



Advocacy Learning Center

Application Information and Instructions for Class O

Thank you for your interest in the Advocacy Learning Center! We are currently accepting applications for the class that will begin in August 2016 (Class O).

The application deadline is Monday, April 18, 2016 by 5:00 PM Central time.

Your program is eligible to apply if you are a community-based advocacy organization, a tribal advocacy program, a campus program, or a transitional housing organization, providing direct advocacy to women/survivors and funded by the federal Office on Violence Against Women. We also welcome the participation of OVW-funded tribal, state, territory and national coalitions and groups that play a critical role in supporting advocacy programs to end violence against women. *Limited space is available for non-OVW funded programs.*

The Advocacy Learning Center (ALC) is an **18-month experiential course** created to examine the vision, identify the principles and knowledge, and practice the skills and qualities that make advocacy a powerful force in the movement to end violence against women. Participation in the ALC provides programs with the opportunity not only to change the way they work with women/survivors of violence but also to re-think the role of advocacy in the larger movement to end violence against women. For these goals to succeed, it is essential that advocacy organizations that wish to participate commit to re-evaluating and re-designing their ways of working directly with women/survivors as well as working to improve institutional responses to women/survivors and strengthening community advocacy strategies.

Please select your proposed team members *before* beginning your application. Each team member will need to sign a commitment statement and answer questions as part of the application.

Who you propose for your team is very important. This is not typical training, but rather an extensive course designed for advocacy programs to reflect on, and possibly change policy and practice.

For programs doing direct advocacy with women/survivors: We require a team of two-three people including both a front-line advocate or crisis counselor currently doing direct advocacy and a manager or executive director with decision-making authority to implement operational changes in your program. Other ideal team members are legal advocates or those working in the community to change cultural norms that sustain violence against women. You want to select team members who will commit to and have the capacity to, in a focused way, examine possible organizational changes to how you provide advocacy. In rare cases we will accommodate a one-person team (e.g. you are a very new program with only one staff member who is developing the program), or a four-person team (e.g. your organization is especially large with many programs, or is geographically organized so that one person from each office would make sense), and you explain your reason in your application. However, subsidies will be limited to up to 3 team members.

Ideal **frontline advocates/crisis counselors** to consider for your team include experienced advocates or crisis counselors who:

- are enthusiastic about advocacy and the role of advocacy in creating social and systems change;
- are knowledgeable about (but not necessarily experienced in) all of the advocacy efforts in your organization;
- have experience doing more than one type of advocacy (individual, institutional, community, transnational, other);
- have advocated with victims experiencing different forms of violence (sexual violence, domestic assault, trafficking, abuse in later life, other); and
- have the capacity to communicate about (or train on) the ALC concepts to other frontline advocates and/or staff in your organization, or, if you are a coalition, your member programs.

Ideal managers/executive directors or **decision-makers to consider as part of the team** would have the same enthusiasm, knowledge, experience and capacities noted above, but also have the authority to implement operational changes in your program and the commitment to improve institutional responses to women/survivors in your community.

For coalitions/networks: Staff, who coordinates, manages or conducts training for your organization would be ideal. Inclusion of staff from your member programs on your team is also a great idea.

We are asking you to *propose* a team. If your program is selected we may contact you to discuss changing your team composition. We are happy to help you think through the ideal team membership for your program before you propose a team on the application form. Please feel free to contact Beth McNamara at 651.699.8000 x16 or email advocacy@praxisinternational.org to arrange a call.

Course requirements: It is a requirement for all team members to fully participate in all activities of the ALC 18-month course. If your program is selected for Class O your team will be required to attend and participate in each of the following activities:

- Introductory webinar/audio conference sessions on August 16 & 17, 2016 from 2:00-3:30 PM Central time,
- A four-day in-person advocacy immersion event on August 23-26, 2016,
- A three-day in-person institute on March 28-30, 2017,
- A two-day in-person training on August 22-23, 2017,
- A minimum of monthly meetings as a team to discuss coursework and complete homework assignments prior to webinars,

- Monthly webinar/audio conference calls,
- Quarterly keynote webinars,
- On-line self- study course and required reading,
- One in-person site visit to a model advocacy organization* (only 1 member of your team will participate)
- A graduation webinar on January 23, 2018 from 1:00-2:00 PM Central time, to celebrate the completion of your coursework,
- And we agree to complete evaluations after events, and to provide regular updates to ALC staff about our team's participation, reflection, impact and adaptation.

*Note we do not offer the site visit component of the ALC course to extended placement participants since their program has already benefited from this offering.

Applications will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Your program is a community-based, tribal or campus advocacy organization providing direct services to women/survivors of violence against women; or a state, tribal, territory or national coalition/network that focuses on violence against women (*If your program fails to meet this criteria, please consider partnering with your local community-based advocacy program.*)
- Your program has the capacity to complete the 18-month course
- Your program and team members are committed to reflecting on and strengthening how you and your organization does advocacy
- Your proposed team includes a frontline advocate/crisis counselor **and** a manager/executive director

Extended Placement Applicants:

For those organizations/programs that have previously or are currently* involved in the ALC there is a separate section near the end of the application that you are also required to complete.

*Only current programs that have graduated before August 2016 are eligible to apply for Class O

Accessibility:

- We value making the Advocacy Learning Center accessible to all participants and will strive to ensure that our training events and other course components are as accessible as possible. If you have any other accommodation request that would assist you in completing this application please contact advocacy@praxisinternational.org.
- A Plain Text version of the application is available on our website (praxisinternational.org) or you can download it here:
[ALC Class O Application – Plain Text](#)

You will find the plain text version at

<http://praxisinternational.org/files/praxis/files/Advocacy%20Learning%20Center/ALCClassOApFINALFeb23.2016.txt>

Submit your completed application by Monday, April 18, 2016 by 5:00 PM Central time to advocacy@praxisinternational.org.

Your application will not be reviewed unless **all** application components are complete.

A complete application must include:

- 1) An application form
- 2) An organizational chart identifying where each team member fits in your organization
- 3) Organizational and Team Member Commitment Statements (form included at the end of the application packet)
- 4) FOR EXTENDED PLACEMENT APPLICANTS – ensure that the extended placement section is completed.

We anticipate notifying applicants of their selection status at the end of June 2016.

findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U. S. Department of Justice.