

Growing a Robust Coordinated Community Response to Address Gender-Based Violence

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Center for Justice Innovation

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We are a community justice organization that centers safety and racial justice in partnership with communities, courts, and the people most impacted.





We help courts and communities respond creatively, holistically, and effectively to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

Gender and Family Justice Team | Our Mission



Values Statement

Gender and Family Justice Team

- ▶ The Gender and Family Justice team is committed to actively promoting **equitable**, open, and **intentional** spaces within our team and within greater community discussions.
- ▶ In order to facilitate **collaborative** conversations that center **well-being** and self-reflection, we expect respectful conduct towards each other, our staff, and our guests—conduct that strives to be anti-racist and inclusive of marginalized individuals.
- ▶ We acknowledge that we work within systems that uphold institutional inequity and are committed to **listening to and amplifying the voices and perspectives of institutionally harmed communities** in our work.

Gender-Based Violence

A general term used to capture any type of violence that is rooted in exploiting unequal power relationships between genders. This can include gender norms and role expectations specific to a society as well as situational power imbalances and inequities. Gender-based violence can impact anyone, and can include intimate partner and family violence, elder abuse, sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking.

NYC ENDGBV

Intimate Partner Violence


Violence perpetrated by a partner in a romantic or dating relationship. Intimate partner violence involves a pattern of abusive behavior that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. It can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Intimate partner violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Intimate partner violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.

Prevalence of IPV in United States

- ▶ 20,000 calls to domestic violence hotlines across country per day
- ▶ 10 million people abused by intimate partner annually
- ▶ 579 gun-related domestic violence fatalities this year

NCADV, 2024

What is a Coordinated Community Response?



A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) brings together a diverse group of community partners to develop a shared vision to collectively and consistently address the widespread impact of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and provide multiple pathways to support, healing, and accountability for families.

Early History of CCRs

- ▶ The first CCR to DV in the United States was the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program, in Duluth, MN.
- ▶ In 1994, the U.S. Congress allocated funding through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act to support nonprofit organizations in establishing collaborative projects involving various community partners in order to coordinate DV intervention and prevention efforts.
- ▶ In 1995, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) was established to administer funding designated by the Violence Against Women Act. One of the key priority areas for OVW was to fund CCRs to DV and sexual assault “as a way to make the whole of the systems’ response greater than the sum of its parts.”

Johnson & Stylianou, 2020

Goals of CCRs

- Ensure a survivor-centered response to violence
- Address community harms caused by domestic violence and promote the notion that domestic violence is a community problem that that requires community intervention
- Support accountability for people who cause harm through gender-based violence
- Ensure culturally-responsive, community-centered, and accessible response; and
- Develop mechanisms to ensure community and system effectiveness, accountability, and sustainability

According to UN Women...

The benefits of coordination are many, but the **primary benefit should be increased victim safety**. Other benefits may include:

- ▶ More effective use of limited financial resources;
- ▶ Coherent, integrated, long-term policy directions;
- ▶ Better knowledge transfer across sectors;
- ▶ Linked trainings to enhance inter-disciplinary coordination; and
- ▶ Greater attention to neglected and under-resourced issues through community response.

UN Women, 2010

HOW DO WE GROW A CCR?





START WITH THE SOIL

Creating Guiding Principles: Understanding What you Want to Grow

- Centering the Voices of People With Lived Experience
- Reflecting Diversity and Upholding an Intersectional Lens
- Ensuring Flexible Responses
- Promoting Holistic Accountability
- Advancing Community-Driven Responses
- Assuring Sustainability



CCRS and Project Collaborations



- ▶ High Risk Teams
- ▶ Family Justice Centers
- ▶ Domestic Violence Response Teams
- ▶ Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- ▶ Fatality Review Teams

CCR	High Risk Team	Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team	Domestic Abuse Response Team
Macro responses	Case-specific	Case-specific	Law enforcement crisis response
Addresses all types of violence	High risk cases	Addresses all types of violence	Primary partnership between LE and civilian advocates
Ongoing monitoring of system response	Ongoing monitoring of cases	Ongoing monitoring of cases	Responding to specific incidents
Identifying and enhancing community resources			

Who Should Be Included in a CCR?

The Work of the CCR: Membership



- Abusive Partner Intervention Programs
- Animal Services
- Attorneys
- Child Care Organizations
- Child Protective Service Agencies
- Community-Based Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use Agencies
- Community-Based Victim Advocates
- Community Members with Lived Experience
- Courts
- Culturally-Specific Organizations
- Disability Services and Disability Justice Organizations
- Elders
- Faith-Based Organizations

The Work of the CCR: Membership (continued)



- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Local Government and Community Leaders
- Local School Districts
- Medical Providers
- Military Installation Service Providers
- Pretrial Services
- Probation/Parole/Corrections Agencies
- Shelter Services
- Social Service Agencies (e.g., housing, public benefits, economic empowerment/workforce development)
- Supervised Visitation and Exchange Services
- System-Based Victim Advocates
- Translation and Interpretation Services
- Tribal Government/Leaders

Who is missing from this conversation?

Strategic Planning: Understanding What you Want to Grow



Nurturing your CCR: Strategic Planning

- Vision and Goals
- Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities, and Results (SCOR)
- Community Assessment
- Training Needs Assessment
- Sustainability Plan
- Survivor Leadership Plan
- Community Listening Sessions
- System and Community Resource Mapping



Cultivation of Practice



- Develop a shared vision and set of values
- Ensure stakeholders understand each others' roles
- Develop information sharing and referral processes to promote coordination and collaboration, while honoring the privacy and safety rights and interests of survivors
- Provide training opportunities to increase community awareness and best practices for prevention and intervention
- Identify the diversity of resources available in the community and remedy gaps in services
- Evaluate responses based on the impact on survivors, children, people who cause harm, and community at large

The Work of the CCR: Living Out the Values

- **Centering the Voices of People With Lived Experience** - include survivors as members and leaders, include people who have caused harm who are accountable, focus groups and surveys for community members
- **Reflecting Diversity and Upholding an Intersectional Lens** - aware of multitude of diverse populations in community, membership reflects diversity
- **Ensuring Flexible Responses** - conversations with community members about resource gaps and what they need to ensure safety and accountability even if it doesn't exist

The Work of the CCR: Living Out the Values (Continued)

- **Promoting Holistic Accountability** - hears from people who cause harm through IPV about what services would support their accountability and change, and what barriers they face in accessing those services.
- **Advancing Community-Driven Responses** - including educational opportunities for community members about topics and how they can get involved in ending gender-based violence
- **Assuring Sustainability** - policies, protocols, and procedures are clearly outlined; leadership transitions discussed

Cultivating Relationships





Working Together and Understanding Roles

Examples of Issues Addressed by CCRs

- ▶ Use of risk assessments
- ▶ Creation of policies for identifying predominant aggressor and those using resistive violence
- ▶ Development of community-based approaches to abusive partner intervention
- ▶ Development of a targeted collaboration (e.g., Family Justice Center)
- ▶ Creation of standards for accountability programs

A vibrant display of fresh produce in wooden crates. The crates are arranged in a grid, showcasing a variety of vegetables and fruits. Visible items include red and yellow bell peppers, green cucumbers, red radishes, yellow lemons, green beans, and various leafy greens. The produce is fresh and colorful, set against a dark background.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Our Website

dvcourts.org

We help courts and communities respond creatively and effectively to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

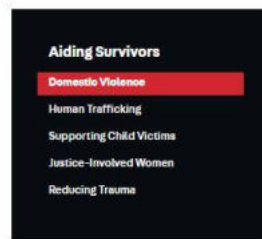
Combining lessons learned at the local level with the latest research, our experts provide community-led, data-driven support to jurisdictions across the country looking to enhance their responses to domestic violence. With support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, our experts offer training and hands-on assistance that rejects any one-size-fits-all frameworks. Our work focuses on victim safety and covers civil and criminal justice system responses to domestic violence from initial needs assessments to implementation, evaluation, and ongoing training.



We provide **free individualized training and support** to courts and communities on a range of topics:

- informed-decision making
- holistic victim services
- offender accountability and engagement
- reducing bias and increasing access
- engaging the court
- learning-based training and practical application

To hear more from us, [join our email list](#). We'll let you know when we have an upcoming training, webinar, or new resource.



Initiatives



Access to Justice in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Cases

Improving access to the courts for victims of domestic violence and those accused of harm enhances safety and accountability and ensures a more just and effective system.



Assessing Risk and Working with Abusive Partners

We use research and the experience of practitioners to help communities hold offenders accountable, assess risk, and engage them in a process of change.



Domestic Violence Court

A pioneer in the creation of specialized domestic violence courts, the Center works to rethink and improve court responses to intimate partner violence.



Domestic Violence Mentor Courts

These specialized courts serve as resources for courts across the country by facilitating peer-to-peer learning and providing examples of effective practices.



Domestic Violence Training for Your Community

We train courts and communities by developing domestic violence workshops that target your specific needs and provide concrete tools to improve daily practice.



Enhancing Family Court Responses to Domestic Violence

We help courts grapple with the issues surrounding child custody and visitation for families experiencing domestic violence.



Judicial Engagement Network

Engaging judges and fostering judicial leadership is key to enhancing system-wide responses to domestic violence and sexual assault.



Justice for Families

Justice for Families supports communities in developing and implementing projects to address domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

Questions

Thank you!

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- ▶ Visit us and join our listserv at dvcourts.org