

The Economic Empowerment Project

*Increasing Opportunities and Resources
for Domestic Violence Survivors*



ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.
EMPOWERING WOMEN. EXPANDING AWARENESS. ERADICATING VIOLENCE.
Serving Victims of Domestic Violence Since 1978

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- ICADV was founded in 1978 by 12 local domestic violence organizations.
- Today, we have 55 member agencies located throughout Illinois.
 - Promotes and advocate for policy on behalf of survivors.
 - Conduct statewide trainings and technical assistance to strengthen local service providers.
 - Administers grants to local service programs.
 - Educates allied professionals who assist domestic violence survivors.

ICADV's Economic Empowerment Project

- The project began in the spring of 2007.
- Recognized that domestic violence advocates and survivors needed support, resources and information on how to deal with economic abuse and its affects.
- The project has three key components:
 - Training
 - Technical Assistance
 - Community Partnerships.

Training in the First Two Years

- Implemented the REAP Curriculum from Redevelopment Opportunities for Women, Inc.
 - Two Curriculum Trainings per year
 - Two Follow-up Individual Advocacy Trainings per year
 - More than 250 advocates in Illinois have attended a portion of the economic empowerment trainings.
 - These advocates represent 93% of our member programs.

Training in Year Three and Beyond

- Currently shifting our training schedule
 - Will also be supporting the Moving Ahead through Financial Management curriculum from the Allstate Foundation as well as the REAP curriculum from Row, Inc.
 - Less training needed in year three and beyond
 - Looking at further topics advocates need (like housing and employment)

Technical Assistance

- The Project Manager works with each program individually to help them implement economic empowerment.
- Economic Empowerment in Illinois
 - One model does not work everywhere
 - Very Urban to Very Rural: each has its own challenges and resources
 - Group work (classes) vs. individual work

Community Partnerships

- Forming new partnerships with local and national organizations that may be able to offer opportunities to benefit survivors.
 - Finding resources that can help survivors.
 - Making sure that these programs will work for survivors and their unique circumstances.
 - Using our experiences to leverage new partnerships.

Asset Building Opportunities

- Creating a foundation for survivors to take advantage of asset building opportunities.
- Education & Training for Advocates
 - Gives advocates a better understanding of how these programs work and what they require.
 - Gaining an understanding of how these programs can help survivors and who is in the best place to take advantage of them.
 - Gaining a better understanding of how to prepare survivors to take advantage of opportunities that arise.

Asset Building Opportunities cont.

- **Education for Survivors**
 - Survivors learn about what kinds of opportunities are available in our communities.
 - Gain the skills they need to take advantage of those opportunities.
 - Gives more resources to help reach goals.
- **Our community partnerships helps us make contacts with others agencies that do Asset Building**
 - Getting our financial education classes to substitute for other types of classes.
 - Do these programs work for survivors? If not, can we change some parts of the program to fit the needs of survivors?
 - Educating the general public about the dynamics of economic abuse.

Asset Building Opportunities

- Our experiences with technical assistance
 - Prepares us to do our own asset building programs in the future.
 - We know how to help many different kinds of programs, survivors and advocates become ready
 - We have a better understanding of how to modify situations to fit the diversity of the survivors we work with.