



Delaware's Family Justice Center Initiative

Where Healing Begins: Delaware's Empowerment Hub for Families

WHAT IS A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER?

A Family Justice Center (FJC) provides one place for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, and human trafficking to receive life-saving services from both non-profit and governmental agencies currently spread throughout their community.

The FJC model creates a collaborative, family-friendly, victim-centered, trauma-informed, hope-centered environment, in which a multidisciplinary team of professionals works together in one, centralized location to provide coordinated services to survivors. The framework brings the services together for survivors and their children, allowing them to go to one place – as opposed to multiple locations – for all available services, and creates a community for survivors long after the crisis is over.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER?

Domestic Violence is a significant public health issue that has individual and societal costs.

- About 75% of female Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) survivors and 48% of male IPV survivors experience some form of injury related to IPV. IPV can also result in death.
- Data from U.S. crime reports suggest that about 1 in 5 homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner, and over half of female homicide victims in the United States are killed by a current or former male intimate partner.
- FJCs more efficiently and effectively serve survivors and their children, while also encouraging collaboration among co-located system-based and non-profit advocates. Better outcomes for survivors and their children contribute to a safer society and break the cycle of violence. The FJC Model has been endorsed by the federal government and Office of Violence Against Women as a best practice, based upon improved outcomes across multiple factors – health outcomes and reduction of ACE scores, prosecution rates, and homicide reduction. Creating FJCs in Delaware will reduce the cost of interpersonal violence – both the human cost and the societal, economic cost – and break the cycle of violence for future Delawareans.

SURVIVOR VOICES

“ Leaving my abuser was daunting, but my support system gave me the courage. The Family Justice Center provides a support system of services and advocates whose goals are to empower survivors to break free and thrive.

Denise, DCADV Weaver Task Force Coordinator

“ I had to tell my story more than 10 times. It was so hard to keep reliving it, but I knew I had to do it because everything happens in silos. That's why the FJC is so needed here.

Survivor, DVCC Focus Group 2022

Societal Costs of Intimate Partner Violence¹

The estimated intimate partner violence lifetime cost was \$103,767 per female victim and \$23,414 per male victim, or a population economic burden of nearly \$3.6 trillion (2014 US\$) over victims' lifetimes.

This estimate included \$2.1 trillion (59% of the total) in medical costs, \$1.3 trillion (37%) in lost productivity among victims and perpetrators, \$73 billion (2%) in criminal justice activities, and \$62 billion (2%) in other costs, including victim property loss or damage.

Government sources pay an estimated \$1.3 trillion (37%) of the lifetime economic burden.

The CDC estimates that Delaware incurs a lifetime economic burden cost of \$11 Billion based on 103,000 female victims and 28,000 male victims²



1. Lifetime cost per victim estimates: Peterson, C., Kearns, M. C., McIntosh, W. L., Estefan, L. F., Nicolaidis, C., McCollister, K. E., et al. (2018). Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults. *Am J Prev Med*, 55(4), 433-444.

2. See tinyurl.com/CDCNISVS or click [here](#).



Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

TIMELINE

<p>Fall 2022 DVCC obtained funding to contract with an architectural expert</p>	
<p>October 2022 DVCC held Strategic Planning sessions</p>	
<p>January 2023 Tevebaugh Architecture was selected to conduct the FJC Feasibility Study</p>	
<p>April 2023 Visited New York City FJC sites both virtually and in-person</p>	
<p>May 2023 FJC Steering Committee voted to place the FJC governance under the Criminal Justice Council</p>	
<p>June 2023 County-specific Visioning Sessions were held with partners & stakeholders</p>	
<p>September 2023 December 2023 January 2024 Visited FJCs in Ft. Worth, TX, New Orleans, LA, and 3 in Contra Costa County, CA</p>	
<p>March 2024 FJC Enabling bill filed in Legislative Hall, HB340</p>	
<p>June 2024 HB340 passed in the legislature with it's fiscal note</p>	
<p>October 2024 Governor John Carney signed HB340 (See image)</p>	
<p>November 2024 Inaugural FJC Council meeting held</p>	
<p>December 2024 Feasibility Study is completed by Tevebaugh Architecture</p>	



HB340 was signed in October 2024. Pictured from left to right: Angela Seguin, Gov. John Carney, Family Court Chief Judge Michael Newell, Libby Neuner, Laura Graham, Attorney General Kathy Jennings, and State Rep. Krista Griffith.

NEXT STEPS

- Hire the Executive Director and Planner IV
- Seek state, federal and foundation funding to renovate FJC sites identified by the Feasibility Study (listed below) and to fund ongoing support for FJCs
- Continue to identify potential FJC sites in Kent County
- Begin operations and delivery of services as Family Justice Centers

*Delaware FJC Options	Address	Square Feet	Renovation Costs and Needs	Site Advantages
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Woodlawn Trustees	718-720 North Church Street, Wilmington, DE 19805	6,552 sq.ft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total = \$817,041 for office space • Create parking lot for +/- 6 spaces • Fire Sprinkler system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 residential apartments for transitional housing • On a DART bus line • Existing parking spaces
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Sussex Stockley Center	26351 Patriots Way, Cottage C-1, Georgetown, DE 19947	9,000 sq.ft. per cottage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total= \$7.1 million • Structural & Cosmetic • Interior Renovations • HVAC, Data/tech Wiring • Run gas line to building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-owned • No rent, utility or maint. costs • Overall, economical to renovate/re-purpose • Will be on a DART bus line • Ample Parking • Secured Campus • Growth Opportunity: second cottage available • Other services on-campus • Outside the City of Georgetown

*Appropriate sites have not yet been identified for Kent County or outside the City of Wilmington in New Castle County. We continue to explore options for later implementation.