

# VCS Community Change Project

# Domestic Violence Program for Men

A NY Model Batterer Program • [www.nymbp.org](http://www.nymbp.org)

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## Accountability to the Battered Women's Movement

As an organization, the VCS Community Change Project takes leadership from the local, state and national battered women's movement. Special attention is paid to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Rockland Family Shelter among many others. Project staff also keeps current with newsletters, journals, news clippings, and domestic violence research.

Our domestic violence analysis is informed through an anti-racism lens to incorporate the realities of women of color in this country. Project staff attends conferences offered across the United States to stay updated as to the best thinking emerging from both the battered women's and anti-racism, movements.

All this is done to assure that we remain cognizant of the social and political realities of all women – as we do our part in contributing to the elimination and prevention of domestic violence in the community.

Most significant for the VCS Community Change Project is our consistent participation at the local domestic violence coordination coalition. In addition, is our responsibility to articulate the role of batterer programs as part of a disposition, a mechanism of accountability and judicial monitoring for the courts to utilize . . . *not as a form of treatment*.

On a local level, VCS Community Change Project operates a NY Model batterer program. To uphold accountability on a programmatic level, we engage the services of the local battered women's movement (the provider of domestic violence services for women) and *pay* an advocate to attend the weekly, ongoing training sessions required for all staff of our agency's NY Model batterer program.

The battered women's advocate's role in participating in the weekly, ongoing staff development training is:

- To bring the battered women's perspective, i.e. the collective wisdom of battered women as experienced over the years, to inform the material, as well as to confront or challenge any information not in keeping with the battered women's movement analysis about domestic violence and how to end it in this country.

In addition, the battered women's advocate's role includes:

- To bring back to her own agency the role of the NY Model batterer program in a comprehensive coordinated criminal justice response to end domestic violence; and to become fluent on what the NY Model batterer program *is* and what it *is not*. In this way, all of the battered women's advocates will be able to answer questions, refute myths and discuss the realities with battered women who have questions and (often) misinformation about the batterer program.

Accountability to the collective wisdom of the anti-racist battered women's movement is fundamental to operating a NY Model batterer program.

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