



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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### **Connecticut One of Ten States to Kickoff Program Aimed at Helping High Risk Domestic Violence Victims**

**Hartford, CT** – The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and 8 member agencies are proud to announce the recent kick off the new Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). LAP is an innovative partnership with law enforcement from across the state to implement nationally recognized risk assessment strategies to better serve domestic violence victims in the greatest danger. Connecticut is one of only ten states nationwide selected to participate in this program.

The program, which is a result of collaboration between CCADV and the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC), kicked off in 14 towns across the state, including Manchester, New Britain, Waterbury, Norwalk and New London. Modeled after the LAP program first piloted in Maryland, it is a two-pronged intervention process that makes use of a specialized lethality assessment instrument and an accompanying protocol. Trained police on the scene of a domestic violence call assess a victim's risk for serious injury or death using the one-of-a-kind Lethality Assessment Screen. Officers immediately link "high risk" victims to the community-based domestic violence program hotline in their area with the goal of quickly linking the victim to available services.

"The Lethality Assessment Program will provide much needed enhancements to the state's response to high risk domestic violence victims," said Karen Jarmoc, CCADV Executive Director. "We are grateful to have this opportunity to partner with local law enforcement and are confident that this proven national model will allow for a more coordinated and cooperative relationship that helps to engage victims in available services."

Examples of lethality factors include: has the abuser ever threatened to kill the victim; has the abuser ever used or tried to use a weapon against the victim; or has the victim recently separated from or divorced the abuser.

Individuals from the Maryland LAP Training and Technical Assistance Project trained domestic violence advocates and law enforcement earlier this year on the life-saving intervention process. Maryland's LAP project is credited with reducing their state's domestic violence-related homicide rate by 40%. The Connecticut Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee reports that over the past ten years our state has seen an annual average of 16 homicides resulting from intimate partner violence. CCADV and its 18 member programs serve more than 54,000 victims of domestic violence annually.

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The following is the list of local domestic violence service agencies and law enforcement agencies participating in LAP:

Domestic Violence Agency	Catchment Area	Police Department
Center for Domestic Violence Services at BHcare	Valley	Shelton Police Dept.
		Ansonia Police Dept.
Center for Domestic Violence Services at BHcare	Greater New Haven & Shoreline	North Haven Police Dept.
		Guilford Police Dept.
Domestic Abuse Services, YWCA Greenwich	Greenwich	Greenwich Police Dept.
Interval House	Hartford	Manchester Police Dept.
Prudence Crandall Center	New Britain	New Britain Police Dept.
		Plainville Police Dept.
Safe Futures (formerly Women’s Center of Southeastern CT)	New London	New London Police Dept.
		Groton City Police Dept.
		Norwich Police Dept.
		Waterford Police Dept.
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	Norwalk/Stamford	Norwalk Police Dept.
Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury	Waterbury	Waterbury Police Dept.

For additional information on LAP, please visit:

[www.ctcadv.org/AboutCCADV/OurProjects/LethalityAssessmentProgram/tabid/315/Default.aspx](http://www.ctcadv.org/AboutCCADV/OurProjects/LethalityAssessmentProgram/tabid/315/Default.aspx).

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*The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc. is a membership organization made up of the state’s 18 domestic violence agencies. Help is available to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each agency offers free services to victims including a toll-free hotline, safety through shelter, counseling and support groups, and by assisting in securing a restraining order. If you or someone you know needs support, call the statewide free and confidential hotline at **888-774-2900**. For more information about CCADV, visit us online at [www.ctcadv.org](http://www.ctcadv.org).*