



ECONOMIC JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

*Financial abuse occurs in nearly
98% of abusive relationships.*

Financial/economic abuse is when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources, which diminishes the victim's capacity to support themselves and forces them to depend on the perpetrator financially. Economic abuse is cited as the main reason victims stay or return to abusive relationships. PCADV's Economic Justice and Empowerment Initiative aims to help domestic violence victims overcome immediate economic barriers and secure long-term financial independence and safety. The Initiative is a multi-faceted statewide effort coordinated through PCADV and implemented in community-based domestic violence programs.

PCADV Economic Justice and Empowerment Initiative Framework

Domestic violence programs implement various forms of economic justice and empowerment work in their everyday interactions with survivors. The Initiative empowers domestic violence advocates to utilize tools and multiple strategies when working with victims to address their immediate safety and economic concerns, then steadily progress toward their long-term financial independence to live safe and autonomous lives. The initiative focuses on providing specific individually tailored information to victims in the following critical points of victimization: Crisis, Post-Crisis Short-Term and Long-Term safety and independence. Domestic violence programs that participate in the Initiative are tasked with:

Teaching Financial Basics and Enhancing Credit by:

- Providing some form of financial information to all service recipients
- Facilitating financial workshops
- Providing copies of credit reports
- Providing credit repair and building education

Increasing Job Readiness and Training by:

- Facilitating career workshops
- Maintaining a computer center equipped with office and resume software
- Linking survivors to soft skills building opportunities
- Providing access to GED information

Promoting Long-Term Stability by:

- Providing information on housing
- Providing information on accessing higher education
- Providing information on civic duty

Expanding Partnerships by:

- Partnering with organizations to enhance access to higher education
- Partnering with local businesses to provide employment, volunteer and mentorship opportunities
- Partnering with organizations that provide job skills training

Program Outcomes

To date, PCADV's Economic Justice and Empowerment Initiative has served:

17
Programs

20,000
Victims

A study at one program site showed:



43% of participants **increased their income** or obtained a **living-wage** position.



85% had **increased financial skills** after participating in a series of financial workshops.



100% developed **goals for the future** including plans to achieve those goals.



43% accessed **higher education**



100% felt more **in control of their health** and participated in self-care.



100% **registered to vote** with **57%** of them voting in the next election.

Prior to participation:

57%
had a **resume**.

43%
felt they had relevant **job skills**.



After participation:

100%
had a **resume** and
felt they had **increased job skills**.

72%
felt they had good job **interview skills**.

57%
said they were never able to
pay their bills.



100%
said they were **paying their bills**
most or all of the time.

57%
lived with someone else
for stable housing.



28% lived with someone else.
57% had **obtained stable housing**.
72% had increased confidence in
maintaining **long-term housing**.

Current 2018-2019 Initiative Sites

- Women's Center of Beaver County
- Domestic Violence Services Center - Luzerne and Carbon Counties
- Survivors, Inc. - Adams County
- Clinton County Women's Center
- A Way Out - Potter County
- Women in Transition - Philadelphia County
- YWCA Bradford - McKean County
- Safe Berks - Berks County
- Women In Need - Franklin & Fulton Counties

Formerly Funded Initiative Sites

- Victims Outreach Intervention Center - Butler County
- Lutheran Settlement House - Philadelphia County
- Centre County Women's Resource Center - Centre County
- AWARE - Mercer County
- YWCA/Wise Options - Lycoming County
- Victim's Intervention Program - Wayne County
- Crisis Center North - Allegheny County
- A Woman's Place - Bucks County