

NYSCADV

NEW YORK STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

About Us

NYSCADV is a statewide membership organization comprised of local domestic violence service providers, allies, and community members committed to ending domestic violence through education, advocacy, and social change. Founded in 1978, NYSCADV works to create and support the social change necessary to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence. As a statewide membership organization, we achieve our mission through activism, training, prevention, technical assistance, leadership development, legislative development and advocacy. We promote best practices and broad-based collaboration, integrating anti-oppression principles in all of our work.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The collective voices of survivors and advocates, as expressed through the Coalition, will strengthen public and private response as well as prioritize domestic violence as a human rights issue.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- Anti-oppression principles are adopted by the domestic violence movement and social change organizations.
- Policy, programs, and practice are trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and culturally affirming.
- Domestic violence survivors and their children have total access to appropriate services.
- We have a strong commitment to provide member programs support, information, and policy guidance.
- We implement a comprehensive strategy to sustain and enhance diverse funding for domestic violence advocacy programs.
- Inclusive collaboration is the foundation of all of our strategies.

OUR WORK

Coalition Building

NYSCADV facilitates coalition building, networking, and collaboration on local, regional, state, and national levels through a variety of mechanisms. To ensure broad-based statewide participation in the Coalition, the NYSCADV Board of Directors includes Regional Representatives¹ who are elected by their peers. The Regional Representatives convene regional meetings to foster increased involvement of local domestic violence service providers in the Coalition and to stimulate the exchange of ideas and information.

NYSCADV participates in relevant statewide and national advisory committees, task forces, and work-groups, ensuring that the voices of survivors, as conveyed to us by our membership, are heard. NYSCADV is an active member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), which provides us with the opportunity to be part of the national dialogue occurring among all state domestic violence coalitions.

NYSCADV provides opportunities for dialogue, networking and support with others involved in the Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence movements. We convene meetings to promote communication and collaboration on the local, regional, state, and national levels and to give our membership timely notification of information and issues critical to their work.

NYSCADV works to create and support the social change necessary to prevent and confront all forms of domestic violence. Consistent with this mission and vision for our work, NYSCADV emphasizes our efforts to *prevent* domestic violence. This approach, known as primary prevention, focuses on stopping violence before it occurs. Primary prevention requires changing conditions in the culture of our society that support and condone

¹ NYSCADV regions: Capital, Central, Hudson, Long Island, New York City, Northeast, Southern, and Western. Each region has two regional representatives.

intimate partner violence. This is an ongoing process, requiring a commitment to social change efforts that compliment intervention strategies. One of NYSCADV's core operating assumptions is that meaningful and lasting change happens at the community level. As such, our efforts focus on supporting communities to find effective and locally relevant methods for organizing and mobilizing. This work is at the heart of our coalition building efforts.

Advocacy

Advocacy occurs through a variety of mechanisms, including training, technical assistance, community outreach, and collaboration with system partners and allied organizations. NYSCADV offers training and technical assistance to our member programs and community partners. This is a vital component needed to fulfill our mission. Training and technical assistance topics include (but are not limited to) issues such as trauma-informed, victim-centered service provision and program development; laws and regulations and their impact on service provision; cultural competency; analysis of special considerations for historically marginalized communities; community collaboration; program evaluation; systems advocacy; funding; legislation; prevention and social change; and other issues as they impact victims of domestic violence.

NYSCADV delivers training and technical assistance in a variety of ways including: events and training forums (in person or technology based); contact with local programs and allied organizations seeking the guidance of NYSCADV regarding state and national laws, rules and regulations, and information about best practices; and contact with victims seeking the assistance of NYSCADV when they have found that their situation may be too complicated for existing services to provide an adequate response. Our training and technical assistance work provides us with vital information about the needs of victims of domestic violence across New York State. We continually assess trends through these modes of information gathering and, in turn, NYSCADV staff routinely meets with statewide partners to identify ways to address the concerns of the community.

NYSCADV also conducts advocacy efforts through community outreach and resource development to promote public awareness about domestic violence. This includes our website, which provides information for not only our membership but for the general community; special projects, events, and campaigns; as well as position papers that describe best practices. Additionally, NYSCADV coordinates and implements specialized projects that address emerging trends. Overall, our work emphasizes the links between all forms of oppression and violence by promoting peace and justice for all individuals. We advocate for the availability and accessibility of high quality and culturally competent services for everyone, as well as work diligently to increase access for underserved and marginalized populations.

Public Policy

NYSCADV provides statewide leadership on public policy issues by promoting legislation as well as systems and regulatory change in order to improve institutional responses to domestic violence. The goal of NYSCADV's public policy work is the passage of state and federal budgets that adequately support the work of local domestic violence advocacy programs; the passage of legislation that will enhance the prevention of and response to domestic violence; and, when necessary, raise concerns about legislation that would negatively impact victims of domestic violence and the provision of services to them. NYSCADV provides assistance to programs to do the same on the local level. NYSCADV connects with member programs on a variety of legislative initiatives and provides updates on state and national developments. This is done through the dissemination of NYSCADV Policy Updates and NYSCADV Action Alerts.

NYSCADV's public policy work is informed by membership and allies via the NYSCADV Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee is a key conduit of information and input between member programs, allies, NYSCADV staff, and other experts. Historically, the Legislative Committee has provided vision and guidance, as well as time and talent, toward the implementation of NYSCADV's legislative agenda and strategy. Central to the work of public policy initiatives are the NYSCADV principles for practice and core mission. Similarly, the work of the Legislative Committee necessitates the support and embodiment of these principles by committee members.