



Overview of the Family Justice Center Alliance

FJC Alliance Vision

Our vision is to create a future where: ALL the needs of victims are met; Children are protected; Batterers are held accountable; Violence fades; Economic justice increases; Families heal and thrive; Hope is realized; and we ALL work together.

FJC Alliance Mission

Our mission is to create a network of national and international Family Justice Centers and similar co-located service models with close working relationships, shared training and technical assistance, collaborative learning processes, coordinated funding assistance, and transformational leadership.

Overview of the Family Justice Center Alliance

The Alliance serves as clearinghouse, research center, and international membership organization for all Family Justice Centers. ***The Alliance also serves as the comprehensive technical assistance and training provider for the United States Department of Justice*** for federally funded Centers. Resources offered by the Alliance include an annual international conference, shared learning opportunities such as staff exchange programs, international internships, strategic planning services, web-based education programs, and training in all areas of family violence intervention.

Alliance Scope of Services

Utilizing a network of onsite staff, national faculty and technical assistance providers, the Alliance provides training, planning, consulting and technical assistance in the following areas:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing a network of onsite staff, national faculty, and technical assistance providers, the Alliance provides training, planning, consulting and technical assistance in the following areas: How to Start a Family Justice Center • Community/Center Assessment • Strategic Planning • Training for Police Officers, Judges, Prosecutors, and Advocates • Funding and Sustainability for Centers • Best Practices • Board Development • Client Intake and Services • Confidentiality and Information Sharing • Communication Systems • Data Collection and Evaluation • DV and Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Buy-In • Governance Structure • Faith-Based Partnerships • Launching a Forensic Medical Unit • Media and Public Relations • Offender Accountability • Operations - Forms, MOUs, Protocols, and Partnership Development • Prosecution Policies and Practices • Public Awareness Posters • Regional and Statewide Initiatives • Safety and Security Considerations • Strangulation • Technology Considerations • Volunteer and Internship Programs |
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Background on the Family Justice Center Model

What is a Family Justice Center?

A Family Justice Center is the co-location of a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency team of professionals who work together, under one roof, to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence. Some Centers focus exclusively on domestic violence victims while others provide services to victims of sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. While a Family Justice Center may house many partners, the basic partners include police officers, prosecutors, civil legal service providers, and community-based advocates. The core concept is to provide one place where victims (women, men, and children) can go to talk to an advocate, plan for their safety, interview with a police detective, meet with a prosecutor, receive medical assistance, receive information on shelter, and get help with transportation. The key difference between Family Justice Centers and other multi-agency or multi-disciplinary models, is the presence of police detectives/investigators and prosecutors.



Why is the Family Justice Center model needed?

Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes. Less than one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalking cases perpetrated against women by intimate partners are reported to the police. Victims may not report for many reasons, including fear of the system, fear of the offender, religious beliefs, emotional ties to the abuser, threats to children, lack of money or resources, or simply not knowing that help is available.

Most criminal and civil justice systems make it difficult for victims to seek help and unintentionally wear them down. Victims are often required to travel from location to location to seek services that are scattered through a community or region. They must tell their story over and over again to staff members of different agencies. The criminal justice system and the web of social service agencies unintentionally make it easy for victims to become frustrated and ultimately stop seeking help. Faced with so many obstacles, victims often return to their abuser rather than obtaining the necessary services. Bringing together all the different agencies a victim may need under one roof to provide coordinated services is a logical solution to address these issues.

"At its core, the Family Justice Center model is about providing the most effective, efficient, meaningful and compassionate services possible to victims of domestic violence and their children. No one agency or organization can possibly address all the needs of survivors. Family Justice Centers and other co-located, multidisciplinary models are providing the structure and the foundation to offer flexible, holistic services that can meet the needs of victims and survivors where they are."

The Honorable Susan Carbon, Director of the
United States Department of Justice, Office on
Violence Against Women

What are the benefits of the Family Justice Center model?

A collaborative effort provides more support to victims and children involved in family violence through improved case management and a more fluid exchange of information and resources. Bridging existing gaps increases a victim's access to services and resources and makes the entire process of reporting a domestic violence incident much less overwhelming for the victims and children involved.

Family Justice Center Outcomes

- Reduced Homicides;
- Increased Victim Safety;
- Increased Victim Autonomy and Empowerment;
- Reduced Fear and Anxiety for Victims and their Children;
- Increased Efficiency and Coordination Among Service Providers;
- Reduced Recantation and Minimization by Victims;
- Increased Prosecution of Offenders; and
- Increased Community Support Services to Victims.

Notable Outcomes

The Brooklyn FJC has served 46,742 clients from 2005-2012. Between 2002 and 2010 the percentage of *intimate partner homicide has dropped by 43%*.

The Alameda County FJC saw a **20% overall drop in police reports rejected for prosecution** by the District Attorney's office for victim-related reasons from 2006 to 2008. The number of domestic violence **case dismissals from 2006 to 2007 decreased 24.81%**, resulting in a **\$945,750 return on investment**.

Additionally, the **number of cases charged as felonies has increased** from 13% in 2005 to 23% in 2009.

"The Family Justice Center model is, at its core, a concept that increases community capacity while also providing diverse, culturally competent services to victims and their children from a single location. It is common sense that such an approach, if executed properly, will provide greater assistance to those in need."

U.S. Attorney, Western District of PA
and Former Office on Violence Against
Women Acting Director
Mary Beth Buchanan

At the San Diego FJC, the first of its kind in America, clients felt they were **treated respectfully and not discriminated against** by staff. The warmth, kindness, and support provided by staff helped clients **form connections and build relationships**.

In 2010, the Annie Casey Foundation recognized the power of bundled services and documented **increased economic outcomes of over 300%** for people exposed to trauma and abuse.