

BWJP

A NEW ERA

FY 2022 Impact Report

www.bwjp.org

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MISSION AND VISION

The mission of BWJP is to promote change within the civil and criminal legal systems to enhance their effectiveness in providing safety, security, and justice for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), their families, and communities.

BWJP is a collection of national policy and practice centers at the intersection of GBV and legal systems. BWJP provides educational activities, including training, technical assistance, and consulting to advocates, nonprofit service providers, community leaders, and systems professionals.

We create the most impact for survivors when we change the trajectory of all legal systems. Over the last three decades, we have learned that it is not enough to help change the lives of individual people. We work with jurisdictions across the country to improve access to systems while paying attention to not causing further harm and injustice to historically marginalized communities. We will continue this critical work to inform and keep survivors safe while supporting thriving families and communities.



**CHANGING SYSTEMS
TRANSFORMING LIVES**



LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dearest Friends of BWJP,

We've been busy! In the last eighteen months, we have experienced a significant transformation and many achievements within BWJP.

- We embraced a total redesign of our brand and website.
- We released the National Gender-Based Violence Learning Community in partnership with three other leading gender-based violence organizations.
- We welcomed the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women to our team as the new National Defense Center for Criminalized Survivors.
- We began the development of two new national centers—The National Center on Reimagining Coordinated Community Response and The National Center on Systems Change and Advocacy.

We are privileged to be at the forefront of the movement working to create systemic change, and we take that responsibility seriously. It is critical to maintain an intersectional lens that prevents further harm to historically marginalized communities. As we advance this crucial work to keep survivors safe and support thriving families and communities, we hope you will partner with BWJP as we continue to:

- Be the trusted source of expertise and innovation at the intersection of gender-based violence and legal systems.
- Foster an environment where staff and board of directors feel valued, supported and are motivated leaders in social change.
- Center survivors and marginalized communities in our work with advocates, practitioners, and systems.
- Diversify the revenue streams driving our investments in staff, growth opportunities, and systems transformation.

We are pleased to share BWJP's FY 2022 Impact Report, demonstrating our ongoing progress as we continue this critical work informing coalitions, advocates, attorneys, and more nationwide.

We welcome you to our new era and look forward to the journey as we all work together to keep survivors, their families, and their communities safe and supported.

In service,



4 Amy J. Sánchez, Chief Executive Officer



Safia Khan, Chair of the Board of Directors



Ellen Pence
Founder of BWJP



OUR HISTORY

The Battered Women’s Justice Project (BWJP) started in 1993 as a part of the Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) under the visionary leadership of Ellen Pence—one of the Mothers of the domestic violence movement.

This Minnesota program was an international leader, producing such industry standards as the “Power and Control Wheel” and “Coordinated Community Response”, both of which are still widely used throughout the world today. BWJP further developed as the legal project of DAIP and the national legal resource center through a designation from the Department of Health and Human Services. Its Project Director, Ms. Denise Gamache was its leader in 1993 and by 2015 this legal project of DAIP had grown into its own organization.

Therefore, in 2015, the Battered Women’s Justice Project was formally established as its own 501(c)(3) non-profit. In 2020, Ms. Gamache retired, and Amy J. Sánchez was hired as the CEO of BWJP to develop and implement a new vision at the nexus of gender-based violence and systems change.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ERA

In 2020 when new leadership took the reins at BWJP, we did a deep dive into our values and how we present ourselves to the public.

After 30 years of growth and change, it was time for a reimagined brand and a modern website to communicate our past accomplishments and current values. We wanted something dynamic, modern, and clean, representing the diversity of the communities we serve. After over a year of work from a dedicated internal team and a focused and passionate design firm, we revealed our new brand and website in October 2022. The new website now guides users through our library of multimedia content, helping them get the information, support, and resources they need to take action.

Our new logo is minimal and sharp; the symbol is reminiscent of a butterfly and symbolizes metamorphosis and freedom. We also included our new tagline to communicate our updated message.



BEFORE



AFTER!

Our advocacy is strategic, evidence-based, and unending.

We know that diversity of thought and expertise makes for stronger, more effective advocacy. It's through our strong partnerships and programs that we're able to think nationally and locally.

While we continue to fight for change on a systems and policy level, we will always be available to the communities where our survivors and their families live — offering technical assistance and the reminder that **no one fights alone**. Check out our new promo video to learn more...



NO-ONE FIGHTS ALONE

MEET OUR CENTERS



The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith and Credit is the Nation's preeminent resource on the issuance, service, and enforcement of protection orders for survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.



The National Center on Gun Violence in Relationships works to prevent domestic violence related assaults and homicides involving firearms. The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms is a critical project within the National Center on Gun Violence in Relationships.



The National Legal Center on Children and Domestic Violence advises parents who are survivors of intimate partner violence and their attorneys on the intersection of domestic violence and family court.



The National Defense Center for Criminalized Survivors, formerly known as the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, addresses the unique needs of victims of gender-based violence who have been criminalized as a result of their experiences of being abused.



The National Center on Legal Approaches to Prevent Family Violence creates innovative solutions to the most pressing issues involving gender-based violence.



The National Center on Reimagining Coordinated Community Response establishes approaches and support for centering survivor realities in a culturally specific manner, for advocates and allied professionals to shift community and survivor interactions with systems.



The National Center on Systems Change and Advocacy is a practice-based center that allows advocates and systems professionals to create new solutions both within and outside the legal systems that have the capacity to give back agency to individuals and communities.

OUR 2022 IMPACT



10

SITE
VISITS



171

NEW CASES
OPENED



7461

PRODUCTS
DISSEMINATED



82

LETTERS TO
INCARCERATED
SURVIVORS



1260

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE



2995

PEOPLE
TRAINED



11

NEW STAFF
MEMBERS



17

LEGAL
INTERNS



\$3.2M

FEDERAL
FUNDING



NATIONAL
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
LEARNING COMMUNITY

WE ARE PROUD TO
INTRODUCE THE NEW

NATIONAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE LEARNING COMMUNITY



**CHECK OUT THE
LEARNING COMMUNITY!**



We transform the lives of survivors of gender-based violence by creating community with a purpose.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING ON-DEMAND

Register

OUR COLLABORATION SETS US APART.

BWJP, Esperanza United, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (The Hotline), and the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-based Violence (API-GBV) came together to build the Learning Community.

The National Gender-Based Violence Learning Community (NGBVLC) is a first-of-its kind learning platform dedicated to providing high quality learning resources. Created to foster global conversations to help drive change in the field of gender-based violence and led by a team of experts, the NGBVLC is a cross-collaboration of professionals who reflect compassion and respect for survivors. A trusted partner and authority in the field, the NGBVLC is focused on uniting and inspiring our nation through educating and implementing learned practices across communities. Visit us at...

www.ngbvlc.org

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms is a critical project within the National Center on Gun Violence in Relationships. The center is working to develop more specialized assistance in areas such as jurisdictional conflicts, research and evaluation, and data management. To find out more information and download some great resources, visit www.preventdvgunviolence.org.



17
TRAININGS



407
TECH ASSISTANCE



**IMPROVING THE RESPONSE
TO FIREARMS RESOURCE**

The Gun Violence team has worked to shift the narrative about perpetrators of intimate partner violence in our work and to highlight strategies that intervene in the violence in more meaningful and long-term ways. We value ALL life, and therefore, strive to uplift strategies that offer accountability and opportunities to address historical trauma, and find pathways to healing for everyone impacted by intimate partner violence and community violence. We are looking forward to engaging with communities on promising approaches to implement firearms relinquishment in domestic violence cases.

In mid-July of 2022 President Biden held an event commemorating the historic passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act where BWJP team members were in attendance to hear the President and Vice President's remarks. The president added this comment regarding the expansion of background checks to keep guns from domestic abusers: "My fellow Americans, none of what I'm talking about infringes on anyone's Second Amendment rights." The President's message is true but is too seldom heard.



IMPROVING SAFETY FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVORS & CHILDREN

The National Legal Center on Children and Domestic Violence (NLCCDV) exists to improve safety for gender-based violence survivors and their children. For close to three decades, the NLCCDV, formerly the SAFeR Project, has been at the forefront of providing training and technical assistance on child custody and family court matters.

Looking into the future, NLCCDV is focused on centering the voices of survivors and engaging in more local work in Minnesota while simultaneously working internationally with countries who are looking to implement the SAFeR approach.

RESOURCE: THREE WAYS WE CAN TRANSFORM THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM TO PROVIDE BETTER OUTCOMES FOR SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN



87.5
TRAINING HOURS



111 hours
TECH ASSISTANCE



PALM CARD
RESOURCE

In working with a Guardian at Litem in Pinellas County who requested technical assistance around social science research and the court on the effects of Domestic Violence on children and interviewing minor collaterals, NLCCDV was able to provide the requested technical assistance receiving positive feedback “the TA session was extremely helpful in developing a report to the court that was safety focused for both the child and the survivor parent.”

- From a Guardian at Litem who reached out to NLCCDV for technical assistance

ADDRESSING THE COMPLEXITIES OF PROTECTION ORDERS FOR SURVIVORS

The National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit (NCPOFFC) helps to identify and resolve the systemic problems that exist around issuance, service, and enforcement of protection orders. NCPOFFC responds to training and technical assistance requests from Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) grantees and potential grantees.

	212 CONSULTATIONS		62 PEOPLE TRAINED		CRITICAL ISSUES FORUM
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In the Coming Year, NCPOFFC's focus will be:

- (1) Creating resources to address nuanced issues related to protection orders;**
- (2) Contributing to systems changes so that they are more survivor-centered and trauma-informed;**
- (3) Improving offender compliance and accountability;**
- (4) Improving education for practitioners through in-person, hybrid or live training sessions.**

“On behalf of NCVLI, I want to thank you for sharing your expertise with Alix and the Montana Legal Services Association. We really appreciate the fact that you took time out of your schedule to answer some questions from one of our partners. NCVLI is fortunate to have individuals like you who are willing to help ensure that victims receive accurate, comprehensive legal services.”

- From a legal team member at the National Crime Victim Law Institute

ENHANCING THE EFFICACY OF LEGAL APPROACHES FOR JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS

The National Center on Legal Approaches to Prevent Family Violence (NCLA) is one of two legal centers at BWJP that provide primary support to our national legal resource center, the Special Issue Resource Center on civil and criminal legal system responses to domestic violence (“Legal SIRC”), funded by the Administration for Children and Families through the Family Violence Prevention Services Act.



451
PEOPLE TRAINED



805
TECH ASSISTANCE



COERCIVE
CONTROL MATRIX

The NCLA is completing the first of five years of funding awarded through ACF. The work proposed in the five-year application demonstrates a significant shift in BWJP’s work, focusing on legal strategies relevant and impactful for survivors historically marginalized by legal systems. The NCLA focuses on promoting alternatives to traditional system responses and reducing barriers for victims trying to access the legal system. A remarkable amount of work by our dedicated staff has provided quality and consistency in the center’s work this year leading towards the expected completion of a research partnership with Coppin State University in 2023 and the formation of a Survivor Advisory Group.

“Just wanted to thank you for a great conference - it was a wonderful experience! I am so excited and invigorated for the next legislative session” - Nick Beard, Policy Coordinator, Delaware Coalition

- From a participant of a CAAN monthly discussion

DEVELOPING TWO NEW CENTERS

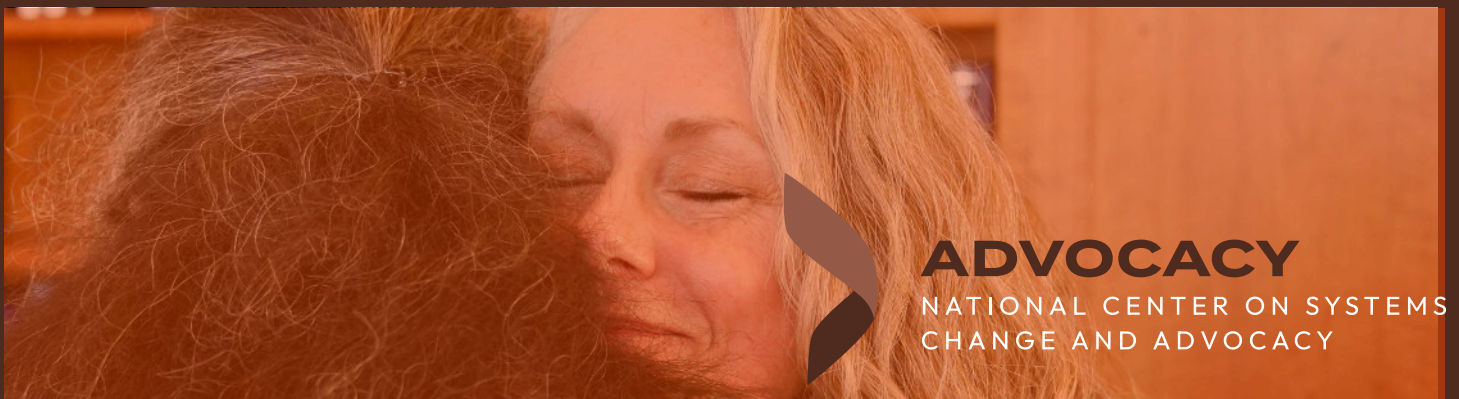
As long-time advocates working in the gender-based violence movement, we have all witnessed the ways in which survivors must navigate legal systems and how often those same systems can fail the ones they aim to protect.

We know that legal systems are at their best when they engage with survivors and collaborate with communities and their peers in other jurisdictions. We believe that our national work must be informed by local communities to guarantee the centering of all survivors lived experiences and to support those communities in keeping each other safe.

To that end, I am thrilled to share our two newest national centers; The National Center on Systems Change and Advocacy and The National Center for Reimagining Coordinated Community Response.

- Amy J. Sanchez, CEO

CREATING NEW SOLUTIONS TOGETHER WITH ADVOCATES



The National Center on Systems Change and Advocacy (NCSCA) is taking its first steps towards fulfilling a critical role within BWJP and in the criminal and civil legal field.

NCSCA's goals are to be survivor-centered and provide an equitable pathway to safety and justice for all survivors. Some of the most critical aspects of the program's activities will focus on objectives of incrementally counter unintended consequences of the law and address the limitations of the criminal and civil justice systems; inform the drafting of complex laws with survivor centered objectives; create a platform to engage and maintain grassroots community partnership; and establish strategic partnerships at the national/state/local levels to increase survivor relevancy into new focus areas for BWJP.

CENTERING SURVIVORS TO POSITIVELY SHIFT SYSTEMS



The National Center on Reimagining Coordinated Community Response establishes approaches and support for centering survivor realities in a culturally specific manner, for advocates and allied professionals to shift community and survivor interactions with systems. During the creation of this program, several new and crucial reports were created to reflect the growing research and understanding of different marginalized communities, including, deaf and hard of hearing community and the LGBTQ+ community.



“I am so glad that BWJP is holding these listening sessions. It felt good to share my thoughts constructively and think about my experience in ways I would not have considered before. I found the questions to be thought provoking and I enjoyed hearing other’s opinions.”

- A quote from an anonymous survivor who participated in the coercive control listening sessions this year




WELCOME THE DEFENSE CENTER!

For many years, the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, often called the Clearinghouse for short, was a small but mighty team of attorneys and advocates.

After 35 years the Clearinghouse decided to merge with our longtime partners and colleagues at BWJP and became the National Defense Center for Criminalized Survivors (NDCCS). Sue Osthoff the Director of the Clearinghouse of 34 years, built the foundation upon which this merger took place. She tirelessly grew and maintained relationships with partners across the field of GBV, including a continued dedication with the BWJP team. We owe so much to Sue Osthoff, or SueO as many know her.

When SueO retired in 2021, the Clearinghouse's board and staff hired Jenn Richards to be the Interim Director. Jenn's addition meant that the organization was given the gift of fresh eyes. She had the unique perspective of being both an insider and an outsider and she saw clearly, and almost immediately, that a merger with BWJP would be beneficial for all involved.



	1370 TECH ASSISTANCE		171 NEW CASES		PODCAST CRIMINALIZED SURVIVORS
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The final decision to join BWJP was undertaken with great contemplation, deliberation, and most importantly, great care for criminalized survivors.

It's important to note that this merger would not have occurred without all of Jenn's thought, foresight, uniting, facilitating, information-gathering, consulting, planning, convincing, executing, and overall hard work. She has been a critical player in the history of the Clearinghouse and of BWJP. We want to honor and thank Jenn for the huge part she played in this process.

The National Defense Center for Criminalized Survivors (NDCCS), formerly known as the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women (NCDBW), addresses the unique needs of victims of gender-based violence who have been criminalized as a result of their experience being abused.

Many people charged with crimes have experienced, or are currently experiencing, abuse by their intimate partners. NDCCS assists defendants and their defense teams at any and all stages of the criminal legal process: identifying defense strategies, providing relevant case law and sample litigation materials, locating skilled expert witnesses if needed, and helping to identify support networks for victims of abuse who are facing trial or going through the appeals process.

NDCCS is looking towards expanding internal knowledge and expertise by collaborating with other BWJP centers and with key partners across the field of GBV and across the United States. NDCCS is also looking to expand our reach and visibility; merging with BWJP is already a step in this direction.

Case highlight: In 2022, then NCDBW, submitted an amicus brief on behalf of Dianna Lalchan, a survivor who killed her husband in self-defense and who was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter. In September 2022, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals overturned Ms. Lalchan's conviction because the trial court erred in declining to instruct the jury that it could consider the effects of battery in assessing whether Ms. Lalchan's perception of danger was objectively reasonable. NCDBW provided context in amicus to show just how fundamental this misconception was and how it resulted in real harm.

"This is truly invaluable and way above and beyond! I so appreciate not only all the resources but also the careful thought and analysis you've provided . . . This will be especially helpful to address the "mutual abuse" line that the DAs like to pursue—in this case and also in several others. Thank you, thank you!"

- Quote from a Defense Attorney in New York City



OUR NATIONWIDE IMPACT

Community gun violence is a public health crisis.

Many jurisdictions are beginning to recognize the inherent limitations of relying on police forces to stem the flood of violence. Prevention work is now being promoted as an effective way to help communities identify and heal from traumatic incidents. Community violence interrupters are credible messengers from within the community who respond to incidents and interrupt the cycle of further violence that often occurs after an incident.

Two of BWJP's national centers, the National Center on Legal Approaches to Prevent Family Violence and the National Center on Gun Violence in Relationships worked together with the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence to develop a multi-module training series for violence interrupters representing seven community-based organizations across D.C. Overall, the goal is to provide training for violence interrupters on intimate partner and gender-based violence.



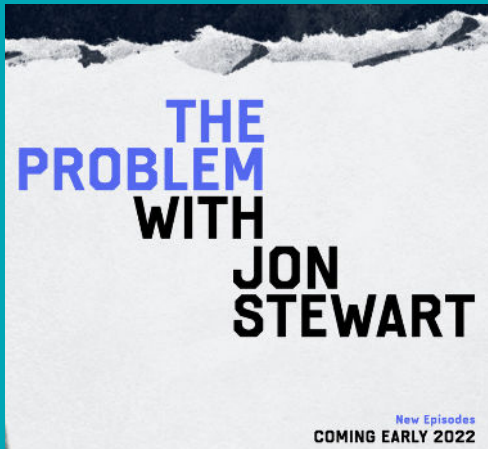
We had approximately seventeen community violence interrupters participate in the first training cohort.

“I want to express my deepest thanks for the wonderful Domestic Violence course that was taught by your organization. The interaction and the exercises that were professionally conducted was useful and also provided keen insight on how Domestic Violence can destroy someone’s life if not adequately addressed in a timely fashion. I look further to working with your organization on how we can spread this information to other communities on this most important subject.” - A Participant of the Program

This training will be used as a national model to be replicated by other jurisdictions during this five-year grant.

Special thank you to JP Morgan Chase Bank for providing lunch for the participants!

BWJP IN THE MEDIA



BWJP featured on the new show “The Problem with Jon Stewart”

In this new series only available on Apple TV, Jon Stewart brings together people impacted by different parts of a problem to discuss how we produce change. The BWJP Firearms team engaged in an interview for their most recent episode #4 on Guns: Shootings in America are an epidemic. Many agree that bad guys should not have guns, but how do we decide who the bad guys are?

RELATIONSHIPS

How to Know If Your Partner Is Controlling and What to Do If They Are

By **SOO KIM** ON 7/10/22 AT 8:00 AM EDT

REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE RISK

Morgan Stanley broker's stalking case raises troubling safety questions

By **Tobias Salinger** August 22, 2022, 6:17 p.m. EDT 7 Min Read

THE BIG FEATURE

She Never Hurt Her Kids. So Why Is a Mother Serving More Time Than the Man Who Abused Her Daughter?

Failure-to-protect laws are incarcerating women all over the country—for other people's violence.

STORY BY SAMANTHA MICHAELS, VIDEO BY MARK HELENOWSKI

AUGUST 9, 2022

Home // Radio // On Point

Behind the decades-long fight to close the 'boyfriend loophole'

April 08, 2022 By [Paige Sutherland](#), [Meghna Chakrabarti](#) and [Tim Skeog](#)



GUNS

How the Updated Violence Against Women Act Would Crack Down on Domestic Abusers Who Have Guns

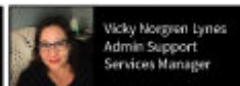
by **Jennifer Gollan** February 23, 2022



STAFF



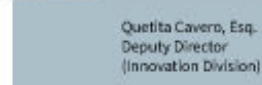
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GENERAL COUNSEL



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

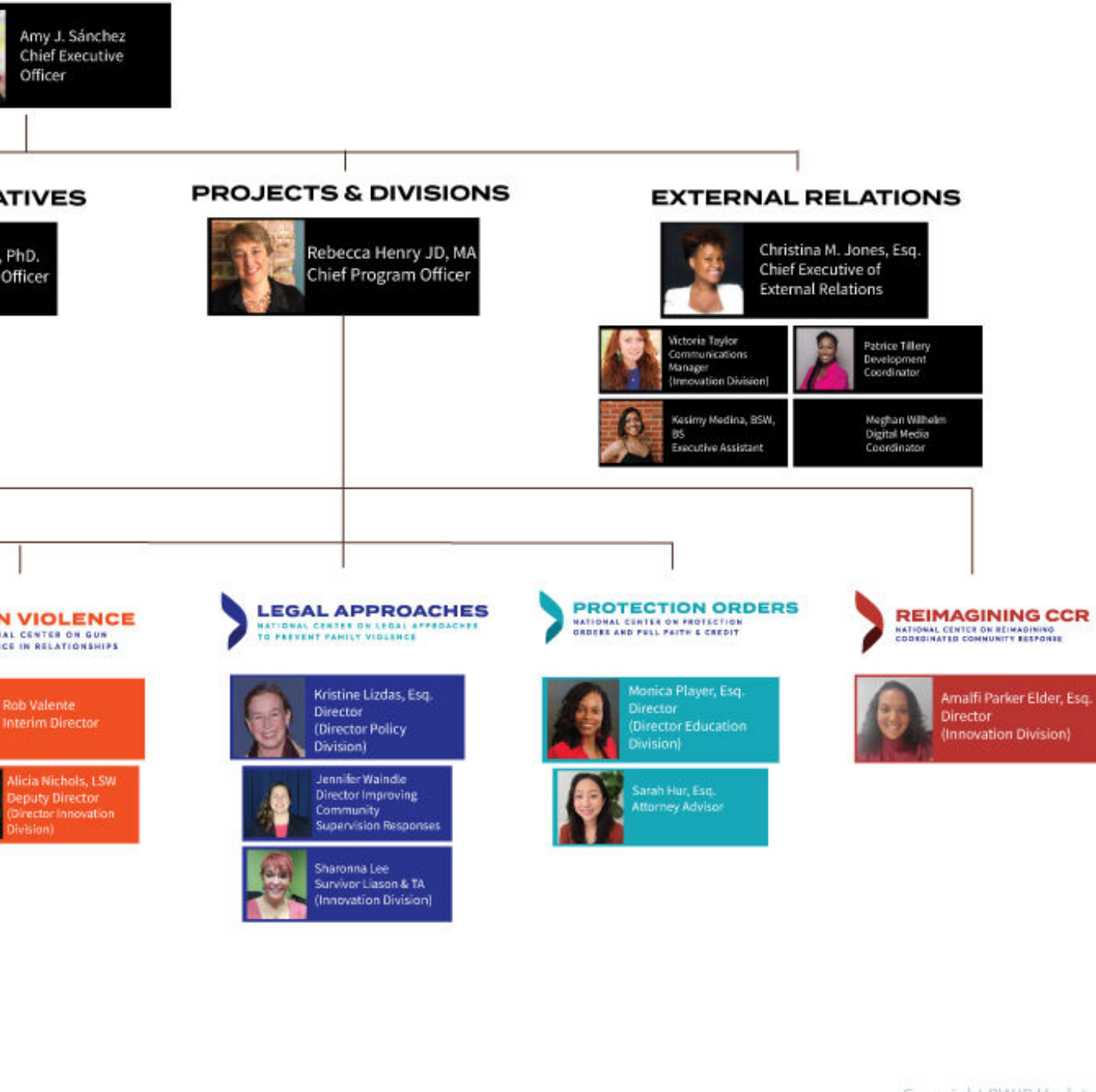
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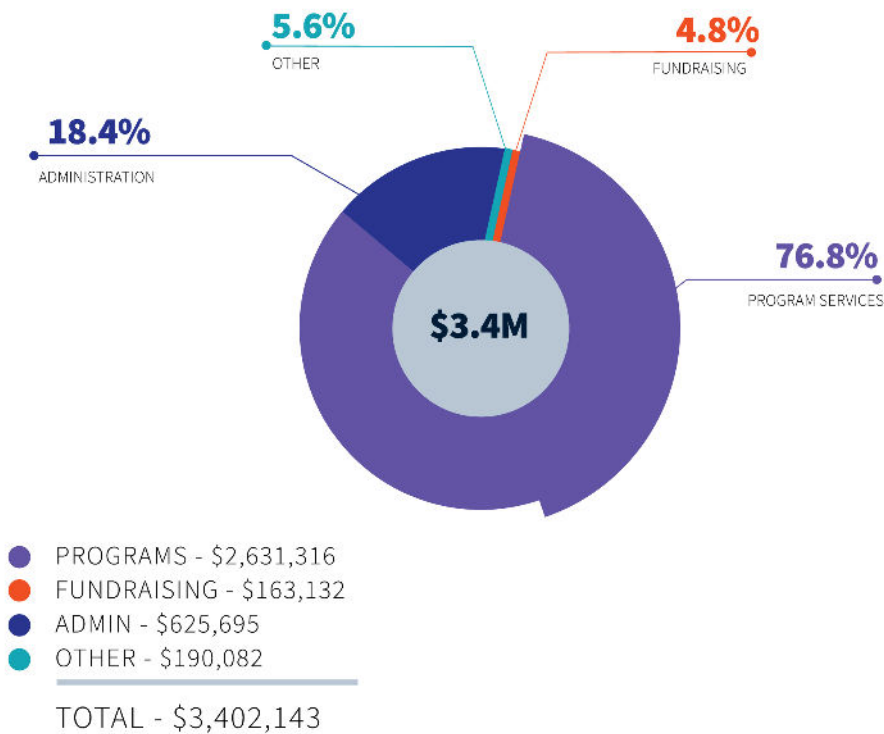
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EXPENSES



YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Donations directly impact the outcomes for survivors of gender-based violence by providing training and technical assistance to attorneys, advocates, and survivors of GBV.

We are working to change the trajectory of GBV and how it is approached by systems professionals. An example of this is our work on coercive control, a pattern of behaviors that create an unequal power dynamic in a relationship which ultimately gives the perpetrator control over their partner, making it difficult for the victim to leave and the violence nearly impossible to prove in court. Historically, courts and systems have neither understood what non-physical domestic violence such as coercive control is, nor taken it seriously when decision-making. BWJP is committed to informing the approaches of those at the forefront of these systems, thus improving the impact on survivors.

“I am so glad to hear of an established organization working on this. Previously, I’ve felt like it was a patchwork of a few individuals and groups that were aware of coercive control and that it could be included with definitions of domestic abuse. Having it led by BWJP means that change might happen easier and sooner.”

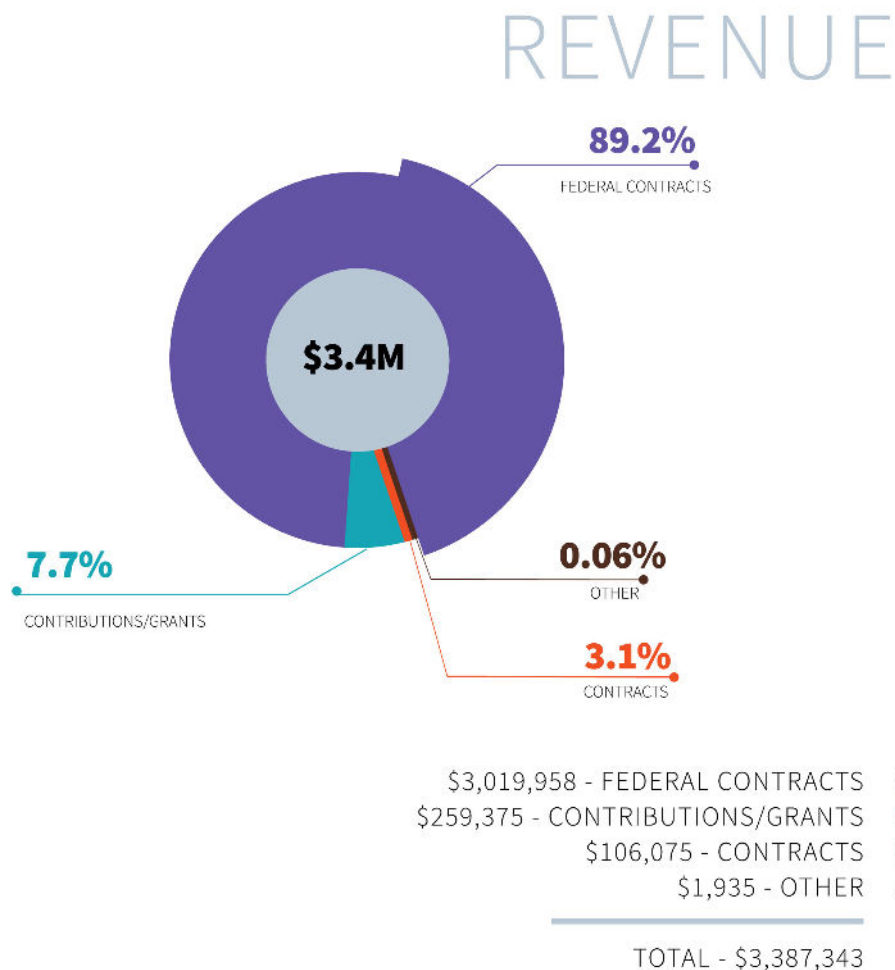
- Thoughts from a survivor after attending one of our listening sessions

Donations fund this work and make measurable and immeasurable impacts on the lives of survivors of all kinds of gender-based violence.



We hope that you will consider donating today!

You can support BWJP by donating via our website and by liking and sharing posts on our social media. We have accounts on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok and your engagement increases awareness to survivors and advocates.





THANK YOU

Your generosity
helps continue
our work of
changing systems
and supporting
survivors.

Institutional Donors:

US Department of Health and
Human Services
US Department of Justice Office
on Violence Against Women
JP Morgan Chase
Marvin and Mollyann Romick
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Dallas Jewish Community
Foundation
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Jeff Strydio

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Patrice Tillery
Laura Tillotson
Patti Tototzintle
Therese Trelz
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Igloris Vazquez
Dustin Winter
Shannon Zarek

MESSAGE FROM A DONOR LIKE YOU

"I support BWJP's work financially because I want to help create change for survivors of gender-based violence. As an attorney, I am impressed by the incredibly meaningful policy work BWJP does both at a national and local level. I am proud to support BWJP and the women and children who are survivors of abuse."

**Ashley G. Smith, Esq. Owner and
Principal AGSports**



STAY IN TOUCH

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Want to join our community?

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Join us by donating [HERE](#).



BWJP

FY 2022 Impact Report

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