

ECFJC's operation is designed to address systemic inequalities associated with conventional service delivery. ECFJC's programming and its associated success is demonstrated through its direct service delivery, partnerships, governing, and administration.

Direct Services

ECFJC's core operation is designed to specifically address systematic inequalities and barriers to access encountered by the county's most marginalized residents who are also victims of domestic violence. These victims' vulnerability is heightened by factors of poverty, ethnicity, and immigration status. ECFJC's operation in downtown Newark and through virtual means, focuses on residents of the cities of Newark, East Orange, Irvington, and Orange, where domestic violence rates have consistently been the highest in the state year after year. Through outreach efforts, word-of-mouth, and referrals from law enforcement and other community partners, from 600 to 1,000 victims reach out to and are served by ECFJC annually. These survivors of domestic violence are typically female (89%); represent annual household incomes of under \$35,001 (83%) or under \$20,001 (71%). They are overwhelmingly of African American or African heritage (68%); or Latin-x/Hispanic or South American heritage (32%); foreign born immigrants (30%); with many speaking other than English (24-25%). ECFJC's Spanish-speaking clients with limited English proficiency are overwhelmingly of Puerto Rican or South American heritage. Those who speak Portuguese represent Brazilian, Cape Verdean, Guinea-Bissauan, or Mozambican heritage.

Notably, ECFJC does not charge for any of its services, and in addition to domestic violence services, provides connections to free civil legal assistance and guidance, such as needed to complete the restraining order process, and free or low-cost medical behavioral healthcare, to vetted partners.

ECFJC's service delivery is implemented by a bilingual staff in a culturally appropriate environment. It is one of the state's few domestic violence service providers whose service includes extensive medical-behavioral assessments and referrals to vetted medical-behavioral healthcare providers. It is also one of few providers that connects low-income and marginalized victims to civil legal assistance and representation for family law concerns related to victimization, at no charge to them. But for ECFJC, these victims simply would not have access to representation or guidance regarding civil legal options, outside of family court or the criminal justice system.

Partnerships:

ECFJC operates with Memorandums of Understanding and formal Linkage Agreements with 28+ community partners who each have strong histories of commitment and service to the Newark and Essex County communities. These professional partnerships enable easy on-site referrals for victims that further reduce barriers and expand access to critical services.

Grouped by service type, in 2021-2022 these partners include

Health & Wellness: AIDS Resource Foundation for Children; Bessie Mae Women's and Family Health Center; Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connection; Family Intervention Services; Integrity House, Inc.; New Jersey Citizen Action; North Jersey Community Research Initiative; Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) Break the Cycle Program;

Sanar Institute; University Hospital Trauma Recovery Center; Newark Community Street Team Trauma Recovery Center

Emergency Shelter and Services, Counseling: The Rachel Coalition; The Safe House; Newark Housing Authority.

Government & Law Enforcement: County of Essex; Essex County Prosecutor's Office; Essex County Sheriff's Office; Newark Police Division; Superior Court of NJ – Essex Vicinage.

Civil Legal and Immigration Services: Essex-Newark Legal Services; New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center; Partners for Women & Justice; and American Friends Service Committee.

Governance and Administration:

ECFJC serves victims of domestic violence whose demographics reflect the demographics of the city of Newark and County of Essex. ECFJC's direct service staff is bilingual in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. They are each trained in the use of trauma-informed techniques necessary to interview victims, inform them of their options and rights, connect them with knowledge and access to available resources and benefits, and assist them with completing criminal justice-related forms and applications, in their spoken language.

Significantly also, ECFJC's Board of Trustees demonstrates its willingness to incorporate the voice of the Newark community in its decision-making process through its invitation to and participation by VOICES volunteers in ECFJC operations and governance. The Essex County VOICES Chapter is a member of the national network of domestic violence survivor/ advocates, that is affiliated with and coordinated by Alliance for Hope International. A VOICES member volunteers with ECFJC Screening-Intake weekly and provides feedback on service delivery and new project design. VOICES volunteers also represent ECFJC at community outreach events, take part in ECFJC public awareness campaigns, and provide advocacy for ECFJC and other domestic violence stakeholders across the county and state on a monthly basis. Since 2020, two VOICES members (Newark residents) have been elected and serve on ECFJC's Board of Trustees, providing input for ECFJC's victim-centered, survivor-driven policies and programming.