



Evidenced-Based Care for Survivors of Domestic Violence
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Evidenced-Based Care for Survivors of Domestic Violence (2016-17)

Phoenix, Arizona

Federal Legislative District(s)

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 2, 7, 9
 State Legislative District(s): 1-16
 Service Area by County/City:
 Phoenix, Flagstaff, Tucson Project
 Federal Share: \$189,135 Project
 Local Match: \$59,727

Community Need

Intimate partner violence (also called domestic violence) is a threat to the safety of women and children that affects approximately 1/3 of women in their lifetime. Nearly 1 million female residents of Arizona have been slapped, pushed or shoved by an intimate partner at some point in her lifetime and over 300,000 Arizona women have been raped by an intimate partner in their lifetime. In 2013, 32 shelters located in 13 counties across AZ served a total of 8,916 adults and children.

National Priority Area and Program Performance Goals: Healthy Futures

Improve the health and safety for women and their children who are facing difficult and life-altering decisions due to domestic violence.

Program Activities

The primary objective of the AmeriCorps member is to serve survivors of domestic violence at domestic violence shelters in our community. This service includes attending domestic violence trainings; delivery of an evidence-based, survivor-focused safety planning intervention; and supporting staff and residents in the domestic violence shelter.

Program Impact

One of the most widely recommended and utilized interventions for survivors of domestic violence is safety planning. Abused women’s safety decisions for their families and themselves are not linear and may change over the course of the relationship. The safety process takes time, resources, and involves women’s consideration of complex individual and community factors such as custody of children, social support, access to affordable and safe housing, employment with a living wage, feelings for their partner, confidentiality, severity of violence and risk of homicide. We are implementing an evidence-based safety decision aid in domestic violence shelters throughout Arizona with two key components that are generally missing from safety planning. First, the safety decision aid includes an assessment of risk and education about risk and risk factors. Second, it includes a decision aid that assists women in weighing their priorities and identifying the factors that are most important in their safety decisions. Previous research has shown that this intervention helps women to consider complex factors during critical decision-making regarding their abusive relationship. This intervention will assist domestic violence survivors who are facing difficult and life-altering decisions about their relationships in order to improve the health and safety of both survivors and their children.

Evidenced-Based Care

Mission

Improve access to evidenced-based interventions and services for domestic violence survivors throughout the state of Arizona.

Vision

Women in abusive relationships face complex and difficult decisions. Through working with community organizations and training students to implement the safety decision aid intervention, our vision is to provide evidence-based interventions to survivors of domestic violence to assist them in becoming violence-free.

History

As social workers, we have a strong commitment to serving local communities, particularly those that are marginalized, subjected to violence, and underserved.

Partnerships

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
Catholic Charities - My Sister's Place
Arizona South Asian For Safe Families (ASAFSF)
Chicanos Por La Causa-De Colores
Salvation Army – Elim House
Sojourner Center
A New Leaf-Autumn House
Community Alliance Against Family Abuse
Chrysalis
Eve's Place
Maggie's Place
Against Abuse

OTHER

Many of our AmeriCorps volunteers are students at Arizona State University. Their AmeriCorps service is a cornerstone of their social work education. We provide education and training to enhance their skills and prepare the next generation of social service professionals to deal with domestic violence. Our community volunteers:

- Provide direct services to survivors of domestic violence.
- Implement an evidence-based safety planning intervention with survivors of domestic violence.
- Are supervised by trained MSW-level social workers.
- Assist community partners with essential functions of the domestic violence agency as agreed upon by the AmeriCorps volunteer and site supervisor.
- Maintain positive relationships in the community.
- Document time spent and services provided.
- Complete domestic violence and AmeriCorps training in order to earn certificates in domestic violence intervention.

