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16TH ANNUAL FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
AND **2ND ANNUAL CAPITOL HILL DAYS**

MAY 19 - 21, 2026

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Family Justice Center Alliance is a program of

ALLIANCE for
HOPE
INTERNATIONAL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 16th Annual Family Justice Center Leadership Summit and 2nd Annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Days brought together 63 Family Justice Center leaders and partners from 14 states and Bonaire, Netherlands, in Washington, D.C., from May 19-21, 2026. Hosted by Alliance for HOPE International, the event combined a full-day Leadership Summit, a Senate Forum on Coordinated Community Response & Survivor Safety, and two days of congressional advocacy focused on strengthening support for survivors, children, and communities impacted by violence.

This gathering occurred during a pivotal moment for victim services in America. Domestic violence homicides have more than doubled since 2019 (Gwinn, 2026), while funding for victim services faces historic challenges due to the 92.2% decline in the Crime Victims Fund since FY2017.

Against this backdrop, Family Justice Center (FJC) leaders came together to share promising practices, strengthen partnerships, and advocate for solutions that improve survivor safety, offender accountability, and community well-being.



FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CAPITOL HILL DAYS
MAY 20 - 21, 2026

WASHINGTON, D.C.



Throughout the Leadership Summit, participants explored innovative approaches to sustainability, community engagement, survivor leadership, trauma-informed services, strangulation prevention, and legislative advocacy. Affiliate spotlights from North Carolina, Illinois, and Mississippi demonstrated the transformative impact of coordinated, survivor-centered responses and highlighted the growing influence of Family Justice Centers in shaping local, state, and national policy.

A key highlight of the week was the **Senate Forum on Coordinated Community Response & Survivor Safety**, hosted by **Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)** in partnership with the **Family Peace Center in Rockford, Illinois**. The forum brought together federal policymakers, local elected officials, prosecutors, tribal leaders, Family Justice Center directors, and survivor advocates to discuss increasing violence lethality, intergenerational trauma, rural and tribal challenges, and the critical role coordinated community responses play in improving outcomes for survivors and families. Senator Durbin's participation reflected growing federal recognition of Family Justice Centers as a proven strategy for advancing both public safety and survivor safety.



The Family Justice Center Capitol Hill Days

demonstrated the increasing visibility and influence of the Family Justice Center movement on the national stage. Participants conducted **59 legislative meetings**, including 24 directly with Members of Congress, advocating for three federal priorities:

- **Passage of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act (H.R. 909 / S. 1892)**
- **No-cost forensic examinations for domestic violence victims**
- **Federal recognition and support for Family Justice Centers**

Today, more than **150 Family Justice Centers** operate across the United States, **serving over 500,000 adult and child survivors annually**. Over the past five years alone, **44 new Centers have opened**, with additional communities actively developing Family Justice Centers to meet growing needs.

The 2026 Leadership Summit reinforced a clear message: coordinated, survivor-centered responses save lives. Communities across the country have demonstrated that Family Justice Centers reduce barriers, improve outcomes, strengthen public safety, and create pathways to hope and healing for survivors and children. What is needed now is sustained investment, federal recognition, and continued bipartisan collaboration to ensure every survivor, every child, and every community has access to these lifesaving services.

As attendees returned home, they carried with them renewed energy, stronger partnerships, and a shared commitment to expanding the reach and impact of the Family Justice Center movement. Together, they left Washington, D.C. united around a common vision: a future where every community has access to coordinated services, every survivor can find safety and support, and hope remains stronger than violence.

2026 FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CAPITOL HILL DAYS BY THE NUMBERS

63 MOVEMENT LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE

14 STATES REPRESENTED + BONAIRE, NETHERLANDS

59 LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

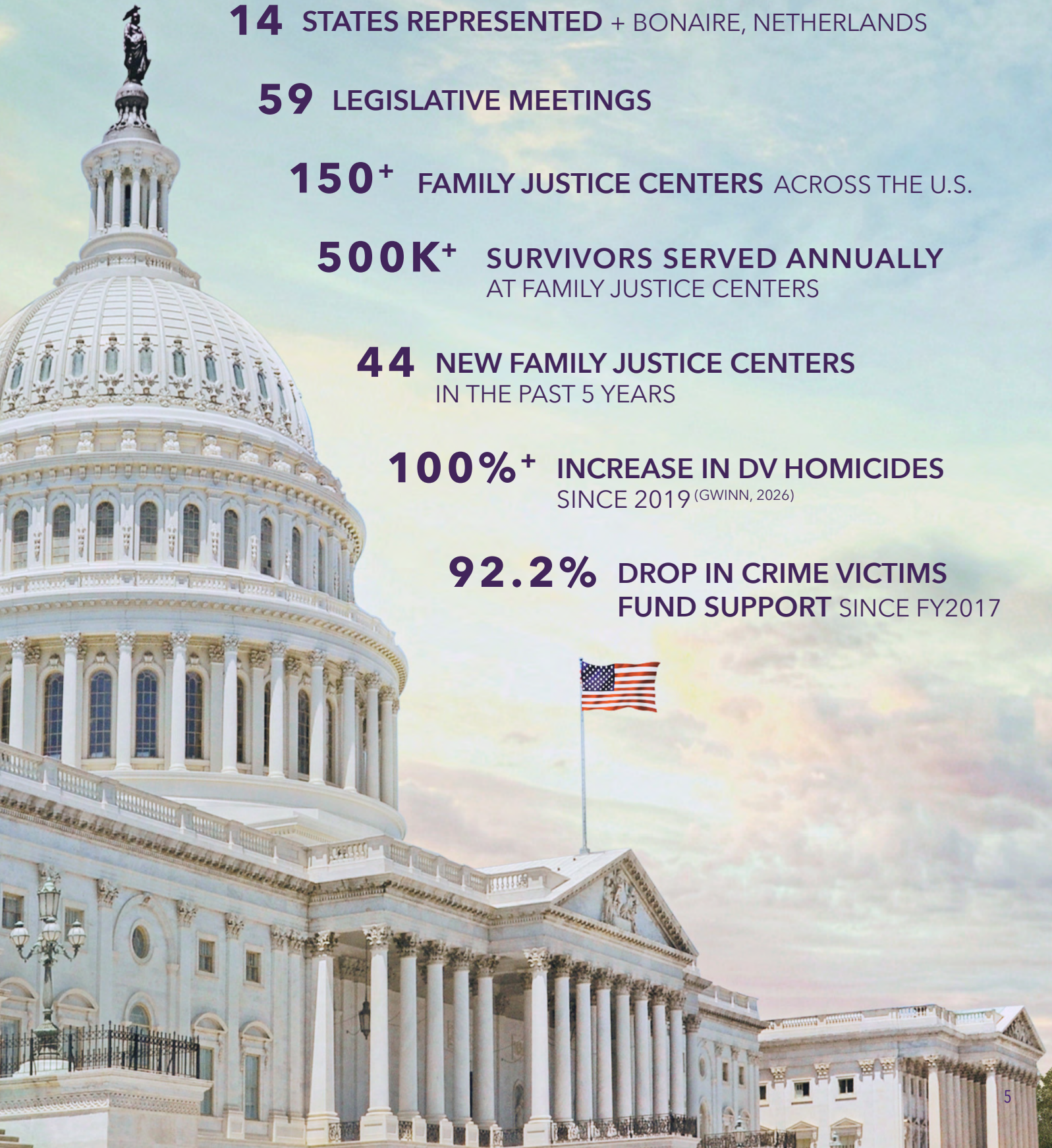
150⁺ FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS ACROSS THE U.S.

500K⁺ SURVIVORS SERVED ANNUALLY
AT FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

44 NEW FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS
IN THE PAST 5 YEARS

100%⁺ INCREASE IN DV HOMICIDES
SINCE 2019 (GWINN, 2026)

92.2% DROP IN CRIME VICTIMS
FUND SUPPORT SINCE FY2017



OVERVIEW

This Leadership Summit reflected the continued growth of a movement that began with a single Center in 2002. Combining a full day of shared learning with the second annual Family Justice Center Capitol Hill Days, the gathering created space for Family Justice Center leaders to exchange strategies, deepen partnerships, and prepare for direct advocacy in Washington, D.C.

This gathering came at a critical moment for survivors across the United States. The Family Justice Center model brings law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, healthcare providers, and other community partners together under one roof, eliminating the dangerous burden of navigating multiple agencies to access help. **Family Justice Centers save lives and need sustained federal support to continue doing so.**

This crisis has gone largely unnoticed in broader public safety conversations, even as the funding meant to address it has cratered: **the Crime Victims Fund's 92.2% decline since FY2017 created a \$550 million shortfall in 2024 alone, forcing more than 6,000 victim service organizations to cut or eliminate services.**

Despite that gap, Family Justice Centers across the country are proving every day that coordinated, survivor-centered intervention saves lives – and the Leadership Summit was an opportunity to sharpen that message and carry it directly to the halls of Congress.



WELCOME AND OPENING

Catherine Johnson, President & CEO of Alliance for HOPE International, welcomed attendees alongside Founders Casey Gwinn and Gael Strack. Catherine reminded attendees that while the challenges facing survivors are growing, communities across the country are proving that coordinated responses work.



**THE SOLUTIONS EXIST.
COMMUNITIES ACROSS
THIS COUNTRY ARE PROVING
EVERY DAY THAT COORDINATED,
SURVIVOR-CENTERED RESPONSES
SAVE LIVES. OUR CHALLENGE
NOW IS ENSURING EVERY
SURVIVOR, EVERY CHILD,
AND EVERY COMMUNITY HAS
ACCESS TO THOSE SOLUTIONS.**

Catherine Johnson, President & CEO,
Alliance for HOPE International

Casey reiterated his long-held conviction:



HOPE LOOKS FORWARD.

Casey Gwinn, Founder,
Alliance for HOPE International

Together, the Founders challenged leaders to lean into the history of the movement as they looked toward its future, and to carry that story, with urgency and confidence, to policymakers.

The growth of the movement today reflects decades of dedication. From a single Center in 2002, there are now more than 150 Family Justice Centers across the United States, with 44 new Centers having opened in just the past five years and 19 more currently emerging or developing. Affiliated Family Justice Centers collectively serve more than 500,000 adult and child survivors annually, reaching urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities alike. [Click here to view additional Family Justice Center Movement Highlights.](#)



**FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS
REMAIN THE BEST-KEPT SECRET
IN AMERICA.**

Gael Strack, Founder,
Alliance for HOPE International

MORNING SESSION: MOVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS AND AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHTS



Catherine shared highlights and innovations from affiliated Family Justice Centers and Camp HOPE America programs across the country. Casey and Gael reflected on the arc of the movement and highlighted new legislation supporting stronger strangulation laws, improved investigations of suspicious deaths, and the growing body of tools the [Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention](#) (the Institute) has developed to advance knowledge in the courtroom and the field, including the recently published [Addressing Strangulation in Florida Courts: A Critical Resource](#).

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



[The Umbrella Center / Survivor Resource Center](#) – Charlotte, NC

Laura Lawrence (President and CEO of Safe Alliance), Spencer Merriweather (District Attorney, North Carolina's 26th Judicial District), and Scott Harris (Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Foundation) hosted a panel discussion on their innovative approach to bridging Family Justice Center investment with deep community engagement. Their collaboration illustrates how law enforcement, prosecution, and philanthropy can align to amplify the Family Justice Centers reach and impact.

"Donors want to know what's going on. As The Umbrella Center continues to evolve, we bring them along and show them what their investment is doing. You have to keep them engaged, because if they think all you want is a check, you'll get it once, but you're probably not getting it a second time. Engage them."

Scott Harris, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Foundation and Safe Alliance Board Member



"We are still in the middle of writing our book. There are still a lot of chapters ahead. The heart of it has been lifting the experience of survivors and having them at the table. They have consistently been the most powerful voices, illustrating for the public what a victim experiences after something happens."

Spencer Merriweather, District Attorney, Mecklenburg County

"Engaged board members are critical. District Attorney Merriweather has joined me at every major funding request, but he has never asked for money. He stands beside me and shares that this work changes the District Attorney's ability to support victims and successfully convict the most dangerous criminals in our community."

Laura Lawrence, President and CEO, Safe Alliance



AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

**Family Peace Center – Rockford, IL**

Jennifer Cacciapaglia, Executive Director of the Family Peace Center, shared her Center's work bridging community investment with direct Family Justice Center services. During her [presentation](#), she described Rockford's research on youth in the juvenile justice system and the high rates of trauma they carry, and her Center's journey to champion [statewide Family Justice Center legislation in Illinois](#).

Rockford Mayor Thomas McNamara, whom Jennifer personally recruited into the Family Justice Center movement, joined her at the Family Justice Center Leadership Summit and Capitol Hill Days. His presence underscored a key theme: **elected officials are among the most powerful allies a Family Justice Center can cultivate.**



"Leaving a domestic violence situation is not an event. It is a process. We need to earn the trust of survivors so that they will allow us to continue being part of that process."

Jennifer Cacciapaglia, Executive Director,
Family Peace Center

In 2026, Jennifer and her team took that commitment statewide, working to introduce Family Justice Center legislation across Illinois. That process required navigating difficult conversations and confronting one of the most common misconceptions the Family Justice Center movement faces: that survivors will not come to a Family Justice Center because of the presence of law enforcement and prosecutors.

Through extensive survivor surveys at the Family Peace Center and community focus groups held across Rockford with a diverse range of service providers and community members, data delivered a clear and consistent message: **survivors want to go to one place, be treated with kindness, and get all the help they need. They want someone to navigate the burdensome system on their behalf and make the process easier. The presence of co-located partners is not a barrier. It is the point.**

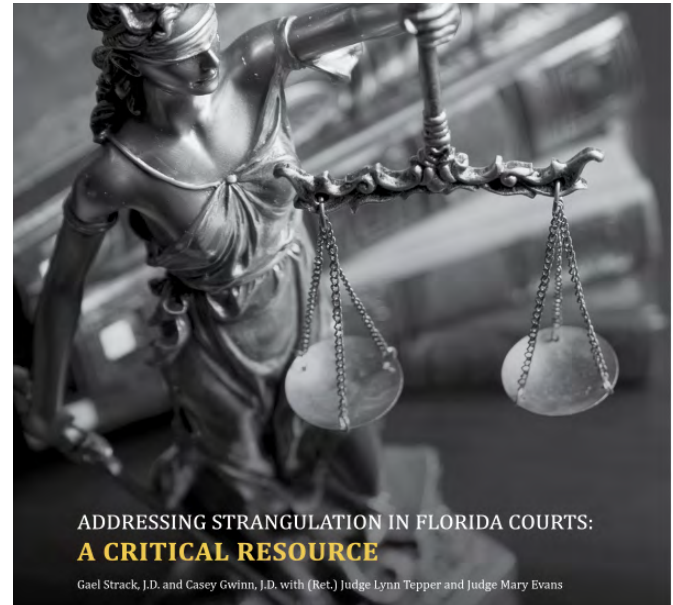
Survivor voices did not just inform internal practices; they helped move legislation in Illinois.

The Family Peace Center VOICES Survivor Advocacy Chapter developed four questions to evaluate every interaction at the Center. Created by survivors themselves, these questions anchor everything the Family Peace Center does:

- **Did you receive information and services that empowered you to take your next steps?**
- **Did you feel your confidentiality was protected and respected?**
- **Did you feel safe, not just physically, but emotionally?**
- **Were you treated with kindness, dignity, and respect 100% of the time?**

STRANGULATION LEGISLATION AND LETHALITY

Gael Strack provided a [detailed update on strangulation laws and other steps states are taking](#) to improve access to care for domestic violence victims. She and Casey presented findings from their recently published [Domestic Violence Report - 10 Years Later](#) documenting a rise in domestic violence homicides over the past several years. Multiple directors raised the importance of equipping judges with practical, trauma-informed tools to recognize the red flags of coercive control and lethality. Resources like the recently published [Addressing Strangulation in Florida Courts: A Critical Resource](#) are showing real promise in improving courtroom outcomes.



SUSTAINING THE MISSION: ADVOCACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Casey Gwinn addressed one of the movement's most persistent challenges: sustainable funding. He urged leaders to reframe how they think about local elected officials – not just as policymakers, but as partners who bring legitimacy and influence on behalf of their Family Justice Centers.

"THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COLLABORATIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, AND THOSE ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. ELECTED OFFICIALS CAN RAISE MONEY FOR YOU, IF YOU LET THEM."

Casey Gwinn, Founder, Alliance for HOPE International

Family Justice Centers are supported through a highly effective public-private partnership model that integrates federal, state, and local funding with private philanthropy, foundations, and corporate partnerships. Federal investment is catalytic: it enables communities to launch, expand, and sustain coordinated responses that improve public safety and reduce long-term system costs. Realizing that potential, though, depends on Centers cultivating the full range of partners available to them. Directors shared strategies for building those relationships, and the group discussed the dangers of over-reliance on any single funding stream. Family Justice Centers thrive when they diversify their funding, evolve their strategies, and grow continuously.

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Inc. – Gulfport, MS

Stacey Riley, CEO of the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Inc., offered one of the Leadership Summit's most powerful testimonials on what happens when Family Justice Center leaders are equipped, connected, and activated. After attending last year's Leadership Summit and Capitol Hill Advocacy Days, she returned home with more than inspiration.

Stacey left Washington D.C. with a clear road map, messaging, and the confidence that comes from being part of a national movement that knows how to tell its story. Guided by what she learned from Alliance for HOPE International, Stacey built deliberate relationships with her local and federal delegation, told the story of her Center's impact clearly and specifically, and made a direct ask. With support from her Senator, **Stacey secured \$5,000,000 in federal funding to expand the Family Justice Center.**

Stacey identified three things crucial to her success:

- She built the relationship before she made the ask, inviting her Senator's team to see the Center firsthand.
- She provided data and a clear funding gap, not a general request.
- She followed up consistently and expressed genuine gratitude for every step of engagement.

A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

In a deeply divided Congress, the Family Justice Center movement stands on rare common ground. The Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act has earned overwhelming support from both parties because protecting survivors of violence is a shared priority.

327 BIPARTISAN
HOUSE COSPONSORS

75% U.S. HOUSE BUY-IN

H.R. 909 passed the House unanimously on January 12, 2026. **S. 1892** is led by Senators Murkowski (R-AK) and Durbin (D-IL).

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER CAPITOL HILL DAYS 2026

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS:

- Survivor-Centered
- Trauma-Informed
- A proven asset in crime and homicide prevention

 allianceforhope.org

SENATE FORUM ON COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE & SURVIVOR SAFETY

A highlight of the 16th Annual Family Justice Center Leadership Summit and Capitol Hill Advocacy Days was this Senate Forum on Coordinated Community Response & Survivor Safety, held on May 20, 2026, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. It was hosted by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) in partnership with the Family Peace Center in Rockford, Illinois, bringing together Family Justice Center leaders, congressional staff, elected officials, and frontline professionals for a bipartisan conversation about survivor safety, public safety, and coordinated community responses.

The forum provided an opportunity for Family Justice Center leaders to engage directly with federal policymakers about the realities communities are facing across the country. Discussions focused on increasing violence lethality, growing complexity in victimization, emerging challenges in rural and tribal communities, and the role coordinated service models play in improving outcomes for survivors and families.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND LOCAL INNOVATION

Casey Gwinn opened the forum by highlighting the changing landscape of violence and survivor needs, emphasizing that communities are increasingly responding to cases involving domestic violence, trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse, and family violence that are more

complex, interconnected, and dangerous than ever before. He challenged attendees to think beyond crisis response and consider the long-term impact of trauma on children, families, and communities.

"We know the children growing up in homes impacted by domestic violence are much more likely to populate the jails and prisons of America. We also know that when you put an overlay of racism or historic oppression or poverty on top of that childhood trauma, you're more likely to lock up people of color in America. They're trauma survivors where we never helped them heal and never helped them break that cycle. That's the calling of Family Justice Centers. It's the calling of our Camp HOPE America program for children impacted by violence."

Casey Gwinn, Founder, Alliance for HOPE International

Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara shared the local government perspective, discussing the impact Family Justice Centers have on communities and the importance of local leadership in advancing collaborative solutions. He also highlighted the work of the Family Peace Center in Rockford, Illinois, before introducing Senator Durbin.

Senator Durbin's remarks focused on the current federal policy landscape, the importance of sustaining VOCA and VAWA investments, and the need for continued partnership between federal, state, tribal, and local leaders. He recognized the work being accomplished through Family Justice Centers and emphasized the importance of

supporting evidence-based approaches that improve safety and access to services for survivors.

The Senator's participation underscored the growing federal recognition of Family Justice Centers as a proven strategy for improving both survivor safety and public safety, reflecting the increasing visibility of the movement among policymakers seeking effective, evidence-informed solutions to violence.

FRONTLINE PERSPECTIVES FROM ACROSS THE NATION

The forum's moderated discussion, led by Catherine Johnson, featured leaders representing urban, rural, tribal, and developing Family Justice Center communities:

- **District Attorney Summer Stephan, San Diego County, California**
- **Jennifer Cacciapaglia, Executive Director, Family Peace Center, Illinois**
- **Alexandra Ginter, Tribal Councilwoman, Ketchikan Indian Community, Alaska**
- **Mary Claire Landry, Executive Director, New Orleans Family Justice Center, Louisiana**



Panelists discussed the increasing lethality of domestic violence cases, the growing overlap between trafficking and family violence, and the challenges survivors face when navigating multiple systems during times of crisis.

Alexandra Ginter spoke about the unique challenges facing tribal communities and the devastating impact of addiction, violence, and intergenerational trauma. She described her community's vision for healing and the role a Family Justice Center can play in that future.

"The drug epidemic on our small island is devastating, the amount of community members and family members that we've lost. We're setting up a Wellness Center because culture heals, and the final component to this is the Family Justice Center. It helps our children, and where you stop that generational trauma is with our children."

Alexandra Ginter, Tribal Councilwoman, Ketchikan Indian Community

Mary Claire Landry reflected on more than four decades of service to survivors and the lessons learned through transforming New Orleans' response to violence through the Family Justice Center model. She emphasized that while building coordinated systems is often challenging, the impact on survivors makes the effort worthwhile.

"I have dedicated my entire career – more than 40 years – to advocating for survivors. Evolving our work in New Orleans into a Family Justice Center was complicated, challenging, and at times difficult, but it was absolutely worth it. Survivors are counting on us. In many ways, we are their lifeline. Every step we take to improve coordination and access to services creates new opportunities for safety, healing, and hope."

Mary Claire Landry, Executive Director, New Orleans Family Justice Center

Summer Stephan reflected on why Family Justice Centers remain one of the most effective public safety and public health interventions available to communities.



"If you can dream it, you can make it happen in a Family Justice Center, and the reason is the power of all of us. Something magical happens. It's not like one plus one equals two in a Family Justice Center. It synergizes, so the force multiplier of all of the partners creates something brand new and much better than anything any one of us could have done alone."

Summer Stephan, District Attorney, San Diego County

Participants consistently emphasized that coordinated community responses are producing measurable results. By bringing law enforcement, prosecution, advocacy, healthcare, civil legal services, and community partners together, Family Justice Centers are helping communities respond more effectively to high-risk cases while reducing barriers for survivors seeking help.

Survivor Voices and the Power of Hope

Jennifer Cacciapaglia highlighted the importance of survivor voice in shaping both services and systems. She shared excerpts from *A Year with the Family Peace Center* by survivor Samantha (Sammy) Fillmore, reminding attendees that behind every statistic is a person whose life has been transformed through coordinated support.

"They reminded me to trust my intuition when I had learned to doubt it. They encouraged me to advocate for myself when I felt powerless, unheard, and overwhelmed. Through their domestic violence groups and unwavering support, I found the courage to stand firmly in who I am and reclaim my life. The Family Peace Center didn't just listen – they believed me, they empowered me. They reflected my worth back to me when I had forgotten it myself. They cared for me in ways that went beyond survival. Their belief in me ignited something I didn't know I still had – the desire to want more, to do better, and to believe in a future beyond survival."

Samantha (Sammy) Fillmore, shared by Jennifer Cacciapaglia

The forum concluded with an open dialogue among Family Justice Center leaders, Senate staff, and policymakers focused on practical solutions and opportunities for partnership. Participants discussed:

- Federal investments that have the greatest impact at the local level.
- The ongoing need to stabilize the Crime Victims Fund.
- Expanding access to coordinated services in rural and tribal communities.
- Removing barriers that prevent survivors from accessing safety and support.
- Opportunities to strengthen collaboration between federal policymakers and local communities.

As the discussion closed, Summer Stephan offered a vision shared by many in the room:



"We are right in saying this is the best practice. The numbers show it. I think what we need to do is continue to demand that people listen. Our cause is very righteous. No matter what and no matter how long it takes, it's going to become standard practice to have a Family Justice Center in every region and to have it be fully funded so it can do the work it's supposed to do. That's my dream."

Summer Stephan, District Attorney, San Diego County

Casey Gwinn closed the forum by encouraging continued bipartisan collaboration and inviting members of Congress and congressional staff to visit Family Justice Centers in their home states and communities. The forum reinforced a central message of the week: **coordinated, survivor-centered responses save lives, and what is needed now is sustained partnership and investment to ensure every survivor and every community has access to them.**



CAPITOL HILL ADVOCACY DAYS: FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Family Justice Center leaders across 14 states, from Alaska to North Carolina, traveled to Washington, D.C. for the 16th Annual Family Justice Center Leadership Summit and Second Annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Days. Throughout the week, Family Justice Center leaders and partners brought a unified voice to Congress on behalf of survivors nationwide. Discussions focused on addressing the increasing severity of violence, advancing effective policy solutions at local and national levels, and advocating for three key **Policy Priorities**: **passage of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2025 (H.R. 909/S. 1892)**, **no-cost forensic examinations for domestic violence victims**, and **expanded federal support for affiliated Family Justice Centers**.



Erin Saberi, Founder and Principal of Open Square Connect, led attendees through strategy, messaging, and logistics for effective advocacy on Capitol Hill. In total, 59 legislative meetings were scheduled, 24 of which were directly with Members of Congress. On Wednesday, May 20, 2026, attendees joined the Alliance for HOPE International's Senate Forum on Coordinated Community Response & Survivor Safety, hosted by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) in the Dirksen Senate Building.

The week highlighted the strength and growing impact of the Family Justice Center movement, demonstrating how collaboration, innovation, and survivor-centered services continue to transform lives and strengthen communities across the country. Just as importantly, it demonstrated that Family Justice Center leaders are increasingly recognized as trusted voices in shaping national policy for survivors.





SUPPORT
CRIME VICTIMS FUND
STABILIZATION ACT
H.R. 909 / S. 1892

Introduced with bipartisan leadership from
Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Dick Durbin (D-IL).

PRIORITY 1

Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act (H.R. 909 / S. 1892)

The Crime Victims Fund serves more than 7 million crime victims annually but has declined by 92.2% since FY2017 – a \$550 million shortfall in 2024 alone. The Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act would redirect unobligated funds from the False Claims Act into the CVF through FY2029, at no additional cost to taxpayers. H.R. 909 passed the House of Representatives unanimously on January 12, 2026, with 327 bipartisan cosponsors, representing 75% of the entire House. S. 1892 has been introduced with bipartisan leadership from Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Dick Durbin (D-IL).



SUPPORT
NO-COST
FORENSIC EXAMS
FOR VICTIMS
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Introduced with bipartisan leadership from
Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Dick Durbin (D-IL).

PRIORITY 2

No-Cost Forensic Examinations for Domestic Violence Victims

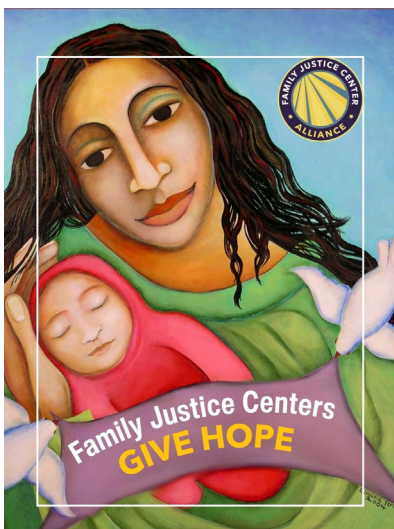
Federal law guarantees sexual assault survivors' access to forensic medical exams at no cost, but this protection does not extend to domestic violence victims. Survivors frequently suffer life-threatening injuries, including strangulation-related carotid dissections, blunt force trauma, and deep lacerations, yet many cannot access forensic care due to cost. Access to medical care and forensic evidence collection should never depend on a survivor's ability to pay. Congress should extend these same protections to domestic violence victims under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).



PRIORITY 3

Federal Support for Family Justice Centers

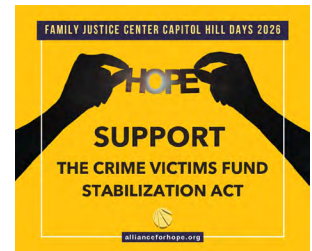
Despite remarkable growth from one center in 2002 to more than 150 across 45 states, Family Justice Centers still lack consistent federal recognition and funding eligibility. FJC leaders urged Congress to address delays in Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) grant disbursement that are disrupting services and survivor safety; establish a clear federal definition and national standards for FJCs, as exists for Child Advocacy Centers; and ensure FY27 budget support for VAWA, OVC, and survivor-centered programs nationwide.



WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARD: 2026 TO 2027 MOVEMENT PRIORITIES

The Leadership Summit was not just a look back. It was a launch forward. As movement leaders return to their communities, here is what Alliance for HOPE International and the Family Justice Center Alliance affiliate network are working to accomplish over the coming year:

Pass the **Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act** in the U.S. Senate and secure the President's signature before the end of 2026.



Extend no-cost forensic examination protections to domestic violence victims under VAWA.

Establish a federal definition and funding eligibility standards for Family Justice Centers modeled after the Child Advocacy Center framework.



Support the development of 19 emerging Family Justice Centers across the country and expand Family Justice Center and Camp HOPE America programming.

Equip judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement with updated strangulation and lethality training tools in every state with an affiliated Family Justice Center.



Grow the Family Justice Center network's visibility with elected officials, funders, and the public to sustain the movement's national momentum.

CLOSING REFLECTIONS

"We are the bipartisan people. No one is against us. They just need to know about us."

Casey Gwinn, Founder, Alliance for HOPE International

"This year's Leadership Summit was nothing short of historic. Every single time Family Justice Center leaders show up in our nation's capital, we make a difference for survivors across the country, and our collective voices are heard. Alliance for HOPE International stood shoulder-to-shoulder with leaders from across the nation to advocate for three critical priorities. We returned home energized, knowing that lawmakers now know that Family Justice Centers exist, are supported by robust research, and are a necessity in every community – small, medium, or large."

Gael Strack, Founder, Alliance for HOPE International

The 16th Annual Leadership Summit and Capitol Hill Days closed with a sense of determination and urgency. Casey reminded leaders that the Family Justice Center movement occupies rare ground in today's political landscape – one where homicides are being prevented, offenders held accountable, and survivors rebuilding their lives in communities from urban centers to rural and tribal areas. The consensus was clear: these outcomes deserve to be seen by communities, funders, and policymakers, and must be documented and shared.

"This work is hard. It is complex. And it requires all of us. The strength of this movement lives in the relationships we build with one another. Survivors are counting on this network to reach every community and every person who needs us. That kind of reach, that kind of impact, can only be achieved if we stick together, forge ahead, and keep showing up. Together, we will."

Catherine Johnson, President and CEO, Alliance for HOPE International

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Three things you can do right now:

- 1. Share this report with your elected officials, local funders, and community partners.**
- 2. Contact your U.S. Senators and urge them to pass the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act (S. 1892) and support VAWA funding.**
- 3. Tell the Family Justice Center story in your community. Invite your mayor, county commissioner, or state legislator to tour your Center. Elected officials are essential partners to your Family Justice Center.**

For more information and resources visit allianceforhope.org and familyjusticecenter.org

LOOKING AHEAD

For more than two decades, Family Justice Centers have transformed lives, strengthened communities, and helped survivors and children find safety, hope, and healing. Across the country, coordinated, survivor-centered responses are proving that collaboration saves lives, improves outcomes, and creates pathways to healing.

The challenge before us is no longer proving that the Family Justice Center model works. The evidence is clear. The challenge now is ensuring that every survivor, every child, and every community has access to these lifesaving services.

What began as a bold vision has grown into a national movement. Family Justice Centers may once have been the best-kept secret in America, but together, we are changing that.

As leaders return home from Washington, D.C., they do so with renewed purpose, stronger partnerships, and a shared commitment to expanding access to safety, hope, and justice.

The future of this movement is bright. Together, we will continue building communities where survivors are believed, children are protected, and hope is stronger than violence.

HOPE LOOKS FORWARD.



AGENDA



Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Residence Inn by Marriott - National Mall

8:00 - 9:00am	Registration
9:00 - 10:00am	Opening Session: Movement Highlights
10:00 - 11:00am	National Trends & Emerging Challenges Across the FJC Movement • Funding and Sustainability • Affiliate Spotlight: Umbrella Center - Charlotte, NC ◦ Laura Lawrence, President & CEO, Safe Alliance ◦ Spencer Merriweather, District Attorney, NC Prosecutorial District 26 ◦ Scott Harris, Board Member, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Foundation
11:00 - 11:15am	Break
11:15 - 12:15pm	Facilitated Group Discussion on Innovation, Challenges & Solutions • Roundtable Discussion ◦ Workforce & Leadership ◦ Partnerships & Collaboration ◦ Innovation & Emerging Practices
12:15 - 1:45pm	Lunch
1:45 - 2:30pm	State Legislation & Policy in Action • State-level Legislative Efforts • Affiliate Spotlight: Family Peace Center - Rockford, IL ◦ Jennifer Cacciapaglia, Executive Director, Family Peace Center ◦ Mayor Tom McNamara, City of Rockford • Group Reflections & Discussion
2:30 - 2:45pm	Break
2:45 - 2:55pm	Strategies for Securing Federal Funding for FJCs • Affiliate Spotlight: Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Inc. - Gulfport, MS ◦ Stacey Riley, CEO, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Inc.
2:55 - 4:00pm	D.C. Advocacy Days Preparation & Strategy Session • Presented by Erin Saberi
5:00pm	Networking - Smoke & Mirrors 867 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003

2026 FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AND CAPITOL HILL DAYS ATTENDEES



Stephanie Almeida	Susan Huter	Stacey Riley
Mark Antonini	Catherine Johnson	Erin Saberi
Leslie Barnes-Keating	Sarah Jones	Jennifer Salzman
Siyan Bradley	Jess Kimsey	Taraneh Sarebanha
Gloria Burns	Billi Lacombe	Timoteo Silberie
Jennifer Cacciapaglia	Mary Claire Landry	Tizania St.Jacoba-Rooi
Andrea Carlson	Laura Lawrence	Summer Stephan
Leshia Chandler	Quantier Loy	Gael Strack
Caroline Dato	Gary MacNamara	Cheryl Stuller
Sonya Desai	Elsa Martinez	Skye Sullivan
Paige Evatt	Regina McDevitt	Amanda Swanner
Jennifer Ferrante	Thomas McNamara	Niki Thrash
Nancy Fisher	Elena Meloni	Michael Toole
Michelle Fraser	Spencer Merriweather	Mildred Torres
Alexandra Ginter	Jennifer Metcalf	Jay Trull
Laurel Glass	Sarah Moul	Victoria Venable
Elizabeth Graham	Paul Mustian	Jing Lei Wales
Casey Gwinn	Liz Ortenburger	Rafe Westbrook
Alana Harrell	Andrew Pacheco	Lauren Wilkie
Scott Harris	Penny Page	Adam Wood
William Hernandez	Sachini Rajapaksa	Phyllis Yonta

AFFILIATED FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS AND MULTI-AGENCY CENTERS AS OF MAY 2026



ONE PLACE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Montgomery, AL	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Upper Marlboro, MD
ONE PLACE METRO ALABAMA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Birmingham, AL	GULF COAST FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE	Gulfport, MS
FOREST OF HOPE FAMILY PEACE CENTER	Little Rock, AR	GREENE COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Springfield, MO
ALAMEDA COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Oakland, CA	NORTHERN LIGHTS FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Billings, MT
CONTRA COSTA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, CENTRAL CENTER	Concord, CA	FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF ALAMANCE COUNTY	Burlington, NC
CONTRA COSTA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, EAST CENTER	Antioch, CA	SURVIVOR RESOURCE CENTER	Charlotte, NC
CONTRA COSTA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, SOUTH CENTER	Danville, CA	HOPE UNITED SURVIVOR NETWORK	Gastonia, NC
CONTRA COSTA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, SOLANO CENTER	Fairfield, CA	GUILFORD COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Greensboro, NC
CONTRA COSTA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, WEST CENTER	Richmond, CA	GUILFORD COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	High Point, NC
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY	Santa Rosa, CA	SAFELIGHT, INC.	Hendersonville, NC
MONARCH JUSTICE CENTER	Napa, CA	STRAFFORD COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Rochester, NH
NEW STAR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Hawthorne, CA	TRI-COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST NEW MEXICO	Las Vegas, NM
ONE SAFE PLACE NORTH, SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	San Marcos, CA	NYC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER - BRONX	Bronx, NY
ONE SAFE PLACE SOUTH, SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	National City, CA	NYC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER - BROOKLYN	Brooklyn, NY
ONE SAFE PLACE	Redding, CA	NYC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER - MANHATTAN	New York, NY
SACRAMENTO REGIONAL FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Sacramento, CA	NYC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER - QUEENS	Kew Gardens, NY
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Stockton, CA	NYC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER - STATEN ISLAND	Staten Island, NY
STANISLAUS FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Modesto, CA	WILLOW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER	Rochester, NY
STRENGTHUNITED SAN FERNANDO VALLEY	San Fernando, CA	CASE FAMILY SAFETY CENTER	Tulsa, OK
STRENGTHUNITED SANTA CLARITA VALLEY	Northridge, CA	PALOMAR: OKLAHOMA CITY'S FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Oklahoma City, OK
VENTURA COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Ventura, CA	CARDINAL POINT	Yukon, OK
YOUR SAFE PLACE	San Diego, CA	SAFE CENTRE OF PEEL	Peel, ON
PORCHLIGHT, A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Lakewood, CO	YORK REGION CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY	Markham, ON
ROSE ANDOM CENTER	Denver, CO	A SAFE PLACE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Oregon City, OR
HOPE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	New Haven, CT	FAMILY PEACE CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY	Hillsboro, OR
THE CENTER FOR FAMILY JUSTICE	Bridgeport, CT	14TH CIRCUIT VICTIM SERVICES CENTER	Okatie, SC
SAFE FUTURES, INC. - THE CENTER FOR SAFE FUTURES	New London, CT	JEAN CROWE ADVOCACY CENTER	Nashville, TN
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER BY CASA	St. Petersburg, FL	FAMILY SAFETY CENTER	Nashville, TN
NAMPA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Nampa, ID	DR. CAROL B. BERZ FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Chattanooga, TN
FAMILY PEACE CENTER	Rockford, IL	ONE SAFE PLACE	Ft. Worth, TX
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY	South Bend, IN	ONE SAFE PLACE	Grapevine, TX
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF ACADIANA	Lafayette, LA	THE HEIGHTS ELLIS COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCES	Midlothian, TX
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA - RAPIDES	Pineville, LA	BEXAR COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	San Antonio, TX
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA - AVOYELLES	Marksville, LA	CRYSTAL JUDSON FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Tacoma, WA
NEW ORLEANS FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	New Orleans, LA	SAYU' ? X WEY	Sequim, WA
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Bossier City, LA	THURSTON COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Olympia, WA
		SOJOURNER FAMILY PEACE CENTER	Milwaukee, WI



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