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RICADV ANNUAL REPORT



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Progreso Latino

YWCA Rhode Island

REFLECTION

2025 was filled with uncertainty. Many days brought new unknowns and obstacles that threatened the safety of survivors and the sustainability of our work. Despite these challenges, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) remained committed to illuminating survivors' needs and to helping guide a path forward.

Throughout the year, we saw powerful moments of collective strength. Advocates, partners, and survivors came together, navigating difficult terrain with shared purpose. Our work is rooted in connection, and in these moments, that connection proved essential. We're a coalition because we know that together our impact is stronger.

In June 2025, RICADV stepped forward as the lead plaintiff in a nationwide lawsuit challenging harmful federal restrictions that threatened funding for domestic violence services. This was not a decision we made lightly. These restrictions threatened to undo decades of progress and limit access to critical resources for survivors. We knew we needed to act, even when it meant wading into uncharted waters, and meet the moment with clarity and resolve.

That decision was met with widespread support, leading to preliminary relief, and protecting services for survivors. We reached this milestone by standing in solidarity with 16 other state coalitions, underscoring the importance of collective action. Out of this unstable time came a powerful reminder of what is possible when we move together with intention.

In moments like these, clarity does not always come easily. What guided us forward was not certainty, but connection. Across Rhode Island and beyond, we were part of a broader network of organizations navigating the same shifting conditions, each working to hold steady and support the communities we serve. There was a shared understanding that no single organization could carry this alone. By staying connected, aligned, and responsive to one another, we were able to move through a challenging landscape with greater strength and purpose, reinforcing the ties that make this work possible.

Looking ahead, RICADV remains steadfast in deepening partnerships, and continuing to show up for all survivors across Rhode Island. This past year reaffirmed that our work cannot be done alone. Together, we will continue building a safer, more just future.



Lucy Rios

Executive Director



Jhamiojie

Board President

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RICADV ended the fiscal year on June 30, 2025, in a strong financial position, with a positive change in unrestricted net assets from operations of **\$33,671**.

Total revenue and support amounted to **\$6,059,777**, with the following distribution by funding source.

77%

Federal grants
& contracts

5%

Foundations, corporate
support, individual donations,
community groups, dues, and
training fees

18%

State of
Rhode Island

Total expenses were **\$5,979,284**.

Notably, 69% (**\$4,119,895**) of these funds were passed through to member agencies, directly supporting services for victims of domestic violence across the state.

RICADV conducts an annual audit in accordance with U.S. Office of Management and Budget Uniform Grant Guidance.

MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Family Violence Option Advocacy Program

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Social Services Block Grant

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, Coalition Formula Grant

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, Grants for Battered Women's Shelters

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (DELTA grant program)

U.S. Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Act, Coalition Formula Grant

State of Rhode Island, Domestic Violence Prevention

State of Rhode Island, Public Safety Grants Administration Office, Violence Against Women Act

State of Rhode Island Judiciary

Davis-Tennon Foundation

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Grant Program

Cesario Family Charitable Foundation

General Federation of Women's Clubs

National Network to End Domestic Violence Allstate Foundation Economic Justice Grant and Employee Wellbeing Programs

Rhode Island Bar Foundation, IOLTA Program

Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

State of Rhode Island, Designated Grant, Domestic Violence Prevention/Services for Children Who Witness

State of Rhode Island, Public Safety Grants Administration Office, Victims of Crime Act

U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Children and Youth & Engaging Men (CYEM) Program and Justice for Families Program

ANNUAL STATISTICS 2025



individuals received support



adults and children stayed in shelters and safe homes



adults and children lived in transitional housing



victims received court advocacy for restraining orders



individuals received counseling services



children who witnessed domestic violence received services



services were provided by advocates



Helpline/hotline calls were answered

These numbers reflect the ongoing need for comprehensive, accessible services across Rhode Island.



Services Provided	Clients	Occurrences
Assistance with Victim Compensation	116	140
Child Care Advocacy	21	50
Civil Legal Advocacy	284	412
Criminal Legal Advocacy	1,266	2,587
Crisis Intervention	897	1,672
Housing Advocacy	69	1,080
Immigration Assistance	3	9
Individual Advocacy	6,978	23,326
Individual Counseling	437	3,332
Language Services	19	24
Law Enforcement Interview	661	1,022
Criminal Justice Process Information	5,296	14,570
Child Care	30	133
Transportation	43	268
TOTAL	16,120	48,625
Group Services (not individual victim services)	141	947

Data Definitions

Clients represent the individuals who received each service. Individuals may be counted in more than one service category if they received multiple services. (Ex. Out of the 9,661 individual clients served, 391 received Civil Legal Advocacy services.)

Occurrences represent the total number of times each service was provided. (Ex. 391 individual clients received Civil Legal Advocacy services a total of 582 times.)

Note: The client total may exceed the number of individuals served, as individuals may be counted in more than one service category when they receive multiple services.

NAVIGATING THE TIDES

In 2025, RICADV served as the lead plaintiff in two major federal lawsuits aimed at protecting critical resources for survivors. As new restrictions were placed on essential funding streams, the potential impact was immediate, threatening programs that survivors across Rhode Island and the country rely on for safety, support, and stability.

In June, RICADV joined a nationwide group of state coalitions in filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Justice to challenge unlawful conditions placed on grants through the Office on Violence Against Women. These restrictions sought to limit how organizations could operate and who we could serve, putting communities most vulnerable to violence at greater risk. Service providers were put in an impossible position, forced to choose between complying with directives that conflicted with their missions or risking the loss of vital funding.

In July, RICADV again served as the lead plaintiff in a second lawsuit challenging similar restrictions imposed through the Departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development. These conditions extended across multiple systems, threatening programs that support survivors, LGBTQ+ youth, and people who are unhoused, putting access to life-saving services at risk nationwide.

These decisions were difficult. After much consideration and thoughtful consultation with member agencies, board members, and advocates across the network, however, we understood what needed to be done. In a time marked by uncertainty, the path forward was not always clear, but the responsibility to act was. RICADV continued onward with the understanding that remaining silent would carry its own consequences.

Throughout both cases, we remained committed to keeping our community informed while navigating the legal process. We are deeply grateful to our

legal partners at Democracy Forward, Jacobson Lawyers Group, the National Women's Law Center, the ACLU Foundation of Rhode Island, and the Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island, whose expertise, guidance, and steady support were invaluable throughout this process.

In both lawsuits, the courts granted preliminary injunctions, halting the implementation of these harmful restrictions while litigation continues. These early outcomes preserved access to funding and ensured that our organizations could continue our vital work without disruption — not only for the plaintiffs in these cases, but for every eligible grant applicant across the country.

These cases reflect the importance of collective advocacy and the impact of working in partnership, especially in turbulent times. Alongside organizations nationwide, RICADV helped protect the systems that survivors depend on and remained focused on ensuring continued access to care and support for all survivors. In darker times, when we shine together, uncertainties that lie ahead appear less daunting and our communities feel safer and more connected. Together, we ensured the protection of systems survivors depend on for care, support, and guidance. That is the power of a coalition.



STRATEGIC PLAN

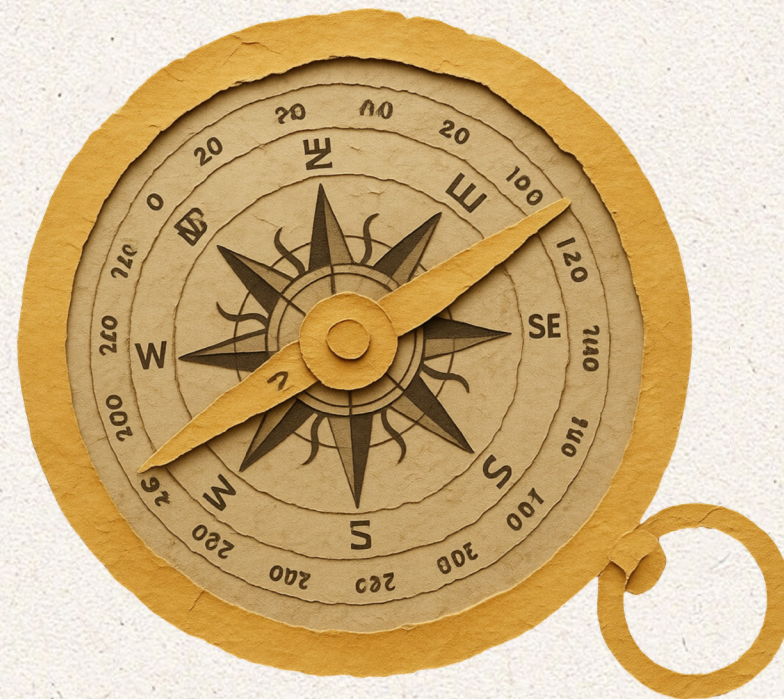
In a year defined by both challenge and growth, RICADV turned inward to reflect, listen, and plan for our future. The development of our new three-year strategic plan created an opportunity to pause and consider not only where we are, but where we are going.

Over the course of several months, staff, Board members, member agencies, survivors, and community partners came together to share insights, identify priorities, and shape a collective vision for the future. These conversations reaffirmed what has always been at the core of RICADV's work for more than 45 years: that lasting impact is built through strong relationships, shared knowledge, and a responsiveness to our communities.

The resulting strategic plan outlines four key areas of focus: (1) expanding our reach and influence, (2) advancing a culture of equity and belonging, (3) strengthening alignment across our network, (4) and enhancing long-term sustainability. Together, these priorities reflect both the strengths of our organization and the realities of the environment we are navigating.

More than a roadmap, this plan is a reflection of our values in action. It centers survivor voices, prioritizes collaboration, and acknowledges the need to remain adaptable in the face of ongoing uncertainty. It also affirms RICADV's role as a convener, connector, and leader within Rhode Island and beyond.

As we move forward, this strategic plan will guide our work while allowing space for emergence and growth. Grounded in community and shaped by shared vision, it offers a steady framework as we continue working toward a future free from domestic violence.



PUBLIC AWARENESS

RICADV's communications work centered on public awareness, meaningful conversation, and the relationships that make both possible. We approached this work boldly, stepping forward in tumultuous times with clarity and care. Whether responding to tragic events, engaging with cultural and topical moments, or uplifting progress, our goal was to create space for community dialogue while keeping survivors at the center.

Relationship-building was not just a value, but a strategy. We leaned into partnerships across our coalition and beyond, strengthening the connections that allow this work to grow. From expanding the "Roses Are Red" art contest into a full gallery night hosted in Young Voices' space, to collaborating with the General Federation of Women's Clubs on the first ever Mr. Rhody fundraiser, these efforts broadened our reach and deepened engagement.

Our communications remained a steady, visible presence across our communities navigating uncertainty. Through graphics, media, and storytelling, we worked to ensure that information was accessible, relevant,

and responsive. In a year that required resilience, we remained committed to fostering conversation, strengthening relationships, and helping communities move forward together.



POLICY AND ADVOCACY

In 2025, RICADV focused on protecting and strengthening resources for survivors at both the state and federal levels.

At the Rhode Island State House, our advocacy efforts successfully maintained level funding for domestic violence programs in the FY26 budget, preserving critical services despite anticipated cuts. While the Abuse Survivor Early Lease Termination bill did not pass, following strong advocacy and testimony from survivors and partners, this work will continue in the next legislative session.

At the federal level, RICADV partnered with national organizations to submit public comment opposing proposed changes that could allow certain domestic abusers to regain firearm access. Advocacy efforts emphasized the importance of maintaining protections that prioritize survivor safety.



RICADV also participated in the annual Advocacy Days with the National Network to End Domestic Violence in Washington, D.C., meeting with Rhode Island’s congressional delegation to advocate for sustained funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).

In addition, we celebrated renewed Justice for Families funding, which supports Safe Havens, a program operated by Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County. Safe Havens provides supervised visitation and safe exchanges for families impacted by domestic violence, giving children who witness abuse a secure and structured space to build healthier relationships over time.



LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

RICADV worked with the RI Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Curriculum Committee to host a two-day statewide training on Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) or “Red Flag Orders.” The committee partnered with the John Hopkins University ERPO Resource Center, bringing together national trainers and attendees representing various police departments, court systems, and other criminal justice partners.

Additionally, the committee hosted and facilitated domestic violence/sexual assault (DV/SA) training statewide for prosecutors, solicitors, and attorney generals. This training was implemented to satisfy requirements outlined under RI General Law 8-8.1-3.

Our Law Enforcement Training & Community Engagement Manager coordinated a total of 341.5 hours of DV/SA training for law enforcement statewide. These hours included trainings facilitated at the various police academies, DV/SA in-services for 20 police departments, and additional systems partner trainings. These trainings are facilitated by members of the RI VAWA Curriculum Committee.



PREVENTION

In 2025, the RICADV's prevention work continued to evolve, centering restorative, humanizing, and community-driven approaches. This work recognizes that preventing violence requires strong partnerships, shared accountability, and sustained community engagement.

Through initiatives such as Ten Men and the Deborah DeBare Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (DVPF), the RICADV fostered community-led efforts that promoted healthy relationships, built safe and supportive environments, and challenged harmful norms. Additionally, an increased interest in the DVPF grant program and other prevention funding reflected growing engagement across the state.

Throughout the year, the RICADV convened the State Leadership Team for Intimate Partner Violence Prevention, bringing together partners to advance Rhode Island's primary prevention strategies through collaboration and shared learning. We also contributed to our national community of practice to sustain primary prevention efforts across the national landscape.

Now more than ever, when public health and other systems our communities depend on are being targeted, the RICADV is dedicated to addressing the root causes of domestic violence and improving community conditions so that all people can lead safe, healthy lives.



SOAR (SISTERS OVERCOMING ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS)

The survivor task force SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships) continued to lead with courage, using lived experience to shape conversations, inform systems, and strengthen community understanding of domestic violence.

Throughout the year, SOAR members showed up in powerful and visible ways. They shared their stories in classrooms, at the State House, in media interviews, and at trainings for professionals across sectors, ensuring that survivor voices would be heard in spaces where decisions are made. From advocating for the V.I.C.T.I.M. Act and testifying in support of the RI Survivor Early Lease Termination bill, to speaking directly with social work students, nurses, and community partners, SOAR members helped bridge the gap between current policy and lived experience.

This work was both intentional and deeply personal. Whether participating in public awareness events like the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month gallery, tabling at campus events, or holding space at the annual vigil, SOAR members continued to foster connection, remembrance, and dialogue across communities.

The year also brought meaningful recognition for this work. SOAR was honored with a \$50,000 donation from the Davis-Tennon Foundation, founded by actors Viola Davis and Julius Tennon. This investment affirms the importance of survivor-led advocacy and collectively lifting our voices to create change.







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the members
of our staff and Board who transitioned
from RICADV in 2025:

Alex Kithes

Mateo Mordecai-An Mouat

Damaris Roman

Janie Woodard

IN MEMORIAM

Danielle Arruda

Felix Arruda

Adele Arruda

Luiz Cortes-Terron

Kimberly Pieranunzi

Donald Roderick Jr.

Morgan Lynn Boss

MEMBERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:



CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIANS | CROSSROADS RI | FAMILY SERVICE OF RI
MCAULEY MINISTRIES | PROGRESO LATINO | YWCA RI

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