

REIMAGINING *our future*



2022 Annual Report



REFLECTION

“ Our movement has shown strength, resilience, and the ability to adapt. ”



Lucy Rios

Lucy Rios

Executive Director

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

This year was about reimagining. Our movement has shown strength, resilience, and the ability to adapt. We continued to readjust as we learned how the COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally changed our world and underscored the inequities that make the injustices we are working to end that much more pressing.

In 2022, we saw our communities cautiously emerge from the pandemic. The RICADV and its network of member agencies reimagined the paths forward to best serve all victims of domestic violence and end the cycle of abuse for future generations. As we navigated challenges, we focused on providing support and resources to survivors and community members and uplifting their stories.

This year was about connection. In 2022, we joyfully started to work together in person again. We moved into a beautiful new office space and set up a comfortable, supportive environment for our team to work and our community to gather.

We began hosting in-person events again, gratefully reconnecting with each other, our member agencies, and our partners. We also experienced an exciting change in leadership, with Lucy Rios stepping into the role of executive director after nearly 20 years with the organization.

“ We believe not only is a safer world possible, but it is our calling to create it. ”

This year was about building a safer, more equitable world. We brought together advocates, the RICADV survivor task force SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), decision makers, and community members to voice the need for important policies to protect survivors and prevent domestic violence before it starts. The RICADV played a key role in successfully securing a vast increase in the federal ARPA funds being allocated in Rhode Island to support critically needed services and resources for survivors of domestic abuse. We also celebrated the passage of our priority bill to establish the RI Address Confidentiality Program. The state has already begun to implement this program, creating another layer of safety for survivors by helping them keep their address information private.

This year was about the people we serve and our community. Our work is driven by our connections to each other, the experiences of those most impacted by violence, and our mission to create a world free from domestic abuse. We continued to persevere through difficult times, united by the goal of building a Rhode Island where our communities can flourish and all people can thrive and live without fear.

We accomplished so much in 2022, and there is still more to do. With hope and determination, our work continues. We believe not only is a safer world possible, but it is our calling to create it.

Forward, together!



Jim Berson

Jim Berson

President

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

FINANCIAL REPORT

The RICADV ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position, closing its financial books on June 30, 2022, with a positive change in unrestricted net assets from operations of **\$62,361**.

Total revenue and support were **\$4,750,964**. **Eighty percent** of the funds came from federal grants and contracts, **16%** came from the State of Rhode Island, and **4%** came from foundations, corporate support, individual donations, community groups, dues, and training fees.

Total expenses were **\$4,782,136**. Of the total expenses, **67%**, or **\$3,214,051**, consisted of funds passed through to the RICADV member agencies, primarily for the provision of direct services to victims of domestic violence.

The RICADV conducts an annual audit in accordance with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Uniform Grant Guidance.



FUNDING

FEDERAL GRANTS & CONTRACTS

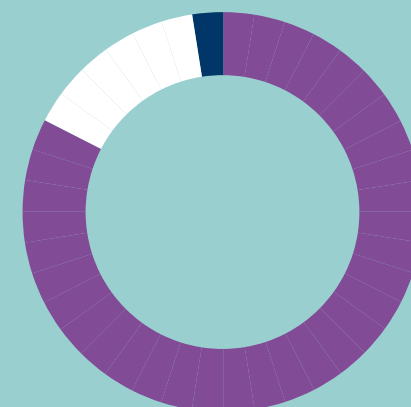
80%

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

16%

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATE SUPPORT, INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, DUES, & TRAINING FEES

4%





PUBLIC AWARENESS

The RICADV developed a new user-friendly website to make it easier for survivors to navigate and find the resources they need. Our goal was to modernize and simplify the design, share about the work we do, and provide information about our member agencies. We included links to all of the organizations that make up the RICADV network on our main page to make them easy to access.

Visit our new website at www.ricadv.org to learn about the problem of domestic violence, local resources, and how you can help.

In 2022, we continued to conduct statewide public awareness campaigns during national Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and national Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (TDVAPM). We also engaged the media to bring attention to the problem of domestic violence, make our advocacy and prevention efforts visible, and be a voice for survivor safety.

YOUR CONSENT,
YOUR *decision*

Healthy boundaries make for healthy relationships.

WWW.NOMORERI.ORG | 800-494-8100

RI COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

About | What We Do | Need Help | How to Help | 24 HR HELPLINE

Our Future Depends on Preventing Domestic Violence

Learn what domestic violence looks like and how you can help.

HOW TO HELP



2022 STATEWIDE STATISTICS

8,538

individual victims of domestic violence received help

2,767

victims were assisted by a court advocate in obtaining a restraining order

291

children who witnessed domestic violence received services

244

adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes

125

victims participated in a support or educational group

34,465

individual services were provided by advocates

63

adults and children lived in transitional housing

368

victims received clinical/counseling services

9,608

Helpline/hotline calls were answered

“ I imagine the future of the movement to end domestic violence to be inclusive and focused on prevention, with the funding to provide the necessities for survivors and their families to be safe. This includes affordable housing and the resources needed to heal, gain information, and move ahead financially. ”

- Laura, SOAR member



OUR NETWORK & FUNDING SOURCES

FULL MEMBER AGENCIES

Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center

Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County

Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center

Women's Resource Center

AFFILIATE MEMBER AGENCIES

Center for Southeast Asians

Crossroads Rhode Island

Family Service of Rhode Island

McAuley Ministries

Progreso Latino

YWCA Rhode Island

2022 MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA Impact)

Rhode Island Bar Foundation (IOLTA Program)

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

Rhode Island Department of Human Services

State of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

U.S. Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act

U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Act

Women's Fund of RI

RESTORYATION TRAINING

The RICADV sent a team of staff to the national Restoryation training in August 2022 to become Restoryation facilitators in Rhode Island. Restoryation is a national needs assessment project where data is being collected through storytelling, journaling, and collaging to understand the collective experience of the domestic and sexual violence advocacy workforce over the past few years. The intent of this project is to inform our field and national funders about how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted advocates, with the goal of turning what we learn into needed changes to support and sustain the workforce. The RICADV is part of a group of 23 state and territory coalitions that began facilitating Restoryation sessions locally in 2022 that will continue into 2023.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

In 2022, we successfully advocated for greatly increased resources in the state budget to expand services for survivors and their children, including much-needed additional housing options. We also led a policy campaign to establish the RI Address Confidentiality Program, which enhances safety for survivors after they relocate by keeping their address information private. Due to our effective advocacy alongside our legislative champions, the bill to create this program passed during the first year it was introduced to the RI General Assembly, a rare and significant achievement.

In November, RICADV staff, advocates, survivors, state leaders, and community members gathered beside 26 purple ribbon memorials to honor the lives taken by domestic violence homicides in Rhode Island and release the data, findings, and policy recommendations from the RICADV's report, *Domestic Violence Homicides in Rhode Island: 2016–2020*.

At the event held at Memorial Park in Providence, we stood with the mother of a domestic violence homicide victim and with a survivor and member of the task force SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships). They shared their stories about the impacts of domestic violence and the harmful ripple effects it sends throughout our communities. We also heard from our elected officials, who affirmed their commitment to increase safety and justice for survivors.





“ I advocate against domestic violence because I was once in a position where I had no voice, and I will never be silent again. I advocate for those who haven’t found their voice or who have been kept from using their voice. ”

- SOAR member

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

In March, President Biden signed into law bipartisan legislation passed by Congress, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization of 2022. We advocated strongly for this critical bill alongside our national partners at the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). Incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault declined significantly after VAWA first took effect in 1994, and efforts to increase access to services, healing, and justice for survivors have improved with each subsequent version.

The 2022 reauthorization of VAWA strengthens this landmark law by enhancing services and support for survivors from underserved communities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), tribal, and LGBTQ+ communities. The law also promotes the use of evidence-based practices by law enforcement to respond to gender-based violence, including trauma-informed, victim-centered training.

SOAR

In 2022, members of the RICADV survivor task force SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships) convened in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, reestablishing relationships and routines. Members were excited to reconnect and reenergize their advocacy efforts as pandemic restrictions waned.

SOAR continued to work with RICADV staff to raise public awareness and advocate for survivor safety. SOAR members' testimony played a key role in the swift passage of the bill to create the RI Address Confidentiality Program and protect survivors' private information. SOAR members also helped secure increased funding for domestic violence services and prevention programs.

In August, SOAR entered a season of renewal, welcoming a new full-time coordinator on the RICADV staff, establishing new goals, welcoming new members, and engaging with the community in new ways. SOAR members made many connections, from tabling at a gubernatorial debate to speaking publicly at a vigil. SOAR also created an outreach campaign entitled, "Love Letters to a Survivor." These heartfelt notes were shared on social media and in community spaces, growing the reach of SOAR's message.

SOAR members conducted critical systems advocacy in 2022. They partnered with the Justice Center of the Council for State Governments to provide survivor perspectives in a statewide review of domestic violence systems' responses in RI. This testimony was shared with state leaders and decision makers.

With renewed momentum, SOAR members continued their powerful advocacy, dedicated and revitalized as they reimagined what the future holds together.



PREVENTION

For 20 years, the RICADV has been applying a public health approach to preventing domestic violence as a recipient of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding. Our strategies aim to improve the health and wellbeing of all Rhode Islanders to increase the factors that protect against violence.

In 2022, we continued to forge ahead in this work. In July, our “Voices of Change” video project culminated in the release of a fifth video. As the final video in the series, it featured all of the partner organizations telling a collective story about how we are working to transform harmful conditions in our communities, address the root causes of abuse, and end all forms of violence and oppression. The project partners included the Alliance of RI Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE), Progreso Latino, the RICADV, SISTA Fire, and Youth In Action.

An important part of taking a public health approach to prevention is using data to understand the problem of domestic violence and evaluating our strategies to assess their impact. The RICADV established an internal Data and Evaluation Team to strengthen our practices across the organization in terms of how we collect, utilize, and communicate about data. The RICADV was honored to be featured at the CDC’s national Evaluation Day as “an exemplar state with outstanding health equity efforts.” The Evaluators Network of RI became an officially designated Local Affiliate of the American Evaluation Association, a notable and exciting milestone for this learning community cofounded in 2016 by RICADV Evaluator Cynthia Roberts and a team of local evaluators.



Through our primary prevention work, the RICADV imagines a future where domestic violence no longer exists. In collaboration with our partners, colleagues, and the community, we chart paths forward that bring us closer to realizing our vision of safe, thriving communities for all people.

TRAINING

In 2022, we welcomed our staff, colleagues, and community into our beautiful new office space. We held our first in-person workshop in July, guiding participants in visual journaling. This event, pictured to the right, brought together RICADV staff, advocates, partners, and community members in a shared experience of self-care, healing, and creative expression.

Through the RICADV's Training Calendar, we offered virtual and in-person learning opportunities. By continuing to host online webinars and virtual events, we were able to reach advocates across the country. In 2022, we partnered with the Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island, SafeBAE, and the Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights to provide trainings. Topics ranged from foundational to advanced and included discussions on housing discrimination, sexual violence prevention, youth empowerment, and supporting survivors with traumatic brain injuries.

In March, RICADV staff collaborated with the RI Association of Realtors to provide specialized training about domestic violence, fair housing practices, and the role realtors can play in supporting survivors. In June, we partnered with Sojourner House staff to train advocates in using a trauma-informed approach.



The purpose of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) is to eliminate domestic violence in Rhode Island. Our mission is to support and enhance the work of our member agencies and to provide statewide leadership on the issue of domestic violence.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As we work to end domestic violence in Rhode Island, we seek to empower our communities to develop solutions to address and prevent abuse. In 2022, the RICADV strengthened our connections with community organizations. We continued to support community leadership through the RI Deborah DeBare Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (DVPF). Administered by the RICADV, the DVPF supported nine organizations to lead prevention efforts in their communities.

During the summer, we collaborated with Dorcas International Institute of RI's Refugee Resettlement Program to provide information and resources. We also partnered with New Bridges for Haitian Success (NB4HS) as a DVPF grant recipient to conduct a series of virtual prevention workshops. Participants included members of their adult education program and local pastors, with NB4HS providing real-time language interpretation in Haitian-Creole. With support from the DVPF, NB4HS also translated information about domestic violence and local resources into Haitian-Creole, making the content more accessible to the community members they serve.

In September, as part of our Ten Men strategy, the RICADV partnered with DARE (Direct Action for Rights and Equality) to host a film screening of the documentary *And So I Stayed*. The film spotlights the stories of domestic violence survivors who were incarcerated for defending themselves against abuse. We were honored to bring one of the survivors featured in the film to Rhode Island as the keynote speaker for the event.

Throughout the year, our prevention staff provided presentations and technical assistance to audiences and organizations across the country. Staff participated on a panel at Jewish Women International's Fifth Conference on Domestic Violence in the Jewish Community. We supported SARA (Sexual Assault Resource Agency) out of Charlottesville, Virginia, as the agency prepared to launch a program to engage men as allies modeled after Ten Men. We presented on three national webinars with a focus on preventing domestic violence before it starts using a health equity approach, one with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and two with the national project PreventConnect.

OUR STAFF

LUCY RIOS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KRISTA D'AMICO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CLAIRE DAY DEHAVEN
SOAR COORDINATOR

SARA ECKHOFF
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & TRAINING MANAGER

ALEX KITHES
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

MICHELE MARQUES-PACHECO
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ALICIA MICKELSON
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

DEVON PINKUS
MEN'S ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

CYNTHIA ROBERTS
EVALUATOR

ELAINE STRINGER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN WESLEY
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF POLICY & ADVOCACY

MEAGHAN WHITE
POLICY & DATA ASSOCIATE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JIM BERSON, PRESIDENT
TERRENCE GREEN, VICE PRESIDENT
TONI MARIE GOMES, TREASURER
JESSICA WALSH, SECRETARY

JOLAYEMI AHAMIOJIE
JUDITH EARLE
ELIZABETH KELLY
MICHELLE LEPAGE

BRIDGETTE LOURO
DAMARIS ROMAN
MICHELLE WILCOX

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the members of our staff and Board who transitioned from the RICADV in 2022-2023:

Staff: Brittany Ballantyne, Ian Colomer, and Carmen Recalde-Russo

Interns: Stacey Hill and Casey Hunt

Board: Mak Falaye, Rilwan Feyisitan, Jr., Janet Marcantonio, Jennifer Meade, Mary Roda, and Katherine B. Savage, Esq.



In Memoriam

The RICADV honors the lives of the victims of domestic violence homicides in RI in 2022: Bernadette Ortiz, Steven Kerzner, Donna MacDonald, Sherbert Maddox, Courtney Huard, Leila Patricia Duarte Da Luz, and Grya Pihlkrantz.

Address:

RHODE ISLAND COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
641 Bald Hill Road, Suite 1
Warwick, RI 02886

Email/Web:

ricadv@ricadv.org
www.ricadv.org

Phone:

401-467-9940

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2099
Providence, RI

MEMBERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIANS | CROSSROADS RI | FAMILY SERVICE OF RI | MCAULEY MINISTRIES | PROGRESO LATINO | YWCA RI

A Task Force of the RICADV

This publication was supported by Federal Grant Number 15JOVW-22-GG-00925-STAT awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ). Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the USDOJ.