2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear friends,

2019 was **a momentous year** for the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA). Our growing visibility afforded us opportunities to strengthen community connections, expand our advocacy on behalf of 1.8 million survivors living across New Jersey (N.J.), and enhance our prevention efforts as we work to **build a safer Garden State**.

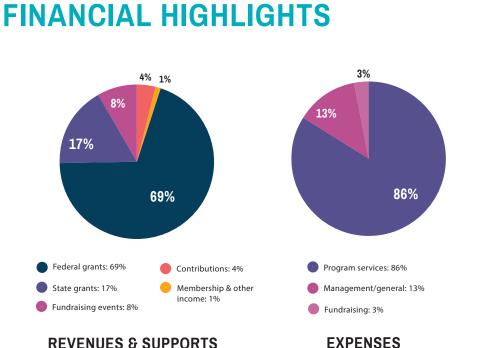
We **successfully advocated** for an expansion of the state's civil statute of limitations reforms, taking New Jersey from one of the worst states for survivors to seek civil justice to one of the best. Through programs and events, we **engaged with community members** to promote greater awareness about sexual violence and prevention. And we remained at the **forefront of public discourse**, contributing our expertise to statewide and national media outlets.

Throughout, we met every challenge with an unwavering commitment to centering the voices of survivors and promoting lasting social change. Whether it was at a training, press conference, or community event, our message remained the same: **sexual violence is 100 percent preventable**.

With this in mind, **we stand prepared to face whatever challenges and opportunities 2020 may bring**, as we continue to advocate on behalf of survivors and expand our reach in communities across the state.

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Patricia Teffenhart, MPA Executive Director, NJCASA



njcoalition against sexual assault

The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) is a statewide non-profit that joins people together for the common cause of ending sexual violence and supporting all those whose lives have been affected by it.



Training

NJCASA offers training and technical assistance to direct providers and allied professionals.



Advocacy NJCASA promotes survivorcentered, research-based policies and legislation.



Collaboration

NJCASA works with allies across N.J. to advance principles of justice and equity in support of a safer Garden State.



ADVOCACY & POLICY

civil statute of limitations reform

After years of advocacy from NJCASA and our allies, Gov. Murphy signed into law what's being heralded by experts as one of the best civil statute of limitations reforms in the country. Survivors of sexual violence now have seven years — or until age 55 for adult survivors of child sexual abuse — to pursue civil justice. The law also creates a one-time, two-year window, running from 2019 until 2021, that allows survivors to bring lawsuits that were time-barred under the previous statute of limitations. As a result of this reform, more survivors have the option to access the civil justice system than ever before in our state's history.



new jersey state budget

Our advocacy secured \$6.6 million in state funding for critical survivor services—the highest amount ever allocated for sexual violence prevention and response and a full \$2 million more than last year's allocation. (*Pictured: NJCASA staff at the N.J. State House*)



statewide survivor survey

We launched the first-ever survey of sexual violence survivors in N.J. More than 350 survivors responded to the survey, which will be used to guide policy development and help N.J. better meet the needs of survivors.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

heroes for a safer garden state 5K

Hosted annually in Asbury Park, N.J., NJCASA'S Heroes for a Safer Garden State 5K brings together hundreds of community members across the state each year. Nearly 300 N.J. heroes joined us in 2019 and helped raise more than \$55,000, directly supporting our work to advocate on behalf of survivors and offer prevention education to our communities.

save the date: the 2020 5K will take place on May 2!

engaging communities, preventing violence

Throughout 2019, we hosted a series of virtual conversations for mental health professionals, athletic leaders, and parents and caring adults on preventing sexual violence and creating safer communities. More than 40 New Jerseyans participated in the conversations, learning how to incorporate sexual violence prevention in their practice and brainstorming opportunities for future community prevention work.

september celebration of champions



Five of our six 2020 September Celebration of Champions awardees

Our annual September Celebration of Champions honors allies in the anti-sexual violence movement for their efforts to advance our mission and create a safer Garden State.

This year, 120 community members enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and live music as we celebrated six fearless changemakers: U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, Sen. Joseph Vitale, Stephanie Albanese, Jyoti Venketraman, Mark Crawford, and Fred Marigliano.

save the date: the 2020 September Celebration will take place on September 17!



TRAINING & PREVENTION

sharing expertise in N.J. and beyond

In 2019, our team provided a series of trainings on genderbased violence and implicit bias to the state judiciary; led workshops at the National Sexual Assault Conference; and participated in the Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence, a multi-disciplinary council tasked with examining sexual violence in N.J. and providing recommendations for prevention and response (*pictured above: members of the Council with Attorney General Gurbir Grewal*).

preparing new leaders

From January through July, we led the first cohort of Building the Bench, our annual leadership development opportunity for staff at N.J.'s 21 county-based sexual violence programs. 15 cohort members graduated after completing the sevenmonth program, which focused on developing management and leadership skills through a social justice lens.

expanding capacity to serve communities

After conducting an assessment of N.J.'s 21 county-based sexual violence hotlines, we created a comprehensive report with recommendations for how to provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed sexual violence services statewide. In the next year, we'll help each county-based sexual violence program implement the recommendations and continue to improve hotline provision across the state.



From left to right: NJCASA's assistant director, program manager, and executive director at the first of three judicial trainings



Cover image for NJCASA's report on statewide hotline service provision