

Witness Aid Services Unit



From the office of
Manhattan District Attorney
Alvin L. Bragg, Jr.



The Witness Aid Services Unit (“WASU”) ensures that crime victims, witnesses, and their families can access the services they need to rebuild their lives, while helping them navigate New York’s complex court system.

At the start of 2022, D.A. Bragg enhanced the role of the WASU in Special Victims cases and across the Office. **With an emphasis on centering survivors, internal referrals to WASU have increased by 200%.**

Through WASU, the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office:

1. Ensures that all victims, witnesses, and families have a trauma-informed advocacy team to support their experience with the prosecutorial process.
2. Increases survivors’ access to safety services, resources, referrals, and emotional support in an effort to rebuild lives and restore hope.
3. Ensures that victims, witnesses, and families are informed, feel heard and have a voice in the criminal justice process.



The Witness Aid Services Unit is made up of a diverse group of advocate and counselor subject-matter experts who deliver **survivor-centered** and **trauma-informed** services.

Services Offered:

- Safety and needs assessments
- Guidance about the criminal justice system and victims’ roles in the process
- Case information and Orders of Protection
- Assistance with transportation
- Accompaniment to court
- Counseling services
- Assistance preparing victim impact statements
- Assistance with relocation, including housing and shelter needs
- Proactive outreach on all domestic violence cases
- Proactive outreach on homicides, vehicular crimes, and hate crimes
- Services offered in Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin

By the Numbers

Under D.A. Bragg, outreach to domestic violence survivors, support of other victims and witnesses, and crisis responses by both counselors and advocates have all increased significantly.

Manhattan facts, January – September 2022

Outreach to DV Victims

▲ 24%

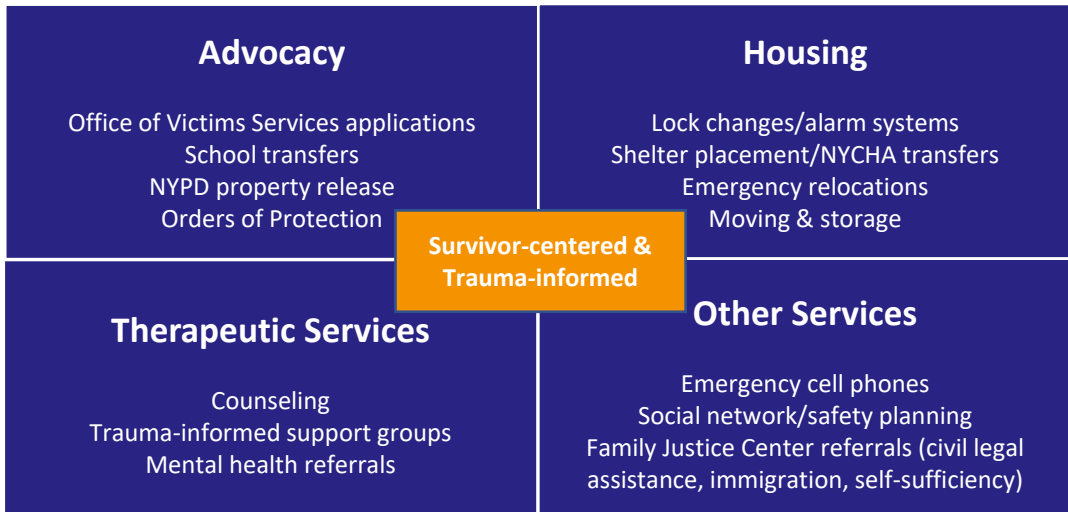
Non-DV Case Intakes

▲ 30%

Crisis Responses

▲ 92%

Centering Survivors



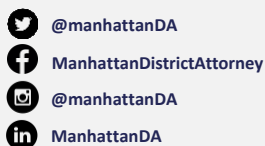
Community Engagement



The Witness Aid Services Unit conducts outreach with community members throughout Manhattan to offer services and spread awareness.

- Presentations to NYPD, college campuses, community partners
- Trainings at the Family Justice Center
- Participation in community coalitions such as the Downstate Coalition
- Accompaniments to hospitals for bedside client services/support
- Collaboration with the Community Partnerships Unit

Contact Us



📍 DOWNTOWN OFFICE
One Hogan Place
New York, NY 10013
212.335.9000

📍 HARLEM OFFICE
163 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027
212.864.7884

📍 WASHINGTON HEIGHTS OFFICE
530 West 166th Street, Suite 6C
New York, NY 10032
212.335.3320