

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), a time when we come together to uplift survivors' voices and celebrate the incredible work of advocates and allies. I want to thank you for standing with us and creating opportunities for stronger community-based partnerships between healthcare providers, social service agencies, housing programs, and domestic violence service programs – we truly appreciate the collaborations that have been forged on behalf of domestic violence survivors and their children. As long as we continue to stand together, we can end domestic violence.

On October 12th, the Family Violence Prevention and Service Program (FVPSA Program) will launch its first DVAM YouTube Competition. The competition is focused on working with youth and children to create social change for the next generation. This competition is open to any individual or organization that works with adolescents who have experienced domestic and dating violence. Our goal is to highlight innovative and inclusive practices, safe spaces and/or prevention tools that utilize creative activities such as art to reach youth that have experienced violence and abuse.

This YouTube challenge will be the first of its kind at the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). Innovative challenges like this can lead to larger initiatives that create life-changing resources for survivors of domestic violence, homeless youth, and pregnant or parenting teens served by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF).

We invite you to participate and encourage your colleagues to do the same, by submitting a video or spreading the word. In addition to promoting our video challenge, there are many other ways to get involved during DVAM. To find local activities near you, visit the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence's DVAM events page at <http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam/dvam-events>. In addition to participating in DVAM events in your own communities, we hope you will join us for these free, online events:

Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day

October 12th

Sponsored by: The National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence at Futures Without Violence

Learn More: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/health-cares-about-domestic-violence-day/>

The NW Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse Art for Action

October 20th | 3:00pm-4:00pm EST

Hosted By: The NW Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse

Register for this webinar: https://nwnetwork.adobeconnect.com/oct-20-2016/event/event_info.html

Girls for Gender Equity webinar

October 25th | 3:00pm-4:30pm EST

Hosted by: National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

Register for this webinar: https://bwjp.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/register.pl?activity_id=kfctzjm&user_id

Integrating Financial Capability Services into Existing Programs for Survivors

October 26th | 3:30pm-4:30pm EST

Hosted by: The Family Violence Prevention & Services (FVPSA) Program and the Assets for Independence (AFI) Program

Register for this webinar: <https://hhs.adobeconnect.com/integrating/event/registration.html>

[View the full calendar and additional details about the events listed above.](#)

For additional tools, handouts, brochures, artwork, and other resources to raise awareness of domestic violence and its impact on communities and families, please visit the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence's DVAM page at <http://www.nrcdv.org/dvam>.

Together, we have built innovative programs that address the needs of families struggling with violence, trauma, and homelessness. We are continually inspired by our colleagues and our grantees who are working together in new and exciting ways. We hope that you will join us this October as we strive to create safer homes and supportive communities for all.

Sincerely,



Marylouise Kelley
Director, Family Violence Prevention and Services Program
Family and Youth Services Bureau
www.acf.hhs.gov/fvpsa