

ALTERNATIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 40-HOUR DV TRAINING FOR VICTIM ADVOCATES



ADV's 40-Hour Training Program for Domestic Violence Victim Advocates gives advocates, professionals, and community members essential knowledge from which to launch and inform ethical and transformative advocacy work with survivor populations. The 40-Hour training is open to all and is geared towards individuals and groups looking to volunteer or work with survivors of domestic violence at victim service agencies.

Why 40 hours? New Jersey affords confidentiality privileges to victim counselors who have undergone 40 hours of training and are engaged with victim counselor centers or service providers and who have a primary function of rendering advice, counseling, or assistance to victims of acts of violence. (N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2A:84A-22.13 to 22.16 (2016)).



The training provides a comprehensive overview of domestic violence topics, including in-depth exploration of abuse dynamics in intimate relationships, the effects of abuse on diverse survivor populations, and anti-oppressive perspectives on abuse intervention and healing. It is ADV's mission to support advocates with an expanded and nuanced understanding of the complexity of survivor experiences. It is also our mission to empower advocates to wield their professional and personal power to interrupt abusive behaviors, practices, and societal attitudes maintaining violence and coercive control in our communities, agencies, and systems.



**[Click here to go to our
Online Registration Form](#)**

OR

**Scan the QR
code to register**



Contact Us:

Laura Melendez, MSW, LCSW
Training Technician
Ph: (201) 336-7579
Email: lmelendez@co.bergen.nj.us

Alternatives to Domestic Violence

One Bergen County Plaza, 2nd Floor,
Hackensack, NJ 07601
24-Hour Crisis Hotline: 201-336-7575
Website: www.co.bergen.nj.us/adv

The Spring 2024 training cycle consists of 10 sessions of live virtual instruction via ZOOM on Monday and Wednesdays evenings from March 25, 2024 to April 24, 2024 between 5:30pm-8:30pm (30 hours). In addition to live virtual instruction, participants must complete 10 hours of self-paced independent assignments.

WEEK 1

MON
MARCH
25, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 1

- Orientation to 40-Hour Training
- Dynamics of Domestic Violence Pt 1: Systemic Analysis of Power & Control & Antiviolence Frameworks

WED
MARCH
27, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 2

- Dynamics of Domestic Violence Pt 2: Understanding Survivor Trauma Responses to Violence
- Values & Ethics for Survivor-Centered Advocacy

WEEK 2

MON
APRIL
1, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 3

- Dynamics of Domestic Violence Part 3: The Continuum of Abuse
- Sexual Violence, Rape Culture, & Societal Attitudes on Violence

WED
APRIL
3, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 4

- Anti-Oppressive Work with Survivors Part 1: Consciousness-raising on Oppressive Systems Impacting Survivor Experiences

WEEK 3

MON
APRIL
8, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 5

- Anti-Oppressive Work with Survivors Part 2: Transformative Advocacy with Immigrant, LGBTQIA+, Individuals with Disabilities, & Elder Populations

WED
APRIL
10, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 6

- Crisis Intervention, Housing
- Advocacy, & Safety Planning
- Communication Skills for Victim Advocates

WEEK 4

MON
APRIL
15, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 7

- Abuse Intervention Programs
- Coordinated Community Responses to Coercive Control

WED
APRIL
17, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 8

- Domestic Violence Law: Civil vs Criminal Protections
- Law Enforcement Responses
- Restraining Order Preparation

WEEK 5

MON
APRIL
22, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 9

- Impact of Domestic Violence on Children & Adolescents
- Teen Dating Violence
- Advocacy for Survivor Parents

WED
APRIL
24, 2024
5:30PM-8:30PM

SESSION 10

- Healing Work & Community Interventions with Survivors
- Collective Healing & Liberation for Advocates

IMPORTANT TRAINING INFORMATION

What is the 40-hour domestic violence victim advocate training?

The 40-Hour Domestic Violence Advocate Training is required in the State of New Jersey for anyone who is working in a paid or volunteer position that will provide direct services to victims of domestic violence. To be considered a victim counselor in NJ, you must undergo 40 hours of training and be engaged in any office, institution, or center defined as a victim counselor (according to NJ § 2A:84A-22.14), be under the control of a direct services supervisor of the center, and have the primary function of rendering advice, counseling, or assisting victims of acts of violence (N.J. STAT. ANN. § 2A:84A-22.13 to 22.16 (2016)).

After completing 40 hours of training, graduates shall receive a Certificate of Completion that will enable them to pursue volunteer and employment opportunities working directly with survivors of domestic violence in New Jersey. Alternatives to Domestic Violence (ADV), the lead nonresidential domestic violence agency in Bergen County, offers four trainings a year administered by agency staff, experienced advocates and professionals in the field, and occasional guest speakers. The training is expansive and comprehensive, covering various topics deemed fundamental to rendering effective, survivor-centered advocacy.

The training operates in a cohort model and the virtual sessions are live and synchronous, allowing all participants to actively engage with educators and peers through interactive and dynamic lectures, discussions, group activities, and audiovisual media. Participants must be able to access the virtual training via computer/laptop/iPad. Cameras/webcam are required to be on during entire sessions. Attendance will be monitored.

Who is the training for?

The training and all of its sessions are open to the public. It is intended for a wide range of learners, of all ages and professional backgrounds, who are interested in safely and ethically supporting domestic violence survivors in our communities.

How much does the training cost?

The training is 100% free of cost at this time!

How do I receive credit towards the 40-hour Victim advocate Privilege certification in NJ?

In order to receive credit for the live training sessions, participants must keep their camera on throughout the duration of the training and remain joined to the meeting until the end of the training. To receive credit for self-paced independent assignments, participants must read assigned training materials, complete all assessments, and submit to trainers.

Are the entire 40-hours conducted live or can I do the hours at my own pace?

Our training is composed of 30 hours of live training sessions and 10 hours of self-paced distance learning modules. There are a total of 10 live training sessions, 3 hours in duration, conducted on a set 5 or 6-week cycle. All 10 self-paced distance learning modules become available to participants after they register for the course. Participants can complete the 10 hours of distance learning modules at their pace prior to, during, or after completing the live sessions. We strongly recommend that participants work on the distance learning modules concurrently to live sessions and that they complete the modules no later than 6 months after the conclusion of the live sessions.

Is the live training in-person or online?

The entirety of the live training sessions is conducted online via ZOOM video conference calls while all of the distance learning modules are accessible on our platform. Once registered, participants will be provided with information on the distance learning modules that supplement the core live sessions and count towards the total 40 hours. Participants will have access to these modules prior to beginning the training but it is not required for them to complete them before starting.

Do I have to attend all live online sessions of the training to receive my certificate?

Yes. You are required to attend all sessions of the training and be joined to the ZOOM meeting room the entire duration of the training times. All ZOOM sessions are presented live, and we ask participants to have their cameras on during the training session. We utilize ZOOM attendance records to corroborate our participants' training hours, so it is imperative that participants join the session on time and remain joined to the ZOOM room until the end of the training session. We cannot award certificates to participants who join late, leave early, or for whom we cannot account training time for. If any unforeseeable issues occur, such as technology or Wi-Fi issues, it is very important that participants communicate this to training staff immediately to ensure speedy troubleshooting.

Are there any make-up sessions available if I miss any sessions or part of the training?

Our staff is not able to offer make-up sessions at this time for individuals who miss parts of the training. Please ensure that you are able to attend all live sessions of the training before registering. If participants miss parts of the training due to unforeseeable conflicts or illness, we may be able to provide participants with information of training sessions scheduled outside of the regular 40-Hour Training Program cycles or we may invite them to attend the missing session during the next training cycle.

What can I do with the 40-hour domestic violence victim advocate training certificate?

Completing the 40-Hour training will enable graduates to pursue volunteer or employment opportunities that involve providing direct services with survivors of domestic violence in NJ. The training is also intended to support advocates, counselors, first responders, and other professionals that may not volunteer or work within victim service provider agencies or organizations but that nonetheless interact with and/or influence the lives of survivors of domestic violence. Completion of the 40-Hour training demonstrates a strong commitment to ethical and competent work with survivor populations and serves as the baseline education for many professionals wishing to expand their expertise and skillsets in empowering survivors in various fields and service settings.

Are there any requirements for admission to the training?

The training is open to any participant at least 16 years old. There is no educational requirement to participate in the training.

Can you take the training if you are a survivor of domestic violence or abuse?

Yes, however, we strongly recommend that any current or past clients of ADV wait at least 12 months after completing services with ADV before participating in the training due to the triggering nature of its content. The training is heavily informed by survivor experiences and may trigger discomfort or distress for participants. This caution is also extended to persons who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or family violence. If you are currently doing healing work or therapy, we encourage you to consult with your supportive persons to ensure that you have all you need to care for yourself throughout the process. We also invite you to communicate any concerns that may arise during the program to our training staff at any time.

If I live outside of New Jersey, will this 40-Hour Training Certificate allow me to work with survivors of domestic violence in my state of residence?

Many states have similar training requirements that require prospective advocates to complete specific training hours to afford some type of testimonial privilege to victim advocates. Out-of-state participants are welcome to participate in this training but are strongly encouraged to consult the statutes of their state of residence to confirm whether they will be meeting all criteria to be granted victim counselor privilege or to seek employment with victim service providers. Additionally, this program may or may not meet all the content and/or specific hour requirements in your state so it may be helpful to consult with the governing body for your state, your state's domestic violence coalition, and/or your local domestic violence agency to confirm any training requirements.

MEET ADV'S LEAD TRAINERS

LAURA MELENDEZ, MSW, LCSW TRAINING TECHNICIAN

Laura has 10+ years of experience working and advocating on behalf of youth, families, and survivors of interpersonal and systemic violence as an educator, activist, and counselor. At ADV, Laura provides community outreach & counseling to survivors of domestic violence, oversees the 40-Hour Training Program for Victim Advocates, and recently spearheaded ADV's Youth Empowerment Program for teens. Laura's passion is to facilitate transformative change for individuals and communities through the amplification of liberatory healing practices and holistic modes of resistance against abuse. At her private practice she provides inclusive and LGBTQ+ affirming therapy with specialties in addressing anxiety, racial trauma, acculturative stress, and domestic violence. Laura holds a BA from Cornell University and a MSW from Rutgers University.



SOPHIA TRAPHAGEN, MSW EDUCATOR & SURVIVOR ADVOCATE

Sophia is an advocate, educator, and artist with a profound passion for primary violence prevention and community education. At ADV, Sophia implements educational workshops and trainings, conducts focus group research and program evaluation, and utilizes her skills in digital design to develop educational media and content for ADV. Sophia previously worked as a safehouse Residential Assistant at Center for Hope and Safety where she managed safe house logistics, conducted hotline screenings & intakes, provided direct support services, and housing advocacy to survivors of domestic violence in crisis. Sophia has also worked as a Community Outreach Coordinator for the Bergen County Food Security Task Force managing projects regarding food security in Bergen County, and built relationships with local food pantries and organizations. Sophia received her B.S. in Psychology, a minor in Social Work, and a focus in Gender Studies from Marist College and a Master's in Social Work from Fordham University. Sophia is dedicated to raising awareness, fostering empathy, and empowering survivors by equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools to break the cycle of abuse.



SALOME SIGUA MA, DVS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE TEAM (DVRT) COORDINATOR

Salome has performed multiple roles throughout her seven-year career at ADV since her start as a Hotline Specialist. Salome became a NJCEDV certified Domestic Violence Specialist (DVS) in 2020 and has vast experience in working with both victims and perpetrators of Domestic Violence. In 2021, she joined the Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) as a group facilitator and she is currently coordinating Bergen County's Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) in collaboration with Bergen County police departments. An established researcher, Salome holds an MA in Applied Sociology from William Paterson University and a BA from Tbilisi State University. Salome brings experience in evidence-based interventions and training in research and data analysis. Her career has been driven by a commitment to advocacy, research, and education contributing to the ongoing discourse surrounding domestic violence prevention and support services. Salome works tirelessly to create safe spaces for individuals affected by domestic violence and fostering resilience in those navigating the challenging journey towards healing.



PATRICK LOVAGLIO MSW, LSW ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (AIP) COORDINATOR

Patrick has over a decade of experience working in domestic violence abuse intervention in both in New York and New Jersey. As the Abuse Intervention Program Coordinator at ADV, Patrick's work includes facilitating group sessions, coordinating with mandating entities and treatment providers, and providing community education on domestic abuse intervention. Within the context of abuse intervention, Patrick has a broad range of experience. He was initially trained and supervised by forensic psychologist Dr. Matthew Campbell, has worked under the Emerge Model, and the Duluth, DAIP Model. Patrick has trained in Duluth's DAIP, Addressing Women who Use Violence, and working within a Coordinated Community Response. Patrick holds a Bachelor's degree in English from SUNY Fredonia and a Master's degree in Social Work from Stony Brook University's School of Social Welfare.



STAY CONNECTED WITH ADV'S NEWSLETTER

Interested in more training opportunities? Sign for our email list & newsletter to get interesting news and updates delivered to your inbox, including exciting program updates, new training dates, employment and volunteer opportunities, and community events!



**[Click here to go to our
Newsletter Sign-Up Form](#)**

OR



**Scan the QR code
to sign-up**