



CHICAGO METROPOLITAN BATTERED WOMEN'S NETWORK

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY & BACKGROUND

In 1980, domestic violence service providers created The Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network in order to exchange information about local resources for domestic violence survivors and to share best practices in responding to their needs. The Network still maintains the grassroots focus of its early years, but it is now a coalition of over 45 organizations, allied professionals, and government workers serving domestic violence victims in Cook County. Our mission is to serve as a collaborative membership organization dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by domestic violence through education, public policy and advocacy, and the connection of community members to direct service providers. Network members set the organization's annual goals and policy agenda and they are supported by a professional staff and a volunteer Board of Directors.

The Network performs its work in four focus areas:

1. **First response:** The Network runs Illinois' Official ***Statewide 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline (877-863-6338)*** and serves as first responder for tens of thousands of Illinois residents each year. In FY 2016, the hotline answered over 24,000 calls for help.
2. **Advocacy & Public Policy:** The Network's ***Strategic Response for Ending Domestic Violence*** pursues an advocacy/policy agenda on behalf of victims and service providers. This Program works to change laws and regulations and presses for systems dealing with domestic violence to do so in ways that maximize the prevention of, and ultimately an end to, abuse.
3. **Professional Training:** The Network's ***Centralized Training Institute (CTI)*** presents expert training for human service and healthcare providers and criminal justice personnel. In FY 2016, the CTI educated 1,012 professionals in 36 trainings.
4. **Member Services:** The Network provides its members with a venue to work together on common policy initiatives, joint fundraising opportunities (such as our collaborative Run Domestic Violence Out of Town, which uses the Chicago Marathon to raise funds for service providers) and capacity building. Since 2008, the Network has convened its members to collaborate on new ways of scaling impact and providing better services to domestic violence survivors as well as initiatives to adopt 21st Century nonprofit business models. Projects include the Outcomes Measures Project, which enables members to track the impact of their services on clients' ability to move beyond domestic violence, and the Medical Response Collaborative, focused on improving the healthcare system's response to domestic violence.