



## Reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act with Key Improvements

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The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) urges Congress to pass *The Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021* (FVPSA Improvement Act). The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) is at the heart of our nation's response to domestic violence services, ensuring that local shelters and programs are able to keep their doors open to serve more than 1.3 million victims and their children every year. FVPSA funds more than 1,500 community-based programs through state formula grants. These programs provide emergency shelter, counseling, legal assistance, crisis intervention, and domestic and dating violence prevention education. FVPSA expired in 2015 and must be reauthorized with key enhancements in order to meet the growing needs of survivors.

### FVPSA's Critical Reach and Needed Expansions

FVPSA helps communities address domestic violence and serve victims through:

- ★ **Local shelters and programs** for adults and children who are escaping violence;
- ★ **State and territorial domestic violence coalitions** that coordinate state-wide and territory-wide initiatives to address domestic violence;
- ★ **Funding for Tribal governments** to provide essential services to native survivors;
- ★ A national **Domestic Violence Resource Network** that provides training and technical assistance to programs;
- ★ A **Children's Program**, which supports abused parents and their children to disrupt the cycle of violence;
- ★ **DELTA Prevention Grants**, which help communities to stop abuse before it starts; and
- ★ The **National Domestic Violence Hotline**, which is often the first call made by survivors.

Domestic violence program and shelters report that they struggle to meet the demand for these critical services. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)'s 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Counts report, in just one day in 2021, 70,032 victims of domestic violence received services. But in the same 24-hour period,

9,444 requests for services went unmet due to lack of funding and resources. Some communities and tribes currently have very limited access to FVPSA funds. **Access to FVPSA must be expanded through policy enhancements, increased funding authorization levels, and increased annual appropriations.**

### The Bipartisan FVPSA Improvement Act (H.R. 2119 and S. 1275)

In order to reach additional survivors and communities, FVPSA must be expanded. The *Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021*:

- ★ **Bolsters and invests** in lifesaving core victim services and shelters.
- ★ **Expands support for and access to culturally specific programs** by authorizing a new grant program to provide enhanced access to services for racial and ethnic minority populations.
- ★ **Strengthens the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise their sovereign authority to more fully respond to domestic violence in their communities** by increasing resources for tribes, authorizing funding for tribal coalitions, and authorizing the currently funded Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.
- ★ **Meaningfully invests in domestic violence prevention** by increasing support for evidence-informed, community-based prevention demonstration projects and funding new initiatives that bring these approaches to more communities across the country.
- ★ Creates a new **underserved populations** grant program.
- ★ **Increases the funding authorization level to \$270 million** to respond to very low per-program funding levels and adjusts the current formula to increase access to FVPSA funds for programs not currently funded.

### About NNEDV

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) represents the 56 state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence. NNEDV works to make ending domestic violence a national priority, change the way society responds to domestic violence, and strengthen advocacy at the national, statewide, and local levels. For questions, please contact Melina Milazzo ([MMilazzo@NNEDV.org](mailto:MMilazzo@NNEDV.org)) or Monica McLaughlin ([MMcLaughlin@NNEDV.org](mailto:MMcLaughlin@NNEDV.org)).