

Tell Your Story:

- Provide compelling anecdotes from your state/program to reinforce the points above.
- Explain the services and programs you provide that are supported by federal funding (including numbers served/trained, examples of systems transformed, outcomes that demonstrate your effectiveness)
- Include NNEDV's DV Counts 2015 Census numbers/NAESV funding report to demonstrate the demand for & gaps in services.
- Provide local information about the need created by the current economic climate:
 - How are budget cuts harming victims in your state?
 - Describe the successes and challenges of your program or programs in your state.
 - Explain the funding needs of your program or programs in your state.

TELLING YOUR STORY

By sharing the needs in your community and the difficulties you face meeting those needs, you paint a picture of the critical need for full funding of FVPSA, VOCA and VAWA. Your story is the most important message you can share with a Member of Congress.

Talk about how domestic violence and sexual assault affect your community.

- What progress have you seen due to federal programs?
- What gaps still exist?
- Do you see demand for victim services increasing?
- What is the impact of budget cuts on victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and services for victims? Discuss the impact of the cuts to transitional housing from HUD CoC grants.
- What resources are needed in your community?
- Do you have a story you'd like to share? For example:
 - A story of a survivor's success
 - A story of your program's success in serving many survivors
 - Planned or current projects using VOCA increases
 - A story that demonstrates the human side of unmet needs – what happens when you can't serve the survivors who come forward for help?

Mention specific funding streams, programs and protections that would help fill the gaps.

Core shelter and supportive services

- *FVPSA* – the only dedicated federal funding source for domestic violence programs
- *VOCA funding* – a nontaxpayer-derived source for direct victim services

Coordinated community responses

- *STOP Grants* – support coordinated community responses to domestic and sexual violence

Additional specific and vital services:

Describe the specific needs of victims that are supported by these funding streams:

- *Legal Assistance for Victims* – gives victims real true alternatives to abuse; saves lives

- *Rural Grants* – addresses extreme gaps to serving isolated victims in rural areas
- *Transitional housing* – a bridge from crisis to stability
- *Grants to Encourage Arrest* – homicide reduction and full community response to increasing offender accountability
- *Sexual Assault Services Program* – only dedicated federal funding to serve victims of sexual assault.