The Mission of REAP Institute:

established in 2004, **REAP** provides domestic violence advocates with the knowledge and skills needed to increase the economic empowerment of women experiencing intimate partner violence. Our highly trained staff offer a variety of workshops that include how to utilize the **REAP** model in your own community, economic advocacy workshops and consultation on issues related to economic abuse and battered women.

"Wonderful. The instructors were very knowledgeable and inspiring."
– Advocate –

History and Experience: **REAP** began in 2001, and is an innovative economic development project for low-income battered women in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. Not only has this program become a critical part of the St. Louis network of domestic violence services, it is now being utilized as a model in the development of programs in other areas of the country.

The original impetus for this project was to see new and innovative economic development services come to fruition within the community. We also, however, have been deeply invested in seeing economic advocacy work become standard components within programs across the state and country. **REAP** staff have consulted and provided numerous trainings across the country.

About ROW: **Redevelopment Opportunities for Women, Inc. (ROW)** is premised on the belief that every individual has self-worth and is endowed with certain strengths and abilities.

Row's Mission: is to empower women and their families to build safety, skills, economic security and hope for the future.

Row's Vision: is to continue effecting positive change on behalf of homeless, abused, and/or indigent women and families, through both innovative service delivery and systems advocacy.

Redevelopment Opportunities for Women
ROW

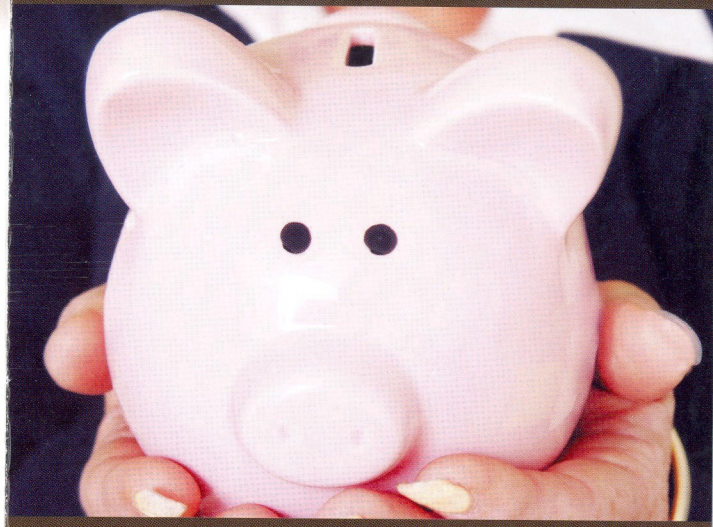
For More Information, Contact:

Redevelopment Opportunities for Women, Inc. (ROW)
2229 Pine Street
St. Louis, MO 63103
314-588-8300 (phone)
314-588-0676 (fax)

Visit our website at **www.row-stl.org**

R.E.A.P.

Row's Economic Action Program



TRAINING INSTITUTE

Redevelopment Opportunities for Women
ROW

"I used to teach financial education to women and they never responded. Now, with your handouts and curriculum, women love coming to class!"
– Advocate –

"I have loved all your classes. I want to take them again!"
– REAP Participant –

"I hope to be as knowledgeable, energetic, and enthusiastic as you are."
– Advocate at Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence –

"It has been two years since I took REAP and I still think about my spending leaks."
– IDA Participant –

Realizing your Economic Action Plan (REAP): a comprehensive 12-hour, four session, economic education curriculum specifically designed for women who have experienced intimate partner violence. Safety considerations are integrated throughout the core financial information on budgeting, credit, banking, and investing. The curriculum also addresses issues of oppression, our economy, and economic abuse.

The **REAP** curriculum outlines the information facilitators need for each section and provides hands-on activities for participants. In the **REAP** classes, women use the various activities to practice what they learn. These classes help make money management less punitive, more fun, and more rewarding.

REAP Facilitator Training: **REAP** training prepares advocates to provide economic education to women who have experienced intimate partner violence. Both training opportunities emphasize safety considerations for battered women who are struggling with financial issues and give facilitators practical, empowering economic education and advocacy tools.

One Day Economic Advocacy Workshop:

Advocates providing quality individual economic advocacy can significantly impact battered women's ability to seek financial security. This training defines economic advocacy and builds advocates' skills in economic assessment (including a flexible economic assessment tool), understanding and repairing credit – including bankruptcy, creating an effective cost of living plan, saving and investing, and dealing with collection agencies.

Trainers emphasize lessons learned and safety planning considerations when providing economic advocacy with women impacted by domestic violence.

One Day Economic Advocacy Workshop with Cultural Competency:

Training focuses on learning to improve and enhance advocates' ability to assist women from diverse backgrounds – race, class, religion, sexual orientation, ability and age – while identifying their economic barriers. This one-day workshop will give advocates additional tools to identify common cultural barriers along with the knowledge and skills to overcome these barriers.

One Day Individual Development Account Workshop:

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) help women save for assets that could increase their economic independence by matching their savings (for example, if a woman saves $500 for a home repair, her savings could be matched with $1,000). This training uses ROW staff's years of experience in providing IDAs to battered women and provides participants knowledge in:

- Understanding IDAs, the history of IDAs, and the connection between assets, wealth and poverty in America
- The connection between safety for battered women and saving
- Exploring funding for an IDA program
- Best practices for domestic violence programs providing IDAs, including effective individual economic advocacy and economic education
- Working with banking institutions & data mgmt.

> "You all made me feel so confident, I appreciate you giving me the courage to be a facilitator."
> – *Advocate* –

Two Day REAP Workshop:

- Introduction to the connections between domestic violence, oppression and poverty; facilitator skills; and adult learning principles
- Intense focus on safety, economic education and appropriate use of language
- Opportunity to experience **REAP** classes as attendees, while learning to facilitate all four economic education sessions
- Hands-on practice of **REAP** activities; practical feedback from trainers

Three Day REAP Workshop:

includes the Two Day workshop, plus more in-depth and intensive training on the following:

- Individual economic advocacy strategies including assessment tools, how to read a credit report, and creating a comprehensive, individualized cost of living plan.
- Additional time for hands-on facilitation practice with written, constructive feedback from **REAP** trainer.

Fee for the REAP Curriculum: $100 (*covers the cost of printing and shipping*) available by contacting **ROW at 314-588-8300.**

Training Institutes: **ROW** will provide two to three experienced economic advocates/trainers depending upon the need of your organization or coalition (*$750 per trainer per day*). For more information, please contact **ROW's Executive Director at (314) 588-8300.**