

Justice for Families

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

BY ROBYN MAZUR

Justice for Families grantee teams work hard to set and achieve project goals to improve court and community responses to domestic violence. Given the current move to virtual services, the Center and additional TA providers hope to continue to support your work in a variety of ways.

In this issue, you'll read about the many forms of training and technical assistance available to your team, including an overview of all the ways this assistance can be provided. You'll also read about our partner technical assistance organizations, and the experiences of a few grantee sites and how training and technical assistance has worked for them.

If you have further questions about how training and technical assistance could support your project, or if you'd like to share feedback or a story about your own community, please reach out to us at dvinfo@courtinnovation.org.

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THE CENTER'S MISSION AND ROLE

The Center's Gender and Family Justice (GFJ) team provides support to jurisdictions across the country looking to enhance their responses to domestic violence and is comprised of experts in the field of intimate partner violence, including civil legal attorneys, policy developers, victim advocates, and social workers.

With support from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), the GFJ team offer training and hands-on assistance that provides customized support and guidance. We combine the latest research with lessons learned at the local level to provide the best support to each individual community. Our work focuses on victim safety and covers civil and criminal justice system responses to domestic violence. We are available to provide support from initial needs assessments to implementation, evaluation, and ongoing training.

Each Justice for Families (JFF) grantee is assigned staff members from the Center to serve as your points of contact throughout your grant. These points of contact are

assigned based on each project's goals and objectives. JFF projects with a supervised visitation component are also assigned a dedicated point of contact from Inspire Action for Social Change, in addition to points of contact from the Center.

Points of contact check in with their assigned grantees regularly through emails and phone calls. If you have any questions whatsoever or need any guidance or TA, reaching out to your points of contact is a great place to start. If they do not have the answer or the resources you need, they will be sure to connect you to someone who does.

Our TA Promotes:

- Court and Community Collaboration
- Judicial Leadership
- Survivor Safety and Well-Being
- Access to Justice
- Offender Engagement and Accountability
- Trauma Informed Responses

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SNAPSHOTS FROM THE FIELD

There are a variety of ways that sites access technical assistance to support their projects. Following are a few examples of how sites have utilized training and technical assistance throughout their projects.

Spotlight: Statewide Blueprint for Supervised Visitation: Courts and Communities Working Together

The New York State Unified Court System, an OVW grantee from the State of New York, in partnership with the 7th Judicial District in Rochester, Willow Center and the Society for the Protection

and Care of Children, has utilized grant funds to enhance supervised visitation and exchange services in Rochester and provide specialized training to court and community stakeholders on issues facing families and children. They are also planning broad domestic violence training for court staff and community stakeholders regionally and developing a blueprint for courts and communities to work together to implement supervised visitation programming Statewide.

Most recently, the Center has been working with the grantee and Inspire Action for Social Change to deliver a regional training for court and community stakeholders on domestic violence and impact on children, adapted from the Domestic Violence Fundamentals Training Curriculum for Court Staff, created by the Center, in partnership with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Battered Women's Justice Project and the National Center for State Courts.

Spotlight: Specialized Training: Victim Advocacy Org in Vermont

The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (Champlain Valley) is an OVW grantee from Vermont that has utilized grant funds to provide specialized training to court and community stakeholders statewide. Champlain Valley, a community-based victim advocacy organization that also provides supervised visitation services, realized the value in well-trained personnel on intimate partner violence (IPV) cases. The trainings addressed parenting plans in the context of domestic violence, domestic violence risk and lethality, and procedural justice. The Center engaged in planning and technical assistance with the Chief Judge for a statewide half-day training targeting several different professions. For judges and court clerks, the Center partnered with NCJFCJ to plan and execute the training. When asked how the information about domestic violence risk and lethality provided at the statewide judicial training would affect them going forward, one family court judge commented, "I will definitely keep this information in mind when making

decisions and I feel like I have a much better understanding of what referrals can be made [to litigants] to different resources in specific cases."

Additionally, Center staff and a national expert consultant recorded a webinar on risk assessment for law enforcement that will be used to train officers statewide. Inspire Action for Social Change carried out training for supervised visitation workers.

Spotlight: Targeted Areas of Need: Shelby County, Alabama

Shelby County, Alabama is working on a specialized domestic violence court project. By targeting areas of need, the Center has been able to best support the specific challenges Shelby County encounters throughout the process of establishing a specialized domestic violence court. Shelby County accessed sample planning documents and the Center's Domestic Violence Court Toolkit in order to kickstart their planning. Then, the Center supported them with document review and ongoing calls. Next, TA providers from the Center traveled to Shelby County for a site visit, along with Casa de Esperanza, to observe court and train on cultural responsiveness. While there, the Center and Casa de Esperanza participated in meetings between a local culturally specific organization and court staff, and also toured the supervised visitation center.

When reflecting on that experience, the Shelby County team said, "The Center team scheduled a visit with us and offered our domestic violence court team some problem-solving techniques that have enhanced our way of implementing our DV court. What we really valued about the visit by the Center team members was their encouragement to our team members to engage in self-reflection of our project and to use that self-reflection to creatively confront our DV challenges. They also followed-up with us with a telephone call to ensure we had all that we needed. Great customer service!"

THE CENTER'S GENDER & FAMILY JUSTICE TEAM VALUES

Our Values: We provide intensive assistance to communities that is:

Responsive: Every community is different. We believe in customizing our work to suit the resources and goals of your jurisdiction.

Collaborative: Effective responses to gender-based violence depend on strong relationships among community partners. We believe in fostering inclusive collaboration across systems.

Reflective: We believe in analyzing challenges and solutions from multiple angles. This requires in-depth reflection by systems on their impact and the communities they serve.

Creative: We believe in working with the resources you have in your community and leveraging them to ensure safe outcomes for survivors.

Realistic: We believe in immediate and incremental progress that evolves and expands over time.

Research-Informed: We believe accurate up-to-date research in the field of gender-based violence can help everyone make better, more informed decisions.

VIRTUAL TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As the Covid-19 crisis evolves with serious implications for the safety and security of domestic and sexual violence survivors, the Center continues to offer our support and resources to communities and direct service providers.

All calls and webinars are free and open to all who wish to attend. To learn more about upcoming events, email dvinfo@courtinnovation.org. We encourage you to disseminate widely and share with your partners.

Weekly Drop-In Calls

The Center has hosted weekly drop-in calls for OVW JFF grantees to swap strategies and challenges with domestic violence cases in an open forum. Grantees are able to hear from peers around the world and learn ways to apply promising practices in their own sites.

The Center also hosts bi-weekly calls specifically targeting abusive partner intervention program providers.

Past Webinars

The Center continues to host virtual training opportunities via webinars. For a copy of the slides or recording of the following webinars, contact us at dvinfo@courtinnovation.org.

Know Your Audience: Choosing the Best Learning Activities for Your Training

Trainings often incorporate a variety of topics and choosing the best learning

activity for each session can be a challenge. Your training will be more responsive to the needs of participants by incorporating a variety of learning styles through activities that are appropriate, dynamic, and interactive. Find out how you can design engaging learning activities for a successful training program.

Centering Ourselves to Serve

This program focused on ways we can center ourselves while working through the current pandemic. Faculty discussed strategies to provide a community space to take care of personal needs and feelings, as well as renew us to better serve ourselves and our communities.

Increasing Access to Safety for Rural Victims: Remote Filing in New York State

Domestic violence and sexual assault survivors living in rural communities face many barriers that affect their ability to secure safety. Research shows that orders of protection are a proven and vital resource for this population. Yet the heightened isolation, transportation and economic challenges, and limited internet that these survivors experience make it especially difficult to access the court system.

This webinar highlights the ways in which the remote e-filing process has increased access to justice for victims, how courts and advocates have collaborated to successfully implement the program, and how challenges have been addressed.

Upcoming Webinars

Is This On? Nuts and Bolts of Remote Hearings and Domestic Violence Considerations

May 12, 2020 3:00pm ET (60 minutes)
This webinar will showcase three different court experiences transitioning to remote hearings to continue court operations and provide access to justice. Presenters will describe their experiences with technology from rural, mid-size, and urban perspectives, and participants will deliberate over what is needed in the coming months and using these lessons for long term access and emergency preparedness for our judicial and court community.

Remote Orders of Protection in Criminal and Civil Cases Involving IPV and Animal Abuse

May 15, 2020 3:00pm ET (60 minutes)
Join to hear from three jurisdictions who have rapidly moved to implement remote access to criminal no contact orders and civil orders of protection in King County, Washington; Miami-Dade County, Florida; and Winnebago County, Illinois.

In-Person Training

Technical assistance providers are working to evaluate the status of OVW approved trainings and will be in touch with you should these trainings be postponed or rescheduled. Please check with your OVW program specialist regarding whether grant funding can be used to attend specific events.

NEW GRANTEE ORIENTATION

On January 15-17, 2020, the Center for Court Innovation and the American Bar Association hosted a Legal Assistance for Victims and Justice for Families Grantee Orientation in New Orleans, LA. Attendees learned about topics ranging from grant reporting, grant management, and grant fraud awareness to stalking, language access, and meeting the diverse needs of all victims. Teams also had a chance to work on action planning and meet their peers from around the country. It was wonderful to hear about the work teams are already doing in their communities and the ideas they have about how to reach the goals they have set out for themselves in their grants.



Above: New OVW grantees participate in the orientation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERS - MISSION AND ROLE

Under the OVW Justice for Families grant, the Center collaborates with a variety of technical assistance (TA) providers who are also available to support your work. These organizations have expertise in a broad variety of topics and host a variety of remote and in-person training events, as well as providing written resources and individualized training and TA.



Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

The Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API) is a national resource center on domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence in Asian and Pacific Islander communities. It analyzes critical issues affecting Asian and Pacific Islander survivors; provides training, technical assistance, and policy analysis; and maintains a clearinghouse of information on gender violence, current research, and culturally-specific models of intervention and community engagement. API trains interpreters on domestic violence and sexual assault issues and supports courts in best practices around language access.



Battered Women's Justice Project

The Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP) has extensive experience in criminal and civil justice interventions

and practices, and works to assist professionals and organizations in diverse areas related to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking matters. BWJP is the national resource center on civil and criminal justice responses to intimate partner violence (IPV). In addition to their main office in Minneapolis, BWJP manages the National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit, and partners with the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, which provides assistance to IPV victims charged with crimes and their defense teams. Other projects include the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms, which focuses on facilitating firearm removal from domestic violence offenders, as well as the SAFeR approach to decision-making in IPV-related family law matters. BWJP offers training on the four steps of the SAFeR approach: (1) screening for IPV; (2) assessing the full nature and context of IPV; (3) focusing on the effects of IPV; and (4) responding to IPV in all recommendations, decisions, and interventions.



national **latin@** network

Casa de Esperanza / National Latin@ Network

Casa de Esperanza/National Latin@ Network (Casa) is a TA provider through OVW for JFF grantees focusing on assisting courts and those working with courts to identify the gaps in their responses and to incorporate the unique realities of culturally specific communities into their interventions strategies. Casa offers a JFF training on "Enhancing Court Access for Domestic Violence Survivors from Diverse Communities." This two-day interactive workshop is designed for judges, court

staff and other court stakeholders who are seeking to increase procedural justice and court access for all survivors. Casa is a national culturally specific resource center on domestic violence and sexual assault providing training and TA to domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers, Latin@ serving organizations, and organizations that serve other culturally specific communities.



Inspire Action for Social Change

Inspire Action for Social Change (Inspire) provides free assistance, support, and training to current and potential DOJ, OVW Justice For Families grantee communities with supervised visitation as a component of their grant activities. Inspire Action recognizes that the work of providing supervised visitation services can feel challenging and isolating. In addition, they know that providing these services in a manner that centralizes safety, humanity, and each individual's unique circumstances requires both skill and a lot of support. They are here to provide that support.

Each JFF grantee community with a supervised visitation component has been assigned to a peer cohort team. Teams are invited to participate in their cohort calls every other month to engage in ongoing mutual learning, critical thinking to advance the supervised visitation field. Inspire also hosts weekly drop-in supervised visitation consultation calls every Thursday at 4 PM Eastern. Individualized assistance, training, and support are also available to each JFF grant community. Reach out to Inspire Action staff at any time for individualized support.

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CONTINUED: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERS



National Center for State Courts

-The mission of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) is to improve the administration of justice through leadership and service to state courts, and courts around the world. NCSC is the organization courts turn to for authoritative knowledge and information, because its efforts are directed by collaborative work with the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, and other associations of judicial leaders. Consequently, NCSC is able to return expertise to the courts in a variety of forms - from Web resources to hands-on assistance. NCSC has resources on language access - its [Language Access Services Section \(LASS\)](#) provides state courts with resources to overcome language barriers in the courts and to ensure that providing individuals with limited English proficiency with access to the courts is a core function of the courts. NCSC also hosts

www.vawaandthecourts.org, a website created to support courts in their continued efforts to ensure access to legal remedies and protections for victims and to strengthen the courts' collaborative role in enhancing community safety. NCSC's Improving Court Technology project assists Justice for Families grantees by developing resources on implementing technology solutions that enhance the protection of victim privacy and confidentiality, and implementing policies and practices that enhance the protection of victim privacy and confidentiality.



National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

The mission of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) is to provide all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice. The NCJFCJ staff are available to assist with

customizing training curricula, providing information and resources on specific topics and offering connections among courts and judicial officers.

The National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence (NJIDV) is focused on providing highly interactive workshops for new and experienced state, tribal and territorial judges and judicial officers to enhance their skills in handling civil and criminal domestic violence cases. [Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases \(EJS\)](#) is the initial 3.5-day course, and the secondary course is Continuing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases (CJS), a series of shorter workshops on specific topics such as civil protection orders or family law. More information is available at <https://njidv.org/>

Other projects at NCJFCJ include The Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody; technical assistance on Civil Protection Orders (CPOs); The Firearms Technical Assistance Project; The Custody Evaluator Domestic Violence Institute (CEDVI); The Self-Represented Litigant Project; and The Family Court Enhancement Project. Please call or email NCJFCJ or visit the website for more information on any of these projects.

TYPES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

[Individualized Planning](#)

Regular Calls to Discuss Projects

The Center's points of contact, along with Inspire's points of contact for supervised visitation sites, hold regular calls with each site to discuss your projects. This is a space to share about your successes, plan the next steps for each component of your project, and seek support for any challenges your community is facing. These calls should include the Project Director and any key grant partners.

Site Visits

When doing an on-site visit, your points of contact will come to your court or community in person. During the visit, they can conduct an individual needs assessment to identify challenges and growth opportunities in your project, observe court processes, and even facilitate in-person meetings. Your team may also be able to visit another site, such as a Mentor Court, to learn from their project and processes. See Open Houses for more information on this option.

Tailored Training Development

Experts from the Center can help you to develop or adapt a training curriculum to address the learning needs in your court or community. This includes support for both developing content and for delivery and structure. For example, we can adapt our Domestic Violence Fundamentals Training, which covers the basics of domestic violence dynamics and community responses, to be delivered to your community. We can also adapt our Envisioning Solutions training for your community.

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CONTINUED: TYPES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Peers & Experts

Monthly Project Director (and grant partner) Calls

Monthly Project Directors' calls are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 4pm-5pm EST (except for August and December). All JFF Project Directors are encouraged to join each call, and Project Directors are welcome to invite other colleagues and grant partners to the calls.

Each call focuses on a different topic relevant to your work, and there is an emphasis on providing time for discussion and questions so that sites can learn from one another and from the experts leading the calls. If you do not already receive emails about project director calls and would like to, please email dvinfo@courtinnovation.org.

Technical Assistance Bulletins

Technical assistance bulletins share common challenges and topics in the areas of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Bulletins also highlight past and upcoming events and feature articles from various experts, practitioners, and organizations in the field.

Domestic Violence Courts Forum

The Domestic Violence Courts Forum is a space for domestic violence judges and court staff to connect and discuss their work. The OVW Mentor Courts are a part of this forum and share periodic updates on their courts' work. Participants may also share information about how their court addresses a particular challenge or situation, or share forms, templates, and processes their court uses.

Email dvinfo@courtinnovation.org if you would like to join the Forum.

Listserv with Training Opportunities

The Center uses a listserv to share flyers for upcoming training events and opportunities. If you are interested in joining this listserv, please follow this [link](#).

General Training & Resources

Webinars

The Center hosts a variety of webinars on a wide range of topics. Upcoming webinars will be shared through our email lists. Please feel free to encourage your peers and colleagues to register for webinars as well, even if they are not a part of your OVW-funded project.

Open Houses

In collaboration with the OVW Domestic Violence Mentor Courts, the Center partners with courts to host Open House trainings. Open Houses take place on site at a Mentor Court, and include the opportunity to directly observe court proceedings. Judges and court staff from the local Mentor Court will share the lessons their court has learned, and attendees will have the opportunity to engage in action planning with their grant team to plan how to best apply what they have learned to their own project.

Toolkits

The Center has developed a variety of toolkits to serve as sources of information and a jumping-off point for taking action in your community. For example, the Center has a toolkit on how to start a domestic violence court in your community, as well as toolkits addressing topics such as planning a training and working with a court watch program.

Podcasts

Podcasts feature subject matter experts discussing their work and developments in the domestic violence community. Judges, authors, researchers, and advocates have been among the guests featured on podcasts.

Videos

The Center has produced a series of videos highlighting the Mentor Courts, showcasing their work to keep victims safe and coordinate effective community responses to domestic violence. Topic-specific videos are also available, with more forthcoming.

THE CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION

A non-profit organization, the Center for Court Innovation helps the justice system aid victims, reduce crime, and improve public trust in justice. With support from the Office on Violence Against Women, the Center provides a variety of services free of charge, including on-site support, site visits to communities, peer-to-peer contacts, and planning materials. The Center also develops publications and online resources on issues surrounding domestic violence.

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For more information or assistance, contact the Gender and Family Justice technical assistance team at dvinfo@courtinnovation.org.

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