



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Senator Jerry Moran, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Senator Patty Murray, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Senator Roy Blunt, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Senator Brian Schatz, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Senator Susan Collins, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Senator Chris Murphy, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Senator Shelly Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Representative Matt Cartwright, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Representative Robert Aderholt, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Representative Rosa DeLauro, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Representative Tom Cole, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Representative David Price, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Representative Mario Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Representative, Chuck Fleischmann, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

October 6, 2022

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF) represents national, tribal, state, and local organizations working to end domestic violence and sexual assault. We write today to urge you to quickly pass a final FY 23 appropriations bill building on significant increases in both the House appropriations bills and the bills released by the Chairs of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees for programs addressing survivors' needs.

Survivors rely on federally-funded direct services such as shelter, rape crisis services, culturally specific services, legal assistance, counseling, and much more. However, the

overwhelming demand for services leaves many of these effective and essential programs short of the necessary funding to meet the need. In May, over 430 organizations signed an [FY23 Appropriations request letter](#) outlining survivors' needs and the role of federal programs in meeting their needs.

FY 2023 Funding needed to support survivors

Maintained and steadily increasing funding for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) programs, the Rape Prevention and Education Program, and the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault set-aside in homelessness funds, along with sustained funding released from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), are allowing communities to provide lifesaving direct services and investments in prevention. We are extremely grateful for these critical funds that will save and transform lives.

The federal government funds vital programs at the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS) reach into every community across the nation to provide safety, access to services, and justice for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Specifically, we highlight the formula grant programs and national services:

- **Highest funding level possible for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA, DOJ)**, while maintaining a reserve in the Crime Victims Fund, which is a non-taxpayer fund that supports 7,800 victim services agencies across the nation, including on tribal lands, to help victims deal with the immediate aftermath of a crime;
- **\$100 million for the Sexual Assault Services Program (VAWA, DOJ)**, which is the federal government's only funding source dedicated to sexual assault services and rape crisis centers in every state;
- **\$35 million for the VAWA Culturally Specific Program**, which provides services for survivors of color;
- **\$300 million for the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA, HHS)**, which is the federal government's only dedicated funding stream for domestic violence shelters and outreach programs;
- **\$35 million for the Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors Program (HHS)**, which provides urgently needed culturally relevant services that address domestic and sexual violence.
- **\$101.75 million for the Rape Prevention and Education Program (RPE, HHS)**, which supports comprehensive sexual violence prevention in every state for communities and schools;
- **\$230 million for the STOP program (VAWA, DOJ)**, which improves the criminal justice and wider community response by allowing states and communities to develop coordinated community responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and
- **\$27 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH, HHS)**, which receives over 600,000 contacts per year via the hotline; StrongHearts Native Helpline, which serves the specific cultural and jurisdictional needs of Native victims of domestic and dating violence; and Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), which is the only national service program for Deaf and hearing-challenged survivors of domestic violence.

We ask you to support and prioritize investments in the President's FY 2023 budget to reach the most vulnerable survivors, including increasing funding for culturally specific organizations; funding for LGBTQ and Deaf survivors; direct financial assistance to meet

survivors' emergency needs, and support for families affected by domestic violence at the intersection of substance-use coercion, housing instability, and child welfare involvement.

This includes investments in VAWA and related discretionary programs that complement the state formula grants by propelling innovation and providing targeted responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. All the programs detailed in the enclosed [chart](#) work together to provide a comprehensive response to victims of gender-based violence.

Additionally, we urge Congress to increase the set-aside for housing for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault - the **"DV/SA Bonus" in the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) homelessness assistance program to \$75 million.**

Finally, we urge Congress **to provide at least \$15 million (in addition to \$400 million to address USCIS backlogs)** to process victim-related applications within 90 days of receipt and ensure the timely access to employment authorization for victims in the U visa program, as well as in the T visa and VAWA Self-Petition programs.

Each of these programs must receive additional funding to ensure that our communities can build on our years of progress and meet the needs of ALL victims.

We call on you to support increased funding for these vital programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monica McLaughlin, National Network to End Domestic Violence, at mmclaughlin@nnedv.org or Terri Poore, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, at terri@endsexualviolence.org.

Thank you for your continued leadership in keeping victims safe and healthy. We know our successes could not be achieved without your support, and we are grateful for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
Esperanza United
Futures Without Violence
Jewish Women International
Legal Momentum
Los Angeles LGBT Center
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
The National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
Ujima: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
YWCA USA