

For Immediate Release  
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## **Financial Abuse: the Hidden Barrier for Victims of Domestic Violence**

*National Network to End Domestic Violence promotes economic empowerment work through Financial Literacy Day on April 26*

Bruises, broken bones and psychological scars are what most people think about when they hear of domestic violence. What many don't know is that victims of domestic violence often suffer overwhelming financial losses caused by an intimate partner.

Forcing the victim to leave job after job, getting her fired, running up high family debt, and hiding or stealing joint assets raise barriers for a woman trying to break free. The result of financial abuse can be damaged work histories, ruined credit scores, homelessness, and sometimes, abject poverty. This makes it hard to leave an abusive relationship and for those who do manage to escape, the financial damage can last for years; long after the bruises have healed.

"It can be a devastating situation," said Kim Gandy, President and CEO of the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). "Some victims, whose credit and employment opportunities have been ruined by their abusers, are essentially forced to choose between food and shelter for themselves and their children and protecting their personal safety. It is a choice that no one should have to make."

Through our economic empowerment work in partnership with The Allstate Foundation, NNEDV brings critical resources and information to domestic violence victims and the advocates who work with them. We provide education on financial topics such as budgeting, credit and credit repair, loans and long-term savings and investment strategies. The information and resources are geared toward those who have experienced domestic and financial abuse, helping to ensure short and long term safety and security. To date, more than 215,000 people have benefitted from the work of NNEDV and The Allstate Foundation.

On Friday, April 26, NNEDV and The Allstate Foundation will be part of the 11th annual Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill, which features an open-house exhibition of financial literacy products, programs and initiatives of businesses, non-profit organizations, trade associations and government agencies.

"Domestic violence affects one in four women over a lifetime. Through our partnership with the National Network to End Domestic violence we are working to end this pervasive social issue," said Vicky Dinges, vice president of corporate social responsibility at Allstate.

“By participating in this year’s Financial Literacy Day, we will highlight our unique approach in addressing domestic violence. This access to Members of Congress is a way to increase awareness of financial abuse, which helps survivors get free and stay free from domestic violence.”

NNEDV and The Allstate Foundation will be available throughout the event to talk about the economic empowerment curriculum and other resources that have been developed to help combat financial abuse. NNEDV will also be highlighting the financial literacy work being done in the states and communities represented by Members of Congress in 19 states.

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### **About NNEDV**

*NNEDV, a 501(c)(3) organization, is the leading voice for domestic violence victims and their allies. NNEDV members include all 56 of the state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, including over 2,000 local programs. NNEDV has been a premiere national organization advancing the movement against domestic violence for almost 20 years, having led efforts among domestic violence advocates and survivors in urging Congress to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994. To learn more about NNEDV, please visit [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org).*

### **About NNEDV’s Economic Justice Project and Partnership with The Allstate Foundation**

*Since 2005 NNEDV’s Economic Justice Project has worked to assist survivors of domestic violence move from short-term safety to long-term security, and to an economically sustainable independent life. In partnership with The Allstate Foundation and the U.S. state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, NNEDV’s Economic Justice Project delivers financial literacy information with tools like the [Moving Ahead Through Financial Management](#) curriculum, webinars, and grants that support economic justice and empowerment programs for survivors of abuse. For more information about the partnership between NNEDV and The Allstate Foundation, visit [www.nnedv.org/projects/ecojustice.html](http://www.nnedv.org/projects/ecojustice.html) and [www.clicktoempower.org](http://www.clicktoempower.org).*

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