“Ann and I appreciate the work of the Department of Children and Families and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence to ensure the well-being of those who face the dangers of domestic violence in our state, especially survivors and their children. We commend our law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges for their efforts as well.

As Governor, I am committed to doing all we can to prevent domestic violence and safeguard families. Together, we can help reduce domestic violence and its destructive influence on the lives of individuals, families, and communities.”

Rick Scott Ann Scott
Governor First Lady

“For every act of family violence there needs to be a solution within the community, and so DCF strives to engage community partners in creating the solution.”

David Wilkins, Secretary
Department of Children and Families
The State of Florida is recognized nationally as a leader in the creation of groundbreaking domestic violence programming, policy, and services for survivors and their children. Florida’s success is a direct result of consistent support from the state’s elected officials and stands on the foundation built upon a private and public partnership between the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) and the Domestic Violence Program Office within the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). FCADV is the statewide professional association that provides leadership and advocacy for Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers and is the primary partner of the Domestic Violence Program Office that maintains responsibility for oversight of domestic violence funding, policies and programming in Florida.

The 2011 annual report includes recent statistical data regarding domestic violence and highlights existing partnerships and innovative collaborations that maximize Florida’s public and private sectors to create a seamless service delivery system while ensuring programmatic and fiscal accountability. This information is provided to the Legislature pursuant to Florida Statute 39.904 and is designed to provide a statewide status report on domestic violence by focusing on programs and partnerships that ensure safety for survivors and their children, prevent initial acts of violence and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

Governor Scott illustrated his leadership and commitment to ending domestic violence for Florida’s families by recommending policy that directed additional funding for issues associated with violence against women. Governor Scott’s leadership, coupled with the commitment from the Florida Legislature, continues to propel the State of Florida as a national leader in fighting domestic violence. DCF is pleased to collaborate with our private partner, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as we implement Florida’s domestic violence programs and policies.

Florida law defines domestic violence as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member. (F.S. 741.28)

However, domestic violence is more than a physical assault; it is a pattern of behaviors that individuals use against their intimate partners or former partners to establish power and control. It may include physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual or economic abuse. It may also include the use of threats, isolation, pet abuse, using children as pawns, and a variety of other behaviors to maintain power over one’s partner through violence, fear, and intimidation.

- Overall crime decreased by 6.6%; reported domestic violence offenses decreased by 2.7%.
- 113,378 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement.
- 210 individuals died as a result of domestic violence.
- Approximately 21% of all homicides were domestic violence related.
- An estimated 27% of women and 13.5% of men who were physically assaulted by an intimate partner, and less than 20% of women who were raped by an intimate partner, reported the crime to law enforcement.

Floridians Seeking Assistance, Fiscal Year 2010-2011

- 15,789 individuals received shelter at a certified domestic violence center.
- Survivors and their children spent 477,489 nights in shelter.
- 40,007 women, children and men received outreach services.
- Advocates answered 130,393 hotline calls.
- 87,474 safety plans were provided to survivors.
- 3,352 people were unable to receive emergency shelter due to lack of resources.
Resources

- Policy directed by Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature created an additional $1,249,290 for victim services, prosecution and law enforcement for fiscal year 2011 - 2012.

Partnerships and Community Collaborations

- Partnerships with nonprofit and private organizations, law enforcement and the courts, health care and legal providers, faith-based communities, and schools and universities help to create a coordinated, efficient and cost-effective system for the delivery of services.
- State and local public and private collaborations seek to increase safety of survivors and their children, prevent initial acts of violence, and hold perpetrators accountable.

National Domestic Violence Statistics

- Three women are killed by a current or former intimate partner each day in America, on average.\(^1\)
- A woman is battered every 15 seconds in the United States.\(^2\)
- Nearly one in four women are beaten or raped by a partner during adulthood.\(^3\)
- Approximately 37% of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there as a result of injuries inflicted by a current or former spouse or partner.\(^4\)
- The cost of intimate partner violence annually exceeds $5.8 billion, including $4.1 billion in direct health care costs.\(^5\)
- Domestic violence is estimated to cost employers in the United States approximately $13 billion each year.\(^6\)

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\(^4\) Rand, M. Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Room Departments 5 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1997).
The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) publishes an annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which serves as a reliable indicator of the number, rates, and types of crimes and criminal activities known to, and reported by, law enforcement agencies. Domestic violence crimes are specifically segregated and categorized in the UCR. For the past two years, the reports reflected an overall decrease in crime rates with the exception of domestic violence. Specifically, in 2009 and 2010 overall crime decreased by a total of 13.3 percent (-6.7 percent and -6.6 percent respectively). During the same period, reported domestic violence offenses increased by 0.3 percent (+3 percent and -2.7 percent respectively).

In 2010, law enforcement agencies reported 113,378 incidents of domestic violence and made 67,810 arrests, a slight decrease from the previous year. While total domestic violence crimes decreased by 2.7 percent in 2010, seven of Florida’s counties reported an astounding 20 percent or more increase. Florida’s statewide and local officials have expressed concern regarding the UCR data for a two year period which reflected a 50.6 percent increase in domestic violence manslaughters and a 28.7 percent increase in stalking, a frequent precursor to domestic violence homicide. These concerns, shared by...
The crime of domestic violence caused the death of 210 individuals and represented 21 percent of all homicides in the State of Florida during 2010. Tragically, 636 women, children, and men have lost their lives at the hands of a family member or intimate partner since 2008.

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The Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team led by Attorney General Pam Bondi in partnership with the Department of Children and Families Domestic Violence Program Office and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

These figures represent only reported domestic violence offenses to Florida’s law enforcement agencies. National data reflect that an estimated 27 percent of women and 13.5 percent of men who are physically assaulted, and less than 20 percent of women who are raped by an intimate partner, report these instances of domestic violence to law enforcement. 7

The crime of domestic violence caused the death of 210 individuals and represented 21 percent of all homicides in the State of Florida during 2010. Tragically, 636 women, children, and men have lost their lives at the hands of a family member or intimate partner since 2008.

In Fiscal Year 2010-11, Florida’s certified domestic violence centers provided emergency shelter to 15,789 individuals, a 4.7 percent increase from the previous year. Children who fled a violent home with a parent, primarily their mother, accounted for 47 percent of shelter residents. Domestic violence survivors and their children spent 477,489 nights in shelters, representing an increase of 3.2 percent. On most nights, each center operates at or beyond capacity. In fact, 3,352 requests for emergency shelter went unmet during this past fiscal year due to lack of bed space.

Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers are designed to provide temporary emergency shelter for approximately six weeks. However, the numbers suggest that residents are remaining in shelters for a longer period of time due to the lack of community resources and available affordable housing necessary to rebuild their lives.

In periods of stagnant economies, it may take a survivor longer to secure the necessary resources to obtain safe and affordable housing or employment, thereby creating a greater demand exceeding the supply of shelter space. In addition to affordable housing, issues such as utilities and costs of basic necessities are consistently identified as reasons for extended stays in emergency shelters.

Experts agree that the loss of a job and lack of employment often create more opportunity for a perpetrator to commit domestic violence, which results in increased frequency and lethality of domestic violence acts. Since the decline of the economy in 2008, 75 percent of Florida’s domestic violence centers reported increases in the number of survivors and their children seeking life saving emergency services.

Lack of meaningful employment is also a barrier for survivors seeking safety from an abusive partner. Since the economic downturn, limited job opportunities with increased competition for existing jobs have further complicated some survivors’ efforts to improve their situation.

In 2010, domestic violence hotlines received 130,393 calls from individuals seeking emergency services, information, and safety planning assistance. Survivors indicate that calling the hotline is often their first attempt at reaching out for help. As such, Florida mandates comprehensive training for advocates to ensure domestic violence survivors receive safe and appropriate hotline and other services.

Florida has experienced a consistent increase in survivors seeking outreach services, which often prevents the need for additional emergency services at a later time. Advocates in Florida’s domestic violence centers provided a total of 484,950 hours of outreach and counseling to 60,628 participants, created 87,474 tailored safety plans, and offered 670,304 information and referrals to survivors, family members, and friends seeking assistance.
Domestic violence can have a profound effect on children. A total of 7,486 children received emergency shelter with their parent in Florida’s domestic violence centers, representing almost half of all shelter residents. Florida’s certified domestic violence centers have comprehensive children’s programs to address issues associated with living in a violent household. During the past year, domestic violence center advocates provided outreach services to 4,106 children under the age of 18 and performed 7,011 child assessments.

The State of Florida has a culturally rich population representing many diverse communities. We know that violence occurs regardless of ethnicity, age, religion, culture or socioeconomic status. To meet the growing needs of Florida’s culturally diverse communities, domestic violence centers provide services tailored specifically to each family. Florida’s statewide domestic violence hotline includes a feature that allows advocates to work through an interpreter in order to provide assistance in more than 150 languages. Florida is committed to ensuring all survivors of domestic violence and their children receive culturally appropriate services.

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<tr>
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Similar to the rest of the country, Florida has experienced record declines in state generated revenue. However, Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature continue to prioritize the safety of domestic violence survivors and their children by allocating level funding for critical emergency services. During difficult economic times, Florida continues to maximize resources while providing holistic services by expanding collaborative partnerships such as those between state and local agencies, public and private organizations, communities of faith, medical and legal providers, and law enforcement and the courts. The following pages provide information regarding local and statewide programs, partnerships, and collaborations that provide the resources necessary to address domestic violence from a holistic perspective.

In 1979, the Department of Children and Families certified the first domestic violence center to provide free and confidential services and emergency shelter to individuals experiencing domestic violence. Florida law requires certified domestic violence centers remain in undisclosed locations and provide certain core services to women, children and men in need. In addition to temporary emergency shelter, statutorily mandated services also include a 24-hour hotline, counseling, referral, case management, child assessment, professional training and community education.

Shelters range in size from 14 to 102 bed emergency shelter facilities representing 1,912 available beds in Florida. Florida’s certified domestic violence centers are the first line of defense to achieving safety and independence.

State and local funding, coupled with grants and community and private support have enabled centers to enhance outreach programs. These services include transportation, rent and utility assistance, relocation assistance, transitional housing, children’s services, legal and court advocacy, life and work skills and training and educational programs.

Historically, most efforts in addressing domestic violence have focused on intervention activities that provide safety and resources to survivors and increased accountability for perpetrators. In recent years, national and state partners have expanded their focus to include increased emphasis on preventing the violence before it occurs. The most effective way to address domestic violence is to identify risk and protective factors to prevent violent incidences.

Primary prevention seeks to reduce the overall likelihood that anyone will become a victim or a perpetrator by creating conditions in society that make violence less likely to occur. Florida served as one of the initial five states to engage in primary prevention efforts directed at working with youth. Since 2002, FCADV and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have partnered to create and implement the DELTA (Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances)
The Resources program in seven Florida counties. Each of Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers have prevention programs tailored specifically for their respective communities. FCADV provides technical assistance to centers on all aspects of their prevention work, including program evaluation for continuous quality improvement. Prevention staff at local centers are supported in their efforts to evaluate their program through an empowerment evaluation process. This evaluation model includes the local community and program facilitators as active members of the evaluation team and builds community capacity for evaluation and program improvement.

The primary purpose of Florida’s Local and Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams is to prevent future domestic violence homicides by identifying systemic issues and creating policies and procedures to address such. In 2009, Florida established a multidisciplinary Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team led by Attorney General Pam Bondi and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence in partnership with the DCF Domestic Violence Program Office that focuses on conducting intensive reviews of domestic violence homicides to identify potential policy changes needed to prevent future fatalities.

For more information on these specific prevention efforts please see the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence programs on pages 14-17.

Holding Perpetrators Accountable

Florida law requires the court to order individuals found guilty of, had adjudication withheld, or pled nolo contendere to a crime of domestic violence to attend a batterer intervention program, unless stated on the record why it might be inappropriate. State standards require that programs be a minimum of 29 weeks in length and that content is based on the premise that violence is both a learned and a chosen behavior to control an intimate partner and can be “unlearned” through education and intervention.

During the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year, initial certifications were approved for 10 programs and 18 assessors. In addition, 14 programs and 28 assessors did not renew their certification. Currently, there are 123 active programs and 190 active assessors certified by the Department. A listing of programs and assessors can be found at http://dv.dcf.state.fl.us/.
The Department of Children and Families Domestic Violence Program Office (PDDV) provides general oversight for Florida’s domestic violence program to ensure appropriate implementation of the state’s domestic violence policies, programming, and funding. Among the Office’s primary responsibilities is the certification of the 42 domestic violence centers. The Office serves as the lead coordinator of executive branch agencies and provides technical assistance regarding domestic violence intervention and prevention with their public partners. The PDDV also works closely with our primary private partner, the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This unique public and private partnership is often touted nationally as the blueprint for other states around the country.

The Domestic Violence Program Office is responsible for oversight of federal funding streams earmarked for domestic violence services and administered through the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women and the Department of Health and Human Services, Family Violence Prevention Office. The PDDV also provides oversight of Florida’s statutorily defined Domestic Violence Trust Fund and General Revenue earmarked for domestic violence services. As designated in Florida Statute 39.903, the Office subcontracts with FCADV to administer these funds and conduct comprehensive programmatic and administrative monitoring of each of the 42 certified domestic violence centers.

**Violence Against Women Act, STOP**

Authorized as part of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution, (STOP) Formula Grant Program promotes a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to enhancing advocacy and improving the criminal justice system’s response to violence against women. STOP is allocated to each state based on population, with Florida receiving an award of $6,689,040 in 2010. The VAWA requires that funding is distributed to each discipline by percentages: 30 percent to victim services, 25 percent to law enforcement, 25 percent to prosecutors, 5 percent to courts and 15 percent discretionary (Florida generally applies discretionary funds to victim services). Federal regulations require that funding be allocated geographically based on identified needs and resources.

**STOP, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

During fiscal years 2009-2011, the State of Florida received $6,976,652 of a special allocation of the STOP funding stream, also known as American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) designed to distribute to victim service organizations, law enforcement, prosecution, and the courts to address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Recognizing that ARRA funding was non-recurring, the Domestic Violence Program Office used the same funding methodology as used in recurring STOP grants to fund prosecution projects. In addition, the office created and distributed a competitive grant application which resulted in the funding of 11 victim service projects. The Department also identified and provided ARRA funding for local innovative projects for law enforcement and the courts. Three statewide projects were funded through ARRA for victim service related activities. With the phase out of ARRA funds, the Department, FCADV, and their partners secured the resources necessary to sustain several of the key successful programs.
Grants to Encourage Arrest (GTEA)

Initially authorized under the Violence Against Women Act, the GTEA is a discretionary grant program designed to encourage governments to treat domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking as serious violations of criminal law that require a coordinated response from the entire criminal justice system. The program seeks to ensure that survivor safety is paramount and perpetrators are held accountable throughout the criminal justice process. The grant program is competitive nationally and DCF was awarded $431,320 over a two-year period to support the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team administered by FCADV, the Sexual Assault Response Teams administered by the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, and for the provision of training for prosecutors through the Florida Prosecuting Attorney’s Association.

The Department received a total of $8,994,431 in Violence Against Women Act funding for fiscal year 2010-2011. This amount included STOP, ARRA and GTEA grant funds.

Domestic Violence Trust Fund

The primary source of state funding for domestic violence emergency shelter and services is derived from the Domestic Violence Trust Fund (DVTF). The DVTF receives funds from a portion of both marriage license and dissolution of marriage fees assessed in Florida, and from fines for specific violent and domestic violence crime convictions. During fiscal year 2010-2011, the Legislature allocated a total of $7,010,180 in DVTF funds through the appropriations process for domestic violence shelter, services and programming.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

The United States Department of Health and Human Services, through FVPSA grants, allocates funds to states for the purpose of assisting in the prevention of family violence and the provision of immediate shelter and related assistance. The Legislature allocates these funds to certified domestic violence centers to provide emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline, and immediate comprehensive response to domestic violence survivors and their children. In fiscal year 2010–2011, the Department and FCADV distributed $3,872,270 in FVPSA grant funds to Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers.

TANF Domestic Violence Diversion Program

The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides block grants to states, through the Department of Health and Human Services, to assist those with an extreme financial hardship. Recognizing that survivors of domestic violence may need temporary economic assistance to escape a violent partner, the Legislature created the Domestic Violence Diversion Program. This program provides support services to survivors unable to temporarily participate in training or work requirements due to safety considerations or the residual effects of domestic violence. The state’s program is modeled after federal law with the intent of providing support to domestic violence survivors and their families as they rebuild their lives and return to self-sufficiency. The Department passed through $7,750,000 in TANF funding in fiscal year 2010-2011 to Florida’s certified domestic violence centers.
The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) serves as the statewide professional association providing leadership and advocacy for Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers. In this role, FCADV operates the statewide domestic violence and legal hotlines, possesses a comprehensive library, and provides education, training and technical assistance to center staff and other partners, advocates, and professionals to improve services, practices, and polices related to domestic violence.

In 2004, the Florida Legislature transferred the administration of state and federal funding earmarked for Florida’s certified domestic violence centers to FCADV. As such, FCADV is responsible for implementing, funding, and evaluating the services provided by the state’s certified domestic violence centers. FCADV works with centers to strengthen the quality of services and maintain both programmatic standards and fiscal accountability requirements.

FCADV currently serves as the managing entity for the state’s domestic violence program. In an effort to eliminate duplication of functions and reduce administrative costs, Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature further expanded FCADV’s role by transferring the administration of a federal funding source dedicated to ending violence against women. The long-standing partnership between DCF and FCADV has led to the streamlining of processes and increased efficiencies in the monitoring and management of the state’s domestic violence program.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, FCADV provided technical assistance and on-site training to domestic violence centers and partner agencies throughout the state. Hundreds of hours of technical assistance and trainings were provided to center advocates, managerial staff, and allied partners to increase knowledge of emerging issues, enhance contract and monitoring efficiencies and standards, and build advocates’ capacity to best serve domestic violence survivors and their children.

**During fiscal year 2010-2011, FCADV**

- Responded to 5,215 technical assistance requests from domestic violence centers and other outside agencies.
- Conducted 82 on-site trainings and 107 on-site technical assistance visits to domestic violence centers.
- Conducted 27 statewide events throughout Florida.

**Child Protection Investigators Initiative (CPI)**

The protection of children from the direct and indirect effects of domestic violence is a mutual priority of FCADV and DCF. As such, this private and public partnership created a groundbreaking program focused on reducing the removal of children from the non-offending parent while providing joint case management services to families when co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence exists. This collaborative includes six sheriff’s offices that are statutorily mandated to provide the child protective investigative function on behalf of the state and their local certified domestic violence centers. In the past year, referrals and support services were provided to the families of 1,593 children at risk for removal. Each child placed in Foster Care Services costs the State of Florida a minimum of $400.00 per month. The state potentially saved in excess of $3.8 million dollars for six months of foster care services while children remained safely in their homes. The success of this project is a result of Secretary Wilkins’ commitment to strengthening the child welfare system by establishing community-based public and private partnerships to address these complex issues.
Disabilities and Accessibility Project

FCADV coordinates with certified domestic violence centers to fully address the complexities of working with survivors living with disabilities. The Disabilities and Accessibility Project supports centers in creating accessible services and effectively serving survivors living with disabilities through the establishment of community partnerships and the creation of policies and standards. FCADV and the DCF PDDV work collaboratively to ensure that domestic violence survivors living with disabilities receive appropriate services and accommodations.

Economic Justice Initiative

The Economic Justice Initiative provides training, information and resources to address the financial conditions that create barriers to the long-term independence and safety of survivors of domestic violence and their children. This effort represents a public and private partnership between FCADV, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and the Allstate Foundation. The Initiative supports advocates as they work with survivors to build financial stability through job training, employment recruitment, understanding credit reports and facilitating access to financial institutions. FCADV also administers the Allstate Foundation Financial Empowerment grant which provides survivors with a financial training curriculum and funds two pilot initiatives that include a matched savings program and small micro-loan program specifically tailored for survivors of domestic violence.

Florida Statewide Domestic Violence and Legal Hotlines

FCADV operates and manages the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline that provides a multilingual service on a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Hotline advocates provide support, advocacy, information and referral services for survivors of domestic violence, their children, family and friends. Callers in need of emergency shelter, support groups, additional outreach and ongoing advocacy are connected directly to their local certified domestic violence center. In fiscal year 2010-2011, the hotline received 28,148 calls.

Through a subcontract with Florida Legal Services, Inc., FCADV administers the Domestic Violence Legal Hotline. The staff provides expert legal advice, information and referrals to domestic violence survivors, as well as to the attorneys and advocates who are assisting them. The hotline received 4,712 calls during this past fiscal year, an increase of 14.4 percent.

InVEST Program
(Intimate Violence Enhancement Services Team)

The InVEST program is designed to provide intensive service management and assistance to individuals identified in high lethality domestic violence situations. InVEST’s model is a partnership between local law enforcement agencies and the certified domestic violence center which focuses on identifying survivors at high risk for homicide and creating wraparound services for the survivor, while increasing perpetrator accountability.

Based on a coordinated community response model, InVEST teams include advocates, law enforcement officers, and detectives working together to create a comprehensive system of survivor safety through implementing batterer intervention models and safety planning with survivors. Law enforcement officers work to maintain batterer accountability through injunctions, monitoring, and follow up, while domestic violence advocates work with survivors to share information, provide safety planning, and assistance with survivor relocation if appropriate.
Legal Initiative

The FCADV Legal Clearinghouse, which began in 1997 as a pilot program, was the first in the nation to create a statewide program focused on the provision of legal representation for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking when securing an injunction for protection. The foundation of this project is the collaborative partnerships between Florida’s local certified domestic violence centers and their legal service organizations to provide representation to survivors during injunction for protection hearings.

Survivors often require additional civil legal services in housing and custody matters. In an effort to provide holistic legal services, FCADV’s legal service partners utilize alternative funding sources to address the survivor’s civil legal needs. In addition, FCADV provides comprehensive training and technical assistance to Legal Clearinghouse Project attorneys and certified domestic violence center staff to increase their knowledge and share information about legal issues relating to serving survivors of domestic, sexual and dating violence and stalking. FCADV partners with private law firms to secure pro bono representation for appellate issues associated with domestic violence issues.

Listening Project

The purpose of the survivor focus groups is to gather insight and input from survivors of domestic violence to guide FCADV’s programmatic priorities in the future. During the past fiscal year, FCADV conducted Survivor Listening groups throughout the state and included a wide range of certified domestic violence centers that were diverse in population, size, and service areas. The results of such are also utilized to inform decisions rendered regarding programmatic standards for certified domestic violence centers.

Survivors participating in the Listening Project continued to identify lack of transportation and related issues as critical needs to living independently. Specific concerns identified by survivors included: the need for financial assistance for gas, bus vouchers and tokens, and the lack of onsite vehicle accessibility at shelter to transport survivors and their children to critical appointments. Further, survivors indicate the lack of availability of long term affordable housing and employment options as significant barriers to providing the necessary resources for them and their children to have the opportunity to live independently. FCADV reviewed these findings with the 42 certified domestic violence centers and are engaged in active dialogue about options and resources to address these issues. Survivors also shared positive feedback regarding their experiences residing in shelter, accessing outreach services and working with the domestic violence center staff.

Primary Prevention

Primary prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV) focuses on preventing first-time perpetration and first-time victimization through the process of changing norms, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that contribute to relationship violence. FCADV is currently working with the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) State Steering Committee and local DELTA Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams to implement the second year of the eight-year strategic plan.

Additionally, FCADV coordinates the Statewide Primary Prevention Initiative and assists domestic violence centers as they implement comprehensive primary prevention programs in their communities. Each domestic violence center has organized Community Action Teams to work with youth and adults to promote healthy and peaceful relationships. Specifically, each program is working with non-traditional partners such as educators, local media outlets, and business leaders to build organizational and community support for prevention programs.

Rural Initiative

The mission of FCADV’s Rural Initiative is to provide for the safety of the most isolated and endangered survivors of domestic and sexual violence in rural areas. The Initiative is based on a community organizing model, whereby community and judicial organizing is essential to the long-term success of direct service provision to rural survivors. Established in 1996, the Rural Initiative
is responsible for the establishment of domestic violence and sexual assault outreach services in 19 of Florida’s rural counties, where none previously existed. Projects funded through this initiative also focus on community organizing in rural underserved areas such as the Native-American, African-American, farmworker, and other disenfranchised communities. Florida’s Rural Initiative was highlighted nationally as a groundbreaking project to expand services to survivors experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in underserved communities while creating the community infrastructure necessary to ensure long-term service provision to our most isolated populations.

An important component of the Rural Initiative is the Rural Caucus, a statewide coalition that brings together advocates and their community partners to network, discuss barriers to services and share innovative approaches and resources. The Rural Caucus is the collective voice of advocates who provide input and suggestions to FCADV in identifying emerging issues and planning the annual rural training conference.

Technology and Safety
The Technology and Safety Project addresses issues such as cyberstalking, safe usage of technology and security of survivor data accessed by domestic violence advocates. One component of the project is the Advocacy, Safety and Technology training sponsored through a partnership between Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Office and FCADV, which brings together a trained domestic violence advocate and an information technology specialist to bridge the gap between advocacy and technology. For advocates who are assisting victims of crime as they work through a complicated criminal justice process, this training is key to understanding the risks and benefits of technology.

Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
The Office of the Attorney General created the first statewide domestic violence fatality review team in response to marked increases in domestic violence homicides. Under the leadership of Attorney General Bondi, FCADV chairs the team that includes representatives of domestic violence centers, legal and other direct service providers, government agencies, faith-based organizations, probation, parole, corrections, law enforcement, health care, the military, the court system, prosecutors, the defense bar, and a survivor.

Domestic violence fatality review is an analytical process utilized to identify systemic gaps and create policy or procedural processes to address such, which can ultimately prevent domestic violence homicides. A key element of fatality review is the “no blame, no shame” philosophy, which means that no one system is responsible for a death. The ultimate responsibility for the homicide rests with the perpetrator. In January, the statewide team published its first report, “Faces of Fatality: Overview, Findings and Recommendations of the Florida Attorney General’s Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.” The report is available on the FCADV website: www.fcadv.org, and on the DCF website: http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/domestic violence

Returning to the Workforce
The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, in collaboration with FCADV, developed a program to provide a path for survivors residing in domestic violence shelters to return to the workforce. The pilot program provides testing and training for survivors in their area of aptitude, as well as assistance with drafting a resume, preparation for job interviews and employment placement assistance through the local workforce board. While the pilot program has operated less than a year, early indications are encouraging and represent a proactive approach by government and community partners to address a significant barrier survivors face when attempting to leave a violent home — securing employment.
The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to victims and survivors of sexual violence and the sexual assault crisis programs who serve them. FCASV works on behalf of survivors, advocates and rape crisis centers to raise visibility about the crime of sexual violence, improve the coordinated community response at the local and state levels, and provide survivors and the programs serving them with the resources they need.

Human Trafficking

FCASV held a Human Trafficking Summit in Orlando, a two-day training session on serving victims of human trafficking, primarily sex-trafficking, attended by 54 rape crisis program staff and allied professionals. Following the summit, FCASV conducted site visits for four communities, providing targeted, individualized training for rape crisis center staff and local responders on improving their communities’ responses.

SANE/SART

During fiscal year 2010, FCASV continued its coordination of the Statewide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Advisory Committee. Statewide SART Advisory Committee’s five subcommittees released their most recent reports in late June on the following topics: improving evidence storage of non-reported forensic exams; developing a public awareness campaign about forensic exams for non-reporting victims; improving victim services in cases with multiple jurisdictions; evaluating how state attorneys determine what makes a prosecutable sexual battery case; and helping communities get more grants to fund sexual assault related projects. The recommendations of the 2011 Statewide SART Advisory Committee are available from FCASV, and are posted on their website: www.fcasv.org.

As part of the Statewide SANE/SART Training Project, FCASV held five 40-hour Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) trainings, attended by 66 nurses and three physicians. This training project prepares health care professionals to provide expert forensic examination and evidence collection, and prepares attendees to take the national SANE certification exam, all with the goal of improving the victim-centered, coordinated community response to sexual assault, and improving reporting and prosecution rates. Staff also continued its technical assistance project to help rape crisis centers and their local communities establish and maintain forensic exam facilities and victim/survivor-focused Sexual Assault Response Teams.
Law Enforcement Training

A new, web-based law enforcement training, endorsed by the Florida Sheriffs Association and the Florida Police Chiefs Association, “Working Together to Win Sexual Battery Cases,” is now available on the FCASV website. The training, developed by FCASV in partnership with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, consists of a series of short question-and-answer videos with three assistant state attorneys on the aspects of law enforcement investigations that are the most influential in building a sexual battery case that can be taken to trial.

Judicial Benchbook

FCASV completed a project to develop, print, and distribute Florida’s first-ever Sexual Violence Benchbook for the judiciary. This reference guide for judges to use when faced with issues related to sexual violence in their courtrooms was developed with the input of the Florida Criminal Sexual Battery and Civil Injunction Benchbook Advisory Committee. Topics in the book include state statutes relating to sexual violence, elements of sexual battery trials, various pre- and post-trial matters, injunctions, jury selection, pretrial release, discovery depositions of rape victims, and psychological effects of rape manifested by victims. The Benchbook was distributed to all county and circuit court judges in the state, as well as to all prosecutors’ offices. Trainings on use of the Benchbook were provided to judges, by judges, in Ft. Lauderdale and Tallahassee. Though the Benchbook is written from the perspective of a legal practitioner, and with the needs of judges in mind, it can be a great source of information for all who work with sexual violence victims and survivors.

FCASV appreciates the substantial contributions to the project from sexual assault victim advocates and the Advisory Committee, which consisted of judges, prosecutors, public defenders and private attorneys from across the state.
Through a myriad of partnerships, Florida has created several innovative collaborations that utilize cutting edge programs to address the complexities of domestic violence. Below are a few examples of such innovative collaborations in Florida.

The Safe and Together Model
The Safe and Together Model, developed by Connecticut-based David Mandel and Associates, recognizes that the most successful approach to protecting children is by developing a strong partnership with the non-offending parent. The model focuses on changing batterer behavior by requiring participation in a behavior oriented case plan with consequences for noncompliance. This model has proven successful in keeping children safe with the non-offending parent and has been fully implemented in the DCF’s Northeast Region of Florida. More recently the Southeast, Southern, and Northwest Regions of the DCF have initiated the process of incorporating the Safe and Together model’s primary tenets in their child protection practices. Components include training domestic violence consultants and inviting advocates from certified domestic violence centers to participate on their multi-disciplinary case advisory team. FCADV has continued to sponsor trainings conducted by David Mandel and his staff to introduce the model to child welfare workers throughout the state.

The Domestic Abuse Internet Information Network (DAIIN)
With the goal of improving investigations and prosecutions of domestic violence cases, the Domestic Violence Unit of the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, through DAIIN, has created a system to simplify the sharing of critical information regarding the case. DAIIN maintains restricted access case management information, which includes the names of the individuals involved, children and witnesses, photographs of injuries, damage to property as a result of the altercation and 911 tapes. Law enforcement personnel investigating a domestic violence incident are able to input information directly into the system. The information is linked with the State Attorney’s Office, Domestic Violence Courts (including First Appearance Court), Victim Services, Probation/Parole, Court Administration, domestic violence centers and the Palm Beach County School Board.
The Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic

The Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic (IPVAC) is a partnership between the University of Florida Levin College of Law, the College of Medicine, Shands Teaching Hospital and a certified domestic violence center. IPVAC runs The Source Program, a multi-disciplinary team providing indigent survivors of intimate partner violence with legal, social, counseling and educational services. In response to the increasing rates of intimate partner violence during pregnancy, IPVAC spends two days every week at both the College of Medicine’s outpatient ob-gyn clinic and the pediatrics clinic to counsel survivor/patients. IPVAC also provides Shands Teaching Hospital and the Child Protection Team with on-call service, arriving bedside to counsel survivor/patients. In addition to operating the clinic, IPVAC has integrated domestic violence into the curriculum of the law and medical schools so these professionals graduate with a basic understanding of the dynamics of intimate partner violence, the effects it has on children and how both may affect their practices.

The PAWS Program

Approximately 71 percent of domestic violence survivors entering shelters report that the perpetrator threatened to harm or had harmed or killed their pets. The certified domestic violence center serving Orange County and Orange County Animal Services have developed a unique adaptation of the American Humane Society’s PAWS Program. The PAWS Program involves a first-responder transport initiative that enables Animal Services Officers to assist domestic violence survivors by transporting their pets to the center’s on-site kennel, vaccinating them and evaluating them for injuries. In cases where animal abuse is suspected, Animal Services will launch a cruelty investigation.
DCF Domestic Violence Financial Highlights

Utilization of Funds

Total: 31,843,391

- Services: 30,340,683 (95%)
- Program Management: 412,271 (1%)
- Other Administration: 1,090,437 (4%)

Funding Sources

Total: 31,843,391

- TANF: 7,750,000 (25%)
- VAWA: 8,994,431 (28%)
- Fees: 7,010,180 (22%)
- GR: 4,216,510 (13%)
- FVPSA: 3,872,270 (12%)
- Federal Funds: 20,616,701 (65%)
- State Funds: 11,226,690 (35%)

Legend

VAWA - Violence Against Women Act
FVPSA - Family Violence Prevention Services Act
TANF - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
GR - General Revenue
Together we can end domestic violence

The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is honored to work with Governor Scott, the Florida Legislature and our primary partner, the Department of Children and Families, to ensure that survivors and their children receive the life-saving emergency shelter and services necessary to rebuild their lives and live free from violence. In our work to end domestic violence, it is imperative that we never forget the 636 women, children and men that have lost their lives in Florida since 2008 at the hands of those they most trusted.

Tiffany Carr, President/CEO
The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence