



CCS MILESTONES AND HISTORY

Since 1969, the history of Center for Community Solutions (CCS) reveals innovation, foresight and dedication in programs and services that improve the lives of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking survivors. We are committed to the prevention of violence and abuse by changing the social conditions that breed and tolerate their existence.

Key agency accomplishments include:

- 2017 CCS founders, Carol Council and Joyce Nower, are inducted into San Diego County's Women's Hall of Fame. With over 200 nominations considered, this honor is highly distinguished and a momentous tribute to their groundbreaking efforts to end violence against women in 1969.
- 2016 CCS selected by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to expand High Risk Team coordination and facilitation from the central region of San Diego County throughout the north and east regions as well.

CCS is awarded the Victim Legal Assistance grant offered by the California Office of Emergency Services to increase the availability of holistic civil and criminal legal assistance to victims of crime, including legal proceedings directly related to a client's experience of violence such as child support, child custody, legal separation/divorce, unemployment compensation, immigration matters, financial matters and/or housing needs.

- 2015 San Diego State University receives a grant from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to better prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault on campus. CCS is chosen to partner with SDSU providing a **Sexual Assault Victim Advocate** to students.
- 2014 CCS sustains and expands its domestic violence legal and advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence in North Inland, East, and Central regions of San Diego County through grants from San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency.

CCS is awarded one of three grants offered by the California Office of Emergency Services for relationship and sexual violence prevention programs using evidence-based approaches in a public health primary prevention model.

In partnership with Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, CCS launches a domestic violence and healthcare partnership project with funds from Blue Shield of California Foundation. The partnership involves cross-training to prepare CCS staff to provide basic health care education to clients and to equip Planned Parenthood clinic staff to conduct domestic violence screenings with all patients. A full-time CCS Domestic Violence Victim Advocate is available to serve Planned Parenthood patients who disclose domestic violence concerns.

2013 CCS establishes the largest nonprofit legal team serving victims of sexual and relationship violence in San Diego County. The team includes nine attorneys and three legal advocates. Over 700 survivors receive legal services from these programs annually.

CCS, in partnership with Peace Over Violence in Los Angeles, launches Trauma Resiliency Integration Using Multiple Pathways to Healing (TRIUMPH), an agency-wide effort to build core competencies in evidence-based, trauma-informed, resiliency-enhancing therapeutic approaches for counseling professionals as well as others who work with trauma survivors.

CCS is awarded a highly competitive (one of four nationally) grant by the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women to provide relationship violence prevention, outreach, victim advocacy, legal services, and trauma-informed counseling to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking who reside in rural San Diego communities. Collaborative partners on this project include Mountain Health and Community Services and the Mountain Empire Collaborative.

2012 CCS is awarded an Organizational Strengths Grant from Blue Shield of California Foundation to develop social enterprises that generate unrestricted funding through three initiatives: provision of professional continuing education, provision of self-defense workshops for women and girls, and billing third party insurance companies for trauma-specific counseling for survivors of sexual and relationship violence-related trauma.

CCS launches a domestic violence prevention and victim advocacy program for Iraqi immigrants in East County through a Cultural Competency Grant from Blue Shield of California Foundation.

2011 CCS is awarded a highly competitive Legal Assistance for Victims grant from the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women to provide direct representation to victims of sexual assault and/or domestic violence. The program, called Victim Rights Legal Services, addresses a broad array of legal needs relating to employment, education, immigration, housing, safety, privacy, and family law.

CCS is coordinator for the newly launched San Diego High Risk Team, a multi-disciplinary team that includes the San Diego District Attorney, San Diego Police Department and San Diego Probation Department to review and coordinate care on domestic violence cases where lethality risk is high, as determined by the Jacqueline Campbell Danger Assessment. CCS is now facilitating three external high risk teams, one in Central, East and North San Diego County offering coordination, wrap-around support and accountability for the entire county.

2010 CCS is one of nine agencies in the nation funded by the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women to expand county-wide training on elder abuse. This funding affords CCS the opportunity to partner with the San Diego Police Department, San Diego District Attorney's Office, Family Justice Center and Adult Protective Services to implement elder abuse training throughout San Diego.

2009 CCS launches HOPE (Help and Outreach to Protect the Elderly) Team program, creating a comprehensive elder abuse wrap-around service model through the development of agency partnerships, multi-disciplinary services at the San Diego Family Justice Center, individualized case review, and long-term sensitive client support.

2008 CCS purchases our Next Step Transitional Housing complex in North County with assistance from The City of Escondido, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, California Bank & Trust and Century Housing.

2007 CCS's North County emergency shelter, Hidden Valley House, is selected by KGVTV/10News as the recipient of a \$250,000 Extreme Home Makeover, giving the shelter a brighter, more nurturing family environment in which to heal from trauma.

CCS launches the runaway homeless youth Connections Initiative. One of only seven programs like it in the nation, it is an innovative collaboration between CCS and San Diego Youth and Community Services which aims to reduce and prevent teen relationship violence among the runaway homeless youth population by recognizing the connections between family violence, teen relationship violence, and homelessness.

CCS is selected as one of three nonprofit agencies in San Diego to receive \$300,000 worth of computer hardware and software from Fujitsu at the direction of the Junior Seau Foundation.

CCS is honored to have world renowned feminist activist Gloria Steinem as the featured speaker at the annual Tea By the Sea fundraiser. Ms. Steinem is an award-winning writer, lecturer, editor and human rights activist.

2006 CCS is funded by the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women to develop pilot programs for individuals escaping family violence that are also struggling with substance abuse problems. In collaboration with McAlister Institute and Serenity House, CCS begins developing state of the art interventions that address domestic violence and substance abuse issues.

CCS partners with the County of San Diego, Children's Hospital and Child and Adolescent Research Center with a program called Safe Start to develop best practices for the treatment of children who have been exposed to domestic violence. The project is part of a national pilot program to increase knowledge and expertise in working with children who have experienced or witnessed violence.

2005 CCS's North County Next Step Domestic Violence Transitional Housing program benefits from \$100,000 of building supplies from Home Depot Supply and countless hours of volunteer construction from Associated General Contractors Apprentices.

CCS launches Domestic Violence Services programs in the Central, East and North Inland regions of San Diego County. Emergency response and advocacy are provided in more than 12 languages.

2004 CCS is selected to receive an Oprah Angel Network Foundation Grant in recognition of the outstanding contribution CCS has made to San Diego. CCS celebrates its 35th anniversary with a community-day celebration to honor volunteers and survivors and show appreciation for continuing community support.

2003 CCS's Ahimsa Project wins Channel 10's Leadership Award for Nonprofit of the Year.

CCS is awarded San Diego County's Domestic Violence Hotline to give survivors, law enforcement, and social service providers around the county instant access to shelter bed availability, information and referrals.

- 2002 In partnership with Children's Hospital, CCS adds a teen advocacy component to its current Rape Crisis Center. Teens, age 14-18, receive 24-hour hospital accompaniment and an advocate throughout any criminal justice proceedings.

CCS begins operating San Diego County's only Youth-to-Youth Helpline as part of a collaboration with the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services, California Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and The Children's Initiative.

At the request of the community and various local agencies, CCS expands its full complement of services to include North County by establishing an office in Escondido.

- 2001 CCS is awarded East County and Northeast Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) grants to provide first-response services to domestic violence victims and their children.

- 2000 CCS Legal Clinic establishes Project Safe Harbor with San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program and Helix Center for Family Development to operate a Temporary Restraining Order clinic at East County Courthouse.

San Diego County Bar Association recognizes CCS with the Distinguished Organization Award for outstanding advocacy services.

- 1999 CCS expands its residential services for families experiencing domestic violence by adding transitional housing services to existing emergency shelter services.

- 1998 CCS is awarded a pilot project from the California Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) to counsel children and teens who have witnessed family violence.

- 1997 CCS assists in organizing a Pacific Beach collaborative known as Beach Pride. CCS opens an after-school program at Pacific Beach Middle School.

CCS opens an East County office in response to requests for services to meet growing needs in the community.

- 1996 A collaborative partnership is formed to develop "Through the Eyes of Children," an exhibit and performance in which youth educate youth about healthy relationships.

- 1995 Center for Women's Studies and Services changes its name to Center for Community Solutions to reflect more inclusive services.

- 1991 The Rape Crisis Center is formally incorporated into the County's Sexual Assault Response Team. The Center's 24-hour Hotline is operated by 150 trained staff and volunteer counselors.

- 1989 CCS Legal Clinic establishes an all-volunteer Dissolution of Marriage Clinic for battered women. The clinic begins providing court accompaniment for non-English speaking clients.

- 1988 CCS opens Project Safehouse, a full-service shelter allowing stays of up to 28 days. It is the first facility to address the lack of emergency housing for battered women in South and East San Diego County.
- 1986 CCS begins providing state-mandated training to the San Diego Police Department and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. At the request of CCS, a series of meetings with law enforcement officials leads to the formation of a formal domestic violence liaison with the San Diego Police Department.
- 1983 Center for Community Solutions opens the first Temporary Restraining Order Clinic for battered women in the state of California. CCS is the first organization in California to provide formal counseling for battered women and children.
- The Rape Crisis Center establishes the Latino Outreach Program for sexual assault victims with funding from OCJP.
- 1980 The Rape Crisis Center is launched with state funding.
- 1977 CCS opens San Diego's first 24-hour hotline for victims of domestic violence.
- An "underground railroad" (a network of private homes and emergency resources) is organized to help women escape from violent or abusive environments and establish new lives in San Diego County.
- 1969 CCS is established as Center for Women's Studies and Services, a seven-component political, educational and service organization at San Diego State University. CWSS gave rise to the first Women's Studies Department in the U.S.