Dear Federal Colleagues,

On Oct. 9, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). Since FVPSA was enacted in 1984, we have all been working hard and yet there is still so much more we can achieve together. The issue of domestic violence has gained increased attention across the country and is a common discussion topic in coffee shops, on the radio, and via social media. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we all have an opportunity to help broaden awareness about the network of services that exist in communities, as well as help others understand how complex and dangerous it can be to seek safety or pursue abuser accountability. I want to thank you for standing with us and for creating opportunities for stronger community based partnerships with federal agencies and domestic violence service providers – we truly appreciate the collaborations that have been forged on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children.

This October, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program asks for your continued support for families impacted by domestic violence. Health care providers, home visitors, child care providers, child welfare workers, TANF agencies, asset builders, child support workers, emergency responders, and Federal employees all have been asked to learn ways to identify domestic violence and develop policies to respond. Many of you have committed to assessing your agency’s or your grantees’ capacity to respond to a disclosure of domestic violence with an appropriate referral and trauma-informed connection to safety. As a result, these programs will have access to more resources to help bring healing that so many families accessing our services desperately need.

The FVPSA Program firmly believes that domestic violence coalitions, local domestic violence programs, Tribes, and culturally specific community based organizations are all an integral part of any coordinated health care and social service response to domestic violence. Knowing who to call when a safety plan is needed is important. However, knowing that you have invested in meaningful training and technical assistance partnerships is critical to supporting victims of domestic violence and their children. We all know that change happens person to person every day in local communities.
We have partnered with many of you and our grantees to host more than ten opportunities for people to learn more about the issue of domestic violence, trauma informed responses and community based resources. The FVPSA Program’s 2014 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events Calendar is attached to this email, we invite you to participate in a number of events taking place this month, including:

- **October 8th Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day** - This awareness-raising day sponsored by the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence aims to reach members of the healthcare community and educate them about the importance of screening for domestic violence. Check out the Action Kit for outreach ideas, social media tools, and awareness activity examples. For more information visit: [http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/health-cares-about-domestic-violence-day/](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/health/health-cares-about-domestic-violence-day/)

- **October 9th Celebrating Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) 30th Anniversary** – Please join the FVPSA Program in celebrating the far-reaching impact of FVPSA, the first Federal commitment to creating a pathway to safety for survivors of domestic violence and their children. A diverse representation of speakers will discuss the positive efforts of community-based domestic violence programs, culturally specific services, state coalitions, and Tribal Nations to end domestic violence. Register for this webinar here: [https://hhs.adobeconnect.com/fvpsa_30th_registration/event/registration.html](https://hhs.adobeconnect.com/fvpsa_30th_registration/event/registration.html)

- **October 28th Addressing the Intersection of Domestic Violence & Poverty**, hosted by the Office of Community Services and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program. This webinar will share information on the intersection of poverty, domestic violence and economic security. Important considerations will be highlighted that can be enormously helpful to domestic violence survivors, including strategies to strengthen the safety net for survivors in need. Register for this webinar here: [https://bwjp.ilinc.com/register/rksswf](https://bwjp.ilinc.com/register/rksswf)


In addition to attending events this month, please take an opportunity to share and explore the following online resources:

- Domestic Violence: Understanding the Basics by the NRCDV and VAWnet, the National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women - Access the course at: [http://www.vawnet.org/elearning/DVBasics/player.html](http://www.vawnet.org/elearning/DVBasics/player.html)
- Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence in the Workplace Resource Page: [http://www.vawnet.org/WorkplaceViolence](http://www.vawnet.org/WorkplaceViolence)
Since 2006, I have led the federal response as director of the FVPSA Program, proudly overseeing the Department’s investment in domestic violence shelters and services, including prevention programs, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, that together form the national network of programs delivering relief every day to survivors across the country. In those 8 years I have seen our collective action impact many lives and programs. The work of Federal agencies is instrumental in creating support, expanding resources, and eliminating barriers for families impacted by domestic violence. This month I have also had the opportunity to share reflections about the importance of domestic violence services and federal efforts to address this issue, please visits ACF’s website to read my blog: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2014/10/reflections-on-the-30th-anniversary-of-the-family-violence-prevention-services-act.

I want to thank the Administration for Native Americans, Office of Child Care, Office of Head Start, Children’s Bureau, Office of Community Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Office of Financial Assistance, Office of Refugee Resettlement, and Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response for their partnership and national commitment to raising awareness about the impact of domestic violence for the millions of families served by ACF. Together, we have built strong and innovative programs; we are continually inspired by the work of our colleagues and our grantees. On behalf of all the FVPSA Program staff, I want to thank you for your work supporting domestic violence survivors and their children.

Sincerely,

Marylouise Kelley
Director
Division of Family Violence Prevention & Services
Family & Youth Services Bureau
www.acf.hhs.gov/fvpsa