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# CAMPAIGN FOR FUNDING TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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## FY 2007

### APPROPRIATIONS BRIEFING BOOK

Updated March 20, 2006

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	2
A.	CHART: VAWA Funding.....	4
II.	LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION BUDGET.....	7
A.	CHART: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Funding by State.....	8
B.	Shelter and Services – The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.....	9
C.	National Domestic Violence Hotline.....	10
D.	Long-Term Stability/Housing for Victims.....	11
E.	Evaluating Violence Prevention and Intervention Efforts.....	11
F.	CHART: Rape Prevention and Education Funding by State.....	12
G.	Rape Prevention and Education Grant Program.....	13
H.	Training and Education of Health Professionals.....	14
I.	Fostering Public Health Responses.....	14
J.	Effective Interventions in the Health Care Setting.....	15
K.	Training and Collaboration on the Intersection Between Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment (Greenbook) .....	15
III.	COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND THE JUDICIARY BUDGET.....	16
A.	CHART: STOP Formula Grants by State.....	18
B.	Grants to Combat Violence Against Women/STOP Grants.....	19
C.	Legal Assistance for Victims.....	21
D.	Privacy Protection for Victims.....	21
E.	Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforce Protection Orders.....	22
F.	Courts Improvement Program.....	22
G.	Center for Sex Offender Management.....	23
H.	Grants to Stop Abuse of Older or Disabled Individuals.....	23
I.	Sexual Assault Services Program.....	24
J.	Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Grants.....	25
K.	Transitional Housing.....	26
L.	Grants to Combat Violence Against Women in Public and Assisted Housing.....	27
M.	Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus.....	28
N.	Safe Havens/Supervised Visitation Centers.....	28
O.	Services to Advocate and Respond to Youth (STARY) .....	29
P.	Access to Justice for Youth.....	29
Q.	Supporting Teens Through Education and Protection (STEP ACT) .....	30
R.	Assisting Children and Youth Exposed to Violence.....	30
S.	Strengthening Home Visitation Projects.....	31
T.	Research on and Tracking of Violence Against Indian Women.....	31
U.	Provisions to Address the Needs of Communities of Color.....	32
V.	National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to Assist Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence.....	33
W.	Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention Efforts.....	33
IV.	VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FUND (VOCA) AND CHART OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE GRANTS BY STATE.....	34
V.	ENDNOTES.....	36

# INTRODUCTION

## *10 Years of Progress and Moving Forward*

Over a decade ago, Congress made a historic commitment to addressing domestic and sexual violence when it passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994. VAWA programs, funding, and legal reforms have changed federal, tribal, state and local responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and their effectiveness is evident in the progress made since VAWA's implementation. Local, state, and national laws have changed; programs, businesses, and communities are responding to victims' needs; and studies show that rates of violence and reporting of crimes have improved. Furthermore, research estimates that VAWA 1994 saved nearly \$14.8 billion dollars in net averted social costs in its first 6 years.<sup>1</sup>

## *Overwhelming Needs Remain*

Yet this violence remains pervasive—affecting not only victims, but the wider community and the nation, without regard to age, economic, religious, ethnic, or educational bounds.

- The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.<sup>2</sup>
- When property loss, police response, ambulance services and the criminal justice process are considered, the total annual cost of domestic violence grows to \$67 billion dollars.<sup>3</sup>
- One in every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.<sup>4</sup>
- More than half of all rapes of women occur before they reach the age of 18.<sup>5</sup>
- Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.<sup>6</sup>

## *Congress Responds to the Crisis and Reauthorizes VAWA*

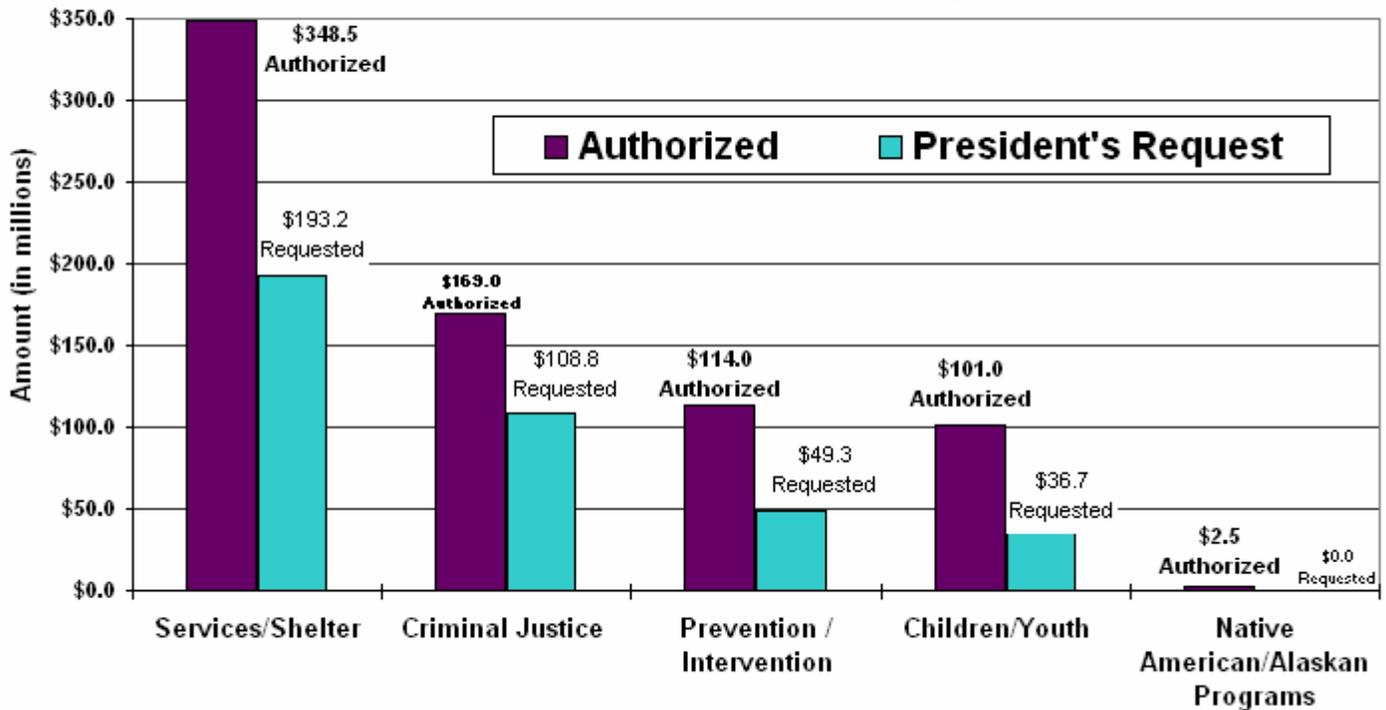
Recognizing both the efficacy of VAWA and the need for further progress, Congress reauthorized VAWA in 2000, and envisioned further success when it unanimously passed a second reauthorization in 2005. VAWA 2005 continues lifesaving programs and creates targeted new programs, building a spectrum of prevention and intervention efforts to support women, men, and children in living healthy, safe lives. These new remedies address gaps in prevention services, housing, health care, and employment issues related to domestic and sexual violence. And they bring VAWA's effective services to new populations, including youth, Native women, and victims of sexual violence, through funding for rape crisis centers and other service providers not included in previous legislation.

## *Funding for VAWA 2005*

The modest funding increases in VAWA 2005 are a sound investment that will bring fiscal savings, but more importantly, will save lives and communities across the nation. Funding the array of efficient, coordinated programs created in VAWA 2005 is essential to curbing domestic and sexual violence, protecting our youth, and creating a safer society. For this reason, the importance of full funding for new and existing VAWA programs cannot be overstated.

For the past 5 years, both the President's requests and the Congressional budgets have included nearly full funding of VAWA programs administered by the Department of Justice. We thank Congress and the President for their continued support. This year, the President's request for VAWA does not incorporate full funding, as the budget request was likely completed before VAWA 2005 was signed into law on January 5, 2006.

### **Authorized and President's Request for FY '07 Funding for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs**



This year Congress has the historic opportunity to help END domestic and sexual violence by fully funding the Violence Against Women Act. Help us fulfill the promise of VAWA 2005 and make every community in the United States a safer place to live.

**Campaign for Funding to End Domestic and Sexual Violence**  
**VAWA Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2006 and 2007 President's Request Compared to Authorization**

All numbers are expressed in millions. FY stands for Fiscal Year. All numbers are pre-rescission.

Revised 3/9/06

Name of Grant Program	FY 2006 Budget	President's Budget Request for FY 2007	VAWA 2005 or Current Authorization
<b>COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS</b>			
<b>Grants to Combat Violence Against Women:*</b>	<b>\$187.3*</b>	<b>\$173.0*</b>	<b>n/a*</b>
➤ Transitional Housing (OVW)	-\$15.0*	-\$14.8*	\$40.0*
➤ National Institute of Justice Earmark	-\$5.1*	-\$2.5*	not authorized*
➤ Safe Start/OJJDP Earmark	-\$10*	-\$0.0*	not authorized*
➤ Native Alaskan Liaison Office Earmark	-\$6.7*	-\$0.0*	not authorized*
➤➤ STOP Grants	= \$150.5*	= \$155.7*	\$225.0*
Grants to Encourage Arrest	\$63.1	\$55.1	\$75.0
Legal Assistance for Victims	\$39.2	\$45.8	\$65.0
Court Improvements/Judicial Training	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$5.0
Privacy Protections for Victims	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$5.0
Center for Sex Offender Management**	\$5.0	\$4.9	\$5.0
Stalker Reduction Database	\$3.0	\$2.9	\$3.0
Federal Victim Assistants	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.0
Law Enforcement Training (Trafficking)	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$10.0
Sexual Assault Services Program	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$50.0
Services for Rural Victims	\$39.2	\$38.8	\$55.0
Protections and Services for Elder Victims	\$4.5	\$4.5	\$10.0
Protections and Services for Disabled Victims	\$7.2	\$7.1	\$10.0
Combating Abuse in Public Housing	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$10.0
Services for Youth Victims (STARY)	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$15.0
Training for Schools (STEP)	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$5.0
Access to Justice for Youth	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$5.0
Campus Grants	\$9.1	\$9.0	\$12.0
Safe Havens/Supervised Visitation	\$13.9	\$13.8	\$20.0
Judicial Training (Child Abuse)	\$2.3	\$2.3	not authorized
Televised Testimony (Child Abuse)	\$1.0	\$0.0	not authorized
Services for Children Exposed to Violence	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$20.0
Home Visitation Projects	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$7.0
Court-Appointed Special Advocates	\$11.9	\$11.8	\$12.0
Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$10.0
Public Education/Awareness Grants	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$2.0
Resource Center on Workplace Responses	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$1.0
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$1.0
Tracking of Violence Against Indian Women	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$1.0
<b><u>CJS total</u></b>	<b>\$386.7</b>	<b>\$368.9</b>	<b>\$680.0</b>

Name of Grant Program	FY 2006 Budget	President's Budget Request for FY 2007	VAWA 2005 or Current Authorization
<b>LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS</b>			
National Domestic Violence Hotline (ACF)	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$3.5
FVPSA/Battered Women Shelters and Services (ACF)‡	\$126***	\$125.0	\$175.0
Long-Term Stability/Housing for Victims	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$10.0
Transitional Housing (ACF Program)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$25.0
Training for Health Professionals (HRSA)	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$3.0
Public Health Responses to Abuse (CDC)	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$5.0
Interventions in the Healthcare Setting (CDC/AHRQ)	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$5.0
Rape Prevention and Education (CDC)	\$44.2***	\$43.6***	\$80.0
Research on Effective Prevention (CDC)	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$2.0
Community Initiatives to Prevent Abuse (CDC)	\$5.8***	\$5.7***	\$6.0
Greenbook/Collaboration on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$5.0
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	new for FY 07	\$0.0	\$0.5
<b><u>LHHS total</u></b>	\$179.0	\$177.3	\$320.0

**Color Key:**

<b>Criminal Justice</b>	<b>Services/Shelter</b>	<b>Prevention/Early Intervention</b>
<b>Children/Youth</b>	<b>Earmarks</b>	<b>Native American/Alaskan</b>

\* Grants to Combat Violence Against Women are not authorized as a distinct category in VAWA. Rather, STOP Grants are authorized at \$225 million and transitional housing is authorized as its own line item for \$40 million. However, Congress traditionally appropriates an amount for Grants to Combat VAW and then deducts earmarks from it, leaving the remainder for STOP Grants. These earmarks, including the separately authorized transitional housing program, reduce the funding available for STOP formula grants to states. Funding for STOP grants has been cut by \$17.6 million since FY 03 due to earmarks. **For this reason, the Campaign requests that NO EARMARKS be taken from STOP and that transitional housing be given its own line item, or that the total amount available for Grants to Combat VAW be increased to include funding for the earmarks.**

\*\* Funding for the Center for Sex Offender Management was authorized twice in VAWA 2005 – for \$3 million in one place and \$5 million in another. Congress is in the process of correcting this duplication and maintaining only the \$5 million authorization, which has been the traditional appropriation for this program.

‡ The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 amended FVPSA to provide a portion of all appropriations above \$130 million to programs serving children who witness domestic violence. An increased appropriation for FVPSA would thus provide funding for these critical programs, an Administration priority, while also increasing funding for battered women's shelters, which continue to see a growing demand for services.

\*\*\* The exact amounts for these programs were not specified in the Budget, but these numbers are accurate to within \$100,000.



# LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION BUDGET

While it is important to recognize that domestic violence is a crime, many of the most essential direct service, prevention, and early intervention programs are administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and funded in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (L/HHS) budget. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) is a critical funding source for programs that provide immediate safety, crisis intervention, and core services for victims of domestic violence. Other programs within HHS help provide both intervention and prevention services addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Key programs in the L/HHS budget include:

- **The Battered Women’s Shelter and Services Program in FVPSA**— funds emergency shelters, crisis hotlines, outreach programs, counseling, and other nonresidential services for victims and their children. The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 (PL 108-36) recognized the importance of doing more for children and created a funding mechanism to ensure the provision of these services. This legislation authorized a portion of funds appropriated above \$130 million for FVPSA to be used for services for children who are affected by domestic violence. FVPSA is currently funded at only \$126 million, not even reaching the threshold for specialized children’s services or enabling the programs it funds to keep up with the growing need for the full range of life-saving services.
- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline**— this nationwide toll-free crisis line responds to more than 16,000 callers each month – almost 1.5 million since opening in 1996 – and serves as a vital link between victims and the services that are available in their local communities.
- **Long-Term Stability for Victims**—addressing one of the most critical needs of victims, this dynamic new program will create long-term living solutions for victims, including developing permanent housing options.
- **Evaluating Violence Prevention and Intervention Efforts**—this modest prevention program will improve our understanding of which prevention and intervention strategies work and why they are successful.
- **Rape Prevention and Education (RPE)**— funds programs to increase awareness and provide education and training to prevent sexual assault. This funding also supports the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. This program consistently has been funded at less than half of its authorized level, while rape crisis programs report that they are unable to meet the need for outreach, education, training and community awareness activities.
- **Training and Education for Health Professionals**—this innovative grant program will strengthen health care providers’ understanding of, and clinical skills pertinent to, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence so that they may better assist victims and their families.
- **Fostering Public Health Responses to Violence**—this new initiative will enhance collaboration and coordination between violence prevention advocates, health care providers and leaders, policy makers and public health officials in order to improve the quality and quantity of health care services available for victims of domestic violence.
- **Effective Interventions in Health Care Settings**—administered jointly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, this program will help to identify and assess effective interventions in the health care setting, and to evaluate the impact of such interventions on the health care system.
- **The Community Initiatives Program**— this modest prevention program is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and provides grants to state domestic violence coalitions to work with local communities to develop coordinated community responses to prevent domestic violence.

## FVPSA Grants to States and Territories FY 02-05

Updated 3/06

State/Territory	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Alabama	\$ 1,467,105	\$ 1,478,259	\$ 1,459,120	\$ 1,456,225
Alaska	\$ 722,241	\$ 724,900	\$ 723,849	\$ 723,880
American Samoa	\$ 124,459	\$ 126,403	\$ 125,648	\$ 125,630
Arizona	\$ 1,600,382	\$ 1,644,095	\$ 1,665,286	\$ 1,685,611
Arkansas	\$ 1,121,265	\$ 1,129,607	\$ 1,120,294	\$ 1,120,260
California	\$ 7,204,366	\$ 7,387,302	\$ 7,373,404	\$ 7,384,094
Colorado	\$ 1,438,669	\$ 1,469,084	\$ 1,468,652	\$ 1,469,686
Connecticut	\$ 1,264,024	\$ 1,273,804	\$ 1,264,919	\$ 1,262,197
Delaware	\$ 752,788	\$ 756,627	\$ 756,046	\$ 756,943
District of Columbia	\$ 711,541	\$ 712,496	\$ 707,541	\$ 704,618
Florida	\$ 3,716,278	\$ 3,825,637	\$ 3,848,663	\$ 3,888,144
Georgia	\$ 2,196,212	\$ 2,249,342	\$ 2,257,771	\$ 2,268,794
Guam	\$ 124,459	\$ 126,403	\$ 125,648	\$ 125,630
Hawaii	\$ 836,228	\$ 840,872	\$ 840,057	\$ 838,683
Idaho	\$ 852,298	\$ 859,878	\$ 860,811	\$ 863,333
Illinois	\$ 3,021,540	\$ 3,055,605	\$ 3,015,355	\$ 3,002,936
Indiana	\$ 1,785,586	\$ 1,802,935	\$ 1,782,647	\$ 1,778,929
Iowa	\$ 1,170,581	\$ 1,175,068	\$ 1,161,973	\$ 1,158,405
Kansas	\$ 1,124,193	\$ 1,130,109	\$ 1,119,873	\$ 1,117,023
Kentucky	\$ 1,388,073	\$ 1,399,805	\$ 1,386,026	\$ 1,383,598
Louisiana	\$ 1,471,370	\$ 1,478,471	\$ 1,458,277	\$ 1,453,501
Maine	\$ 848,587	\$ 853,123	\$ 849,242	\$ 848,967
Maryland	\$ 1,632,720	\$ 1,657,438	\$ 1,651,561	\$ 1,650,499
Massachusetts	\$ 1,837,960	\$ 1,854,981	\$ 1,828,035	\$ 1,812,749
Michigan	\$ 2,537,819	\$ 2,565,463	\$ 2,524,105	\$ 2,511,332
Minnesota	\$ 1,559,210	\$ 1,578,184	\$ 1,565,752	\$ 1,564,105
Mississippi	\$ 1,154,657	\$ 1,162,251	\$ 1,149,990	\$ 1,148,674
Missouri	\$ 1,690,966	\$ 1,707,515	\$ 1,688,893	\$ 1,687,649
Montana	\$ 775,912	\$ 777,926	\$ 775,159	\$ 775,182
Nebraska	\$ 933,666	\$ 937,040	\$ 932,002	\$ 930,232
Nevada	\$ 989,624	\$ 1,014,322	\$ 1,027,800	\$ 1,041,283
New Hampshire	\$ 840,956	\$ 847,715	\$ 845,798	\$ 845,612
New Jersey	\$ 2,240,648	\$ 2,269,117	\$ 2,248,929	\$ 2,244,128
New Mexico	\$ 954,681	\$ 959,842	\$ 957,833	\$ 959,730
New York	\$ 4,300,070	\$ 4,340,051	\$ 4,263,080	\$ 4,234,009
North Carolina	\$ 2,169,472	\$ 2,210,460	\$ 2,204,807	\$ 2,214,330
North Dakota	\$ 725,218	\$ 724,813	\$ 720,989	\$ 719,898
N. Mariana Islands	\$ 124,459	\$ 126,403	\$ 125,648	\$ 125,630
Ohio	\$ 2,813,659	\$ 2,837,482	\$ 2,782,908	\$ 2,765,806
Oklahoma	\$ 1,272,816	\$ 1,280,694	\$ 1,270,294	\$ 1,265,968
Oregon	\$ 1,267,112	\$ 1,283,207	\$ 1,279,469	\$ 1,279,393
Pennsylvania	\$ 2,994,586	\$ 3,017,214	\$ 2,960,364	\$ 2,944,847
Puerto Rico	\$ 1,151,222	\$ 1,349,256	\$ 1,340,349	\$ 1,336,146
Rhode Island	\$ 804,403	\$ 808,318	\$ 805,422	\$ 804,244
South Carolina	\$ 1,382,271	\$ 1,399,304	\$ 1,391,624	\$ 1,393,454
South Dakota	\$ 747,181	\$ 748,844	\$ 745,894	\$ 745,700
Tennessee	\$ 1,709,309	\$ 1,729,217	\$ 1,715,095	\$ 1,715,309
Texas	\$ 4,665,732	\$ 4,795,207	\$ 4,822,063	\$ 4,850,718
Utah	\$ 1,035,428	\$ 1,046,529	\$ 1,048,857	\$ 1,051,539
Vermont	\$ 718,710	\$ 720,611	\$ 718,177	\$ 717,446
Virgin Islands	\$ 124,459	\$ 126,403	\$ 125,648	\$ 125,630
Virginia	\$ 1,980,184	\$ 2,014,021	\$ 2,009,930	\$ 2,009,942
Washington	\$ 1,749,248	\$ 1,777,996	\$ 1,770,393	\$ 1,772,545
West Virginia	\$ 952,595	\$ 954,486	\$ 945,567	\$ 943,110
Wisconsin	\$ 1,645,821	\$ 1,662,701	\$ 1,644,573	\$ 1,641,231
Wyoming	\$ 696,279	\$ 697,266	\$ 695,679	\$ 695,741
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 87,121,298</b>	<b>\$ 88,482,102</b>	<b>\$ 87,953,789</b>	<b>\$ 87,940,898</b>

# FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT

Funding Need: \$175 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$125 million for this program, \$50 million less than authorized.

FVPSA funding for emergency domestic violence shelters and services provides life-saving emergency shelter, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, and programs for underserved communities. These programs are the heart of our nation's response to domestic violence. Domestic violence shelters provide essential services to hundreds of thousands of women, men and children across the United States. Over the past 20 years, shelters have evolved to provide a wide spectrum of residential and nonresidential services. These programs can only succeed in their goal of providing safety if they are also able to provide victims with practical assistance such as food, clothing, transportation, life-skills training and services for children.

To respond to the needs of victims of domestic violence, there are over 2000 community-based domestic violence programs for battered women and children, providing emergency shelter to approximately 300,000 women and children and providing services such as counseling, legal assistance, and preventative education to millions of women, men and children annually.<sup>7</sup>

## The Need

Increased training for police, prosecutors, and court officials has greatly improved the response of the criminal justice system to victims of domestic violence. These programs have been so successful that many more victims are now referred for services and demand has steadily risen for the emergency shelter, hotlines and supportive services funded by FVPSA. The National Domestic Violence Hotline receives so many calls that it is unable to answer 13% of them. In the FY '06 Congressional budget, FVPSA Programs/Shelters received \$126 million in appropriations – \$49 million below the authorized level of \$175 million. This funding simply does not meet the need for emergency services – in 2004, over a quarter of a million women and children were turned away from domestic violence centers due to lack of available resources.<sup>8</sup>

Over 8.8 million children witness domestic violence in the home each year.<sup>9</sup> Recognizing the need for specific services for children, Congress passed the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, which amended FVPSA to provide a portion of all appropriations over \$130 million to programs serving children who witness domestic violence. Such programs have been identified as a top priority by the Bush administration. This year we have the unique opportunity to fund these children's services and take a crucial step toward preventing future violence.

## The Solution: Fully Fund FVPSA at \$175 million in FY 2007

When victims in life-threatening situations step forward, they must receive immediate assistance. Yet shelters overwhelmingly report that they cannot fulfill the growing need for these services. Increased funding for FVPSA will provide critically needed direct services to victims of domestic violence and their children.

**We ask that Congress follow through on its commitment to victims of domestic violence and their children by fully funding FVPSA at \$175 million in the fiscal year 2007.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566, or Jill Morris, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, (202) 745-1211.*

# NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

Funding Need: \$3.5 million

The President's FY '07 Budget includes \$3 million for this program, \$0.5 million less than authorized.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline has received more than 1,458,000 calls since it opened in February 1996. Located in Texas, this 24-hour, national toll-free hotline has received calls from increasing numbers of victims of domestic violence. The Hotline averages over 16,000 calls each month, and provides services in more than 140 languages. A sophisticated system allows the Hotline operator to immediately link the caller to a service provider located in her or his area. The Hotline provides support, information, referrals, safety planning, and crisis counseling to hundreds of thousands of callers.

Currently, the United States Department of Defense (DOD), in partnership with NDVH, is launching a national campaign to "Take A Stand Against Domestic Violence" as a joint public education effort designed to educate service men, women and their families about domestic violence, and provide a vital link to life-saving services by connecting people to the Hotline. Components of the campaign include distribution of educational materials to approximately 250 U.S. military installations, as well as in key public places in surrounding civilian communities. In addition, the Hotline continues the partnership with Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) to raise awareness about the accessibility of the 1-800-787-3224 TTY crisis line and to provide appropriate services to victims of domestic violence who are deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing. With the sophisticated use of technology, the Hotline and ADWAS will be able to provide services jointly to victims who otherwise might not receive the help they need. In calendar year 2005, the Hotline received over 3,800 calls to the TTY line.

The Hotline is a great success story – a critical and effective public/private partnership. Corporations and the media continue to promote the Hotline number, further increasing the volume of calls received and number of victims seeking services. The good news is that more and more victims of domestic violence are aware that there may be help available. Unfortunately, the bad news is that the increasing volume of calls is far greater than the Hotline's capacity to respond. In 2005, there were 30,000 (13%) calls that the Hotline was unable to answer, due to the increased call volume. It is of great importance that the hotline number continues to be publicized and available for victims across the United States. In order to be able to answer every call, the Hotline must be funded at the full authorized level.

Congress recognized the valuable service provided by the National Domestic Violence Hotline, increasing the authorized funding level for the Hotline to \$3.5 million as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, reauthorized in the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. **We urge Congress to support full funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline in the FY '07 Congressional Budget.**

*For more information, please contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566, or Sheryl Cates, National Domestic Violence Hotline, (512) 794-1133.*

## LONG-TERM STABILITY/HOUSING FOR VICTIMS

Funding Need: \$10 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Ninety-two percent of homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives, and 63% have been victims of intimate partner violence as adults.<sup>10</sup> Domestic violence is one of the primary causes of homelessness; 38% of all victims of domestic violence become homeless at some point in their lives,<sup>11</sup> and among cities surveyed, 44% identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness.<sup>12</sup>

This is in part due to a lack of affordable and subsidized housing across the country. Over five million households in 2003 had “worst case” housing needs: living in substandard housing, doubled-up, or paying over one-half of their income for rent.<sup>13</sup> There are not enough federal housing rent vouchers available to accommodate the number of people in need. Some people remain on the waiting list for years, while some lists are closed.<sup>14</sup> Because of this lack of housing, many victims are forced to choose between life with an abusive partner and homelessness.

Advocates and survivors consistently report that housing is a primary need for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and that victims experience major barriers in obtaining and maintaining housing independent from their abusers. Victims of domestic violence often return to their abusers because they cannot find long-term housing.<sup>15</sup> The solution is connecting victims at risk for homelessness with long-term housing solutions. When afforded residential stability, homeless persons are considerably less likely to return to emergency shelter.<sup>16</sup>

Modeled after extremely successful affordable housing, community development, and “housing first” programs across the nation in urban, suburban and rural areas, this section would fund collaborative efforts to create permanent housing options that help develop communities and leverage private dollars. Funds could be used to place survivors into long-term housing as soon as is reasonable and safe, help them remain housed, operate affordable housing units, and create partnerships to purchase, build, renovate, repair, and convert affordable housing units. **Fully funding the Long-Term Stability for Victims program at \$10 million will help prevent homelessness and allow victims to escape abusive relationships.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

## EVALUATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION EFFORTS

Funding Need: \$2 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

The tragic effects of violence on families are indisputable. In addition to the immediate trauma caused by abuse, domestic and sexual violence result in myriad health and behavioral problems, many of which can span a victim’s lifetime. Witnesses of such violence are similarly affected, with many carrying the legacy of abuse throughout their lives. As a nation, we must fight this epidemic in every way possible. That is why prevention and early identification of violent, and potentially violent, situations is so important.

In order to effectively identify, respond to and ultimately prevent domestic and sexual violence, we must first improve our understanding of which prevention and intervention strategies work and why they are successful. VAWA 2005 recognizes this need and calls for evaluation and study of the best practices for reducing and preventing violence against women and children.

**We urge Congress to fully fund this initiative at \$2 million.**

*For more information, contact Kiersten Stewart, Family Violence Prevention Fund, (202) 682-1212 or Lisa Lederer, (202) 371-1999.*

## Funding for Rape Prevention and Education FY 02-05

Updated 11/9/05

State/Territory	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Alabama	\$ 653,404.00	\$ 645,955.00	\$ 645,955.00	\$ 653,289.00
Alaska	\$ 92,113.00	\$ 91,064.00	\$ 91,064.00	\$ 94,159.00
American Samoa	\$ 9,616.00	\$ 9,616.00	\$ 9,506.00	\$ 11,979.00
Arizona	\$ 753,834.00	\$ 745,241.00	\$ 745,241.00	\$ 753,331.00
Arkansas	\$ 392,798.00	\$ 388,320.00	\$ 388,320.00	\$ 393,685.00
California	\$ 4,976,697.00	\$ 4,919,965.00	\$ 4,919,965.00	\$ 4,959,936.00
Colorado	\$ 631,976.00	\$ 624,772.00	\$ 624,772.00	\$ 631,943.00
Connecticut	\$ 500,373.00	\$ 494,669.00	\$ 494,669.00	\$ 500,847.00
Delaware	\$ 115,133.00	\$ 113,820.00	\$ 113,820.00	\$ 117,089.00
District of Columbia	\$ 84,052.00	\$ 83,093.00	\$ 83,093.00	\$ 86,129.00
Florida	\$ 2,348,260.00	\$ 2,321,491.00	\$ 2,321,491.00	\$ 2,341,620.00
Georgia	\$ 1,202,820.00	\$ 1,189,108.00	\$ 1,189,108.00	\$ 1,200,588.00
Guam	\$ 22,718.00	\$ 22,459.00	\$ 22,459.00	\$ 25,031.00
Hawaii	\$ 178,009.00	\$ 175,980.00	\$ 175,980.00	\$ 179,724.00
Idaho	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 187,951.00	\$ 187,951.00	\$ 191,785.00
Illinois	\$ 1,824,743.00	\$ 1,803,942.00	\$ 1,803,942.00	\$ 1,820,117.00
Indiana	\$ 893,394.00	\$ 883,210.00	\$ 883,210.00	\$ 892,354.00
Iowa	\$ 429,959.00	\$ 425,058.00	\$ 425,058.00	\$ 430,704.00
Kansas	\$ 395,004.00	\$ 390,501.00	\$ 390,501.00	\$ 395,884.00
Kentucky	\$ 593,849.00	\$ 587,080.00	\$ 587,080.00	\$ 593,963.00
Louisiana	\$ 655,200.00	\$ 649,132.00	\$ 649,133.00	\$ 656,490.00
Maine	\$ 187,322.00	\$ 185,187.00	\$ 185,187.00	\$ 189,001.00
Marshall Islands	\$ 10,010.00	\$ 9,896.00	\$ 9,896.00	\$ 12,372.00
Maryland	\$ 778,203.00	\$ 769,332.00	\$ 769,332.00	\$ 777,607.00
Massachusetts	\$ 932,861.00	\$ 922,227.00	\$ 922,227.00	\$ 931,668.00
Michigan	\$ 1,460,237.00	\$ 1,443,591.00	\$ 1,443,591.00	\$ 1,457,014.00
Micronesia	\$ 18,190.00	\$ 17,982.00	\$ 17,982.00	\$ 20,519.00
Minnesota	\$ 722,400.00	\$ 714,570.00	\$ 714,570.00	\$ 722,427.00
Mississippi	\$ 417,960.00	\$ 413,196.00	\$ 413,196.00	\$ 418,751.00
Missouri	\$ 822,094.00	\$ 812,722.00	\$ 812,722.00	\$ 821,328.00
Montana	\$ 132,588.00	\$ 131,047.00	\$ 131,047.00	\$ 134,447.00
Nebraska	\$ 256,462.00	\$ 248,566.00	\$ 248,566.00	\$ 252,864.00
Nevada	\$ 293,600.00	\$ 290,253.00	\$ 290,253.00	\$ 294,870.00
New Hampshire	\$ 181,572.00	\$ 179,502.00	\$ 179,502.00	\$ 183,273.00
New Jersey	\$ 1,236,304.00	\$ 1,222,210.00	\$ 1,222,210.00	\$ 1,233,944.00
New Mexico	\$ 267,269.00	\$ 264,222.00	\$ 264,222.00	\$ 268,640.00
New York	\$ 2,788,175.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 2,779,839.00
North Carolina	\$ 1,182,670.00	\$ 1,169,188.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 1,180,516.00
North Dakota	\$ 94,357.00	\$ 93,282.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 96,394.00
N. Mariana Islands	\$ 10,566.00	\$ 10,445.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 12,925.00
Ohio	\$ 1,668,095.00	\$ 1,649,080.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 1,664,073.00
Oklahoma	\$ 508,200.00	\$ 501,219.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 507,445.00
Oregon	\$ 502,700.00	\$ 496,969.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 503,165.00
Palau	\$ 2,757.00	\$ 2,726.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 5,147.00
Pennsylvania	\$ 1,804,432.00	\$ 1,783,862.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 1,799,884.00
Puerto Rico	\$ 559,592.00	\$ 553,213.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 559,838.00
Rhode Island	\$ 154,028.00	\$ 152,272.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 155,835.00
South Carolina	\$ 589,477.00	\$ 582,758.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 589,608.00
South Dakota	\$ 110,907.00	\$ 109,644.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 112,881.00
Tennessee	\$ 835,916.00	\$ 826,387.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 835,097.00
Texas	\$ 3,063,718.00	\$ 3,028,793.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 3,054,323.00
Utah	\$ 328,115.00	\$ 324,374.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 329,251.00
Vermont	\$ 89,545.00	\$ 88,434.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 91,509.00
Virgin Islands	\$ 17,766.00	\$ 17,564.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 20,098.00
Virginia	\$ 1,040,033.00	\$ 1,028,177.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 1,038,428.00
Washington	\$ 851,354.00	\$ 856,140.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 865,078.00
West Virginia	\$ 265,697.00	\$ 262,668.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 267,074.00
Wisconsin	\$ 788,075.00	\$ 779,091.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 787,440.00
Wyoming	\$ 72,550.00	\$ 71,723.00	\$ 2,756,390.00	\$ 74,671.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 41,989,749.00</b>	<b>\$ 41,521,329.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,756,390.00</b>	<b>\$ 41,979,891.00</b>

# THE RAPE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Funding Need: \$80 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$43.6 million for this program, \$36.4 million less than authorized.

The Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grant program, created through the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, represents a strategic step toward strengthening national, state and local sexual violence prevention efforts and the operation of rape crisis hotlines. RPE funding provides formula grants to States and Territories to support rape prevention and education programs conducted by rape crisis centers, state sexual assault coalitions, and other public and private nonprofit entities. Many promising programs working with youth, young adults and communities have been supported with RPE funds over the past ten years, demonstrating the effectiveness and need for rape prevention programming. These programs and initiatives demonstrate the importance of funding appropriations at the authorized level and thus achieving the impact of this valuable program of *preventing sexual violence before it occurs*.

Rape Prevention and Education funding also supports the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, a program of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. The Resource Center provides up-to-date information, materials, research data and resources regarding sexual violence to policy-makers, Federal and State agencies, college campuses, sexual assault and domestic violence coalitions, the media and the general public.

Rape Prevention and Education grants provide crucial funding for rape crisis centers and campus sexual assault programs that are generating a positive response from schools, communities and the public-at-large. A Kaiser Family Foundation study found that parents and students alike want school-based primary prevention programs to learn to avoid sexually violent behavior and information on what to do if a friend is sexually assaulted. However, community-based sexual assault programs are increasingly reporting that they are unable to meet the demand for public awareness activities. These outreach activities are crucial not only in changing public attitudes and behaviors, but also in reaching sexual assault victims who have not previously reached out for help. Similarly, training for professionals on issues related to sexual assault enables those professionals to better understand victims and make appropriate referrals. RPE funds assist rural, suburban and urban areas in providing programming that meets their community-specific needs as they work to end sexual violence.

## The Solution

**Increased funding for the Rape Prevention and Education grant program is crucial to support ongoing efforts to address sexual violence.** The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 contains an authorization level for this program at \$80 million. An increase in funds to \$80 million would make critical funding available for states, especially rural states that currently receive inadequate funds to implement these proven, effective programs.

*For more information, contact Ellen Fern, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, (202) 289-3903, or Ilse Knecht, National Center for Victims of Crime, (703) 732-2446.*

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Funding Need: \$3 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Most Americans seek health care services at some point in their lives, either for routine, emergency, perinatal or pediatric care. Victims of violence access health services at higher rates<sup>17</sup> and recent studies suggest that more than one-third of those facing domestic violence have talked with their health care provider about the abuse.<sup>18</sup> Other studies have found that 70 to 81 percent of patients experiencing abuse would like to have their health care providers ask privately about intimate partner violence.<sup>19</sup> This puts health care providers in a unique position to help victims if they know how to detect domestic violence and provide referrals and support. Indeed, because of the many well-documented, harmful health consequences of domestic violence, failure to address abuse decreases quality care.

Too often, however, providers do not discuss abuse with their patients or screen them for domestic violence. In fact, fewer than ten percent of primary care physicians routinely screen patients for domestic violence during regular office visits, according to a study published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 1999.<sup>20</sup> This number drops to 9 percent for routine screening during periodic checkups.<sup>21</sup> These gaps underscore the need to further educate and train health care providers about the benefits of this intervention.

Recognizing this critical need, VAWA 2005 established an innovative grant program designed to enhance health care providers' understanding of, and clinical skills pertinent to, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. **We urge Congress to fully fund this new program at \$3 million.**

For more information, contact Kiersten Stewart, Family Violence Prevention Fund, (202) 682-1212, or Lisa Lederer, (202) 371-1999.

## FOSTERING PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES

Funding Need: \$5 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

The health care system has always played an important role in identifying and preventing serious public health problems, and we believe it can and must play a unique and pivotal role in domestic and sexual violence prevention and intervention. Women victimized by domestic and sexual abuse are more likely to be diagnosed with serious health problems such as hypertension and depression; engage in high risk behaviors such as substance abuse and sexual risk taking; and suffer chronic illnesses such as arthritis and migraines.<sup>22</sup> In addition, domestic violence severely limits the ability of many women to effectively manage their chronic illnesses.<sup>23</sup> Pregnant women who are victims of abuse also frequently delay receiving prenatal care and are at increased risk for pre-term labor and low birth weight babies.<sup>24</sup>

Given the magnitude of the problem, we need a public health response to violence that is on par with the public health response to tobacco and HIV/AIDS. It is past time to increase collaboration and coordination between violence prevention advocates, health care providers and leaders, policy makers and public health officials in order to improve the quality and quantity of health care services available for victims of domestic violence. Given the critical need for such partnerships, VAWA 2005 established a new initiative aimed at strengthening the response of State, tribal, territorial or local health care systems to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. **We urge Congress to provide \$5 million for this innovative and essential program.**

For more information, contact Kiersten Stewart, Family Violence Prevention Fund, (202) 682-1212, or Lisa Lederer, (202) 371-1999.

## EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS IN THE HEALTH CARE SETTING

Funding Need: \$5 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Studies show that screening for intimate partner violence in health care settings markedly increases identification of victims of abuse<sup>25</sup> and that effective interventions by health care providers can make a real difference to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. For example, recent clinical studies have proven the effectiveness of a two-minute screening for early detection of abuse of pregnant women,<sup>26</sup> and longitudinal studies have tested a ten minute intervention that was proven highly effective in increasing the safety of pregnant abused women.<sup>27</sup> Emerging research also has suggested that hospital-based domestic violence interventions can reduce health care costs by at least 20 percent.<sup>28</sup>

While encouraging, much more research is needed to identify and assess effective interventions in the health care setting in order to prevent domestic violence, dating violence and sexual assault; limit the health effects of such violence; and improve the safety and health of victims. Research is also needed to evaluate the impact of such interventions on the health care system. Such efforts are necessary to better identify and evaluate health care interventions that provide the most help to victims of abuse.

The VAWA Reauthorization of 2005 provided for new investigations in these areas to be conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Health care Research and Quality. **We urge Congress to provide \$5 million to support this necessary and life-saving research.**

*For more information, contact Kiersten Stewart, Family Violence Prevention Fund, (202) 682-1212, or Lisa Lederer, (202) 371-1999.*

## TRAINING AND COLLABORATION ON THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD MALTREATMENT

Funding Need: \$5 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Commonly known as the “Greenbook Project,” this program supports cross-training and collaboration between the child welfare and domestic violence systems to ensure that nonabusive family members receive the services they need to keep their families safe and intact. Previously a demonstration grant program supported entirely by federal funding, “Greenbook” was authorized in VAWA 2005.

About 8.8 million children witness domestic violence in the home each year.<sup>29</sup> It is estimated that 50% of men who frequently abused their wives also abused their children.<sup>30</sup> These grants would enable the development of collaborative responses, services and cross-training so that when a situation arises in the home where both domestic violence and child maltreatment occur, the response is better for all the victims. Law enforcement, courts, child welfare agencies, domestic and sexual violence service providers and other community organizations will be able to deal with both problems simultaneously, allowing for a better use of our limited resources. As the two problems often occur together, dealing with one problem and not the other is at the peril of our children.

By teaming child protection and domestic violence advocates, the “Greenbook” program strengthens the effectiveness of both groups and decreases the adverse affects of domestic violence on children and families.

**We urge Congress to fund this groundbreaking program at \$5 million.**

*For more information, contact Juley Fulcher, Break the Cycle, (202) 824-0707.*

# THE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND THE JUDICIARY BUDGET

The Violence Against Women Act created a host of coordinated federal grant programs that fund the work of dedicated community-based professionals and their interventions on behalf of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Each of these grant programs support the work of a different group of helping professionals, including:

- **S.T.O.P Violence Against Women State Formula Grants**—funds the work of local law enforcement and prosecution, state and tribal coalitions, as well as local courts and victim services to develop a coordinated community response to crimes of violence against women.
- **Legal Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**—funds legal assistance by both attorneys and lay advocates to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault find the remedies and relief they need from the civil legal system.
- **Privacy Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking**—funds best practices and training to address the confidentiality needs of victims, particularly in relation to technology and the Internet.
- **Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Protection Orders**—funds local jurisdictions to develop effective law enforcement practices to intervene in and prevent violence against women and hold perpetrators accountable, including funding to develop information systems that make interstate enforcement of protection orders possible.
- **Courts Improvement Program**—funds judicial training on issues of sexual and domestic violence.
- **Center for Sex Offender Management**—funds training and technical assistance for the criminal justice system, states, and local jurisdictions to prevent sexual victimization through effective management of convicted sex offenders.
- **Grants to Stop Abuse and Assault Against Older or Disabled Individuals**—funds training for law enforcement and social service providers to recognize and protect victims of domestic violence who are elderly or disabled.
- **Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Prevention Grants**—helps target specialized funding to rural and underserved areas of the country seeking to provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- **Transitional Housing**—provides supportive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as direct assistance for rent, security deposits, utilities, and other expenses, to help victims attain and maintain permanent housing.
- **Grants to Combat Violence Against Women in Public and Assisted Housing**—helps ensure victims can access existing housing resources and increases safety in public housing by funding training and the creation of innovative best practices in all types of assisted housing.
- **Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus**—funds colleges and universities to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking against students, faculty and staff.
- **Safe Havens/Supervised Visitation Centers Grants**—funds supervised visitation centers to ensure that victims of domestic violence and their children can safely comply with court-ordered visitation agreements.

- **Services to Advocate for and Respond to Youth (STARY)**—funds youth victim service agencies, violence prevention organizations, and runaway and homeless youth shelters to establish and provide counseling, advocacy, shelter and other necessary services to young victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- **Access to Justice for Youth**—this demonstration project encourages cross-training and collaboration between the courts, law enforcement agencies, domestic violence and sexual assault service providers, and youth organizations, to establish and implement community policies, procedures, and practices to protect and serve youth victims.
- **Supporting Teens through Education and Protection (STEP)**—support for middle and high schools to collaborate with local victim service agencies to develop policies, provide education, and establish services to address dating violence, sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking among students, faculty, and staff, including providing training to faculty and staff on handling this violence among students.
- **Assisting Children and Youth Exposed to Violence**—this life-saving initiative will help children and youth exposed to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking by mitigating the effects of such violence and reducing the risk of future victimization or perpetration.
- **Strengthening Home Visitation Projects**—working in collaboration with the US Department of Health and Human Services, this program will better enable child abuse-prevention home visitation projects to incorporate best practices and do all they can to identify and effectively respond to domestic or sexual violence.
- **Research and Tracking of Violence Against Indian Women**—funds research and tracking systems to enhance the ability of tribal governments and tribal law enforcement agencies to deal with violence against Indian women on tribal lands.
- **Provisions to Address the Needs of Communities of Color**—including set asides from existing VAWA grant programs to enhance culturally and linguistically specific services to victims, and a new grant program to fund public education and awareness initiatives focused on reaching underserved communities and immigrants.
- **National Resource Center on Workplace Responses**—creates a national resource center to provide information and assistance to businesses developing and implementing policies, guidelines, and plans to make their workplaces safer and more productive while supporting victims.
- **Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention Efforts**—recognizing the critical need to more effectively engage men and youth in the nation’s violence prevention efforts, this groundbreaking program will help these populations develop mutually respectful, nonviolent relationships.

# STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grants FY 02-05

Updated 3/17/05

State/Territory	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Alabama	\$ 2,150,144	\$ 2,138,000	\$ 1,922,000	\$ 1,895,000
Alaska	\$ 785,000	\$ 784,000	\$ 758,000	\$ 759,000
American Samoa	\$ 431,480	\$ 431,480	\$ 427,460	\$ 428,130
Arizona	\$ 2,308,000	\$ 2,294,000	\$ 2,056,000	\$ 2,165,000
Arkansas	\$ 1,531,000	\$ 1,523,000	\$ 1,393,000	\$ 1,385,000
California	\$ 12,352,000	\$ 12,257,000	\$ 10,617,000	\$ 10,791,000
Colorado	\$ 2,092,000	\$ 2,080,000	\$ 1,872,000	\$ 1,907,000
Connecticut	\$ 1,790,000	\$ 1,780,000	\$ 1,614,000	\$ 1,603,000
Delaware	\$ 874,000	\$ 871,000	\$ 833,000	\$ 838,000
District of Columbia	\$ 800,000	\$ 798,000	\$ 770,000	\$ 758,000
Florida	\$ 6,182,000	\$ 6,137,000	\$ 5,358,000	\$ 5,577,000
Georgia	\$ 3,461,000	\$ 3,438,000	\$ 3,039,000	\$ 3,129,000
Guam	\$ 654,000	\$ 654,000	\$ 646,000	\$ 648,000
Hawaii	\$ 1,023,000	\$ 1,020,000	\$ 961,000	\$ 962,000
Idaho	\$ 1,047,000	\$ 1,044,000	\$ 981,000	\$ 995,000
Illinois	\$ 4,941,000	\$ 4,906,000	\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,241,000
Indiana	\$ 2,725,000	\$ 2,708,000	\$ 2,411,000	\$ 2,387,000
Iowa	\$ 1,622,000	\$ 1,614,000	\$ 1,471,000	\$ 1,446,000
Kansas	\$ 1,533,000	\$ 1,526,000	\$ 1,396,000	\$ 1,378,000
Kentucky	\$ 2,013,000	\$ 2,002,000	\$ 1,805,000	\$ 1,788,000
Louisiana	\$ 2,157,000	\$ 2,144,000	\$ 1,927,000	\$ 1,890,000
Maine	\$ 1,044,000	\$ 1,041,000	\$ 979,000	\$ 976,000
Maryland	\$ 2,451,000	\$ 2,436,000	\$ 2,177,000	\$ 2,191,000
Massachusetts	\$ 2,820,000	\$ 2,802,000	\$ 2,492,000	\$ 2,438,000
Michigan	\$ 4,062,000	\$ 4,034,000	\$ 3,551,000	\$ 3,488,000
Minnesota	\$ 2,305,000	\$ 2,291,000	\$ 2,053,000	\$ 2,049,000
Mississippi	\$ 1,593,000	\$ 1,585,000	\$ 1,446,000	\$ 1,430,000
Missouri	\$ 2,552,000	\$ 2,536,000	\$ 2,264,000	\$ 2,246,000
Montana	\$ 897,000	\$ 894,000	\$ 853,000	\$ 849,000
Nebraska	\$ 1,194,000	\$ 1,190,000	\$ 1,107,000	\$ 1,097,000
Nevada	\$ 1,291,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 1,189,000	\$ 1,261,000
New Hampshire	\$ 1,032,000	\$ 1,028,000	\$ 968,000	\$ 972,000
New Jersey	\$ 3,542,000	\$ 3,518,000	\$ 3,107,000	\$ 3,091,000
New Mexico	\$ 1,177,000	\$ 1,172,000	\$ 1,092,000	\$ 1,093,000
New York	\$ 7,221,000	\$ 7,167,000	\$ 6,243,000	\$ 6,093,000
North Carolina	\$ 3,386,000	\$ 3,363,000	\$ 2,974,146	\$ 3,022,000
North Dakota	\$ 814,000	\$ 812,000	\$ 782,000	\$ 773,000
N. Mariana Islands	\$ 212,520	\$ 212,520	\$ 210,540	\$ 210,870
Ohio	\$ 4,570,000	\$ 4,538,000	\$ 3,984,000	\$ 3,884,000
Oklahoma	\$ 1,713,000	\$ 1,704,000	\$ 1,549,000	\$ 1,532,000
Oregon	\$ 1,783,000	\$ 1,773,719	\$ 1,608,000	\$ 1,618,000
Pennsylvania	\$ 4,897,000	\$ 4,862,000	\$ 4,263,000	\$ 4,157,000
Puerto Rico	\$ 1,930,000	\$ 1,919,000	\$ 1,734,000	\$ 1,715,000
Rhode Island	\$ 966,000	\$ 963,000	\$ 912,000	\$ 909,000
South Carolina	\$ 2,001,000	\$ 1,990,000	\$ 1,794,000	\$ 1,802,000
South Dakota	\$ 843,000	\$ 841,000	\$ 807,000	\$ 803,000
Tennessee	\$ 2,588,000	\$ 2,572,000	\$ 2,295,000	\$ 2,290,000
Texas	\$ 7,865,000	\$ 7,807,000	\$ 6,793,000	\$ 7,018,000
Utah	\$ 1,372,000	\$ 1,366,000	\$ 1,258,000	\$ 1,277,000
Vermont	\$ 813,000	\$ 811,000	\$ 781,000	\$ 778,000
Virgin Islands	\$ 638,000	\$ 638,000	\$ 632,000	\$ 631,000
Virginia	\$ 3,073,000	\$ 3,053,000	\$ 2,708,000	\$ 2,736,000
Washington	\$ 2,633,000	\$ 2,616,000	\$ 2,333,000	\$ 2,353,000
West Virginia	\$ 1,232,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,139,000	\$ 1,120,000
Wisconsin	\$ 2,463,000	\$ 2,448,000	\$ 2,188,000	\$ 2,168,000
Wyoming	\$ 769,000	\$ 768,000	\$ 744,000	\$ 742,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 132,214,144</b>	<b>\$ 131,412,719</b>	<b>\$ 117,567,146</b>	<b>\$ 113,753,000</b>

# GRANTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Funding Need: \$225 million with no earmarks

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$173 million for this program, with \$17.3 million in earmarks. Including cuts due to earmarks, this is \$69.3 million less than authorized.

## The STOP Grant Program

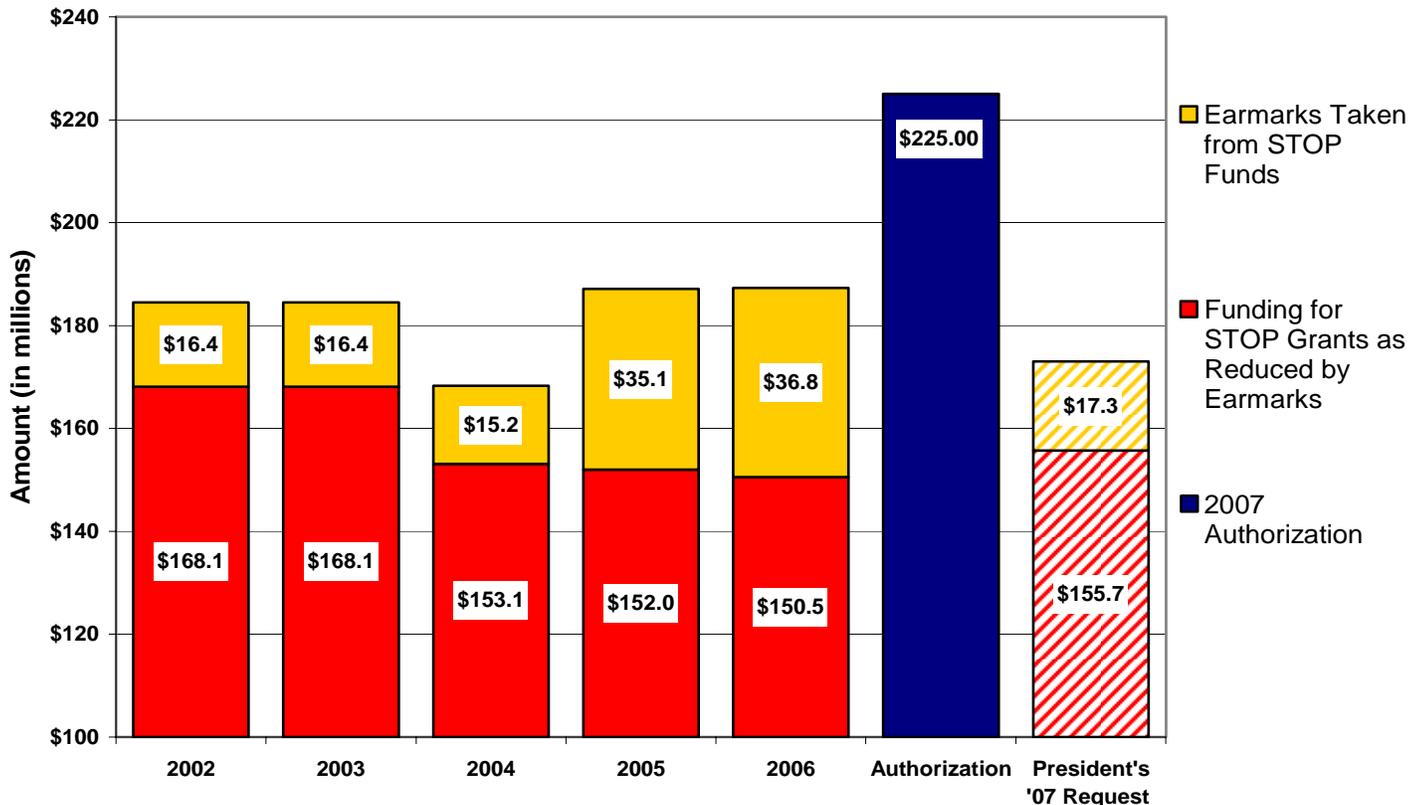
Grants to Combat Violence Against Women (VAW) fund the STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) Grant Program, the largest program authorized in VAWA and one of its cornerstones. STOP funds are awarded to every State and Territory in the nation through a formula grant based on population.

The STOP program emphasizes a coordinated community approach to reducing domestic and sexual violence on a local level. Many states have used these funds to establish protocols and special units in law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices. STOP funding has enabled victim service providers to create programs that are culturally competent and available to underserved communities. Because of the breadth and successful implementation of the STOP program, the criminal justice system and victims in thousands of jurisdictions around the country have experienced the positive impact of the Violence Against Women Act.

## Earmarks Reduce Funds Available for STOP Grants

Congress authorized \$225 million annually for STOP Grants in VAWA 2005, with no subprograms. However, in the Congressional and President's Budgets, STOP Grants are placed in a funding category called Grants to Combat VAW. STOP Grants receive the amount left in Grants to Combat VAW after earmarks and other programs are removed. For this reason, earmarking has reduced the amount of funds available for STOP Grants.

## STOP Grant Funding 2002-2007



Grants to Combat VAW were cut by \$16.2 million in the FY '04 Congressional budget, from \$184.5 million to \$168.3 million. The FY '05 and FY '06 Congressional budgets increased funding for Grants to Combat VAW to \$187.1 and \$187.3 respectively, but included as an earmark funding for the separately authorized PROTECT Act transitional housing program. This transitional housing program was reauthorized in VAWA 2005, again as a distinct program separate from Grants to Combat VAW. Additionally reducing the amount available for STOP Grants were over \$6 million for an unauthorized Native American/Native Alaskan Liaison Office, and two unauthorized yet valuable programs – for Safe Start/the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics research and evaluation.

Because of these many earmarks, STOP Grants have been cut by \$17.6 million since FY '03. These earmarks, particularly the separately authorized transitional housing program, should receive their own line items in the Congressional budget or be taken from more appropriate sources of funding. STOP Grants are the single largest source of funds for states to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, but are stretched tightly from state to state. There is no room in STOP for state-specific earmarks, as all other states suffer as a result.

### **New Initiatives for States and Territories Authorized by VAWA 2005**

In recognition of the success of STOP grant programs and the continued increase in demand for services VAWA 2005 increased the authorization for STOP grants to \$225 million for each of fiscal years 2007-2011. Also included in the reauthorization were new purpose areas to address important unmet needs:

- Jessica Gonzalez Victim Assistants – victim assistants in law enforcement agencies whose primary purpose is to help develop protocols for those agencies to ensure adequate triage of the lethality and emergency nature of domestic violence cases and ensure that victims receive appropriate referrals in addition to police assistance; and
- Crystal Judson Brame Advocates – advocates who can help persons abused by law enforcement personnel and work with law enforcement agencies to develop protocols to respond to such abuse.

Amendments were also made to focus State efforts on underserved populations by:

- Emphasizing the requirement to address the needs of underserved communities in the State plan;
- Emphasizing the need to fund linguistically and culturally specific services; and
- Requiring that funds to address underserved populations be equitably distributed among those populations.

Finally, a new Culturally Specific Community-Based Organizations Set-Aside was created. This new program utilizes 10% of the victim services monies within STOP to fund culturally specific, community-based organizations providing services that respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

### **The Solution: Fully Fund STOP Grants with No Earmarks**

To ensure that funding cuts do not reverse the progress we have made toward ending domestic and sexual violence, and to accommodate new purpose areas within STOP Grants, appropriations for **Grants to Combat Violence Against Women** should be at the authorized level of **\$225 million**. As a separately authorized and vitally important program, **transitional housing should be given its own line item** (please see page 26 for details.)

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566, or Jill Morris, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, (202) 745-1211.*

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS

Funding Need: \$65 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$45.8 million for this program, \$19.2 less than authorized.

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault too often must appear in court by themselves in order to get civil legal remedies. The retainers or hourly fees needed to hire private legal representation are beyond the means of most victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Yet ultimately to overcome the damage caused by the perpetrators of violence in their lives, victims may need civil protection orders, child support, child custody, immigration representation, and housing and public benefits assistance. To obtain these remedies, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault need knowledgeable legal help in order to access the civil legal system.

The Legal Assistance Program for Victims funds grassroots efforts to meet the broad civil legal assistance needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Programs which have been funded through this grant program provide: civil legal representation for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in family law, immigration, housing, and public benefits matters; training to improve the delivery of civil legal services; collaborations between domestic violence victim services and legal assistance programs; support to victims navigating the criminal justice system; education for law students on how to serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; and the improvement of pro bono civil legal assistance. The Legal Assistance Program for Victims is the *only* federal funding program designed to meet all of these needs.

The President's budget recognizes the essential nature of this program, and requests an increase over the FY '06 budget. Unfortunately, this is still short of the authorized level. **We ask that Congress fund this irreplaceable and necessary program at \$65 million.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

## PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND STALKING

Funding Need: \$5 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking are especially vulnerable to having their private information tracked by persons that pose a high risk to their safety. The Privacy Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking programs create new and badly-needed protections for victim information collected by federal agencies and included in national databases by prohibiting grantees from disclosing such information. These programs create grants and specialized funding for federal programs to develop "best practices" for ensuring victim confidentiality and safety when law enforcement information (such as protection order issuance) is included in federal and state databases. It also provides technical assistance to aid states and other entities in reviewing their laws to ensure that privacy protections and technology issues are covered, such as electronic stalking and training for law enforcement on high tech electronic crimes against women.

**To address this growing problem, we urge Congress to fully fund this program at \$5 million.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

## GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE ARREST AND ENFORCE PROTECTION ORDERS

Funding Need: \$75 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$55.1 million for this program, \$19.9 million less than authorized.

The Grants to Encourage Arrest and Enforce Protection Orders (GTAEP) Program encourages communities to treat domestic violence as a serious violation of criminal law. It helps create a seamless and comprehensive criminal justice system response that enhances victim safety and holds offenders accountable. These grants provide training for law enforcement, prosecutors and judges to ensure that concern for victim safety is at the forefront at every stage in the criminal process. Criminal justice agencies not only need to collaborate with each other, but also with victim advocates in order to create and enforce viable safety plans. These grants are the only source of funding for these innovative cross-collaborations that make the criminal justice system more efficient and user-friendly for victims of domestic violence.

In 2003, the Bush Administration announced the Family Justice Center pilot program initiative, which has now been included as a GTEAEP Program purpose area. Family Justice Centers make a victim's search for help and justice less burdensome by bringing together advocates from domestic violence victim services organizations, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation officers, governmental victim assistants, forensic medical professionals, civil legal attorneys, chaplains, legal advocates and representatives from community-based organizations into one centralized location. This program focuses on victims seeking interventions from the criminal and civil legal system.

**Congress should increase funding for these important initiatives to \$75 million.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566 or Jill Morris, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, (202) 745-1211.*

## COURTS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Funding Need: \$5 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$0 for this program.

This important program, reauthorized in VAWA 2005, is crucial to maintaining and enhancing the systemic change that VAWA 1994 and 2000 created. This program is a complete restructuring of the previous VAWA court training program, and was developed in collaboration with judges to ensure this small program would be as effective as possible. Judges are key players in reducing family violence, and they must be well-trained to ensure that they address all of the problems presented in family violence cases. Judicial training and technical assistance results in more efficient dockets and reduced recidivism. When judges provide all of the relief that victims and their families need, everyone benefits.

**We urge Congress to fund this important program at \$5 million.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

## CENTER FOR SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

Funding Need: \$5 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$4.9 million for this program.

The Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) was created to enhance public safety by: (1) providing criminal justice practitioners and policy makers ready access to the most current knowledge about sex offenders; (2) providing information about effective practices for managing sex offenders in communities; (3) gathering and sharing lessons from communities around the country that have successfully employed strategies to effectively manage sex offenders; and (4) providing training and technical assistance to state and local jurisdictions to enable them to enhance their own practices and create similar results in their communities.

A key component of the Center for Sex Offender Management is the distribution of grants to states and local communities to develop multi-disciplinary coordinated approaches to sex offender management. These grants have launched successful programs such as Sex Offender Management Boards and similar endeavors throughout the country. Additionally, since its inception, CSOM has responded to over 8,500 inquiries from the field and provided 308 instances of training and technical assistance to over 62,000 participants and 104 grantee sites around the country. The CSOM web site has received approximately 37 million hits since 2001, with over 500,000 copies of CSOM documents downloaded on effective approaches to sex-offender management.

Efforts to prevent sexual victimization through the more effective management of convicted sex offenders have been continually supported by Congress at \$5 million per year. Community response to convicted and released sex offenders is a growing public policy issue in the United States. Sex offender management as a direct means to reduce sexual victimization among children and adults is a critical approach to ending sexual violence.

**We urge Congress to continue to fund this crucial program at \$5 million.**

*For more information, contact Ellen Fern, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, (202) 289-3903.*

## GRANTS TO STOP ABUSE OF OLDER OR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

Funding Need: \$20 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$11.6 million for these programs, \$8.4 million less than authorized.

For the past 5 years, Congress has nearly fully funded these critical and groundbreaking programs that deal with abuse that is often the hardest to detect. VAWA 2005 increased the authorizations for these programs to accommodate new purpose areas and eligible entities that will better assist elder and disabled victims. Abuse of the elderly and of disabled people is unique in that many times the victim's abuser is also the caretaker. The victim may not have the financial resources or the physical ability to remove themselves or otherwise seek help. This type of abuse can take many forms and is not always straightforward. These grants provide training for first responders so that they recognize the signs of abuse and then take the necessary steps to ensure the victim's safety.

The training provided by these programs helps protect the most vulnerable members of society – those who by a function of their age or physical or mental capacity cannot protect themselves. These grant programs are the only programs that offer this type of specialized training and protection.

**We urge Congress to increase funding for these unique and essential programs to \$20 million.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

# SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM

Funding Need: \$50 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) is a new program created through The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005. This program provides the first federal funding stream dedicated entirely to the provision of *direct* services for victims of sexual violence.

This program is needed now more than ever in light of the FBI's 2004 Uniform Crime Report, which revealed that the only violent crime to show any increase from 2003 to 2004 was forcible rape.

Rape crisis centers and other organizations serving the needs of sexual assault victims historically have been hampered by a significant lack of resources. Prior to VAWA 2005, the legislation had focused predominately on providing funding for services for adult women victims of domestic violence. Furthermore, the only VAWA program addressing sexual assault, the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) program, focused on prevention-related activities only – not services. A shortage of state-level funding caused by budget cuts in recent years only served to compound the problem. As a result, many rape crisis centers have been forced to reduce staff size, cut services, such as counseling to victims and hotline hours, and cut programs to underserved populations, some of which experience sexual assault at a very high rate.

SASP funds will be distributed to:

- **States, territories and tribes** to assist in their efforts to provide services to adult and minor sexual assault victims and their family and household members as well as those collaterally affected by the crime.
- **State, territory and tribal sexual assault coalitions** whose assistance is invaluable to service providers nationwide.
- **Culturally-specific organizations** that can provide intervention and related assistance for victims within their community.

Grants can be used for general intervention and advocacy, including accompaniment through medical, criminal justice and social support systems, related assistance, and support services. SASP funds can also be used to provide training and technical assistance relating to sexual assault for various organizations, including:

- Governments
- Law enforcement
- Courts
- Nonprofit organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Professionals working in legal services, social services, and health care

## The Solution

**Full funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program is crucial in order to begin implementation of the program.** It is imperative that rape crisis centers, state, territorial and tribal coalitions, as well as culturally specific organizations, gain access to federal funds that can be used to provide services to sexual assault victims.

*For more information, contact Ellen Fern, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, (202)289-3903; Ilse Knecht, National Center for Victims of Crime, (703)732-2446; Diane Moyer, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, (717) 728-9740; or Luz Marquez, National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault, (860) 693-2031, for questions relating to SASP's culturally specific grants.*

# RURAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING AND CHILD VICTIMIZATION GRANTS

Funding Need: \$55 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$38.8 million for this program, \$16.2 million less than authorized.

VAWA 2005 reauthorized the program to address violence against women in rural communities. Previously, grants were only available to assist victims of domestic violence, but in VAWA 2005, the program has been expanded to include victims of sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. In addition, eligibility has also been expanded for rural areas in non-rural states, such as profoundly rural areas in Alabama, West Virginia and Texas.

Overall, the grants are designed to fund cooperative efforts between law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim services; to provide treatment, counseling and assistance to victims and to work with rural communities to develop education and prevention strategies.

Victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in rural and remote communities face unique obstacles in their efforts to escape abusive and dangerous relationships. Rural communities often lack the basic infrastructure needed to assist victims. Social and cultural pressures are great, and the dynamics of small communities present challenges in the provision of confidential and safe services. Barriers to interventions in rural communities may include: lack of public and private funding sources for service development, large geographic areas and harsh weather conditions that make travel difficult for victims, under funded and understaffed law enforcement agencies that hamper the criminal justice response, lack of legal representation for protective orders and other civil matters, gaps in the 911 emergency systems that delay responses to crimes in progress, distances of more than 100 miles to the nearest emergency shelter and lack of public transportation, child care and social services.

Explicitly related to sexual assault, new language in VAWA 2005 includes set-aside funding for services that "meaningfully address" sexual assault in rural communities. The total amount available for sexual assault grantees is proportionate to the overall amount appropriated to the program – as appropriations increase, a greater percentage of funding will be dedicated to sexual assault services.

Grant funds have led to the development of rural outreach services, the creation of sexual assault and domestic violence task forces and councils, enhanced coordination between law enforcement, prosecutors and victim services, and better enforcement of laws against victims. The creation of dedicated funds to address sexual assault and the inclusion of funds for rural areas within non-rural states will mean significant demand for rural grants in FY 07. If appropriations for the rural grant program are not increased, existing programs may lose funding, the intent of VAWA to expand the program to additional victims of violence won't be realized, and vital services may have to close their doors.

**To protect critical services and meet the overwhelming need for rural grant funds, Congress must increase funding of this pioneering program to \$55 million.**

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566, or Ellen Fern, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, (202) 289-3903.*

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Funding Need: \$40 Million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$14.8 for this program, \$25.2 million less than authorized.

The average stay at an emergency homeless shelter is 60 days, while the average length of time it takes a homeless family to secure housing is 6-10 months.<sup>31</sup> As a result, battered women are staying longer in emergency domestic violence shelters, and the shelters are frequently full and must turn families away. Request for emergency shelter by homeless families with children increased in 78% of U.S. cities surveyed in 2004.<sup>32</sup> In the same year, 32% of the requests for shelter by homeless families went unmet due to the lack of emergency shelter beds available.<sup>33</sup> Many domestic violence shelters have responded by limiting a family's length of stay to 30 days, as they must prioritize space for individuals in immediate danger. As a result, victims who leave their abusers frequently lack adequate shelter options or must leave a shelter with no where to go, presenting a serious threat to their safety and the safety of their children.

Transitional housing resources and services provide an essential continuum between emergency shelter and independent living. The majority of battered women in transitional housing programs state that had these programs not existed, they would have returned to their abusers.<sup>34</sup> The Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Child Victims of Domestic Violence, Stalking, or Sexual Assault Act, first authorized by the PROTECT Act and reauthorized in VAWA 2005, provides direct assistance for housing-related costs, including rent, security deposits, and utilities, and continuous support services, such as childcare, transportation and counseling.

Emergency shelter programs are designed to provide crisis intervention services to victims in the most immediate danger. Transitional housing helps meet the ongoing need victims have for safe and affordable housing as they work towards safety and self-sufficiency. In addition, the support services that accompany transitional housing provide victims with the practical assistance they need to rebuild their lives. Transitional housing programs help victims move beyond emergency shelter and work towards securing permanent housing.

**We urge Congress to appropriate \$40 million for this crucial program in FY '07.** As a separately authorized program, transitional housing should be given its own line item, as it was in the FY '04 Congressional Budget.

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

# GRANTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PUBLIC AND ASSISTED HOUSING

Funding Need: \$10 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Studies of populations comparable to public housing residents and Section 8 recipients (TANF recipients and homeless women) indicate that over 60% of adult female residents are likely to be victims.<sup>35</sup> Despite this overwhelming number, few subsidized housing providers have adequate responses to domestic and sexual violence. Worse, victims of domestic violence and their families across the country have been discriminated against, denied access to, and even evicted from public and subsidized housing because of their status as victims of domestic violence or the abuse perpetrated against them.<sup>36</sup> Landlords and public housing authorities often turn away victims who have protection orders or other indications of their status as victims of domestic violence. Housing providers often threaten victims with penalties or evictions or unfairly hold victims accountable for the behavior of their abusers. Consequently, victims express fear of calling law enforcement if they are in danger because they are concerned they will be evicted.<sup>37</sup>

Addressing this problem, Grants to Combat Violence Against Women in Public and Assisted Housing provide funds to help public and Indian housing authorities and other assisted housing providers respond to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking in a manner consistent with best practices. The grants will involve public housing authorities as partners, and can be used for education and training, development of policies and practices, collaboration with victim service providers, and capital improvements designed to improve tenant safety. Policies enacted will allow victims to call the police, to receive orders of protection, and to move to a new housing unit when their safety is threatened, while ensuring that the housing agency or provider can evict perpetrators and keep their properties safe and well-managed.

To enable victims to access the criminal justice system while maintaining their housing, we urge Congress to fund this innovative new program at \$10 million.

*For more information, contact Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

# GRANTS TO REDUCE VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN ON CAMPUS

Funding Need: \$12 Million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$9 million for this program, \$3 million less than authorized.

First authorized in the Higher Education Act of 1999, the Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Program (Campus Program) was reauthorized in VAWA 2005 for \$12 million for fiscal year 2007 and \$15 million for fiscal years 2008-2011. In reauthorizing this program, Congress recognized the significant impact of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on students, faculty, and staff on America's higher education campuses. The Campus Program creates a unique balance between prevention, services, and training, providing assistance to institutions of higher education – both public and private – to support enhanced collaboration between campuses and community law enforcement, prosecution and victim services agencies.

One in four college-aged women is sexually assaulted.<sup>38</sup> The most recent research on sexual assault on college and university campuses estimates that institutions with a student population of 10,000 might expect more than 350 rapes per year.<sup>39</sup> Half of all stalking victims are between the ages of 18 and 29 years<sup>40</sup> and women ages 16 to 24 years experience the highest rate of domestic violence victimization.<sup>41</sup> Research also has demonstrated that women are most at risk of being victimized by someone known to them, as either a current or former intimate partner or a more casual acquaintance.<sup>42</sup> In Federal Fiscal Year 2005, the Office on Violence Against Women received 146 applications requesting over 32 million dollars for campus based programs. Out of the \$9.2 million appropriation, 31 institutions of higher education received funding.

**Congress must continue to fund the Campus Program and make it available to a greater number of institutions by funding it at \$12 million.**

*For more information, please contact Ellen Fern, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence at (202) 289-3903 or Juley Fulcher, Break the Cycle, (202) 824-0707.*

# SAFE HAVENS/SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTERS

Funding Need: \$20 million

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$13.8 million for this program, \$6.2 less than authorized.

Family separation and divorce are difficult for children, but in cases of domestic violence, sexual violence, or child abuse these circumstances often endanger children and non-abusing parents. According to one study, 5% of abusive fathers threaten during visitation to kill the mother, 34% threaten to kidnap their children, and 25% threaten to hurt their children.<sup>43</sup> This program expands upon a pilot Department of Justice grant program in an effort to protect children from the trauma of witnessing domestic violence, sexual assault, or experiencing abduction, injury or death during parent and child visitation exchanges. Under this program, grants are awarded to States, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments that propose to enter into or expand the scope of existing contracts and cooperative agreements with public or private nonprofit entities which focus on providing safe supervised centers for child visitation or visitation exchange for children. In addition to protecting children from such trauma, this program can protect parents or caretakers who are victims of domestic or dating abuse from experiencing further violence, abuse or threats during child visitation exchanges. This program plays a special role in improving the safety of children and parents who have been abused.

**We urge Congress to fully fund Safe Havens/Supervised Visitation Centers at \$20 million.**

*For more information, contact Juley Fulcher, Break the Cycle, (202) 824-0707.*

# SERVICES TO ADVOCATE FOR AND RESPOND TO YOUTH (STARY)

Funding Need: \$15 Million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

The Department of Justice consistently finds that girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence.<sup>44</sup> Many victim service providers are only able to help adult victims, lacking the resources or expertise to serve youth victims who often face legal and social barriers. With teenagers experiencing three times more intimate partner violence than women as a whole,<sup>45</sup> programs specifically focusing on teenagers are essential. A response to teenagers will prevent them from turning inwards when they face abuse, which isolates them from friends and families and makes them more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution and commit sexual assault crimes.<sup>46</sup>

STARY specifically addresses dating violence committed by and against youth with an emphasis on early intervention. Grants under this program will enable teen victim service providers, tribal organizations, and community-based organizations specializing in violence intervention and prevention for youth to provide youth-centered services for domestic and dating violence. The services will include counseling and advocacy for youth as well as mental health services and legal advocacy efforts. Additionally, service providers and organizations will collaborate with public agencies to develop and implement policies to reduce or eliminate violence for this age group remembering to include linguistically, culturally and community relevant services for underserved populations.

**We urge Congress to fund these critical services for youth victims at \$15 million.**

*For more information, contact Juley Fulcher, Break the Cycle, (202) 824-0707.*

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR YOUTH

Funding Need: \$5 Million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Too often, youth perpetrators are not held accountable for the abuse they commit. In many states, youth victims are not eligible for protection orders unless they have had a child with or lived with their perpetrators. Very few states actually allow minors to obtain protection orders on their own. And currently, only one juvenile domestic violence court in the country addresses the specialized needs of young victims.<sup>47</sup> The confusing, burdensome, and discouraging legal system is a huge barrier for youth victims trying to deal with the violence they have experienced and find safety.

The Access to Justice for Youth program will bring together systems within the community in order to develop a comprehensive response to teen dating and sexual violence so that victims and perpetrators receive justice. Based on the success of VAWA programs addressing adult victims' needs, this program will create collaborations between courts, domestic violence and sexual assault service providers, youth organizations, violence prevention programs and law enforcement agencies. These collaborations will effectively develop protocol for addressing problems collaboratively within the community. Additionally, they will educate other areas of the community such as the staffs of courts, child welfare agencies, schools and health providers, and provide resources in juvenile court matters to ensure services are available for young victims. Youth victims can no longer be ignored by the legal system, and youth perpetrators can no longer be given the opportunity to continue their violence.

**We call on Congress to fund this program at \$5 million.**

*For more information, contact Juley Fulcher, Break the Cycle, (202) 824-0707.*

# SUPPORTING TEENS THROUGH EDUCATION AND PROTECTION (STEP ACT)

Funding Need: \$5 Million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

In one year, 4,000 reported incidents of rape and sexual assault occurred in public schools across the country.<sup>48</sup> Forty-two percent of boys and 43 percent of girls aged 13 to 18, report that their abuse took place either in a school building or on school grounds.<sup>49</sup> Grants to Combat Domestic and Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Middle and High Schools (Short Title “Supporting Teens Through Education and Protection,” or STEP) seeks to help schools address dating violence, sexual assault and stalking on campus, to ensure that they create a safe place for young people. Grants under this program will aid public, charter, tribal and nationally accredited private middle and high schools working in collaboration with domestic violence and sexual assault service providers experienced with children and youth. In addition, law enforcement agencies, courts and other organizations addressing sexual harassment, bullying or gang-related violence in school may also join these collaborations. These groups will provide training to staff members at the schools and support services for students and school personnel. They will also lead efforts to develop and implement policies in the schools to foster appropriate, safe responses to affected students and hold any perpetrators accountable for their actions. Finally, the collaborations will provide educational programming regarding domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and develop strong mentoring programs to aid students in coping with and understanding these types of violence. STEP helps schools better serve students and communities by addressing this violence among youth.

**We urge Congress to fund this program at \$5 million.**

*For more information, contact Juley Fulcher, Break the Cycle, (202) 824-0707.*

## ASSISTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE

Funding Need: \$20 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Twenty-five to 31 percent of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives,<sup>50</sup> and over 8.8 million children witness domestic violence in the home each year.<sup>51</sup> These children frequently experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, such as bed-wetting or nightmares, and are at greater risk than their peers of having allergies, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, headaches and flu.<sup>52</sup> They are more likely to exhibit cognitive and physical health problems such as depression, anxiety, and violence towards peers<sup>53</sup> and more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.<sup>54</sup> Simply put, these are children at risk.

Fortunately, we know that many children and youth can overcome the harm caused by witnessing abuse with effective interventions and developmentally appropriate mental health services. Without this assistance, however, the impact of childhood exposure to violence often lasts a lifetime. Adults who experienced adverse childhood experiences, including domestic violence, are more likely than other adults to smoke, abuse drugs or alcohol, and suffer from depression and obesity. They are also at significantly higher risk for health problems associated with those poor health behaviors, including cardiopulmonary disease, diabetes and suicide attempts.

VAWA 2005 recognized the critical need to help children and youth exposed to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking by establishing a new program designed to mitigate the effects such violence and to reduce the risk of future victimization or perpetration. **We call on Congress to provide \$20 million for this essential program.**

*For more information, contact Kiersten Stewart, Family Violence Prevention Fund, (202) 682-1212, or Lisa Lederer, (202) 371-1999.*

## STRENGTHENING HOME VISITATION PROJECTS

Funding Need: \$3 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Experts estimate that home visitation projects for pregnant women and families with young children reach as many as 550,000 children each year.<sup>55</sup> Such early intervention efforts can significantly improve parenting behavior and child health and well-being.<sup>56</sup> They are a particularly promising service delivery approach for educating parents and reducing the potential for violence and abuse.<sup>57</sup>

In order to effectively meet the needs of at-risk families, home visitation projects must develop and implement model policies and procedures. Although several advantages of successful home visitation are well demonstrated, much work needs to be done to ensure that all projects utilize these best practices and do all they can to identify and effectively respond to domestic or sexual violence.

We therefore urge Congress to provide \$3 million for this critical program.

For more information, contact Kiersten Stewart, Family Violence Prevention Fund, (202) 682-1212, or Lisa Lederer, (202) 371-1999.

## RESEARCH ON AND TRACKING OF VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN

Funding Need: \$2.5 million<sup>1</sup>

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

American Indian and Alaska Native women are battered, raped and stalked at far greater rates than any other group of women in the United States. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 1 of 3 Native women will be raped; that 6 of 10 will be physically assaulted; and that Native women are stalked at a rate at least twice that of any other population.<sup>58</sup> Recognizing the exceptional need of Indian women, VAWA 2005 contains several provisions to fund research and tracking systems that will enhance the ability of tribal governments and tribal law enforcement agencies to deal with violence against Indian women on tribal lands.

VAWA 2005 authorizes a National Institute of Justice baseline study of violence committed against American Indian and Alaska Native women that will shed greater light on the nature and extent of violent crimes perpetrated upon Native women. This information will be important for tribal governments as they work to develop comprehensive policies and programs at the local level. Another study, authorized in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will look at the incidence of injuries and homicides of Indian women caused by domestic and sexual violence, and the cost of providing health care for those injuries. In addition, VAWA 2005 authorizes appropriations for the Attorney General to create a tribal registry to track sex offenders and orders of protection. This database will facilitate the tracking and apprehension of serial offenders who may travel between and among Indian nations and enable tribes to make the most of scarce resources.

We urge Congress to fully fund these programs at \$2.5 million.

For more information, contact Virginia Davis, National Congress of American Indians, (202) 466-7767.

<sup>1</sup> Note that this figure represents the total cost of three programs, two of which fall under the jurisdiction of the CJS Appropriations Subcommittee and one under the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee.

# PROVISIONS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Funding Need: \$2 million and full funding of other CJS programs

These new programs and purpose areas were established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2005 provides access to linguistically and culturally relevant services for Communities of Color. VAWA has made a historical shift in service provision by broadening core services and expanding “who” is eligible to provide victim services. In VAWA 1994 and 2000, Congress intended for all underserved communities to have a fair chance at addressing domestic and sexual violence and stalking. However, all too often Communities of Color have not received an equitable share of the services funded or monies provided by VAWA grants. In VAWA 2005, Congress has included language referencing culturally specific communities with the direct intent of addressing the needs of Communities of Color. Inclusion of this language in the bill is a monumental victory for Communities of Color.

**Grants to Enhance Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking**—The intent of this program is to provide resources for community based organizations that are specifically for Communities of Color to work directly with their own communities to develop or maintain outreach and victims services addressing violence against women. This new set aside would provide funding to those culturally specific agencies that are already addressing violence against women to expand or maintain their services and for those culturally specific agencies who do not currently have such a program to establish one in partnership with an agency who has a demonstrated expertise in addressing violence against women. Only culturally specific community based organizations are eligible to apply. The program is funded by taking a small percentage from a number of existing DOJ-administered VAWA discretionary grant programs and pooling those funds together.

**STOP Grant Improvements**—Amendments were made to this existing program that focus State efforts on underserved populations and to create a Culturally Specific Community-Based Organizations Set-Aside.

**Sexual Assault Services Program**—This new program provides a 10% set aside for culturally specific organizations addressing sexual assault.

**Grants for Outreach to Underserved Populations**—Authorized for \$2 million annually, this new grant program provides funding to groups from underserved, Tribal, or immigrant communities who have experience conducting public awareness campaigns addressing violence against women (or who can partner with an agency that has such experience) to implement public education and awareness initiatives focused on reaching their own communities. This funding is also open to government agencies that partner with the groups mentioned. We urge Congress to fully fund this innovative program at \$2 million in the FY ‘07 Congressional budget.

*For more information, contact Luz Marquez, National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA), (860) 693-2031.*

## NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON WORKPLACE RESPONSES TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Funding Need: \$1 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

The National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to Assist Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence will help employers by providing information and assistance in developing and implementing proactive policies, guidelines and plans, thus enabling employers to make their workplaces safer and more productive while supporting victims. Ninety-four percent of corporate security and safety directors at companies nationwide rank domestic violence as a high security concern.<sup>59</sup> Between one quarter and one half of domestic violence victims report that they had lost a job due, at least in part, to domestic violence.<sup>60</sup> Similarly, almost 50% of sexual assault survivors either lose their jobs or are forced to quit in the aftermath of the crime.<sup>61</sup> Fortunately, there are easy steps employers can take to address the issue. For example, one recent study found that after being trained on domestic violence, 91% of employees said they were more likely to know where to refer someone who is abused, 89% said they were more likely to be supportive of a colleague who is abused, and 86% said they were more aware of what to do if there is a threat of domestic violence at work.<sup>62</sup> By seeking assistance from the Resource Center, businesses can increase productivity and morale while decreasing turnover, retraining and other costs.

**We urge Congress to fund this new program at \$1 million.**

*For more information, contact Lisalyn Jacobs, Legal Momentum, (202) 326-0040.*

## ENGAGING MEN AND YOUTH IN PREVENTION EFFORTS

Funding Need: \$10 million

This new program was established by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

Just as awareness is growing about the need to strengthen girls' identity and help them reject violent relationships, we now know that boys and men must also have support systems and safe places to develop alternative, culturally specific concepts of manhood that include nonviolence.<sup>63</sup> Without such outreach, cycles of domestic and sexual violence often go uninterrupted. For example, a recent study of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders found that 25 percent had been victims of nonsexual dating violence and eight percent had been victims of sexual dating violence.<sup>64</sup> A study of young adolescents in the Cleveland area found that recent exposure to violence at home was one of the most significant predictors of a teen's use of subsequent violence at school or in the community.<sup>65</sup>

To better engage men and youth in the nation's violence prevention efforts, Congress established a new initiative to develop and enhance programs targeting men and youth as part of VAWA 2005.

**We call on Congress to fund this innovative and essential program at \$10 million.**

*For more information, contact Kiersten Stewart, Family Violence Prevention Fund, (202) 682-1212, or Lisa Lederer, (202) 371-1999.*

# Victims of Crime Act Fund FY 02-06

Updated 3/14/06

State/Territory	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Alabama	\$ 6,042,000	\$ 5,497,000	\$ 5,543,000	\$ 5,773,000	\$ 6,108,000
Alaska	\$ 1,281,000	\$ 1,217,000	\$ 1,224,000	\$ 1,260,000	\$ 1,311,000
Am. Samoa	\$ 271,000	\$ 264,000	\$ 264,000	\$ 267,000	\$ 271,000
Arizona	\$ 6,894,000	\$ 6,578,000	\$ 6,633,000	\$ 7,038,000	\$ 7,610,000
Arkansas	\$ 3,831,000	\$ 3,519,000	\$ 3,546,000	\$ 3,693,000	\$ 3,907,398
California	\$ 42,709,000	\$ 39,613,000	\$ 39,969,000	\$ 42,073,000	\$ 44,933,000
Colorado	\$ 5,860,000	\$ 5,520,000	\$ 5,565,000	\$ 5,831,477	\$ 6,190,000
Connecticut	\$ 4,744,000	\$ 4,354,000	\$ 4,390,000	\$ 4,581,000	\$ 4,837,000
Delaware	\$ 1,476,000	\$ 1,399,000	\$ 1,407,145	\$ 1,458,000	\$ 1,528,000
District of Columbia	\$ 1,213,000	\$ 1,136,000	\$ 1,142,000	\$ 1,160,000	\$ 1,185,000
Florida	\$ 20,417,000	\$ 19,116,000	\$ 19,285,000	\$ 20,439,000	\$ 22,036,000
Georgia	\$ 10,702,000	\$ 10,035,000	\$ 10,122,000	\$ 10,675,000	\$ 11,430,000
Guam	\$ 393,000	\$ 372,000	\$ 374,000	\$ 381,000	\$ 392,000
Hawaii	\$ 2,010,000	\$ 1,887,000	\$ 1,899,000	\$ 1,973,000	\$ 2,063,000
Idaho	\$ 2,112,000	\$ 1,994,000	\$ 2,007,000	\$ 2,101,000	\$ 2,225,000
Illinois	\$ 15,976,000	\$ 14,535,000	\$ 14,663,000	\$ 15,325,000	\$ 16,238,000
Indiana	\$ 8,077,000	\$ 7,360,000	\$ 7,423,000	\$ 7,759,000	\$ 8,221,385
Iowa	\$ 4,147,000	\$ 3,771,000	\$ 3,801,000	\$ 3,949,000	\$ 4,157,000
Kansas	\$ 3,850,000	\$ 3,525,000	\$ 3,553,000	\$ 3,691,000	\$ 3,886,000
Kentucky	\$ 5,537,000	\$ 5,059,000	\$ 5,100,000	\$ 5,324,000	\$ 5,632,000
Louisiana	\$ 6,069,000	\$ 5,493,000	\$ 5,538,000	\$ 5,768,000	\$ 6,090,000
Maine	\$ 2,089,000	\$ 1,942,000	\$ 1,955,000	\$ 2,030,000	\$ 2,131,000
Maryland	\$ 7,100,000	\$ 6,579,000	\$ 6,635,000	\$ 6,954,000	\$ 7,380,000
Massachusetts	\$ 8,412,000	\$ 7,660,000	\$ 7,725,000	\$ 8,037,000	\$ 8,443,000
Michigan	\$ 12,885,000	\$ 11,695,000	\$ 11,796,000	\$ 12,309,125	\$ 13,018,000
Minnesota	\$ 6,630,000	\$ 6,091,000	\$ 6,142,000	\$ 6,427,000	\$ 6,814,382
Mississippi	\$ 4,045,000	\$ 3,699,000	\$ 3,728,000	\$ 3,876,000	\$ 4,094,000
Missouri	\$ 7,472,323	\$ 6,818,000	\$ 6,876,000	\$ 7,183,000	\$ 7,624,000
Montana	\$ 1,624,000	\$ 1,513,000	\$ 1,522,000	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 1,647,000
N. Mariana Islands	\$ 286,000	\$ 277,000	\$ 278,000	\$ 281,000	\$ 286,000
Nebraska	\$ 2,632,000	\$ 2,426,000	\$ 2,444,000	\$ 2,538,000	\$ 2,663,000
Nevada	\$ 2,990,000	\$ 2,921,000	\$ 2,943,000	\$ 3,126,000	\$ 3,390,000
New Hampshire	\$ 2,040,000	\$ 1,920,000	\$ 1,933,000	\$ 2,009,000	\$ 2,109,000
New Jersey	\$ 10,986,000	\$ 10,068,000	\$ 10,155,000	\$ 10,621,000	\$ 11,268,000
New Mexico	\$ 2,767,000	\$ 2,566,000	\$ 2,585,000	\$ 2,696,000	\$ 2,856,000
New York	\$ 24,148,000	\$ 21,838,000	\$ 22,033,000	\$ 22,983,000	\$ 24,301,000
North Carolina	\$ 10,531,000	\$ 9,767,000	\$ 9,852,000	\$ 10,350,000	\$ 11,073,000
North Dakota	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,206,000	\$ 1,213,000	\$ 1,243,000	\$ 1,285,000
Ohio	\$ 14,648,000	\$ 13,221,000	\$ 13,337,000	\$ 13,898,000	\$ 14,685,000
Oklahoma	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 4,391,000	\$ 4,427,000	\$ 4,614,000	\$ 4,862,000
Oregon	\$ 4,764,000	\$ 4,422,000	\$ 4,458,000	\$ 4,670,000	\$ 4,950,000
Pennsylvania	\$ 15,804,000	\$ 14,239,000	\$ 14,364,000	\$ 14,987,000	\$ 15,858,000
Puerto Rico	\$ 5,246,000	\$ 4,798,000	\$ 4,837,000	\$ 5,044,000	\$ 5,321,359
Rhode Island	\$ 1,806,000	\$ 1,692,000	\$ 1,702,000	\$ 1,761,000	\$ 1,838,000
South Carolina	\$ 5,500,000	\$ 5,075,000	\$ 5,116,000	\$ 5,359,000	\$ 5,697,000
South Dakota	\$ 1,441,000	\$ 1,348,000	\$ 1,355,000	\$ 1,395,000	\$ 1,454,000
Tennessee	\$ 7,590,000	\$ 6,957,000	\$ 7,016,000	\$ 7,344,000	\$ 7,805,000
Texas	\$ 26,485,000	\$ 24,759,000	\$ 24,980,000	\$ 26,414,000	\$ 28,340,000
Utah	\$ 3,283,000	\$ 3,080,000	\$ 3,103,000	\$ 3,255,000	\$ 3,457,000
Vermont	\$ 1,259,000	\$ 1,187,000	\$ 1,193,000	\$ 1,225,000	\$ 1,269,000
Virgin Islands	\$ 635,000	\$ 621,000	\$ 622,000	\$ 627,000	\$ 634,387
Virginia	\$ 9,321,000	\$ 8,624,000	\$ 8,698,000	\$ 9,154,000	\$ 9,734,408
Washington	\$ 7,845,000	\$ 7,260,000	\$ 7,321,000	\$ 7,683,000	\$ 8,180,000
West Virginia	\$ 2,753,000	\$ 2,507,000	\$ 2,525,000	\$ 2,621,000	\$ 2,747,000
Wisconsin	\$ 7,184,000	\$ 6,561,000	\$ 6,616,000	\$ 6,911,000	\$ 7,320,000
Wyoming	\$ 1,115,000	\$ 1,055,299	\$ 1,061,000	\$ 1,087,000	\$ 1,127,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 383,027,323</b>	<b>\$ 353,027,299</b>	<b>\$ 355,994,145</b>	<b>\$ 372,806,602</b>	<b>\$ 395,918,319</b>

# VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FUND

Funding Need: Preservation of the Balance of the Fund

The President's FY '07 Budget requests \$625 million for this program.  
It also proposes seizing the balance of the Fund.

## The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund was created by Congress in 1984 to provide federal support to the many state and local programs that assist victims of crime. The VOCA Fund is derived entirely from fines and penalties paid by offenders at the federal level, not taxpayer revenues, and is distributed to the states through a formula grant. The state money funds both crime victim compensation programs, which pay many of the out-of-pocket expenses incurred by victims, and victim assistance programs such as rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, victim assistants in law enforcement and prosecutor offices, and other direct services to victims of all types of crime. The amount of funding available to the states is affected by earmarks and set-asides. Avoiding the creation or expansion of additional earmarks and preserving the balance of the Fund for future years will make a tremendous difference to crime victims across the country.

## Urgent Need for Funds

VOCA assistance grants are a key source of funding for programs that directly assist crime victims, including crisis intervention, assistance with the criminal justice process, safety planning, counseling, support, court accompaniment, and much more. Domestic violence, sexual assault, and general victim services programs all have pressing needs to expand their outreach and service components. Some 4,400 agencies rely on continued VOCA funding to serve 3.8 million victims a year. And yet, there are still too few services for disabled victims, rural victims, teen victims, elder victims, non-English speaking victims, and others.

## Urgent Need to Protect the VOCA Fund

The President's budget again proposes to rescind the remaining balance from the VOCA Fund – \$1.26 billion. Such a rescission was firmly rejected by both the House and Senate appropriations committees last year. The money at risk would have already been distributed to the states for much needed funding for victim assistance, but for Congress' creation of the reserve for the express purpose of preserving the money to ensure stable funding in future years. Now that stability is threatened. Because the Fund is entirely made up of criminal fines on federal offenders, the amount collected each year fluctuates greatly. The balance has allowed Congress to maintain consistent funding for VOCA assistance. **We urge Congress to protect the VOCA Fund balance.**

Congress must also guard against the creation of new earmarks from the VOCA Fund. The VOCA Fund was created specifically as a non-tax source of money to provide basic but crucial services and compensation to victims of crime. Crime victims' services rely on this funding to meet the basic needs of victims of crime. Therefore, Congress should prevent the creation of any new earmarks from the VOCA Fund for federal administrative expenses, special projects or other purposes – even those that might benefit crime victims. Earmarks reduce the amount states will receive to support victim assistance efforts. In addition, a key to the VOCA Fund's success is the flexibility it affords states to address the specific assistance needs in each state. Diverting or earmarking money for specific projects undermines this important aspect of the Fund and depletes the funding available to meet future needs. **Congress should fund VOCA in FY '07 with no new or expanded earmarks.**

**The Solution: Release sufficient VOCA Funds for FY '07 with no new or expanded earmarks, and protect the VOCA Fund for the future.**

*For more information contact Susan Howley, National Center for Victims of Crime, (202) 467-8700, or Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence, (202) 543-5566.*

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