



NNEDV
NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

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Funding to End Domestic Violence: FY26 Appropriations Requests

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) urges Congress to increase essential funding for domestic and sexual violence programs in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). Despite progress in reducing domestic violence over the last 30 years, many victims are still trapped in life-threatening situations.

Domestic violence affects millions of victims each year, and survivors' needs have increased in recent years. Additional resources are needed in FY26 to fill the gaps.

Priority programs outlined directly below allocate resources to every state and territory and work together to ensure that local domestic violence and sexual assault programs, including culturally specific programs, have the resources to meet survivors' complex needs. Detailed descriptions of priority programs and complementary programs, including Appropriations bills and federal administering agencies, are provided in the following pages.

Overview of Priority Programs

Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA): \$1.9 Billion Annually and Longer-Term Fix

VOCA is made up of fines and penalties paid by federal criminals, not taxpayer dollars, and funds nearly 6,500 victim services organizations. We urge Congress to maintain VOCA funding at \$1.9 billion in FY26 and to **reject proposals that use the VOCA fund to pay for other Department of Justice (DOJ) programs since that reduces funding for direct victim services.**

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA): \$500 Million

FVPSA funds emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, and other vital services for more than one million victims and their children each year. DELTA prevention grants at the CDC help to end violence before it begins.

Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors: \$35 Million

Survivors of color urgently need culturally relevant services that address domestic and sexual violence.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): \$1.15 Billion

Key VAWA programs ensure victims are safe and communities respond to survivors, including responding to the culturally specific needs of survivors:

- ★ **Sexual Assault Services Program:** \$100M for rape crisis centers.
- ★ **Transitional Housing Program:** \$100M to house survivors and rebuild their lives.
- ★ **Legal Assistance for Victims:** \$100M for legal assistance for survivors.

- ★ **All VAWA U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) programs:** Full funding for all VAWA programs.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Funds for Homelessness Assistance: \$90 Million

An ongoing set-aside in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care program allows communities to provide targeted housing and assistance for survivors facing homelessness (\$75 million) and \$15 million to implement survivor initiatives and protections at HUD.

Funding to Support Immigrant Survivors: \$1 Million

Congress must provide \$500 thousand (DHS/CJS respectively) in funding to collect and publish data on asylum claims related to intimate partner violence, including approval rates. Ensure that no funds are allocated for detaining or removing applicants for survivor-based relief programs. Additionally, recapture unallocated U visas to help reduce the backlog and support family reunification efforts.

Priority Programs, Detailed Description

Detailed descriptions of priority programs, across multiple annual Appropriations bills and administered by multiple federal agencies, are outlined below.

Appropriations Bills:

- ★ Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill (CJS)
- ★ Labor Health and Human Services (LHHS)
- ★ Transportation Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- ★ Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Administering Agencies:

U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ); Health and Human Services (HHS); Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Homeland Security (DHS)

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding – \$1.9 Billion (CJS/DOJ)

Congress must maintain VOCA funding to \$1.9 billion in FY26 and work towards the sustainability of the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). Additionally, Congress should reject proposals that use the VOCA fund to pay for other Department of Justice (DOJ) programs since that reduces funding for direct victim services.

VOCA uses non-taxpayer money from the CVF for programs that serve victims of crime, including state-formula victim assistance grants. These funds, which are generated by fines and penalties from federal prosecutions and non-prosecution and deferred prosecution agreements, support services to over six million victims of all types of crimes annually, through almost 6,500 direct service organizations, such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and child abuse treatment programs.

Deposits to the CVF began shrinking considerably in the past few years and, as a result, state programs have been experiencing massive cuts in victim services funding. **From FY23 to FY24, VOCA funds were reduced by around \$600 million, causing an average 40% cut to**

state victim assistance grants, compounding cuts from FY22 and FY21. If these cuts in VOCA funds continue, victim service programs will be forced to reduce or eliminate services, lay off staff, and in some cases close their doors. As a result, countless victims in crisis will not be able to find help.

It is imperative that Congress provide \$1.9 billion for VOCA programs in FY26. If the CVF cannot sustain this level of funding, Congress must find other ways to maintain steady funding for this vital program.

We urge Congress to:

- ★ Provide \$1.9 billion for VOCA programs in FY26 to address the urgent needs of victims of crime.
- ★ Reject proposals that use the VOCA fund to pay for other Department of Justice (DOJ) programs since that reduces funding for direct victim services.
- ★ Pass the Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act (H.R. 909/S. 1892) that provides additional funding to VOCA, from surplus funds generated by the False Claims Act (FCA), and
- ★ Support a continued federal funding stream from VOCA for tribes. Individuals on tribal lands experience disproportionately high rates of domestic and sexual violence and need funding for victim services.

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) – \$500 Million and DELTA – \$26 Million (LHHS/HHS)

We urge Congress to provide \$500 million for FVPSA and \$26 million for The Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) program.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) supports lifesaving services, including emergency shelters, crisis hotlines, counseling, and programs for underserved communities throughout the United States. Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), **FVPSA is the only federal funding source dedicated to domestic violence shelters and programs.**

Despite FVPSA's success, community-based domestic violence programs report that, at current funding levels, they cannot meet the overwhelming demand for services. NNEDV's 19th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report found that 79,088 victims of domestic violence received services in one day. However, on the same day, 14,176 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of funding and resources. Of those unmet requests, 60% were for safe housing. Additional FVPSA funding is essential to help close this unacceptable gap in services.

Additionally, we urge Congress to include **\$26 million for the DELTA program**, administered by the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. DELTA is the only dedicated federal funding source for the primary prevention of domestic violence. In approximately 45 communities across the nation, the DELTA program identifies effective strategies to prevent first-time perpetration and first-time victimization of domestic

violence. A substantial increase in funding will enable the DELTA program to expand to additional states and communities and will also provide opportunities for communities to leverage additional funding.

- ★ The President's proposed FY26 budget eliminates the Injury Center entirely and plans to severely cut and restructure DELTA and the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) programs. Any cuts or reduction in these critical programs will result in greater inefficiency and higher costs in the long run, both in terms of public health and economic consequences. Prevention efforts save both lives and money! **We urge Congress to reject this proposal and provide adequate funding for DELTA in FY 26 appropriations.**

Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors – \$35 Million (LHHS/HHS)

Congress must allocate \$35 million for The Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors program administered by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Office at HHS.

Communities of Color have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Higher infection and mortality rates¹ in Communities of Color are indicative of long-term systemic inequities, including access to health care, wealth and wage gaps, the digital divide, lack of language access, housing disparities, and food deserts, among other issues.² There is a dearth of funding for under-resourced, culturally specific programs, which are a lifeline for survivors in their communities. These organizations provide holistic services; offer language access for survivors with limited English proficiency; provide food; and increase access to other lifesaving resources. Funding for culturally specific services for Communities of Color is nominal and is truly insufficient to meet the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors at the nexus of a public health and financial crisis.

Survivors from Communities of Color urgently need culturally specific services that address the nexus of domestic violence and sexual assault with other health outcomes.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – \$1.15 Billion (CJS/DOJ)

We urge Congress to provide \$1.15 billion for VAWA DOJ programs. Priority programs are outlined below.

Sexual Assault Services Program – \$100 Million

The Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) is the only federal funding dedicated to the provision of direct services to victims of sexual violence. A recent report to Congress revealed over 55,000 survivors of sexual assault were served and over 300 advocate positions were supported by SASP during the reporting period.

¹ www.covidtracking.com/race.

² Hlavinka, E. (May, 2020). "COVID-19 Killing African Americans at Shocking Rates." Retrieved from www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/86266, as cited in ujimacommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COC-DV-SA-COVID-Statement.pdf.

Across the country, SASP funds support critical services that adult and child victims need most, including counseling, accompaniment through medical and legal processes, and support for underserved populations. Research shows that these services increase prosecution rates and help victims recover. However, the nation's 1,500 sexual assault programs often lack the resources to meet victims' basic needs.

According to a 2024 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV), 58% of programs saw an increase in demand, while 43% of programs were forced to reduce staff in the past year. Almost two-thirds of rape crisis programs lack a full-time therapist on staff. **We urge Congress to increase SASP funds, which will help fill in the gap to support local rape crisis centers.**

Transitional Housing Program – \$100 Million

This vital VAWA program helps communities in every state give victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking a safe place to begin to rebuild their lives. According to NNEDV, in just one day in 2024, 48,541 adults and children were housed in domestic violence housing and shelter programs. On the same day, however, 8,111 requests for emergency shelter, transitional housing, or other housing were denied due to a lack of capacity.

The extreme dearth of affordable housing nationwide produces a situation where many victims of domestic violence must return to their abusers because they cannot find stable housing, while others are forced into homelessness.

Because many individuals have lost income and must now rebuild their lives separate from an abusive former partner, the need for housing assistance will remain elevated until the economy rebounds. The VAWA transitional housing program provides survivors with 6-24 months of housing with supportive services, and the majority of program participants report increased safety and housing stability upon exit.³ **We urge Congress to increase investment in the Transitional Housing program, which will allow more communities to house survivors and their children.**

Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Program – \$100 Million

The practical nature of legal services gives survivors long-term alternatives to their abusive relationships. Legal services are also vital to support survivors of sexual assault in civil matters.⁴ However, the retainers or hourly fees for private legal representation are beyond the means of most victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Legal services are second only to medical services as the most-requested need of victims. Sadly, many survivors face economic abuse and do not have the means to secure legal assistance in the aftermath of domestic abuse or sexual assault. The LAV program is the only federally funded program designed to meet the legal needs of victims. **We urge Congress to provide substantial increases to the LAV program as a sound investment in long-term**

³ 2018 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs Under the Violence Against Women Act. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1292636/download>

⁴ Reckdenwald, A. & Parker, K.F. (2010). Understanding gender-specific intimate partner homicide: A theoretical and domestic service-oriented approach. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38, no. 5 (2010): 951-958.

solutions to violence.

DV and SA Bonus Funds via HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Program – \$75 Million and funds to implement VAWA – \$15 Million (THUD/HUD)

We urge Congress to allocate \$75 million for HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Program to help survivors access safe, affordable housing and rebuild their lives.

Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault often flee unsafe circumstances and seek refuge through emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid-rehousing programs to avoid homelessness. Since FY18, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Committee has included a \$50-\$52 million set-aside for housing for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) homelessness assistance program (also known as the DV/SA Bonus Funds). These dedicated funds for survivor-specific housing resources, including rapid rehousing, are a vital funding source for victim service providers to address the unique safety needs of survivors.

Additionally, we appreciate the inclusion of funds in FY23 for training and technical assistance on the implementation of housing protections for survivors created in the VAWA 2022 Reauthorization. **We urge Congress to provide \$15 million in FY26 for domestic violence and sexual assault training and technical assistance and to implement VAWA.**

Funding to Address Needs of Immigrant Victims – \$1 Million and Policy Recommendations (DHS/CJS)

Immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes often face barriers when seeking safety and protection, including [threats from abusers and perpetrators](#) that reaching out for help will result in their deportation. To address these barriers, a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to provide survivors with essential protections against deportation to allow them to seek help without fear of abuser retaliation. Later, Congress established the T and U visa programs through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) to facilitate the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity and to protect victims who come forward, in recognition of the many barriers survivors face in reaching out for help.

These protections, along with our asylum laws, were created so that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking may seek paths to safety and security in the United States. To fulfill this goal, we request that funds be utilized to improve efficiencies in adjudicating these benefits and to ensure that funds are not used to undermine the bipartisan laws Congress created over the past two decades to protect survivors and ensure continued access to these protections without fear.

We urge Congress to:

- ★ Provide \$500,000 for the Department of Homeland Security and \$500,000 for the Department of Justice to maintain and publish data on 1) the number of people claiming to have a credible or reasonable fear of intimate partner violence in their home country; 2) of these people, the number that are ultimately granted asylum or withholding of

removal on that basis; 3) the number of people who file asylum applications with USCIS and/or DOJ, outside of the expedited removal process, whose claims are based on a fear intimate partner violence in their home country; and 4) of these people, the number who are granted asylum or withholding of removal on that basis. Access to such data is critical for informing U.S. asylum policy.

- ★ Ensure that no funds are used to apprehend, detain, and remove benefit requesters or beneficiaries of survivor-based relief, including VAWA self-petitioner classification, T nonimmigrant status, U nonimmigrant status, or Special Immigrant Juvenile classification, which undermines the protective purpose of these programs.
- ★ Recapture unallocated U visas to assist in alleviating the significant backlog of nearly 239,000 primary petitioners and an additional 158,000 family members awaiting U visas by cutting the backlog by almost half, helping eligible victims of crime to obtain stabilizing benefits and facilitating family reunification.

Additional DOJ/VAWA Programs (CJS)

The programs described below complement the priority programs outlined above to meet the multifaceted needs of survivors. We urge Congress to provide a total of \$1.15 billion for VAWA programs.

Additionally, the President's FY26 budget proposes consolidating the Office on Violence Against Women's (OVW) grant functions into the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). **OVW provides essential expertise and a unique, independent voice for victims of domestic and sexual violence as no other federal agency has both policy-making authority and also a direct connection to victim service providers** and the individuals, families, and communities they serve. **In 2022, Congress reaffirmed that OVW must remain a "separate and distinct office" within the DOJ with full grant-making authority.** Merging it into OJP contradicts this mandate and risks weakening survivor-centered policymaking.

VAWA STOP Program – \$326 Million

VAWA's Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Grant Program supports coordinated community responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, helping hundreds of thousands of victims find safety and receive services, while holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. STOP funds are awarded to every state and territory through a formula-based system, and the funds also support tribes; state, territorial, and tribal coalitions; and culturally specific programs. Communities use STOP funds to ensure the system-wide response to survivors is tailored and well-equipped to meet survivors' needs. Victims benefit from services, including advocacy, crisis intervention, local hotline call advocacy, counseling and support, and victim/witness notification. In 2016, STOP grant-funded programs helped 362,172 victims and trained 252,795 professionals.⁵ **We call on Congress to prioritize newly allocated funding in STOP to invest in victim services, especially culturally specific programs. Additionally, we call on Congress to prioritize funding for tribes and**

⁵ U.S Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. (2016). The 2016 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Programs Under the Violence Against Women Act. Retrieved from www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1086486/download.

state, territorial, and tribal coalitions.

Rural Grant Program – \$100 Million

Survivors in rural areas face unique barriers, including: a lack of access to childcare, legal services, and public transportation; under-resourced law enforcement; and fewer domestic violence programs. Funding for the Rural Grant Program, which supports services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault living in rural and isolated areas, has remained stagnant for the last several years despite the enormous need.

Remaining VAWA Programs – Full Funding as Requested (See Chart)

All VAWA programs work together to provide a comprehensive response to victims of violence, delivering lifesaving services that ensure safety, access to resources, and justice for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in communities nationwide. These services include lifesaving legal services; funding for services in rural and remote areas; transitional housing programs to help victims rebuild their lives after violence and abuse; law enforcement improvements such as sexual assault response teams, initiatives to address the rape kit backlog, and homicide reduction initiatives.

Additionally, VAWA programs serve underserved victims, including those with disabilities and elderly individuals, ensure compliance with services for victims with limited English proficiency, and support programs for children, youth, and college students. They also address issues such as courts and visitation, sexual assault and domestic violence on tribal lands, workplace violence, and prevention and public health responses to violence and abuse. To build on our progress, these programs must receive sustained and increased funding, with a particular focus on reaching the most vulnerable survivors, including increasing support for culturally specific organizations and funding for LGBTQ+ survivors.

Additional HHS Programs (LHHS)

The programs described below complement the priority programs outlined above to meet the multifaceted needs of survivors. We urge Congress to **prioritize robust funding for HHS programs addressing domestic violence and sexual assault.**

Rape Prevention and Education (CDC) – \$100 Million

Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) formula grants, administered by the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, provide essential funding to states and territories to support prevention programs conducted by rape crisis centers, state sexual assault coalitions, and other public agencies and private nonprofit entities. The RPE program prepares individuals to get involved, prevent sexual violence, and create safer communities. RPE is working. A five-year randomized trial funded by the CDC found that, in Kentucky high schools, there was a more than 50% reduction in the self-reported frequency of sexual violence perpetration by students at schools that received the RPE-funded Green Dot bystander intervention training.¹⁶ However, a 2024 survey by NAESV revealed that 58% of programs saw an increased demand

for services while 40% experienced a decrease in funding.⁶

Rape Crisis Centers, Partnerships, and Resources – \$100 Million

\$100 million is needed in FY26 for sexual assault services provided by rape crisis centers, building partnerships between rape crisis centers and behavioral health systems, and national sexual assault resource centers. While significant investments have been made to improve the criminal justice response to survivors, similar efforts are needed to build partnerships between sexual assault programs and health and human services agencies at the local, state, and national levels.

Remaining DV/SA Programs at HHS – Full Funding as Requested – see chart

All DV/SA programs at HHS work together to provide a comprehensive response to victims of violence including; the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant administered by CDC; the National Domestic Violence Hotline; the Violence Against Women Health programs; and the VAWA forensic exam access programs.

About NNEDV

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) represents the 56 U.S. state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. NNEDV is a social change organization with a mission to create a social, political, and economic environment in which domestic violence no longer exists. NNEDV works to make domestic violence a national priority, change the way society responds to domestic violence, and strengthen domestic violence advocacy at every level.

Please contact us at advocacy@nnedv.org if you have any questions.

⁶ A 2024 National Alliance to End Sexual Violence online survey of rape crisis centers (2024). Retrieved from https://endsexualviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/FY25_survey_infographic.pdf