurisdiction of active fatality review teams (FDLE Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team 2008 Annual Report Executive Summary). The initial meeting of the statewide team was held on May 29, 2008, in Tallahassee. Representatives of DCF, FCADV, the Department of Corrections, the Office of the Attorney General, the Sheriff’s and Police Chiefs Associations, the state attorney, domestic violence centers, batterer’s intervention programs, the Office of State Court Administration, the FDLE, and local fatality review teams discussed for three hours the challenges relating to domestic violence fatality review on both the statewide and local levels. The members identified four additional long-term goals for the statewide team during the grant period:

- Develop a tool to collect meaningful statewide data from local fatality review teams relating to domestic violence fatalities and near fatalities
- Establish a statewide fatality review team that will provide technical assistance, standards, and guidance to local fatality review teams, and assist the local teams in obtaining funding to continue their work
- Prepare a final report that identifies trends and provides individual guidance to each stakeholder in the effort to prevent domestic violence fatalities
- Develop a statewide public awareness campaign about domestic violence that targets all ages and cultural backgrounds

In addition to the work of the steering committee, the grant provides for two training institutes, development of a web page and e-newsletter via FCADV’s website dedicated to fatality review issues. A final report of findings and recommendations of the steering committee is due in fall 2009 (www.fcadv.org).

Note: When the Florida legislature authorized FRTs, it enacted a public records and meetings exemption (Section 741.3165, Florida Statures). Under the Open Government Sunset Review Act, this exemption is subject to review and stands repealed effective October 2, 2010, unless reenacted during the 2010 session.
Featured in the 2006-2007 domestic violence annual report, the following research-based report summarizes Florida homicide and provides useful information to fatality review teams and other programs:

REPORT ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE FATALITIES
JANUARY 2005 – DECEMBER 2006

In an effort to understand the frequency and patterns of intimate partner homicides in Florida, the DCF Domestic Violence Program Office conducted background research on data the FDLE reports each calendar year through the Uniform Crime Reports. This research is necessary because law enforcement reports follow Florida’s broad statutory definition of domestic violence which includes violence between one family or household member and another family or household member in addition to violence between intimate partners. DCF’s investigation compared trends from 2005 to 2006 and assessed whether the intimate partner violence homicide involved death to other family or household members and patterns among males versus females.

This research answered three questions: Did intimate partner violence homicides change from 2005 to 2006? What are the patterns of intimate partner homicides in Florida? Do individuals using domestic violence shelters have different domestic violence fatality rates compared to others?

Did intimate partner violence homicides change from 2005 to 2006?

Information from the DCF reveals that in calendar year 2005, 90 females and 21 males died in intimate partner violence homicides. In 2006, 82 females and 27 males died in intimate partner violence homicides. The total number of intimate partner violence homicide victims changed little between 2005 and 2006.

However, there has been an increase in male deaths due to intimate partner violence-related attacks. Intimate partner violence-related homicides occur in conjunction with an intimate partner homicide, or to get revenge on an intimate partner. For example, in one case a man killed his wife and their son. The wife’s murder is intimate partner violence whereas the son’s murder is intimate partner violence-related. In another case, a man abused his wife and killed their sons as a way to punish her. In yet another case, a man threatened his wife at gunpoint in front of her parents, and then shot everyone in the room. There is a statistically significant difference in victim patterns from 2005-2006 due only to the increase in males killed in intimate partner violence-related attacks.
What are the patterns of intimate partner homicides in Florida?

Overall, for 2005-2006, females made up 81 percent of deaths by an intimate partner. Females were 10 times more likely to die from an intimate partner violence homicide versus an intimate partner violence-related attack or an act of self-defense. In comparison, females were six times more likely to die from an intimate partner violence-related attack. Females were most likely to die from an intimate partner homicide, whereas males were most likely to die from an intimate partner violence-related homicide.

DCF offender data show that in 2005, 16 females and 85 males murdered an intimate partner (two females acted in self-defense, according to law enforcement and/or the courts). In 2006, 11 females and 86 males committed this crime (four females acted in self-defense). While no females killed other family or household members in an assault on their intimate partner in 2005-2006, 10 males in 2005 and 16 in 2006 committed this crime. However, there is a large and statistically significant difference between the patterns of male intimate partner homicides versus that of females. According to the FDLE data, news reports, and case records for both years, 21 women and 197 men either murdered an intimate partner or helped someone else murder their intimate partner. No women committed intimate partner violence-related homicides, and no men committed a homicide in self-defense.

Do individuals using domestic violence shelters have different domestic violence fatality rates compared to others?

Based on reports from 61 percent of the centers, only four centers had contact (including hotline calls) with domestic violence homicide victims from 2005 to mid-2006, and two provided shelter services. Based on the Program Office data, 99 percent of all the women who died as a result of domestic violence from 2005 to mid-2006 never stayed in shelter, and 95 percent had no contact with a certified domestic violence center within five years of their murder.

For more detailed information and research methods, contact the DCF Domestic Violence Program Office at 850-921-2168.
DCF’s, Domestic Violence Program Office would like to acknowledge and thank all of our partners for their contributions, support and valuable information provided and used in this document. These efforts demonstrate the many “circles of collaboration” throughout Florida that are helping to promote peace and prevent domestic violence.

Sources:

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National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence; U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

E.V. Victims Trapped in Domestic Violence, October 8, 2009, Tribune

When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2007, Homicide Data, Violence Policy Center

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Acronyms

Alice*
ARRA – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
DCF – Department of Children and Families
DOJ – United States Department of Justice
DV – Domestic Violence
FCADV – Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
FCASV – Florida Council Against Sexual Violence
FPPA – Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association
InVEST – Intimate Violence Enhances Services Team
IPV – Intimate Partner Violence
MOU – Memorandums of Understanding
OSCA – Office of State Courts Administrator
OVV – Office on Violence Against Women
SANE – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
SART – Sexual Assault Response Team
SO – Sheriff’s Office
STOP – Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution grant
VAWA – Violence Against Women Act
VOCA – Victims of Crimes Assistance

*Alice is not an acronym. Its developer, Mark Shapiro, named the program after the book, Alice in Wonderland. Mark writes, “In 1999, my firm won a contract to build a client database for the six domestic violence shelters in Greater Kansas City. When the program was nearly complete, I recommended it be given a woman’s name, simple and timeless.”
Crime in Florida
January - December 2008
The statistics presented in this release are an indication of crime and criminal activities known to, and reported by, law enforcement agencies for 2008. This report reflects data residing in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) database as of 04/14/2009.

### Domestic Violence by Offense Type

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2008</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>931</td>
<td>-4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Sodomy</td>
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<td>290</td>
<td>-17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Fondling</td>
<td>919</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>-19.0%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-12.7%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>113,123</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
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### Domestic Violence by Offense Type to Victim’s Relationship to Offender

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<th>Parent</th>
<th>Child</th>
<th>Sibling</th>
<th>Other Family</th>
<th>Cohabitant</th>
<th>Other</th>
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## Statewide Reported Domestic Violence Offenses, 1992 - 2008

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<th>Forcible Sodomy</th>
<th>Forcible Fondling</th>
<th>Aggravated Assault</th>
<th>Aggravated Stalking</th>
<th>Simple Assault</th>
<th>Threat/Intimidation</th>
<th>Arson</th>
<th>Simple Stalking</th>
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<th>% Change</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 population</th>
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* Data not collected until 1996  ** Data not collected after 1995


### Total Domestic Violence and Rate for Florida, 1999-2008

The total number of reported domestic violence offenses has declined since 1999. From 1999-2008 there was a decrease of 26.9 percent in rate per 100,000 in population, while there were 12,921 less offenses. See table above.

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## Total Domestic Violence Offenses for Florida by County, 2008

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<th>Manslaughter</th>
<th>Forcible Rape</th>
<th>Forcible Sodomy</th>
<th>Forcible Fondling</th>
<th>Aggravated Assault</th>
<th>Aggravated Stalking</th>
<th>Simple Assault</th>
<th>Threat/Intimidation</th>
<th>Stalking</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total % Change 07/08</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Rate % Change 07/08</th>
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Florida's Domestic Violence Rate Per 100,000

Domestic Violence Percent Change Since 1999

Number of Offenses  Rate per 100,000

Year  1999  2000  2001  2002  2003  2004  2005  2006  2007  2008

Rate per 100,000

Year  1999  2000  2001  2002  2003  2004  2005  2006  2007  2008
# Funding of Florida’s Certified Domestic Violence Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DCF Circuit</th>
<th>County Served</th>
<th>Center</th>
<th>Domestic Violence Trust Fund</th>
<th>Family Violence Prevention &amp; Services Act</th>
<th>DV Diversion Program TANF</th>
<th>Violence Against Women Act Grant</th>
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Financial Highlights

The Department’s Domestic Violence Program receives funds through state fees, general revenue, and federal grant programs from the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice. State fees include batterer intervention certification, divorce filings, marriage licenses, and domestic violence fines. These fees comprise 39 percent of the Department’s budget for domestic violence. Federal programs include the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), STOP and Grants to Encourage Arrests programs.

Ninety-four percent of the DV Program’s budget is used for community-based and statewide programs to support provision of temporary emergency shelter and related services to domestic violence victims and their dependents. The office also provides funding to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, and victim service providers in an effort to prevent and/or remediate the effects of domestic violence.

Four percent of the program budget is used for administrative oversight of all domestic violence programs. The program uses the remaining two percent to certify and monitor batterer intervention programs.

Utilization of Funds

Program Management $491,462 2%
Administration $1,182,010 4%
Services $26,370,511 94%

Funding Sources

Fees $10,860,165 39%
GR $592,837 2%
VAWA $5,413,991 19%
Federal Funds $16,590,981 59%
TANF $7,750,000 28%
FVPSA $3,426,990 12%
State Funds $11,453,002 41%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What is it?

Domestic violence is about Power and Control.

It is a pattern of controlling behaviors that may include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. It can be found in heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

Domestic violence is a crime and it is a choice made by the batterer.

Even if your partner does not physically hurt you, threats of battering may be present and are reinforced by...

Intimidation, Blame, Denials, Threats, Isolation, or Force.

You may be experiencing domestic violence if your partner is doing any of these or other unwanted behaviors:

Playing mind games, accusing you of having affairs, using your children against you, controlling how you look, threatening you, calling you names, saying you are ugly, fat, or crazy, taking your car from you, threatening to take the kids away if you tell, demanding sex, harming your pets, acting extremely jealous or possessive, threatening to commit suicide or to kill you, keeping you from your family, friends or community, and using physical attacks such as kicks, pushes, hits, slaps, punching holes in the walls, destroying your belongings, hair pulling, cigarette burns, stabbing, etc.

Assessing the Danger in your Relationship

From Mending the Sacred Hoop - Technical Assistance Project. www.msh-ta.org

The following questions may help you examine how dangerous your situation is and how it is affecting your life. The number of “yes” answers does not necessarily indicate greater or lesser danger, but answering these questions can alert you to what you may already suspect about the danger of your situation. Remember: domestic violence can lead to death.

- Has your partner ever injured you so badly you needed medical attention?
- Does your partner seem preoccupied or obsessed with you? (following you, monitoring your whereabouts, stalking)
- Have your partner’s assaults or abuse become more violent or brutal?
- Do you believe your partner may seriously hurt or kill you?
- Has your partner threatened, killed, or hurt a family pet?
- Was your partner’s last relationship abusive?
- Has your partner ever been charged with domestic violence?
- Do you feel isolated from sources of help? (no phone, family or friends?)
- Does your partner have access to a gun?
- Has your partner ever threatened your life?
- Has your partner threatened violent retaliation if you leave?

We respect your choices, fears, and confidentiality and we want to help.

Victim advocates can help. They are trained in domestic violence issues, offer confidentiality, are available 24 hours a day, and do not charge for services offered.

To reach an advocate CALL:

Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1-800-500-1119
National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-7233
Local Center

Because you have the right to live a life free of fear and violence!
Who is a Safety Plan for?

For those:  
- Living With an Abuser - because the danger can occur at any time  
- Planning to Leave - because few abusers allow their partner to leave peacefully  
- Living Separately - because danger often increases after a survivor leaves or ends the relationship

If you are experiencing domestic violence, what are your options?

If you stay in your relationship, you may consider the following:
- Notify someone of the abuse  
- Talk with a counselor  
- Get help from the domestic violence center  
- Make a plan for escape  
- Teach your children how to escape and get help  
- Make a safety plan

Planning for safety is important whether the relationship continues or ends.

Should you decide to leave your relationship...

Planning may increase your safety. Leaving can be very dangerous and should be planned carefully. To speak to a counselor who can help you plan to leave call 1-800-500-1119. There are people who can help you start a violence-free life.

You may ask an advocate about...
- Filing for a free injunction for protection  
- Helping you understand the legal system  
- Free confidential counseling  
- Moving away  
- Staying at a free emergency domestic violence shelter or other safe place

Who can I turn to for HELP?

The toll-free, confidential hotline is available 24 hours a day to respond to your needs. Hotline advocates will provide you with immediate assistance as well as local referrals. Advocates can provide you with referrals and information on counseling, advocacy, and other services you may choose to pursue.

FCADV Hotline: 1-800-500-1119
Planeando para la Seguridad en el Trabajo

Es importante que los sobrevivientes de la violencia doméstica estén alertas y preparados para posibles contactos con el abusador durante el día de trabajo. Un plan de seguridad para el trabajo puede ayudar si el abusador llama o se aparece. "¿Cuáles de estos puntos puedes usar?"

1. Cuídate de situaciones con tus compañeros de trabajo.
2. Presenta a la comunidad o seguridad con fotos del abusador.
3. Pide a la persona que llame a la policía en caso de emergencia.
4. Si una persona de seguridad es la misma persona que está en el trabajo o no está cerca, Pide a alguien que te recoja las llamadas.
5. Planea tu entrada y salida cada día.
6. Mantén una copia de la Orden de Protección en el trabajo.
7. Dato que otros sepan de la Orden de Protección.
8. Pide que tu oficina o escritorio estén en un lugar seguro.
9. Pide ayuda del programa de asistencia para los empleados.
10. Consulta una ruta de escape.
11. Te sientes sola, puedes llamar (el botón alarma).
12. Mantén a tu persona en tus manos y saldrás al trabajo cada día.
14. Encontrar una puerta de la puerta de una vieja casa en un lugar bien alineado.
15. Si es posible, se dejas y recogida cambia caros con alguien, maneja con otros del trabajo.

Llamas al 1-888-500-1119 para recibir la ayuda del ingreso para la violencia doméstica con tu plan.

Si Vives en una Área Rural

Porque la población es pequeña en lugares rústicos, por las luces familiares, y la proximidad social, puede ser útil que los sobrevivientes se encuentren con ayuda. Muchas personas que viven en áreas rústicas no pueden irse de sus casas sin ser observadas o detenidas (hasta por conversación social). Cuando alguien ve una violencia doméstica a grandes distancias, los sobrevivientes temen que el abusador los vea y los siga. Cuando se vuelven a una área rústica puede ser más difícil para muchas personas, pero los servicios para la violencia doméstica (Líneas de Emergencia 1-800-500-1119) te pueden ayudar a decidir si planear.

Si/No: __________________________

¿Quién Te Dará Apoyo?

Piédele a alguien que llame a la policía en caso de emergencia.

¿Quién te asistió ___________


dirigiendo a la recepcionista o seguridad de tu lugar de trabajo.

Haz un plan de escape especial porque la policía puede demorar mucho en llegar.

¿Quién te llevará el carro/camión familiar sin ser observada o detenida.

Pide a alguien que recoja las llamadas.

¿Quién te llevará el carro/camión familiar sin ser observada o detenida.


dirigir a la recepcionista o seguridad de tu lugar de trabajo.

En la ciudad de un local: __________________________

En el trabajo: ____________________________________

Pide que tu oficina o escritorio estén en un lugar seguro.

Llamas al 1-888-500-1119 para recibir la ayuda del ingreso para la violencia doméstica con tu plan.

¿Dónde Puedes Llamar para Recibir Ayuda?

Porque la población es pequeña en lugares rústicos, por las luces familiares, y la proximidad social, puede ser útil que los sobrevivientes se encuentren con ayuda. Muchas personas que viven en áreas rústicas no pueden irse de sus casas sin ser observadas o detenidas (hasta por conversación social). Cuando alguien ve una violencia doméstica a grandes distancias, los sobrevivientes temen que el abusador los vea y los siga. Cuando se vuelven a una área rústica puede ser más difícil para muchas personas, pero los servicios para la violencia doméstica (Líneas de Emergencia 1-800-500-1119) te pueden ayudar a decidir si planear.

¿Quién Te Dará Apoyo?

Piédele a alguien que llame a la policía en caso de emergencia.

¿Quién te asistió ___________


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Haz un plan de escape especial porque la policía puede demorar mucho en llegar.

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¿Qué Es La Violencia Doméstica?
La violencia doméstica es una crimen serio. Incluye 
• agresiones o amenazas
• lesiones físicas
• restricciones a la libertad personal
• violación, intento de violación, o que se usa para amenazar a una persona
• acoso sexual

Si has sido obligada a hacer algo sexual que no deseabas hacer o si te han negado comida, medicina o cuidado médico, eres víctima de la violencia doméstica. No es tu culpa. El abusador es el responsable. Hay quienes tu escuchan y te apoyan en tus decisiones. Hay pasos que puedes tomar para ayudar a poner fin al abuso.

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