Transforming the Economic Landscape Facing Survivors: Advancing Racial & Economic Equity

Lisalyn Jacobs, Policy and Legal Director
Purpose of this workshop

- (Re)tell survivor stories that unearth the connection between race inequity and economic opportunity in our own community context.

- Equip ourselves as Equity Ambassadors to develop strategies that respond to the individual, organizational, and structural inequities facing survivors.
Who’s in the room?

Where are you from? What’s your role?
CSAJ’s Mission & Vision

- **Mission:**
The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice promotes advocacy approaches that remove systemic barriers, enhance organizational responses, and improve professional practices to meet the self-defined needs of domestic and sexual violence survivors.

- **Vision:**
The Center for Survivor Agency and Justice envisions a world where all people have equal access to physical safety, economic security, and human dignity.
CSAJ Key Projects

Consumer Rights for Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors Initiative

Racial and Economic Equity of Domestic & Sexual Violence Survivors Project

Accounting for Economic Security: An Atlas for Direct Service Providers
Guidebook on Consumer & Economic Civil Legal Advocacy for Survivors
A comprehensive and survivor-centered guide for domestic violence advocates and attorneys

Chapters Include:
• Credit reporting and repair
• Debt collections and defense
• Bankruptcy and foreclosure
• Federal tax advocacy
• Economic relief in civil protection orders
• Economic issues in family law
• Barriers in civil court
• Rights and protections: housing and employment

https://csaj.org/Guidebook
Accounting for Economic Security

An Atlas for Direct Service Providers

Mapping the Terrain

1. Economic hardship and poverty constrain survivors’ options for safety
2. The economic impact of violence ripples throughout survivors’ lives
3. Systemic barriers impede survivors’ access to economic stability
4. Social inequality restricts survivors’ options for economic security and safety

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Listening Sessions & Report

Purpose is to dialogue-back with Listening Session conversations in order to aid self-reflection, challenge dominant narratives, support improved data collection and analysis, and to begin, continue, or advance conversations and work toward racial equity for domestic and sexual violence survivors and for all of us.

COMING SOON!
Temperature Check

Who are you serving? What about your clients’ identity makes this work more challenging for you or programs you work with?
Canary in the coal mine...
Why racial and economic equity?

CSAJ foundations and underpinnings in the work
Reciprocal relationship of abuse and economic hardship

Women living in poverty experience violence at twice the rate of those who do not.
Economic impact of domestic violence

Domestic violence is linked to a range of negative economic outcomes, including:

- Decreased safety options
- Increased risk of future violence

Diagram:
- Income & Job Loss
- Housing Instability
- Limited Transportation
- Decreased Access to Childcare
The “Economic Ripple Effect” of Domestic Violence

During relationship
- job loss
- credit damage
- theft
- debt
- missed work days
- forgone professional advancement

Leaving relationship
- relocation costs
- incurred debt from marriage
- legal fees

Short term
- forgone wages
- housing instability
- cost of childcare
- increased cost of independent living

Lifetime
- mental health effects
- obstructed/ slowed professional development
- increased vulnerability to future abuse

Tell a story about the ripple effect that’s based on your experience and context?
Systemic Barriers Impede Survivors Access to Economic Stability

Services and systems often present tremendous barriers that are outside of survivors’ control and frequently thwart their efforts. Systemic barriers limit a survivor’s access to economic security and constrain safety options available to them; this is particularly true for those who are living in poverty.
Examples: Systemic Failings

**Figure 5. Housing Insecurity for Survivors**

- 100% families entering homeless shelters are due to IPV
- 31% survivors exit shelter without a safe, affordable, or permanent place to go
- 80% survivors exit shelter without a safe, affordable, or permanent place to go

**Figure 6. Economic Harm from Family Court**

- 100% custody cases where court mediators fail to identify IPV
- 15-41% survivors not awarded child support
  - (for 30% who do, levels are insufficient to offset decreased income)
- 70% survivors not awarded child support
  - (for 30% who do, levels are insufficient to offset decreased income)
Social inequality constrains survivors’ options for safety

**Women Experiencing Domestic Violence, By Race/Ethnicity**

- Multiracial: 56.6%
- American Indian / Alaska Na.: 47.5%
- Black: 45.1%
- Hispanic/Latina: 34.4%
- White: 37%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 37.3%
- All women: 18.3%

**Experiencing Domestic Violence, By Identity Factors**

- Women in Poverty: 50%
- Lesbian: 61%
- Bisexual Women: 44%
- Gay: 66%
- Bisexual Men: 37%
- Transgender (Sexual Violence): 30.9%
- Women with Disabilities: 37.3%
- All Women: 37.3%
- All Men: 30.9%

**Sources:**
Economic Barriers Facing Communities of Color

Place Based

- Poor opportunity structure: Service availability, access to material resources, transportation, employment opportunities, concentrated poverty.

- Example: DV fatality reviews reveal that neighborhoods with sparse resources and high poverty are “hot spots” for domestic homicide.

Race Based

- Differential treatment by law enforcement, prosecutors, lack of translation services

- Implicit racial bias in policies, protocols, remedies.
Intersectional Identities Require Intersectional Approaches
Are you putting a racial equity framework into practice?

If yes, in what ways? What’s been challenging or complicated in doing that?
If no, what’s been challenging or preventing work here?
“We must not pretend that the countless people who are routinely targeted by police are “isolated.” They are the canaries in the coal mine whose deaths, civil and literal, warn us that no one can breathe in this atmosphere…. Until their voices matter too, our justice system will continue to be anything but.”

—Justice Sandra Sotomayor, in her dissent re: Utah v Strieff
Racial & Economic Equity for Survivors Project (REEP)

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Purpose & Partners

REEP seeks to increase grantee capacity to address racial and other structural and institutional biases that pose barriers to economic stability for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Partners:
- Women of Color Network, Inc.
- Southwest Center for Law and Policy
- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
- Casa de Esperanza
- Texas Council on Family Violence
- Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- Bill Kennedy, Race Equity & Impact Litigation Expert
- Camille Holmes, Race Equity Expert & Facilitator

Impact Sites:
- Oklahoma City Artists for Justice
- Enlace Comunitario
Impact Sites: Identifying, amplifying, and strategizing to advance equity

“I think developing a racial equity frame will give us a language to analyze and frame these issues... To make visible what is often invisible, to decision-makers and sometimes even to the client and ourselves, and help us be more effective in our understanding and our systemic advocacy.”

--Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez, Executive Director, Enlace Comunitario

“The economic strain on survivors after sexual assault is tremendous... There aren’t a lot of agency supports, then add in mistrust that Black women have of law enforcement and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services– women are less likely to seek even the supports they are eligible for.”

--Grace Franklin, Founder and Executive Director of OKC Artists for Justice
Enlace Comunitario is a social justice organization led by Latino immigrants in Central New Mexico. Their mission is to eliminate domestic violence in the Latino immigrant community and to promote healthy families through comprehensive domestic violence intervention services in Spanish, community education, policy advocacy and leadership development.

Project Focus: protecting immigrant survivors’ agency and access to economic justice by:

- Stabilizing and maintaining advocacy and outreach with immigrant survivors.
- Enhancing partnerships and building alliances to garner public commitment.
- Ensuring immigration rights and due process.
- Site leads: Bill Kennedy/Casa de Esperanza.
OKC Artists for Justice is a non-profit organization founded by African American, women artists in Oklahoma City. OKC Artists addresses violence committed against Black/African American women and girls through advocacy, outreach, and healing expression.

Project Focus: deepening analysis of challenges faced by African American survivors by engaging a racial equity lens:

- Strengthening their understanding of the challenges facing the community, particularly those posed by violence committed by law enforcement.
- Address the impact that delayed law enforcement engagement poses for survivors.
- Site Leads: WOCN & Kirwan
Margins to Center Listening Sessions

*Purpose is to create dialogue across the field to inform survivor-driven systems advocacy and practice recommendations that enhance racial and economic equity for domestic and sexual violence survivors.*

Showing UP Report

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Inward & Outward Work for Equity: Becoming an Equity Ambassador

A Walk-a-bout
Small Group Exercise

1. What can I do? What internal work is required to address inequity?
2. What can my organization do? What infrastructure, org policy, or leadership is required to address inequity?
3. What institutions, systems, or policies are at play in inequities?
Small Group Exercise: Now Ask...

1. What can I do? What internal work is required to address inequity?

2. What can my organization do? What infrastructure, org policy, or leadership is required to address inequity?

3. What institutions, systems, or policies are at play in inequities?

What innovative approaches or examples do I know of that may be helpful to me and/or others?
Small Group Exercise: Finally...

1. What can I do? What internal work is required to address inequity?

2. What can my organization do? What infrastructure, org policy, or leadership is required to address inequity?

3. What institutions, systems, or policies are at play in inequities?

What innovative approaches or examples do I know of that may be helpful to me and/or others?

What partnerships are needed?
Putting it all together
Final Discussion

How would you summarize what you learned from the group activity?

Share-back: How would you re-tell your story from earlier? What has changed? What have you learned?

What’s your personal action plan across these levels?

If we were to approach the work through a racial and economic equity lens, what is one goal you think your organization, community, or state should work towards?

What’s one thing you learned today that’s really energizing or motivating you?
Opportunities for Engagement, Resources & Announcements
CSAJ Releases Guidebook!

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CSAJ Core Resources

- CSAJ’s National Needs Assessment Report
- Economic Ripple Effect DV Report Article
- CSAJ’s Pilot Site Report
- CSAJ’s Assessment Tool for Attorneys & Advocates

- CSAJ’s Resource Library
- Past webinars on consumer issues
THANK YOU!