Year In Review

As we begin a new year, we utilize this issue of the Florida Voice to provide our readers with a review of the past year and share some highlights and accomplishments. The following highlights are designed to provide a sample of FCADV’s programs, initiatives and trainings. For specific information about any of the programs and services listed, please visit www.fcadv.org.

FCADV is the private, nonprofit organization that serves as the statewide professional association for Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers. In this role, FCADV provides leadership, advocacy, education, training, technical assistance, and support to certified domestic violence centers, their community partners, and other statewide professionals to improve services, practices, and policies related to domestic violence. FCADV is statutorily required to implement, evaluate, and fund the state’s domestic violence services. As such, FCADV conducts annual monitoring of certified domestic violence centers to ensure the provision of quality services and fiscal accountability. FCADV also serves as the primary voice for survivors of domestic violence and their children in the public policy arena.

In 2004, FCADV was statutorily designated by the Legislature as the administrator of state and federal funding earmarked for domestic violence services. As the administrator of these funds, FCADV subcontracts with Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers, a multitude of law enforcement agencies, state prosecutors’ offices, statewide associations, and community-based organizations dedicated to providing services and resources to survivors and their children while holding perpetrators accountable for their violence. FCADV ensures compliance with administrative, programmatic, and fiscal accountability requirements of each provider by engaging in a stringent monitoring process. This statewide role leads to efficient and effective coordination among agencies responding to domestic violence throughout Florida.

The Coalition also provides training, technical assistance, and education to certified domestic violence centers, collaborative community partners, agencies, and service providers throughout the state. Each year, thousands of hours of training and technical assistance are provided to these entities to strengthen knowledge, enhance standards, and build capacity to provide quality services to domestic violence survivors and their children. FCADV tailors each training to address the specific needs identified by the center and/or local community organizations. More than 98 percent of participants in attendance at FCADV trainings reported they will utilize the concepts learned to enhance and expand their advocacy for families experiencing domestic violence.

By viewing the provision of domestic violence service through a statewide lens, FCADV is uniquely positioned to advance a comprehensive, statewide approach that focuses on the development of innovative services, programs, and best practices to respond to the needs of survivors and their children.

Our commitment to ending domestic violence is inspired by those we serve: survivors and their children.

We believe that every person has the right to live free of fear and control, and we must work at it. Persistently, unfailingly, relentlessly.
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During fiscal year 2017-2018 FCADV:

- Responded to 8,240 technical assistance requests from domestic violence centers, collaborative partners, and other agencies
- Conducted 250 onsite technical assistance visits and trainings for certified domestic violence center staff and/or Board of Directors, collaborative partners, and other agencies
- Conducted 163 webinars/technical assistance calls
- Conducted 24 listening and/or focus groups throughout the state to obtain input from survivors, advocates, and other service providers regarding the current needs, barriers, and trends impacting prevention and intervention of domestic violence.
- Conducted 7,355 units of electronic technical assistance to domestic violence centers and other allied organizations
- Administered and managed 234 contracts
- Conducted 88 monitoring visits and/or desk reviews

FCADV Programs, Initiatives and Training

- Changing Lives: Economic Empowerment Program
- Child Protection Investigation Project
- Children’s Services Program
- Community Collaborative Projects
- Coordinated Community Response Program
- Critical Incident Support Initiative
- Database and Evaluation Programs
- DELTA FOCUS Program
- Domestic Violence Accessibility Program
- Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative
- Domestic Violence in Later Life Program
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Program
- Engaging Men and Boys Program
- Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
- Healthy Advocate Initiative
- Hotline Training Program
- Injunction for Protection Project
- Intimate Violence Enhanced Service Team (InVEST)
- Justice for Families Batterer Accountability Program
- Law Enforcement Enhanced Response Program
- Law Enforcement Training Initiative
- Legal Assistance for Victims Program
- Legal Clearinghouse Project
- Linguistic and Culturally Specific Services Program
- Primary Prevention Initiative
- Roaming Attorney Project
- Rural Statewide Initiative
- Rural and Underserved Communities Program
- Statewide Economic Empowerment Program
- Strong Families Domestic Violence Prevention Campaign
- Survivor Listening Project
- Technology and Safety Program
- Youth Engagement and Leadership Program

In addition to the aforementioned programs, FCADV conducts 30 hours of Core Competency Training for newly hired advocates across the state multiple times each year as well as onsite trainings from FCADV’s Effective Advocacy Training Series based certified domestic violence center request. For more information, please visit: http://fcadv.org/training-technical-assistance.
Florida’s Certified Domestic Violence Centers

Florida’s 42 certified domestic violence centers are located throughout the state and are responsible for providing critical, life-saving emergency shelter, services, and programming to survivors and their children. Florida’s certified centers are on the front lines of responding to domestic violence by providing a place of safety, security, healing, and empowerment to survivors of domestic violence and their children fleeing violent homes. Certified domestic violence centers are the only state-designated organizations responsible for the provision of a continuum of services to survivors, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as they begin to achieve safety and independence.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, certified centers provided 669,785 nights of life-saving emergency shelter to 15,937 women, children, and men. Many survivors fled violent homes with their children, who represented 45 percent of those served in emergency shelter. This past year, centers provided an additional 1,623 shelter nights to survivors and their children which represents a 11-percent increase from the previous year. In addition to the services required by Florida Statutes, a majority of our certified centers supplement their programs with important ancillary services, such as transportation, rent and utility assistance, transitional housing, legal and court advocacy, work skills and job-readiness training and placement, financial literacy, and other training and education programs.

Advocates responding to domestic violence by:

- Completing 113,907 survivor-focused safety plans
- Providing 412,454 hours of counseling and advocacy
- Offering 485,940 direct service information and referrals to survivors, family members, and individuals seeking assistance
- Spending 127,792 hours facilitating child and youth-specific activities
- Providing youth-targeted community education to 111,322 participants
- Providing education and training programs to 77,142 adults

1 Includes calls received by the FCADV Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
**Individuals Seeking Services**  
**Fiscal Year 2017-18**

- 15,937 individuals received emergency shelter at a certified domestic violence center
- Domestic violence survivors and their children spent 669,785 nights in emergency shelter
- Advocates received 85,588 hotline calls
- 167,867 safety plans were completed with survivors
- 39,138 women, children, and men received outreach services
- 5,667 requests for emergency shelter went unmet due to lack of capacity and resources

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**The Crime of Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence remains a pervasive societal issue that impacts thousands of individuals and families in Florida. In fact, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s 2017 annual Uniform Crime Report reflects that while overall crime decreased 4.5 percent, domestic violence crimes increased by 1.25 percent. While the statewide increase is small, 19 counties experienced increases of 10 percent or more. Overall, 33 of Florida’s counties reported increases in domestic violence crimes and 32 experienced decreases. It should be noted that the data contained in the UCR reflect only domestic violence offenses reported to law enforcement agencies, and domestic violence is recognized as a significantly underreported crime.
Domestic Violence Crime
January – December 2017

- Overall crime decreased by 4.5 percent, while reported domestic violence offenses increased by 1.25 percent
- 106,979 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement
- 180 individuals died as a result of domestic violence homicide, representing approximately 17 percent of all homicides in Florida
- Law enforcement made 64,781 arrests for domestic violence related crimes

COUNTIES THAT EXPERIENCED 10%+ INCREASE

IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES, 2017
ALACHUA
COLLIER
COLUMBIA
DIXIE
FRANKLIN
HAMILTON
HENDRY
HILLSBOROUGH
JEFFERSON
LEE
LEVY
MADISON
MARION
MARTIN
MONROE
PASCO
SUMTER
UNION
WAKULLA

COUNTIES THAT EXPERIENCED 10%+ DECREASE

IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES, 2017
CALHOUN
DESGO
ESCAMBIA
GULF
JACKSON
LAFAYETTE
OKALOOSA
OSCEOLA
SUWANNEE
WASHINGTON

*PERCENT CHANGES SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION. IN SMALL COUNTIES WITH LOW NUMBERS OF CRIME, A SMALL INCREASE MAY PRODUCE A LARGE PERCENT CHANGE.

Domestic Violence does not go away by looking away. 
It stops when we stand up together. 
It stops when we say it must, and not just one of us, but all of us.

Together We Can End Domestic Violence
The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose membership is comprised of individuals, centers, and advocacy groups sharing the goal of eliminating domestic violence.