



# The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program?**

Domestic violence is a pervasive, often overlooked social crisis. 1 out of every 4 women will experience domestic violence during their lifetimes.<sup>1</sup> In 2005, the Allstate Foundation developed a signature program to help survivors achieve safety and economic stability for themselves and their families. Financial security is the number one predictor of whether or not a victim of domestic violence will get free and stay free from abuse.<sup>2</sup> The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program provides comprehensive programming to empower domestic violence survivors with the resources, knowledge and skills they need to achieve financial security.

As the corporate foundation of a financial services company, The Allstate Foundation has unique expertise and resources to provide economic empowerment options to survivors of domestic violence. In collaboration with the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Inc. (NNEDV), The Allstate Foundation connects survivors and advocates of domestic violence to financial skills and knowledge. NNEDV is a social change organization committed to ending domestic violence by working with advocacy coalitions nationwide. With NNEDV, The Allstate Foundation is working to make our communities safer and more vital.

### **Why is The Allstate Foundation taking leadership on the issue of domestic violence?**

The Allstate Foundation is committed to helping all members of society feel protected and prepared for their futures. Over 1.35 million American women and their children access domestic violence services each year.<sup>3</sup> The Allstate Foundation believes that targeted resources to end domestic violence will affect the long-term social change that is crucial to building safe, vital communities.

Financial security is the number one predictor of whether or not a victim of domestic violence will get free and stay free from abuse. Yet, few programs focus their efforts on survivors of economic abuse and issues of financial stability for survivors. The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program aims to fill this gap. No other corporation is working with both survivors and advocates to address these economic constraints. The program provides knowledge and skills to connect survivors to resources that will help them be safer and more financially secure.

### **What are the key components of The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program?**

Through its Domestic Violence Program, The Allstate Foundation is a catalyst for social change within our local communities. The program provides a holistic network of financial and personal empowerment services. In collaboration with NNEDV, The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program focuses on enabling domestic violence survivors to transition to more stable and financially secure lives through:

- **Direct services.** The Allstate Foundation provides support through the *Moving Ahead Through Financial Management Curriculum* and training materials; community volunteerism by Allstate employees, agents and agency staff; and grant programs that allow service providers to address the complex, broad and often immediate range of survivors' needs.
- **Thought leadership.** The Allstate Foundation supports domestic violence advocates and service providers through national conferences and research. And, The Foundation promotes understanding and support of the issue among lawmakers on a national and local level.
- **Public awareness.** Through social media and celebrity partnerships, The Allstate Foundation is working to raise public awareness and change societal attitudes about domestic violence and economic abuse.

### **How large is the financial commitment that The Allstate Foundation is making to its Domestic Violence Program?**

The Allstate Foundation has established an ongoing multi-million dollar commitment to address domestic violence issues. Since 2005, The Allstate Foundation has awarded over \$15 million to support domestic violence survivors and the nonprofits that serve them. In 2009, The Allstate Foundation committed more than \$4 million in total domestic violence funding – including \$700,000 to support development, distribution, and implementation of the *Moving Ahead Through Financial Management Curriculum*.

### **Who is eligible to receive funding from The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program?**

The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program continually evaluates how it can best provide support to those affected by abuse. It currently offers funding to national, state and local organizations. To date, funding has been provided to a diverse and varied group of nonprofits including state domestic violence coalitions, job training organizations, social service agencies, legal advocacy groups, and local domestic violence service providers.. Local funding is provided through The Allstate Foundation in Allstate's 13 regional offices and Allstate New Jersey. As new funding opportunities become available, The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program will announce the criteria and priorities for specific grants. For more information regarding grant availability and eligibility, contact Madeline Halperin-Robinson at 847.402.7586 or [mhalp@allstate.com](mailto:mhalp@allstate.com)

### **What is The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program *Moving Ahead Through Financial Management Curriculum* Grant Program?**

A key component of The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program is its *Moving Ahead Curriculum*. The curriculum is a comprehensive package. It provides financial tools and information designed to (1) empower victims

of domestic violence to achieve economic self-sufficiency, and (2) educate and train advocates and Allstate volunteers to work with domestic violence victims as they move forward on the path to financial security.

The curriculum includes approaches for locating and accessing local, state and national personal safety and financial resources. To address safety concerns, information on how individuals can protect themselves personally and financially while remaining in an abusive relationship and after leaving an abusive relationship is also included. In addition, the curriculum provides tools to help people of all incomes and earning power work toward long-term economic empowerment. Finally, the curriculum provides strategies for safety including:

- Addressing the challenges of ending a financial relationship with an abusive partner.
- Accessing economic empowerment resources used nationwide, including individual development accounts, micro-enterprise development programs and emergency assistance funds.
- Dealing with the misuse of financial records.
- Working through the challenges of building or rebuilding credit.

### **What is the Moving Ahead Direct Assistance Fund?**

The Moving Ahead Direct Assistance Fund helps survivors of domestic violence access education and job training opportunities. It provides individual grants to individual survivors of up to \$1,000 to help with the costs of tuition, school supplies, books, public transportation and other expenses that allow them to finish school, secure and keep a job, and support their families. The Moving Ahead Direct Assistance Fund supports career-advancement activities such as professional licenses, workforce tools and additional job training. Domestic violence service providers may apply for grants on behalf of survivors. The Allstate Foundation has contributed over \$1.5 million to the fund since its launch in June of 2006.

### **What is The Allstate Foundation National Poll on Domestic Violence?**

The Allstate Foundation conducted The National Poll on Domestic Violence in order to better understand the national crisis and learn more about how Americans view the issue. In addition, results help determine the resources and tools needed to best assist in economically financially victims.

The 2009 Allstate Foundation National Poll on Domestic Violence conducted explores domestic violence, its impact on survivors, and general public understanding of economic abuse as it relates to domestic violence:

- 8 out of 10 Americans link the term “economic abuse” to Wall Street woes or irresponsible spending.
- 71% of Americans know people who are or have been victims of domestic violence. However, nearly 70% do not connect domestic violence and economic abuse.
- 67% of respondents had not heard of the term “economic abuse” prior to taking the survey.
  - 86% of Americans do not associate economic abuse with domestic violence.
  - 77% associate economic abuse as corporate greed or irresponsible personal spending.
  - Only 14% of respondents defined economic abuse as a spouse or partner controlling money to maintain power in a relationship.

The majority of Americans report that the biggest barrier to leaving an abusive relationship is financial stability.

- 44% of respondents ranked having enough money to support oneself as the most difficult barrier to leaving an abusive relationship.
- 52% agreed that the main reason a person stays in a violent relationship is because they do not have the money to leave.

Most Americans believe the current economic downturn has especially hurt victims of domestic violence.

- 76% of Americans believe the poor economy has made it more difficult for victims of domestic violence.
- 66% believe it has caused an increase in domestic violence.

For full survey results, visit [ClickToEmpower.org](http://ClickToEmpower.org).

### **How is The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program different from other domestic violence programs?**

The Allstate Foundation holds great respect for the many outstanding advocates, political, business and philanthropic leaders who have worked so hard to support and improve the lives of survivors of domestic violence. The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program works to contribute to this national effort. Allstate protects millions of people from life's uncertainties and helps them prepare for the future. The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program leverages the commitment of Allstate employees and their collective financial expertise and resources to get victims and survivors on the path to economic security..

### **What is The Allstate Foundation?**

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation. Allstate and The Allstate Foundation sponsor community initiatives to promote safe and vital communities; tolerance, inclusion, and diversity; and economic empowerment. The Allstate Foundation believes in the financial potential of every individual and in helping America's families achieve their American dream. For additional information, visit [www.allstate.com/foundation](http://www.allstate.com/foundation).

### **What is the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Inc.?**

In 2005, The Allstate Foundation joined with the National Network to End Domestic Violence Inc. (NNEDV) and their membership of state domestic violence coalitions to provide a comprehensive network of resources and direct services to help economically empower survivors of domestic violence. NNEDV is a leading voice for domestic violence victims and their allies. Its members include the 56 state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. It works closely with them to understand the needs of domestic violence victims, survivors, and service providers. NNEDV has been a premiere national organization advancing the movement against domestic violence for the past 15 years, after leading efforts among domestic violence experts and survivors in urging Congress to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994. To learn more about NNEDV, visit [nnedv.org](http://nnedv.org).

### **Is there a website I can visit for more information?**

To learn more about The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program, visit [ClickToEmpower.org](http://ClickToEmpower.org).

## Who can I contact for more information about The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program?

To learn more about The Allstate Foundation, visit [allstate.com/foundation](http://allstate.com/foundation). For more information on The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program, visit [ClickToEmpower.org](http://ClickToEmpower.org) or contact:

The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program:

*For general information:*

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*For information regarding grant availability:*

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If you are a survivor of domestic violence or are currently experiencing domestic violence, please contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline to receive support and discuss your options at 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

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<sup>1</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Justice; U.S. Department of Justice – *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*; July 2000

<sup>2</sup> Integrating Asset-Building Strategies into Domestic Violence Advocacy,” Clearinghouse Review, *Journal of Poverty Law and Policy*, July-August 2009 rpt. in Deborah K. Anderson & Daniel G. Saunders, “Leaving an Abusive Partner: An Empirical Review of Predictors, the Process of Leaving, and the Psychological Well-being,” *4 Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 163 (2003); Ola W. Barnett, “Why Battered Women Do Not Leave: Part 1: External Inhibiting Factors Within Society,” *1 Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 343 (2000).

<sup>3</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; *Costs of intimate partner violence against women in the United States*; April 2003