

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF ESSEX**

**RESOLUTION NO.** \_\_\_\_\_ **AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION:** N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(n)

**PROPOSED BY:** COUNTY EXECUTIVE **AUTHORITY FOR ACTION:** N.J.S.A. 40:41A-36(i)

**SUBJECT:**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ESSEX COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, INC AND THE COUNTY OF ESSEX**

**WHEREAS**, the Essex County Family Justice Center, Inc. (Project Applicant and Lead Partner), and the County of Essex (Project Partner) have come together to collaborate to make a renewal application for the Office on Violence Against Women (O- OVW-2024-171-1991) Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response Program (ICJR) and

**WHEREAS**, the Partners have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement in which Essex County Family Justice Center, Inc. and the County of Essex will be partners in this OVW application; and

**WHEREAS**, the Partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (attached hereto) setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative; and

**WHEREAS**, the application prepared and approved by the collaborative through the Partners is to be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women on or before **April 29, 2024**;

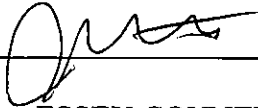
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Essex County Board of County Commissioners that:

1. The MOU attached hereto and made part hereof between the Essex County Family Justice Center, Inc. and The County of Essex is hereby approved.
2. That the County Administrator is authorized to execute MOU on behalf of the County.
3. That two certified copies of the resolution MOU be sent to the Office of Public Information and one to Essex County Counsel.

RECEIVED  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
2024 MAY -7 PM 2:09  
ESSEX COUNTY  
BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\*

Approved as to form and legality \_\_\_\_\_



Date 4-25-24

ESSEX COUNTY COUNSEL

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_  
Second by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS	Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS
Cooper, V.P.					Murray-Thomas				
Gill					Pomares, Pres.				
Graham					Richardson				
Luciano					Sebold				
Mercado									

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was ( ) adopted ( ) defeated ( ) tabled by roll call vote at a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on \_\_\_\_\_.

Is Publication Required ( ) Yes ( ) No

Date Published \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlos M. Pomares, President

MOU – Essex County Family Justice Center, Inc.  
4/25/2024

May 15, 2024  
Meeting Back-up  
Documentation for  
Resolution No. 49

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Between**  
**Essex County Family Justice Center, Inc.**  
**and**  
**The County of Essex**

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WHEREAS, the Partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the application prepared and approved by the collaborative through the Partners is to be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women on or before **April 29, 2024**;

**I) Description of Partner Agencies**

**Essex County Family Justice Center (ECFJC)**

Essex County Family Justice Center (ECFJC), Project Applicant and Lead Partner, is the first Family Justice Center established in New Jersey in 2010. ECFJC's mission is to enhance the safety and autonomy of domestic violence victims and their children by providing comprehensive, trauma-informed, and coordinated services in/from one location. ECFJC serves victims of all backgrounds and ethnicities, however, the majority of individuals served represent the most marginalized, underserved victims of intimate partner violence.

The Family Justice Center Model is designed to reduce the barriers and fragmentation of conventional domestic violence services by co-locating a range of professional service providers in one location. Aligned with the Model, ECFJC addresses the fragmentation of conventional services by coordinating a comprehensive response to domestic violence through its formal partnerships with 30 government, non-government, and community-based agencies through one visit or call to Essex County Family Justice Center (ECFJC) located in downtown Newark, New Jersey. All of ECFJC's evidence-based, trauma-informed services are provided in victims' spoken language by a professionally trained, 100% bilingual direct service staff.

Essex County Family Justice Center's (ECFJC) services include evidence-based, trauma-

informed crisis intervention, civil legal advocacy and guidance, restraining order assistance, direct emergency aid, criminal justice assistance, safety planning, referrals to emergency shelters, therapeutic counseling, connections to Victims of Crime Compensation and other benefits, case management, and other services that are essential for victims' safety, remediation, and self-reliance, in the wake of a domestic violence assault

Since opening in 2010, 10,500 survivors of domestic violence have been served by ECFJC, including up to 1,000 annually, and have had access to the services of the Newark Police Division, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and Essex Vicinage Family Court, among many other providers. Based upon current demographics, these individuals are each victims of intimate partner violence who are also female (91%), African, African- American, or Caribbean (39%), Latino or Hispanic (41%), have mental or cognitive disabilities (35%), have substance abuse concerns (40%), limited English proficiency or illiteracy (25-28% annually), at risk of domestic violence homicide (31-41% annually), undocumented (13%), have annual household incomes under \$20,001 (71%), have experienced multiple forms of victimization or trauma besides domestic violence (a minimum of 37%) and reside in the urban centers of Newark, Orange, East Orange, and Irvington (73% combined.) *(These service numbers and demographics are aggregates drawn from Essex County Family Justice Center's client relationship management database).* ECFJC assesses each victim served through use of the Danger Assessment Instrument, an evidence-based risk actuarial tool developed by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of the John Hopkins. More than 10.50% of those served report being victims of gun violence, and from 31% to 41% annually are determined to be at risk of homicide through use of this actuarial tool.

Notably, ECFJC is one of few victim service or crisis intervention providers in the state whose service delivery includes medical-behavioral assessment and referrals to vetted, affordable medical-behavioral healthcare providers. As more than half of victims served are uninsured or under-insured, but for ECFJC, they would not have access to the medical-behavioral healthcare assessments and vetted referrals to charity healthcare providers in the wake of an assault. ECFJC is also one of few who provides civil legal assistance and access to representation for family law and immigration matters, and at no cost to victims. But for ECFJC, these victims would not have access to legal representation or guidance regarding civil legal options outside of family court or the criminal justice system.

Officers from both the Newark Police Division (NPD) and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office (ECPO) are stationed on-site at ECFJC, including two ECPO Detectives and an Assistant Prosecutor, who provide criminal justice services to victims in support of the prosecution of their domestic violence assault(s). Attorneys from Rutgers Law Associates provide dedicated civil legal, immigration and family law services associated with victimization. Court Advocates from ECFJC's on-site partner, The Safe House, provide enhanced safety planning, referrals to area emergency shelters, and counseling. Trauma-informed therapeutic counseling sessions for groups and individuals are provided through on-site partner, Sanar Wellness Institute, through both in-person and virtual sessions.

ECFJC's Leadership, Executive Director, Mary Houtsma, provides general oversight of direct service and administrative operations, as well as facilitates/maintains relationships with partner and referral entities. Program Coordinator, Anjali Mani, coordinates the delivery of on-site and off-site services provided by ECFJC's direct service staff, as well as services provided for clients by ECFJC's partner agencies. In addition, she works closely with leadership and supervisors of partner agencies.

The purpose of the County of Essex-Essex County Family Justice Center Collaborative Partnership described in this Memorandum of Understanding is to further improve Essex County's criminal justice system response to the needs of the county's most marginalized domestic violence victims, through 1) provision of expanded support for Essex County Prosecutor's Office and Newark Police Division law enforcement personnel, 2) continued facilitation of training opportunities for Essex County law enforcement personnel, and 3) the sustaining and expansion of comprehensive multidisciplinary services for victims of domestic violence by Essex County Family Justice Center. If awarded, the OVW-ICJR award will include budget line items to cover salary allocations and training opportunities for the indicated law enforcement personnel and strengthened client service delivery for the project's three-year period (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027).

Essex County Family Justice Center's operation is supported with awards and contracts from the Department of Justice's Offices on Violence Against Women and Office on Victims of Crime, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, New Jersey Department of Children and Families, as well as grants from metropolitan area corporations, and private foundations.

### **The County of Essex**

The Essex County Executive's Office is the Executive and Administrative Branch of the County government. This Office is headed by the County Executive, which is an elective office and the chief political and administrative officer of the County of Essex, New Jersey. The duties of the County Executive include but are not limited to: Enforcement of the County Charter and all general laws pertaining to the County, Preparation of the County's annual operating and capital budget, Supervision of the collection of revenues, as well as the audit, and control of all disbursements and expenditures, Negotiations for the County, and Signatory of all Ordinances, contracts and bonds. Under the jurisdiction of the County Executive, the Division of Family Assistance and Benefits, within the County Department of Citizen Services, oversees the Family Violence Program, a program that provides financial assistance, Medicaid and counseling services in a safe environment to eligible WFNJ/TANF/GA families and/or SSI individuals who are the victims of domestic violence. In addition, under the jurisdiction of the County Executive, the Department of Health and Rehabilitation, through the Division of Community Health Services, operates the County's Domestic Violence Assessment Center, which conducts selective assessments of perpetrators, providing the Courts with recommendations regarding the risk to the victim and appropriate intervention for the offender. The County Administrator, appointed by the County Executive, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of County Government. Among

the primary responsibilities of the Administrator are supervising the Department Directors, advising the County Executive, and developing management policies and procedures. The management functions are performed through regularly scheduled weekly meetings, and on-demand, as required problem-solving sessions. The County Administrator meets regularly with the County Executive to discuss general County issues and specific operational problems, Board of County Commissioners agenda items, and personnel matters.

## **II) History of Relationship**

Essex County Family Justice Center (ECFJC) was established in 2008 in the wake of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office strategic planning process to address the county's ongoing domestic violence homicide trend at that time. That planning process led in 2011 to the establishment of the Essex County Family Justice Center. In 2011, the County was awarded a "Grant to Encourage Arrest" from the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), when then subsequently established a Collaborative Partnership with ECFJC to administer and implement the respective OVW-grant funded project activities. The County of Essex further committed to the Collaborative Partnership with an in-kind donation of space to ECFJC, for client service delivery, within the Essex County Government Complex, through renewable five-year leases. That Partnership and in-kind donation continues today and ensured ECFJC's continued delivery of comprehensive crisis intervention services for upwards of 1,000 victims of domestic violence every year since then. From 2016 to the present, that donation of space has included a suite of offices on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors of the Leroy Smith, Jr. Public Safety Building. These suites continue today to be used for ECFJC's delivery of domestic violence services on behalf of individuals, up to 1,000 annually, who represent the most marginalized and under-served victims of domestic violence in the county. (The New Jersey Superior Court - Essex Vicinage also donates a suite of offices in the Hall of Records (located in the Essex County Government Complex) for ECFJC's administrative operations.

The overarching goals of the ongoing Collaborative Partnership are to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of domestic violence procedures and policies within Essex County and to continue serving as Model of comprehensive domestic violence services and effective prosecution of domestic violence for the entire state. To accomplish this, Essex County Family Justice Center continues to work closely with the County of Essex and the county's other domestic violence stakeholders, including the Essex County Domestic Violence Working Group, the Trial Court Administrator - Essex Vicinage, the Essex County Probation Office, the Essex County Family Division, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, and the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence, among others, to further improve the county's multidisciplinary response to and prosecution of domestic violence non-fatal strangulation assault, and domestic violence homicide.

Since the Partnership's establishment, ECFJC has utilized its federal Department of Justice awards (OVW) to facilitate the training of Essex County law enforcement personnel on issues and trends in domestic violence. From 2016 and ongoing, with technical assistance from the Training

Institute on Strangulation Prevention (TISP), ECFJC facilitates the training of hundreds of law enforcement and court personnel on the investigation, prosecution, and health consequences of non-fatal strangulation. With ECFJC's facilitation, the Newark Police Division, Bloomfield Police Department, and Fairfield Police Department have adopted city-wide use of a Strangulation Protocol, including incorporation of a Supplemental Strangulation Report form, whose use ensures that respective documentation of non-fatal strangulation in domestic violence assault is secured. The complementary training strategy is part of the Partners ongoing initiative to increase evidence-based prosecution of domestic violence cases, as demonstrated most recently by the participation of 10 Bloomfield and Fairfield Detectives and Assistant Prosecutors in the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention's (TISP) *1-Day Virtual Course*. Later in 2022, the Newark Police Division Detective currently stationed at ECFJC also participated in TISP's multi-day *Advanced Course in Strangulation Prevention*.

The partner's additional training initiatives include working with Essex County law enforcement and Essex Vicinage to address inequities in policies and programs that represent barriers to equal access, particularly for victims who represent marginalized populations. To that end, in 2018, ECFJC facilitated a full-day event: *Assessing Risk and Domestic Violence in Family Court* led by Dr. Neil Websdale and Judge Jerry Bowles, for 179 Essex Vicinage Family Court judges, hearing officers, law clerks, probation officers, and domestic violence stakeholders. In 2020 was the virtual training event entitled, *Fairness and Procedural Justice* for 70 Essex County's Superior and Municipal Court judges. In 2024, ECFJC worked with Essex Vicinage Presiding Family Court Judge David B. Katz to facilitate the training of 165 Superior Court and Municipal Court Judges and court personnel to present the Third Annual Essex County Domestic Violence Summit in March. That training focused on priorities identified by Judge Katz, including *Domestic Violence Risk Factors*, *Child Safety in Custody Cases*, and *Coercive Control*.

### **III) Development of Application**

The current 2024-2027 OVW-ICJR application builds upon the past achievements of the Collaborative Partnership that were made possible with OVW funding from both the Justice for Families (JFF) and Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) awards.

OVW grants awarded in FFY 2016 and FFY 2020 (Improving Criminal Justice Grants-ICJR) provided funding to sustain the stationing of law enforcement staff from the Newark Police Division and Essex County Prosecutor's Office on-site at ECFJC. The focus of those grants focused on improving the Essex County's criminal justice response to domestic violence non-fatal strangulation through 1) ECFJC's collaboration with the Newark Police Division and Essex County Prosecutor's Office; 2) provision of comprehensive and multidisciplinary services by ECFJC to victims of non-fatal strangulation and at-risk of domestic violence homicide; and 3) training of law enforcement and judiciary on non-fatal strangulation and other domestic violence concerns most relevant to the county.

The OVW awards enabled ECFJC to expand its civil legal capacity, increase referrals from Family Court for marginalized victims needing wrap-around services, and helped enabled Essex

County address the specific training needs identified by the New Jersey Domestic Violence Fatality and Near-Fatality Review Board. Thus, over the past six years ECFJC with the Honorable David B. Katz, and the Essex County Trial Court Administrator's Office have coordinated several training events for judges, court staff, and court partners, as well as law enforcement on domestic violence fatality risk factors, and the principles of procedural justice and cultural competency, with technical assistance provided by OVW-sponsored Training and Technical Assistance Providers Battered Women's Justice Project and the Center for Justice Innovation.

ECFJC's current OVW-ICJR award, which ends in September 2024, has supported Essex County law enforcement personnel from Newark Police Division and Essex County Prosecutor's Office, as well as law enforcement personnel from other county Police Departments, to attend trainings provided by the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, on topics including *Increasing Victim Safety and Personal Autonomy*, *Holding Offenders Accountable*, as well as *Investigating and Prosecuting High-Risk Cases of Strangulation Assault*, and *Connecting Victims to Comprehensive Services*.

As with the prior successful OVW-ICJR applications, Mary Houtsma, Essex County Family Justice Center's Executive Director, is working closely with key staff from the Newark Police Division and Essex County Prosecutor's Office to develop the current application and ensure the successful implementation of proposed project objectives, as they pertain to the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence homicide, investigation and prosecution of nonfatal strangulation assault, as well as the respective project activities for which each Project Partner will be responsible.

An overarching goal of the Collaborative Partnership going forward includes expanding use of the Strangulation Protocol for investigation of strangulation assault (currently utilized by the Newark Police Division, Fairfield Police Department, and Bloomfield Police Department) to additional Essex County municipalities that have demographics similar to the City of Newark's. Expanding use of the Protocol will support the Essex County Prosecutor's Office's (ECPO) utilization of evidence-based prosecution strategies in other municipalities with high rates of non-fatal strangulation assault. As such, the OVW-ICJR application will include partnering with ECPO to ensure that additional municipalities will benefit from related specialized training opportunities provided by OVW-sponsored Training and Technical Assistance providers.

#### **IV) Roles and Responsibilities**

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the Partners as follows:

##### **Essex County Family Justice Center (ECFJC)**

ECFJC will provide the financial administration for the awarded grant, ensuring that sound fiscal practices are followed and that all positions are filled as described in the grant application. In addition, ECFJC's Executive Director and Program Coordinator will work with the Newark

Police Division, and Essex County Prosecutor's Office to coordinate, implement, and report on grant funded activity as per OVW regulations. In addition, the ongoing OVW-project duties of ECFJC's Program Coordinator include but are not limited to: assisting in the recruitment and coordination of staff from partner agencies; assisting with the development and delivery of training for all staff, volunteers, and partner staff; managing a volunteer program; ensuring that operational protocols are followed; supervising direct service staff to ensure that the needs of victims of non-fatal strangulation and those at-risk of homicide are prioritized; assisting with reporting on all grant-funded activities; analysis of aggregate client and service data; and conducting community outreach and education events, as directed. In addition, ECFJC's Executive Director will provide overall supervision and leadership on the development, planning, and implementation of OVW-ICJR grant-funded activities and will facilitate the collaboration and communication between the County of Essex and ECFJC. The Operations Manager will customize ECFJC's client relationship management database to track and aggregate client and service statistics to support analysis and ICJR reporting requirements. The Director of Finance will manage all grant financial reporting responsibilities and related subcontract relationships.

### **The County of Essex**

**The County of Essex** will continue to provide in-kind office space for the operation of ECFJC within the LeRoy F. Smith, Jr. Public Safety Building in downtown Newark. Since 2016, the County of Essex has generously donated space on two floors of the building for operation of ECFJC's direct client service delivery and related collaborations with community-based partner agencies. Office space within this building benefits from comprehensive security services provided by the Essex County Sheriff's Office, including metal detection at all entries. The security services ensure the safety of ECFJC staff and clients. Office space within this building is in close proximity to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office which is housed in the Veterans Courthouse next door, also within the Essex County Government Complex. The office space provided by the County of Essex through a renewable 5-year lease agreement, is provided as an in-kind contribution to the proposed 2024-2027 OVW-ICJR project. The County Administrator's Office will continue to work with Essex County Family Justice Center's Executive Director Mary Houtsma on issues related to the Center's occupancy within the County's LeRoy F. Smith, Jr. Public Safety Building

The County of Essex is committed to supporting the work of Essex County Family Justice Center (ECFJC), strengthening the ongoing Collaborative Partnership, and continue to seek ways to support ECFJC through in-kind contributions and other resources, as needed. The County of Essex understands and agrees that it will not receive any grant funds awarded under this application and is not responsible for the administration of any awarded funds, the fulfillment of any grant requirements, or any defaults thereunder. To that end, ECFJC agrees to defend, indemnify and hold the County of Essex harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, or losses arising out of or resulting from the acts, errors or omission of ECFJC in the administration of the O-OVW-2024-171991 grant if awarded, except for injuries and damages caused by the sole negligence of the County of Essex.

**A) Essex County Family Justice Center-ECFJC** (Project Applicant and Lead Partner) will provide fiscal administration and accounting services for the OVW-ICJR grant if awarded. ECFJC will dedicate the services of its Direct Service Staff and Administrative Staff, including the Executive Director and Program Coordinator. These services include project duties and tasks as outlined in the FFY 2024 O-OVW-171991 grant application, the proposed OVW-ICJR grant-funded activities are summarized in Section IV above of this Memorandum of Understanding.

**B ) The County of Essex** (Project Partner) will continue to provide in-kind space for the operation of Essex County Family Justice Center within the Leroy F. Smith Jr. Public Safety Building in the Essex County Government Complex (including office suites on the Building's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors). Within this donated space, co-located staff from Essex County Family Justice Center, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and Newark Police Division will work on implementing the proposed OVW-ICJR project activities and providing services for domestic violence victims, as described in Section IV above. The County Administrator's Office will work with Essex County Family Justice Center on any issues related to occupancy within the LeRoy F. Smith Jr. Public Safety Building that may arise during the implementation of project activities. The County of Essex is committed to ongoing collaboration with Essex County Family Justice Center.

**V) Additional Project Partners**

By definition, the Family Justice Center Model which Essex County Family Justice Center (ECFJC) implements, requires collaboration by multiple organizations to coordinate and ensure that comprehensive services are accessible by and provided for victims and their children in/from one location. As such, and in addition to the County of Essex' provision of in-kind space for the administrative and direct-service delivery of ECFJC's client services, numerous other government, non-government, and community agencies also partner with Essex County Family Justice Center to ensure effective, comprehensive service delivery.

Among ECFJC's on-site partners are: The Essex County Prosecutor's Office and Newark Police Division station law enforcement personnel on-site at ECFJC to directly help victims navigate the criminal justice process. The Essex County Sheriff's Office provides overall security for the Essex County Government Complex, including metal detection at all entrances. Rutgers Law Associates provides civil legal services and counsel, The Safe House provides crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, (bilingual) counseling and shelter services. Sanar Wellness Institute connects victims to long- and short-term therapeutic counseling. The Essex Vicinage's Family Court Domestic Violence Unit refers nearly half of all the victims that ECFJC serves annually. A collaboration with the Essex Vicinage Trial Court Administrator and Essex Vicinage Domestic Violence Unit enables victims to file for temporary restraining orders virtually from dedicated rooms on-site at ECFJC in its suite on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Leroy Smith Public Safety Building.

ECFJC's operation is also supported by survivors of domestic violence who as members of the Essex County VOICES Chapter, serve as Essex County victim advocates. Essex County VOICES members play essential roles in ECFJC's community outreach and public awareness campaigns, fundraising activities, and client Intake and screening. They also provide input for victim-centered policies, programming, and proposal development and currently serve as members of ECFJC's Board of Trustees. The local VOICES Chapter is affiliated with the national VOICES organization, which is an Alliance for Hope International organization.

The complete list of ECFJC formal Partners, including those on-site and off-site, listed below reflects some overlap as a number fall into multiple categories:

**Health & Wellness:** AIDS Resource Foundation for Children; Bessie Mae Women's and Family Health Center; Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connection; Family Intervention Services; Integrity House, Inc.; New Jersey Citizen Action; North Jersey Community Research Initiative; Ironbound Community Corp, Break the Cycle Program; Sanar Wellness Institute; The Safe House, University Hospital Trauma Recovery Center; Newark Community Street Team Trauma Recovery Center, Youth Consultation Services

- **Substance Abuse Treatment**

Family Connections, Dream Program) Irvington Counseling Center, Real House, Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, Integrity House,

- **Disability Healthcare:** Sanar Wellness Institute, The Safe House, Family Service Bureau of Newark, Family Life Education Center, Trauma Recovery Center, Youth Consultation Services

- **Emergency Shelter and Services, Counseling:** The Rachel Coalition; Clara Maass Medical Center; Newark Housing Authority.

- **Government & Law Enforcement:** County of Essex; Essex County Prosecutor's Office; Essex County Sheriff's Office; Newark Police Division; Superior Court of NJ – Essex Vicinage.

- **Civil Legal and Immigration Services:** Essex-Newark Legal Services; New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center; Partners for Women & Justice; and American Friends Service Committee.

## **VI) Project Timeline**

The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on Essex County Family Justice Center receiving funds requested through the O-OVW-2024-171991 FFY 2024 Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Program described in the respective grant application. Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding will coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027.

## **VII) Commitment to Partnership**

- 1) The collaboration service area includes Essex County, New Jersey.
- 2) Project Partner, the County of Essex, agrees to collaborate with the Essex County Family Justice Center and to support the provision of services described herein to victims of domestic violence and non-fatal strangulation assault pursuant to the program narrative of

the grant application to the O-OVW FFY 2024 Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Program

- 3) We, the undersigned are aware of the total amount of \$1,000,000 being requested.
- 4) We, the undersigned understand and agree that project implementation will include no compensation for the County of Essex's participation, support, or contribution to project implementation, if the application is approved.
- 5) We, the undersigned have read and agree with this Memorandum of Understanding. Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and approve it.

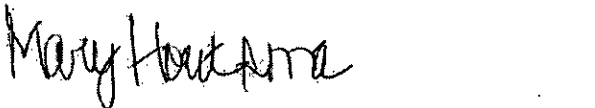
#### **VIII) Partner Signatures**

By



Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.  
Essex County Executive  
*(Project Partner)*

By



Mary Houtsma  
Executive Director  
Essex County Family Justice Center  
*(Project Applicant and Lead Partner)*