

## *BUILDING COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*

### Increasing Economic Opportunity for Battered Women National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

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#### **HIGHLIGHT**

New resources are now available on the National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women (VAWnet) website: Topic-Specific Special Collections on credit, employment, housing, poverty, and welfare developed for the particular interest of domestic violence advocates. Access these resources at <http://www.vawnet.org/> or contact the NRC DV at 1-800-537-2238; TTY 1-800-553-2508.

This newsletter features the multi-faceted work of the *Allstate Foundation's Domestic Violence Program*, developed in partnership with the *National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)*. With its focus on economic impacts, the *Allstate Program* is an important new resource, and we are pleased to join with NNEDV in offering this brief profile.

-- Jill Davies, BCS Project Director & Anne Menard, NRC DV Director

#### **THE ALLSTATE FOUNDATION'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM: A National Partnership with NNEDV to Reduce the Economic Barriers to Safety and Security of Women and their Families**

Contact: NNEDV at [economicjustice@nnedv.org](mailto:economicjustice@nnedv.org) or 202-543-5566

In March 2005 the NNEDV Fund and The Allstate Foundation began a partnership known as *The Allstate Foundation's Domestic Violence Program*. The *Allstate Program* seeks to raise public awareness and assist survivors with the economic challenges they face, while changing societal attitudes about domestic violence. A diverse Advisory Board of survivors, domestic violence advocates, members from culturally-specific institutes on domestic violence, and Allstate representatives inform the work.

**The *Allstate Program* is divided into three areas: Direct Services; Thought Leadership and Advocacy; and Public Awareness.**

#### ◆ *Direct Services.*

**The primary component of direct services is to award grants to state domestic violence coalitions collaborating with local programs to provide economic-related supports for survivors.** Five State Domestic Violence Coalitions received \$50,000 grants in FY 2005.

The *Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence* grant includes support for partial down

payments and partial monthly payments on reliable used cars, car repairs, gas, auto maintenance, and car insurance.

Survivors of domestic violence are working with local DV programs and the *Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence* to develop and implement a micro-loan and direct assistance program for economic security needs. Sustaining the project is a key aspect of this effort.

The *New York Coalition Against Domestic Violence* and 3 local service providers serving immigrant and refugee communities are focused on job training, skills development, ESL classes, financial literacy, housing support, public assistance and emergency assistance.

The *Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence* is expanding its economic justice program by supporting collaborations with business community leaders, banks, and local domestic violence programs on financial literacy and small business development work.

The *Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence* is providing relocation money, down payments and security deposits for housing, utility security deposits, first months rent and financial education for survivors of domestic violence displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

**Another direct services component of the Allstate Program is a Direct Assistance and Education Fund.** Managed by NNEDV, this Direct Assistance and Education Fund will support one-time payments to DV survivors for education and job training. The payments can be up to \$1000 per survivor. The Allstate Foundation provided \$75,000 to establish this Fund. Notification about the application process will be made soon. (Contact NNEDV at [economicjustice@nnedv.org](mailto:economicjustice@nnedv.org) for information).

**A Financial Curriculum rounds out the direct services component of the Allstate Program.** This curriculum will provide survivors with information, resources, tips, and strategies on handling finances. Karen Murrell, of Higher Heights Consulting and Training Company is working closely with Shawndell Dawson, Economic Justice Specialist from NNEDV, on this product. A review committee of survivors, advocates, members of culturally-specific institutes on DV, and Allstate financial experts are providing guidance on development and implementation. The curriculum is scheduled for pilot testing in 5 states and wide distribution later this year.

◆ **Thought Leadership and Advocacy.**

Each year the *Allstate Program* hosts a national conference that creates a forum for advocates to discuss cutting edge trends, ideas, and solutions in the area of economic advocacy. The 2006 conference will be held in Washington, DC on September 26-28th to kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Other planned events include briefings on economic advocacy that will occur throughout the year.

◆ **Public Awareness.**

Public awareness activities are also key components of the *Allstate Program*. The Allstate Foundation is dedicated to earmarking and generating long-term resources to end domestic violence. There is also a commitment to active participation in the lasting social change that is crucial to building healthy, strong communities. Planning is currently underway for events and programs for the Allstate Corporation, the domestic violence community, and the public. Watch for announcements of activities in your area.

In the words of Gretta Gardner, NNEDV Program Manager, “the DV Program provides knowledge, skills, and resources to help survivors achieve self-defined economic self-sufficiency, and builds on the Allstate Foundation’s commitment to preparing, protecting, and providing a helping hand and support to families and communities across the country.”

--Reva Gupta, Public Affairs Specialist, NNEDV  
& Andrea Farney, Policy Analyst, NRC DV

**For more information about the Allstate Foundation’s Domestic Violence Program, including the Direct Assistance and Education Fund, FY06 Coalition Grants, and the Annual Conference, contact NNEDV at [economicjustice@nnedv.org](mailto:economicjustice@nnedv.org).**

**For a listing of the Allstate Foundation DV Program Advisory Board go to:**  
<http://www.allstate.com/Community/PageRender.asp?Page=shadvisoryboard.html>