Message from the President and CEO

Dear Friend of NNEDV,

I am pleased to share this inaugural edition of our Partnership Impact Report. I am proud of everything NNEDV has accomplished so far in 2022 and more excited than ever about the possibilities for our future.

Through the generous support of our partnerships, NNEDV—together with our membership of the 56 U.S. state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence—is advancing the movement against domestic violence and making meaningful changes to ensure survivors have access to the full spectrum of resources and options they need to protect themselves and heal after abuse. This new Partnership Impact Report represents a small sampling of NNEDV's work and the victories we have achieved together.

All of us at NNEDV are grateful for the partners who support survivors, domestic violence advocates, and our work. Thanks to our collective efforts, we are making great strides towards meeting our mission to create a social, political, and economic environment in which domestic violence no longer exists.

Deborah J. Vagins
NNEDV President and CEO
On March 16, President and CEO Deborah J. Vagins and the NNEDV Public Policy team (below) joined advocates, our partners, allies in the movement to end gender-based violence, and our champions on the Hill for a celebration of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). On the previous day, President Biden signed the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations bill, which included the VAWA reauthorization and much-needed funding increases for domestic violence programs. Enacted together, these two measures represent a great victory, reflect years of strong advocacy, and substantially increase both survivors’ ability to address their immediate needs and their access to long-term security, now and for years to come. Read our statement [here](#).

In June, we hosted our 2022 virtual Advocacy Days. We were excited to welcome more than 100 total attendees from 37 states across the country. Many coalitions also invited local program staff and survivors to their Congressional meetings to share stories, increase impact, and show the faces behind the funding requests. Our two areas of focus for this year’s Advocacy Days were FY23 funding and passing the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) reauthorization. NNEDV President and CEO Deborah J. Vagins moderated the conference’s federal Administration panel, gathering senior political appointees and experts in the domestic violence field from the White House, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office on Violence Against Women, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, which overturned the constitutional right to abortion, has had a significant impact on domestic violence survivors and advocates. State bans and restrictions on abortion will be devastating for low-income survivors, survivors of color, survivors with disabilities, and others who already face substantial barriers to accessing the healthcare they need. Without access to abortion care, domestic violence survivors are at risk of reproductive coercion. All people, including domestic violence survivors, deserve full control over their lives and decisions, including the ability to safely and freely decide whether or not to become, or stay, pregnant. Read NNEDV’s statement [here](#).
On June 25, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This law partially closes the federal “dating partner loophole,” which will provide lifesaving protections for many survivors. This law extends federal firearms restrictions to dating partners convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, but not dating partners subject to final domestic violence protective orders. While we are disappointed that this law does not fully close the loophole, this is an important first step. Learn more here.

NNEDV’s President and CEO, Public Policy team, and executive directors and staff from some of our member coalitions (above) were honored to join President Biden and fellow advocates at the signing ceremony on July 11.

NNEDV continues to work in coalition with organizations to drive grassroots advocacy on federal legislation directly impacting survivors, including abortion access, gun safety, and economic justice.

Domestic Violence Counts Report

On March 21, NNEDV released our signature 16th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. This unique annual report documents the number of people who sought domestic violence services in a single 24-hour period, as well as the types of services requested and the number of service requests that went unmet due to a lack of resources. On a single day in 2021, local programs provided services to 70,032 survivors and their families (below). Unfortunately, on that same day, 9,444 requests for help, primarily requests for housing or emergency shelter, went unmet because programs lacked sufficient resources. We produce this report to shine a light on both the heroic efforts and ongoing needs of local programs and to present robust recommendations for change. Read NNEDV’s 16th Annual Domestic Violence Counts here.

IN A SINGLE DAY...

70,032 adult and child domestic violence victims received essential, life-changing services from local programs.

#DVCounts
NNEDV.org/DVCounts
On March 8–10, our team (below on left) hosted our fifth annual Economic Justice Summit. Under the theme “Financial Wellbeing: Taking Care of Ourselves and Our Communities,” the virtual conference brought together more than 250 advocates, state and territorial domestic violence coalition staff, national experts, and allies to examine the systems that inform economic justice work. The intersection of our nation’s multiple crises—COVID-19, ongoing racial injustice, and our broken economic infrastructure—has deeply impacted survivors. Our economic justice work could not be more important than it is now. Read more about the Economic Justice Summit here.

We expanded our groundbreaking Independence Project, our credit-building, micro-loan programs for survivors of domestic violence impacted by financial abuse (below). The Independence Project began to collaborate with Violence Free Minnesota (VFM) to pilot a Next Steps loan program, which offers larger, asset-building loans to survivors in Minnesota. So far this year, nine Minnesota survivors have received a $1,000 loan, and one survivor has received a $500 loan.

"My goal for this loan was to improve my credit score, and it has gone up more than 300 points. Thank you all!"

- INDEPENDENCE PROJECT BORROWER

In May, NNEDV held a Congressional briefing (above) to highlight the findings in the Domestic Violence Counts Report and to ensure the recommendations are heard by policymakers nationwide. The briefing was held in cooperation with U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), U.S. Representative Lucy McBath (D-GA) and U.S. Representative John Katko (R-NY). We were honored to have Rep. Katko deliver remarks at the briefing.

The virtual event has reached more than 4,900 people to date through Facebook Live, including Congressional staff, national partners, funders, and members of the press. We were thrilled to use a virtual format for the second year in a row, allowing us to reach thousands more people than our pre-pandemic Congressional briefings. Watch the virtual congressional briefing here.

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Since the beginning of the Independence Project in 2017, 801 borrowers have completed their loans, with an average credit score increase of 50 points, and an average credit score of 624 upon completion, allowing them more ability to rebuild their lives after abuse.

This year, NNEDV's Economic Justice and Domestic Violence Advisory Council (“the Council”) released its latest recommendations focused on improvements to workplace protections for domestic violence survivors, so critically important now as the pandemic has shown that economic supports for millions, including survivors, are lacking. The Council is a long-term, in-depth collaboration of national experts in the domestic violence field working to advance survivors’ economic empowerment and financial well-being. Its purpose is to inform program design and identify public policy solutions, in addition to highlighting resource gaps and emerging issues. You can read the Council’s recommendations here.

NNEDV's Safety Net Project continues to grow partnerships, expand activities, and explore new strategies (including our Tech Safety App, left) for addressing the impact of current and emerging technologies on victims' safety, privacy, accessibility, and civil rights, and supporting service providers in the field.

In February, for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the Safety Net team collaborated with Tonjie Reese, grant partner and founder of eleven24, to create four handouts and training resources centered around teens, technology, and dating violence. Click here to read more and access these resources in the Safety Net blog.

The Safety Net team was excited to hold the 10th Annual Technology Summit in July. NNEDV's annual Tech Summit brings critical and timely information to increase the knowledge and skills of those working with survivors and enhances advocates' work responding to tech-facilitated abuse, supporting survivors in their use of technology, and harnessing technology to improve services. Read more here.

Safety Net also continues to connect with sister projects and programs internationally to support ongoing technology safety work and exchange lessons learned. This includes longtime NNEDV partners Garden of Hope in Taiwan, Refuge in the U.K., and WESNET in Australia. Additionally, another longtime sister project, the BC Society of Transition Houses in Canada, was recently funded to expand their project nationally.
Staffed by trauma-informed, victim-centered attorneys, NNEDV’s WomensLaw project provides bilingual support to victims of domestic violence, empowering them with the information they need to understand their legal rights, determine what steps they can take, and confidently navigate court processes on their own. The WomensLaw Email Hotline is the only national hotline of its kind, providing free, confidential legal information and trauma-informed support to survivors in both English and Spanish. During the first six months of 2022, the WomensLaw Email Hotline helped 1,129 people.

WomensLaw.org has on-demand legal content written in plain language to help victims understand complex legal issues. For the first time ever, WomensLaw.org surpassed 10 million page views in one year, with 5.8 million visitors and 11.7 million page views. This speaks to survivors’ ongoing needs for legal information amid the pandemic and other crises. Many victims who turn to WomensLaw are navigating the court system alone because they don’t have the resources for their own representation, and legal aid is overstretched or nonexistent in their community. We are proud to fill this critical gap in access to legal services and information for survivors nationwide (below).

NNEDV’s Positively Safe project addresses the intersection of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS by developing and providing resources, toolkits, training, and assistance for organizations working to address the unique challenges and barriers faced by domestic violence survivors living with, and vulnerable to, HIV/AIDS.

Training and outreach to break down silos between HIV and domestic violence service providers is a critical part of Positively Safe’s work. Most recently, the team developed a new e-learning module on Sexual Health Advocacy and is in the process of creating a module on trauma-informed care. The team also presented at the National Latinx Conference on HIV/HCV/SUD and the National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS.

In partnership with Futures Without Violence, we have released two additional episodes for season two of our podcast, Expanding the Continuum. New episodes focus on what reproductive justice looks like in practice when centering survivors living with HIV, and the importance of safe and secure housing for survivors of IPV who are living with HIV. Listen to podcast episodes on Soundcloud here.

“I am most grateful for your guidance, as this whole thing is very difficult for me to navigate. Without WomensLaw, I don’t know where I’d be.”
— WomensLaw Email Hotline User, March 2022
THANK YOU

With your generous support, NNEDV is driving change to reduce—and ultimately, one day—end domestic violence through our signature projects working at the intersection of domestic violence and economic justice, housing, technology safety, legal rights, and HIV/AIDS. We are proud to work toward creating a social, political, and economic environment in which domestic violence no longer exists, and to work toward safety for all survivors.

Our Vision:

- Making domestic violence a national priority.
- Changing the way society responds to domestic violence.
- Strengthening domestic violence advocacy at every level.