



## Fiscal Year 2012 Organization Membership Application

The Battered Women's Network has successfully linked Chicagoland's domestic violence community for over 30 years because you, our members make a commitment to working to improve the lives of battered women and their children. Once again we are asking our members to indicate their support of the Network and its activities by completing the enclosed membership application. Your support and participation will help the Network maintain its commitment to its three main goals: 1) systems and public policy advocacy, 2) training and education, and 3) support and coordination of domestic violence service providers.

**Membership is in effect for our fiscal year, July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012.** We invite you to choose your level of rights, responsibilities and participation. As a Domestic Violence, Affiliate, or Individual member your time, energy and money will help the Network improve and increase:

### **Systemic & Public Policy Advocacy**

Knowing that there is strength in numbers, the domestic violence community gathers at the Network to organize and execute system wide and public policy advocacy. The Network allows the domestic violence community to present a united voice on domestic violence issues to governmental and administrative agencies. Acting as the Chicago area coalition of domestic violence service providers, the Network is uniquely situated to lead the efforts for system wide change.

### **Centralized Training Institute**

The Network's Centralized Training Institute (CTI) offers trainings geared toward improving knowledge of domestic violence workers. The CTI offers members the basic 40 hour domestic violence training and specialized trainings on advanced issues and our annual *Taking Care of Yourself for Domestic Violence Workers* at the December Membership Meeting.

# MEMBER BENEFITS

## **Network News**

Membership includes the bi-monthly *Network News*, a major piece in the Network's communication and support. Each bi-monthly issue recaps membership meeting topics, lists upcoming meetings and program activities, highlights current issues, and lists job openings. The Network also distributes information via fax and email when special issues are identified and action is required between monthly meetings or *Network News* distribution.

## **Centralized Training Institute Fee Discounts**

Domestic Violence Program Members that are tax exempt, not for profits that have full time domestic violence staff, pay discounted training fees when their annual dues have been paid. Also included is the free, members-only training *Taking Care of Yourself*, to be held each December.

## **Advocacy Agenda**

Each spring, The Network will hold focus groups, using outside facilitators, with members to gather information regarding the slate of potential advocacy agenda items for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as to obtain reflections from members on how the policy/advocacy structure has been effective from their perspective. At the Annual Membership Advocacy Meeting in each year, we will present the slate of advocacy agenda items for the next fiscal year, as well as the progress made on the current year's advocacy agenda. During this meeting, we will also give members the opportunity to complete written evaluations regarding the previous year's work.

## **Network Committees**

The Network committee structure will support the member selected Advocacy Agenda for FY 2012. The committees will be addressing the pressing realities of the domestic violence service community. These areas of focus include:

1. **Legal Issues**-Engaging in the development and implementation of the new Domestic Violence Division of the Cook County Court System (including but now limited to improving triage/screening, and training for judges and court personnel).
2. **Domestic Violence Funding**-Convening funders to discuss current realities and opportunities.
3. **Prevention/Education**-Facilitating systemic research on models for community engagement and capacity building.

# MEMBER BENEFITS

## **Voting at the Network**

Network Member Voting Privileges from the Network's by-laws:

Domestic Violence Program Members and Individual Network members may vote to determine Network policy positions. Each organizational member has one vote to be submitted by their designated delegate. Individual members carry one - half vote.

Domestic violence program members must do the following to maintain voting privileges:

- have representation at least two-thirds of the quarterly membership meetings,
- participate in at least one standing or ad hoc committee and attend at least two-thirds of that committee's meetings.

Member voting privileges will be suspended if attendance requirements are not fulfilled.

For Individual members, attendance at committee meetings is preferable, but if this level of attendance is impossible, the requirement can be satisfied by doing committee or other work. Individual members that are employees, Board members, or volunteers of a member agency must be represented by that agency's designated delegate.

## **Membership Meetings**

The Network serves as a forum for support and coordination of service providers. Our members meet on a quarterly basis. This meeting provides an opportunity to meet other domestic violence service providers and discuss ongoing concerns and emerging issues. Committee reports will be provided at membership meetings as well as emerging issues impacting victims of domestic violence.

## **Please Join Today!**

Whatever your interest or expertise in domestic violence, the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network needs your input and support. Please complete the enclosed membership application and mail them to the Network today.

## **Dues**

Members and affiliates pay the same dues rate but have different roles, responsibilities, and benefits. Please see page 4 for more information.

- Organizational dues are \$200.
- Individual dues are \$60.

Complete these four steps to join the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network

✓ **STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**

**Domestic Violence Program Member**

A Network organizational member must be a non-profit, domestic violence program with full time domestic violence staff. Members receive the *Network News*, notices of Network and domestic violence community activities, discounts on CTI trainings, and access to member-only trainings. Domestic Violence Program members may vote to determine Network policy positions.

**Individual Member**

Network individual members must be working with domestic violence survivors or have an interest in the issue of domestic violence. Individual members must disclose their professional affiliation when applying as an individual member. Individual members receive the *Network News* and notices of Network and domestic violence community activities. Individual members are invited to member only trainings and may vote to determine Network policy positions.

**Affiliate Member**

Affiliates of the Network are government agencies, for profit organizations, other social service organizations, or individuals who want to participate in the Network. Affiliates receive the monthly *Network News* and notices of the domestic violence community activities. Attendance at membership meetings and participation in committees are not required but are welcomed and encouraged. Affiliates are invited to member only trainings. Voting privileges and member training discounts are not extended to affiliates.

✓ **STEP 2: COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**  
MEMBERSHIP FY 2012 (JULY 2011-JUNE 2012)

Organization			
Designated Voter		Executive Director	
Address			
City	State	Zip	Email
Phone	Fax		TTY

✓ **STEP 3: PAY YOUR DUES**       \$200 - Organization       \$60 - Individual

✓ **STEP 4: MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR DUES TO:**  
THE CHI CAGO METROPOLITAN BATTERED WOMEN'S NETWORK  
1 E. WACKER, SUITE 1630, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601