

Advocates' Institute



What is it?

The Advocates' Institute forms the foundation of NCCADV's training program. Intended for new advocates, and those that feel they need a refresher, the Institute is designed to build skills and competencies around the dynamics of domestic violence and best practices in serving survivors of all ages and identities. The Institute also provides a brief introduction to prevention of domestic violence, so advocates are prepared to seek out further training in that area. The Institute curriculum is regularly updated to include the newest information and cutting edge practices and was completely revamped for 2017!

The overarching goal of the Institute is to increase the quality of services provided to survivors across the state. Helping advocates increase their skills results in higher confidence and increased creativity. Supporting organizations in their work can increase the longevity of staff tenure and the quality of workplace experiences.

NCCADV uses the Advocates' Institute as an important vehicle to convey its priorities and beliefs about the best way to provide services to survivors of domestic violence regardless of their identities or experiences.

What topics are covered?

- Dynamics of Domestic Violence
- Best Practices in Advocacy
- Empowerment
- Active Listening & Crisis Intervention
- Confidentiality
- Risk Assessment & Safety planning
- Introduction to Legal Options
- Introduction to Compliance of Services
- The Impact of Trauma
- Health Impacts of Domestic Violence
- Cultural Relevance & Domestic Violence
- Serving Survivors from Diverse Backgrounds
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- Teen Dating Violence
- Technology & Domestic Violence
- Setting Boundaries & Self-Care
- How to Talk About DV in Your Community
- Working with System Partners

When is it?

The Advocates' Institute has traditionally been offered twice each year. Due to popular demand, we will be offering it three times in 2017. And due to special request from our members, we will be offering it for the first time in five consecutive days in the Spring. The 2017 dates are listed here.

| Spring | Summer | Fall (tentatively) |
|--|---|--|
| February 27 th – March 3 rd | June 6 th – 7 th June 20 th July 11 th – 12 th | October 10 th – 12 th October 24 th – 25 th |

Do I have to attend all 5 days?

Yes, we ask that participants attend the entire Institute. Exceptions can be made if a participant has attended an NCCADV training covering the given topic(s) in the previous year. For example, if a participant attended the Domestic Violence Basics training in the previous month, they may be exempt from the first day of the Advocates' Institute. To discuss possible exceptions, please contact Rebecca Swofford, NCCADV's Training Specialist, at rswofford@nccadv.org or 919-956-9124 x 225.

Where is it?

Each 5-day Advocates' Institute takes place at a single location. That location varies between different Institutes, as NCCADV makes every effort possible to host the Institute at different locations each time to allow the most participants the opportunity to attend. Generally each year, NCCADV hosts one Institute in the Eastern part of NC and another one in the Western part of NC. In 2017, we will also be hosting an Institute in the Triangle (Durham) in the Spring. The Summer Institute will be hosted in Rocky Mount and the Fall Institute will tentatively be hosted in Lincolnnton.

Who should attend the Advocates' Institute?

The Advocates' Institute is designed and structured to train victim/survivor advocates at community-based domestic violence programs, colleges and universities, and other organizations. Advocates and their role are at the center of the Institute. If you're interested in domestic violence training, but are not a victim/survivor advocate, check out [NCCADV's training calendar](#) for other training options.

Why should I attend the Advocates' Institute?

NCCADV is North Carolina's leading trainer on domestic violence. NCCADV provides trainings on a variety of topics to domestic violence service providers, colleges/universities, and allied professionals including law enforcement agencies, courts, faith based organizations, and business leaders. The purpose of NCCADV's trainings is to improve the quality of services to domestic violence survivors, improve the capacity to engage in primary prevention, and to ensure consistency with services across the state.

The North Carolina Council for Women (CFW) requires that all direct service providers at Domestic Violence Organizations in the state receive a minimum of 20 hours of subject specific training prior to providing any services for clients. CFW also requires all hotline staff and volunteers to receive a minimum of 20 hours of training on specific duties. Additionally, all employees and volunteers providing direct services should receive 20 hours of training annually. NCCADV's Advocates' Institute gives participants a total of 30 training hours, which is sufficient to cover a year's worth of required training hours for each training participant.

How do I get certified?

NCCADV offers an optional certification through the Advocates' Institute. In order to receive certification, participants must attend all 5 days of the Institute and take a certification test. The test consists of a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. The certification test costs \$100.

What are the benefits of certification?

- Recognition of specialized domestic violence victim service training for the individual advocate and the organization that they represent
- Recognition of professional skills and competence in domestic violence response for the individual advocate and the organization that they represent
- Opportunity to network with advocates from across the state
- Commitment to professional development with an increased value to current and future employers

How much does it cost?

Attendance at NCCADV's Advocates' Institute is free for members and costs \$250 for non-members. For information on how to become an NCCADV member, visit our [website](#). The optional certification test costs \$100 for all participants, regardless of membership.

How do I register?

To register for the Advocates' Institute, visit our [training page](#).

How do I find more information?

For more information contact Rebecca Swofford, NCCADV's Training Specialist, at rswofford@nccadv.org or 919-956-9124 x 225.