



**Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
FY10 Member Application Form
July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010**

Renewing Member **New Membership**

By completing and signing the membership application, you join with programs across the state to actively support the MCBW mission and core values. Please fill out and return pages 1 through 3.

Date of application: _____

Organization: _____

Contact person: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Business phone: _____ **Crisis Phone:** _____

Fax: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Organization web site address: _____

Counties/Areas of Service: _____

Please briefly describe any changes in programming or service demographics that have occurred in the past year: _____

To ensure accurate posting of your services on the MCBW website, please list the program/contact person/address/phone number/fax/e-mail of the satellite offices of your organization (please use an additional sheet of paper if necessary): _____

CHECKLIST AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

We have reviewed the following:

- Membership Information
- MCBW Mission Statement and Core Values
- Membership Benefits

We have included the following with our application:

- Attachment A: Current Board of Directors list
- Attachment B: Mission or philosophy statement (only if these have changed in the last year)
- Attachment C: By-laws (only if these have changed in the last year)
- A check for \$_____ (see below for Membership Dues categories)

Membership Dues--MCBW membership dues are based on the annual budget of member organizations.

ANNUAL BUDGET	MEMBERSHIP DUE
\$ 0 – \$49,999	\$75.00 minimum
\$50,000 – \$149,000	\$125.00 minimum
\$150,000 – \$299,000	\$175.00 minimum
\$300,000 – \$499,000	\$225.00 minimum
\$500,000 and over	\$275.00 minimum

Type of membership requested: Two different types of membership are available to organizations. All members benefit from participation in MCBW sponsored events, training, and resource dissemination; voting members have certain additional ways to participate in the Coalition.

- VOTING MEMBER ORGANIZATION:** Voting membership is open to battered women's programs in the state of Minnesota that are incorporated as non-profit organizations designed primarily to serve battered women and their children and that provide crisis intervention, advocacy, protective housing, referrals, peer support, and/or children's services. Programs that meet the above criteria but are a sub-group of larger non-profit corporations that are not incorporated for such purposes may become voting members as long as the above criteria is met. Voting members pay dues; actively support and promote the mission statement of MCBW; vote on new board members and changes to MCBW by-laws; and are eligible for special travel scholarships.

Prospective voting members, please designate a Voting Delegate and a Voting Alternate:

Voting Delegate _____

Voting Alternate _____

- SUPPORTIVE NON-VOTING ORGANIZATION:** Organizations that pay dues and support and actively promote the mission statement of MCBW as indicated on their signed application may join as supportive non-voting members.

We commit ourselves to support and actively promote the mission statement and core values of MCBW as indicated by the signature below:

Signed _____ Date _____

Listed below are activities and opportunities MCBW offers to support the work of our member programs across Minnesota. To truly work as a coalition we need your voices, ideas, skills and resources.

To help us plan, please let us know which activities your staff, volunteers, board members or people served by your program are most likely to participate in over the next year:

MCBW Governance:

- Attending the MCBW Annual Meeting
- Applying to serve on the MCBW Board of Directors
- Assisting with statewide fundraising efforts

Legislative Education:

- Participating in the MCBW Public Policy and Legislative Survey
- Attending the Violence Against Women Action Day Legislative Training
- Attending the Violence Against Women Action Day Rally at the Capitol and meeting with your legislators
- Responding to MCBW Action Alerts
- Inviting your local legislators to visit your program

Committees and Networks:

- The Women of Color and Native Women's Leadership Council
- The Legislative Advisory Committee
- The Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy for Women Committee
- Director/Team Manager Meetings

Training:

- Monthly audio/web presentations
- MCBW-sponsored trainings (DV 101, Advanced OFP, Advanced Advocacy topics)
- Hosting an MCBW-sponsored regional training

Public Awareness and Prevention:

- Participating in MCBW-sponsored public awareness efforts (ex. Choose Respect Campaign, Verizon Wireless Teen Essay Contest, etc.)
- Working with your local media to cover MCBW-sponsored events such as Violence Against Women Action Day
- Contacting MCBW if you become aware of a death in your community resulting from domestic violence
- Displaying the Clothesline Project
- Participating in Teen and Tween leadership events

Let us know what other activities you would like to see your Coalition offer.

MCBW MISSION

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to provide a voice for battered women and member programs; challenge systems and institutions so they respond more effectively to the needs of battered women and their children; promote social change; and support, educate, and connect member programs.

We define battering as the use of a range of coercive tactics, including the threat or use of physical and sexual violence, to establish and maintain control over one's intimate partner. In the 1970s, women around the world forced their communities to recognize that male battering of women was a widespread and serious social problem. These activists created women's shelters, advocacy programs, state and national coalitions in response, with the goal of ending this form of violence against women. While this goal remains our primary concern, MCBW member programs understand that any individual may choose to batter a partner; thus we strive to effectively assist all individuals who are experiencing battering in their heterosexual or homosexual, dating and intimate relationships.

CORE VALUES

1. We oppose the use of all forms of violence as a means of control in dating and intimate relationships, and affirm the basic human right of every person to live without fear or the threat of violence throughout the course of one's life.
2. We understand that women have been and are the primary victims of battering as a result of patriarchal cultural values that historically have either expressly sanctioned or implicitly tolerated violence against women.
3. We stand in solidarity with efforts around the world to end all forms of discrimination, exploitation and violence against women, including prostitution and sexual trafficking.
4. We recognize that forms of oppression based on race, gender, class, ethnicity, nationality, disability, age, religion and sexual orientation create a climate of supremacy and ownership that facilitates battering and sexual violence.
5. We believe in the strength of diversity, embrace the differences among ourselves and within our communities, and promote the development of leadership in all communities.
6. We undertake prevention efforts to confront and change cultural norms and practices that facilitate violence against women.
7. We promote and encourage the leadership of victim/survivors in guiding our advocacy and social change efforts.
8. We affirm the power of collective and collaborative efforts, in partnership with victim/survivors, to advocate with social systems and institutions in order to end the conditions that facilitate battering.
9. We believe that all women have the right to advocacy that supports their self-determination regarding lifestyles, finances, education, employment, sexual and reproductive matters, and responses to the violence in their lives.
10. We affirm the right of victim/survivors to confidentiality in their communications with advocates and program staff. We also promote the right of victim/survivors to safeguard their confidentiality as they seek protection or support from other agencies in their communities.
11. We seek to respond to the special needs of battered mothers and their children, and encourage efforts that reinforce the mother-child relationship, build on their resiliency and assets, and support their recovery from the trauma of living with a batterer.
12. We believe that it is the community's responsibility to confront perpetrators of battering and hold them accountable for their actions in order to prevent further abuse. We believe in the human potential for change and support community efforts to assist perpetrators who commit to ending abusive and violent behavior.
13. We encourage reflection about our work and thoughtful evaluation of our efforts. We are committed to the ongoing development of innovative strategies and programs to better meet the diverse and emerging needs of survivors.
14. We commit to create a work environment for staff and volunteers that respects diversity, fosters professional growth, encourages critical thinking and initiative, and promotes diligent and effective advocacy efforts

MCBW MEMBERSHIP

- MCBW membership keeps you connected with organizing efforts across the state and throughout the country through networking groups, training, technical assistance, and up to date information and resource materials. Opportunities include:
 - Read weekly MCBW e-mail updates with news, resources, and funding opportunities.
 - Join networks, such as the Women of Color and Native American Women's Leadership Council, the Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy for Women Committee, the Legislative Advisory Committee, and networking groups focused on prevention and teen leadership.
 - Shape the priorities and activities of MCBW at the Annual Membership Meeting.
 - Participate in e-mail discussion lists with advocates from across the state, including up-to-the-minute news and resources.
 - Participate in MCBW trainings such as Domestic Violence 101, Advanced Legal Advocacy, and Legislative Organizing at reduced rates.
 - Attend free audio/web trainings.
 - Increase your corporate, government and community support through MCBW member mini-grants and travel scholarships.

- MCBW is a recognized leader in raising public awareness of battering, developing materials and coordinating events that increase media attention to help prevent battering and support the needs of battered women and their children.
 - *Annual Femicide Report* – MCBW publishes an annual Femicide Report, a report on women and children murdered in our state, to educate the public about the lethality of domestic violence and child abuse. We report on the murders of women and children at the hands of abusers to direct attention to the challenges faced by all of the women and children who are living with abuse and as a call to all Minnesotans to come together to promote justice, provide safety, and prevent future harm for all women and children. For the past two year, MCBW has not only compiled the stories of women and children murdered by an intimate partner but have started to analyze the data. By looking at trends in the homicide statistics, the Femicide Report is becoming a tool to assist in the education and prevention of domestic homicides. MCBW has been publishing the Femicide Report since 1989.
 - *Clothesline Project* – The Minnesota Clothesline Project, which started in 1992, is a memorial to the victims and survivors of domestic violence. The project involves designing shirts to remember the women and children murdered as a result of domestic violence and child abuse. The shirts then are hung on a clothesline and displayed in a public location. The purpose is to create a visual memorial to the casualties and survivors of the war against women. Clotheslines from 1992 to the present honoring the women and children in Minnesota killed as a result of domestic violence are available for exhibit throughout the state to raise public awareness of the prevalence and severity of women abuse and child abuse.

- MCBW is an effective advocate at the Minnesota Legislature, promoting increased funding for battered women's programs, increased consequences for batterers and better tools for law enforcement and the courts to use in holding batterers accountable.
 - In the past year, MCBW members worked together to ensure continued federal funding through VAWA, FVPSA and VOCA and reduced the proposed state cuts to crime victim service providers from 7% to 3% for the FY10-11 biennium.

- MCBW successfully opposed child custody bills that would have put some battered women and their children in more danger, and supported prosecutor initiatives to provide greater safety for women. For example, the amount of time police have to make a probable cause arrest in domestic assault cases was extended from 12 hours to 24 hours. This should lead to greater accountability, especially for offenders who try to avoid arrest by fleeing the scene of their crimes before the police arrive.
- MCBW works with member programs to support teen leadership skill development and to promote healthy relationships to prevent teen dating violence.
 - The 2009 Teen Leadership Summit engaged 44 youth and 24 advocates from around the state in peer advocacy training that provided them with the skills and tools necessary to be effective young advocates in their schools and communities. Youth were highly interactive during the survivor stories and relay race and groups developed awareness campaigns utilizing four venues – video, theatre, music/written word and publicity campaigning. MN Lynx donated the Target Center space, beverages, a visit from “Prowl,” pictures on the Target court with Timberwolves player and 150 tickets to the Timberwolves evening game. Both Verizon Wireless and the MN Lynx provided underwriting and travel scholarships for this event and donated gifts for all the participants
- MCBW is a leading training resource, providing accurate and timely training opportunities for new and experienced battered women’s advocates. Trainings include:
 - A bi-annual statewide conference, a two-day basic advocacy training, monthly audio/web conferences and workshops on emerging issues such as stalking and strangulation and the use of new technology to harass, control and endanger women, assuring that Minnesota advocates, attorneys, and court personnel have timely access to information on the most recent legal and policy changes affecting battered women.
 - Quarterly basic training for new advocates has been reformatted and enhanced to not only present on philosophy and the *herstory* of the movement, but to take those concepts and have participants strategize how they should form and inform their work as advocates. These trainings have been well attended and member programs report that DV101 is an important component in training of new volunteers, staff and board members.
 - An Advanced Order for Protection (OFP) Advocacy training was developed in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Law School which employs a mock “hearing” conducted by a retired judge and in-depth discussion of a variety of scenarios that focus on advocacy skills in OFP evidentiary hearings. A training handbook was also developed for this project and the training has garnered overwhelmingly positive evaluations both in terms of content and format.
 - Training on domestic violence was developed with the State Guardian Ad Litem (GAL). This is a one-day/ 6-hour training that is experiential in nature and addresses areas such as: assessing safety risks and making appropriate recommendations; and dealing with the co-occurrence of child abuse and battering. The training was fine tuned after a pilot conducted with GAL managers and coordinators and has been conducted throughout 2008-2009. MCBW staff is also providing domestic violence training to GALs as part of their initial required 40-hour pre-service training.
 - MCBW also participates in various multi-disciplinary training collaborations. For example, MCBW staff co-presented on order for protection proceedings at the Judicial College Training—a mandatory training program for judges in Minnesota. In addition, MCBW is joined with the MN Office of

Justice Programs, member programs Someplace Safe and Range Women's Advocates, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, MN Sheriff's Association, MN Chiefs of Police Association, State Court Administration, Minnesota County Attorney's Association and various other law enforcement agencies to develop and conduct statewide training on strangulation, stalking and effective enforcement of no contact orders.

- MCBW is an expert legal resource on battering for advocates across the state, providing technical assistance and legal support in high-impact cases.
 - MCBW's legal program focuses on appellate cases as a way to impact policy and has created an effective network with other legal organizations and attorneys through the Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy for Women (DVLAW) committee. The network includes Chrysalis' Safety Project – Volunteer Attorney Network; the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP), a national training and technical assistance provider; the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project (BWLAP), a statewide project; and several area law school professors and private practitioners as well as legal advocates from member programs. With assistance from this group, MCBW has been involved in a number of appellate level cases.
 - The DVLAW group is convened monthly and an e-mail discussion list of 96 members is maintained for the DVLAW group to communicate about legal trends and problems.
- MCBW works to increase the effectiveness of the system of services and programs that serves Minnesota's battered women by engaging and seeking leadership by and direction from women of color and Native women across the state.
 - The Women of Color and Native Women (WOCNW) Leadership Project goal is to engage women of color and Native women in identifying patterns of, and proposing solutions to, the problem of inequality in the battered women's service delivery system as it affects battered women, the individuals who provide services to them and their communities. By bringing women of color who work within the battered women's movement together, we analyze the system's strengths and weaknesses as they pertain to serving women and children of color; develop recommendations for change; and promote adoption of these recommendations among member programs. In addition, work-related skill training will be provided, assisting women of color in gaining the necessary administrative, management and communication skills necessary to move into leadership positions within the battered women's movement.
 - A team of women leaders from around the state have come together to form the WOCNW Leadership Task Force and are providing the guidance and expertise for the development of a two-year action plan for the state of Minnesota that will address such items as public policy issues, the illumination of barriers to resources within systems, leadership development and unleashing the collective gifts that women of color have to offer.