



National Task Force to End  
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Katie Britt, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Senator Chris Murphy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Homeland Security  
Senator Jerry Moran, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science  
Senator, Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science  
Representative Mark Amodei, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland  
Security  
Representative Lauren Underwood, Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Representative Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science  
Representative Grace Meng, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science

April 22, 2025

Dear Senators Britt, Murphy, Moran and Van Hollen and Representatives Amodei,  
Underwood, Hal Rogers and Meng:

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. The 459 undersigned organizations join with the NTF to urge you to increase funding for federal programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking for immigrant survivors. Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive crimes significantly impacting the safety and wellbeing of millions of people every day. We implore you to build upon our nation's progress in addressing these crimes by providing incredibly needed investments in the FY26 Homeland Security bill as well as the Commerce, Justice Science (CJS) bill. to ensure immigrant survivors have greater access to the programs they need to achieve safety and independence.

### **The Needs of Immigrant Survivors**

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 ask 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.

We call on you to support increased funding for these vital programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Irena Sullivan, Tahirih Justice Center, at [Irenas@tahirih.org](mailto:Irenas@tahirih.org) or Cecelia Levin, Alliance For Immigrant Survivors, at [cecelial@tahirih.org](mailto:cecelial@tahirih.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.



National Task Force to End  
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Senator Brian Schatz, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Representative Steve Womack, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Representative James E. Clyburn, Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related  
Agencies

April 22, 2025

Dear Senators Hyde-Smith and Schatz and Representatives Womack and Clyburn:

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. The 459 undersigned organizations join with the NTF to urge you to increase funding for federal programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive crimes significantly impacting the safety and wellbeing of millions of people every day. We implore you to build upon our nation's progress in addressing these crimes by providing incredibly needed investments in the FY26 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill.

Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and their children. Abusers commonly sabotage a victim's economic stability and damage their credit, rental, and employment histories. Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault often flee life-threatening and/or traumatic circumstances and seek refuge through emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid rehousing programs in order to avoid homelessness. Three women are killed each day in this country at the hands of current or former abusers.<sup>1</sup> Sexual assault survivors need housing supports for a range of reasons, including to escape current sexual assault occurring in or near their homes by a household or family member, landlord, maintenance worker, or neighbor; or because the person who sexually assaulted them has learned where they live and the survivor no longer feels safe at home from future sexual violence. Considering the prevalence of sexual abuse as a precursor to homelessness, the increased risks for sexual assault that homeless individuals face, and the ways in which safe affordable housing can be a protective factor against sexual victimization, it is imperative sexual assault survivors have access to housing supports.

These needs are exacerbated for victims of color and their children who, in addition to trauma, also face pervasive racism and increased barriers to housing. Yet, survivors of color are often unable to access culturally relevant housing services that respond to their layered mental health and safety needs. Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault must have access to housing; however, in a nationwide study, more than half of the survivors who identified a need for housing services in a single day did not receive them. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence's 19th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report, 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, hotels, motels, or other housing were denied due to a lack of resources. It is unconscionable that victims cannot find safety for themselves and their children due to a lack of adequate investment in housing services.

### **FY26 Funding Needed to Support Survivors**

Dedicated funds for survivor-specific housing, including rapid rehousing, offer stable resources for victim service providers to address the housing, safety, and confidentiality needs of survivors with a trauma-informed approach. 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 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (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, in FY23, Congress included funds for training and technical assistance on the implementation of housing protections for survivors created in the newly passed Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2022 Reauthorization. We appreciate the inclusion of these funds and urge Congress to continue providing resources for training and technical assistance. We also urge Congress to provide funding to staff and support the Office of Gender-Based Violence Office at HUD led by a VAWA Director. The newly established office will ensure that there is cross-cutting guidance and support to each and every HUD program office. A core function of the Office on Gender-Based Violence is to focus on the successful implementation of VAWA as well as other important policies impacting survivors of violence, within each housing and homelessness assistance program of HUD, as well as the other programs under the Department of Agriculture, Department of Treasury, and Department of Veterans Affairs. This huge mandate requires the office to have sufficient authority to direct this implementation within HUD and to have the authority to also coordinate with the other federal agencies. Thus, the Office must be given sufficient resources to achieve its goals.

### **We ask Congress to:**

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

- provide \$15 million in FY26 for domestic violence and sexual assault training and technical assistance and to implement VAWA; and
- provide resources to support the Office on Gender-Based Violence.

We call on you to support increased funding for these vital programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melina Milazzo, National Network to End Domestic Violence, at [mmilazzo@nnedv.org](mailto:mmilazzo@nnedv.org) or Terri Poore, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, at [terri@endsexualviolence.org](mailto: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.

<sup>1</sup> Shannon Catalano, Ph.D. (2013). Intimate Partner Violence: Attributes of Victimization, 1993-2011. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipvav9311.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> National Network to End Domestic Violence (2024). 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: [NNEDV.org/DVCounts](https://nnedv.org/DVCounts)



National Task Force to End  
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Jerry Moran, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science  
Senator, Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science  
Representative Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science  
Representative Grace Meng, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Commerce, Justice, Science

April 22, 2025

Dear Senators Moran and Van Hollen and Representatives Hal Rogers and Meng:

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. The 459 undersigned organizations join with the NTF to urge you to increase funding for federal programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive crimes significantly impacting the safety and wellbeing of millions of people every day. We implore you to build upon our nation's progress in addressing these crimes by providing critically needed investments in the FY26 Commerce, Justice Science (CJS) bill.

Our nation has made phenomenal progress in understanding and addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Congress is committed to making an ongoing, annual investment. Survivors rely on federally funded direct services such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis services, culturally specific services, legal assistance, counseling, and more. However, the overwhelming demand for services leaves many of these effective and essential programs short of the necessary funding to meet the need.

### **Return on Investment**

Federal funding plays a vital role in protecting survivors of these horrific crimes—offering them not just safety, but the opportunity to rebuild and thrive. When that happens, our nation sees lower long-term costs, better public health, and safer communities. When survivors do not get the services they need, they face increased risks of long-term physical, emotional, and psychological harm—on top of economic

impacts due to higher medical bills and loss of income as a result of trouble focusing at school or work.

A study shows that the lifetime economic cost of intimate partner violence to the U.S. population is \$3.6 trillion.<sup>1</sup> The societal costs of sexual violence are incredibly high, including medical and mental health care, law enforcement response, and lost productivity. Recent research sets the lifetime economic burden of rape at \$122,000 per victim and reveals a strong link between sexual violence and chronic disease.<sup>2</sup> While these crimes are costly, advocacy programs supported by federal funding save lives and money and help victims heal. Studies have shown that an increase in the availability of legal services is associated with a decrease in intimate partner homicide.<sup>3</sup> Referring a victim to an advocate has been linked to an increased willingness to file a police report, keeping our communities safer.<sup>4</sup> A 2017 study highlighted the effectiveness of bystander intervention funded through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)'s Rape Prevention and Education Program in reducing sexual assault perpetration.<sup>5</sup> Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding has allowed communities to foster innovation, reduce waitlists, increase vital services, hire staff to counsel more survivors, and expand rural services.

## **Desperate Need Remains**

Despite the efficacy of support programs, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, culturally specific organizations, and other domestic violence and sexual assault service providers continue to face budget shortfalls, exacerbated by economic strain in communities and increased rates of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as the \$600 million cut to VOCA in FY24. The ongoing national spotlight on these crimes brings more survivors out of the shadows and increases requests for services. We applaud survivors and are trying to address the increased demand for services. Unfortunately, many programs, as well as hotlines, are forced to turn away victims who are desperate and have nowhere to go.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) reveals that domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are widespread. In fact, about 47% of women and 40% of men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an intimate partner violence-related impact during their lifetime. Over 26 percent (26.8%) of women and 3% of men have experienced a completed or attempted rape in their lifetime, and almost 9.5 million women and almost 4.5 million men experienced sexual violence in the past year. A 2024 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence shows that **58% of rape crisis centers** reported **increased demand** for services; **43% of rape crisis centers** had been forced to **reduce staff** in the past year; **61%** of programs report having **NO full time therapists/counselors** on staff; and **88% indicated they need at minimum one additional full time staff to meet the current demand**. According to the **National Network to End Domestic Violence's 19th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report**, **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.**

While violence impacts people from all walks of life, victims and survivors of color face disproportionate harm and barriers. Native women face some of the highest levels of violence of any group. Four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime and overall, which comes to more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women. Over 90% of these victims have experienced that violence at the hands of a non-Indian intimate partner.

## **FY26 Funding Needed to Support Survivors**

### **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Crime Victims Fund (CVF)**

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.

### **We urge Congress to:**

- provide \$1.9 billion for VOCA programs in FY26 to address the urgent needs of victims of crime;
- reject any proposals to use VOCA funds for other Department of Justice (DOJ) programs, as this diverts critical resources away from direct services for victims;
- pass the Crime Victim Fund Stabilization Act that provides additional funding to VOCA from surplus funds generated by the False Claims Act (FCA);<sup>8</sup> 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.

### **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

Additionally, the federal government funds vital **VAWA programs** at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that 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. The formula grant programs and

national services include:

- 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; and
- 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.

We ask you to support and prioritize investments to reach the most vulnerable survivors, including funding for LGBTQ+ survivors.

This includes investments in VAWA 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 attached [chart](#) work together to provide a comprehensive response to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. These 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; services for underserved victims, including individuals with disabilities and elderly victims; funding to ensure compliance with the requirement of serving victims with limited English proficiency; programs aimed at children, youth, and college students; funding to support critical culturally specific services and responses; projects addressing courts and visitation; programs to respond to the epidemic of sexual assault and domestic violence on tribal lands; projects addressing violence in the workplace; and prevention programs and public health responses to violence and abuse.

**We ask Congress to fully fund VAWA programs in FY26.**

We call on you to support increased funding for these vital programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melina Milazzo, National Network to End Domestic Violence, at [mmilazzo@nnedv.org](mailto:mmilazzo@nnedv.org) or Terri Poore, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, at [terri@endsexualviolence.org](mailto: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.

- <sup>1</sup>Peterson, C. et al. (2018). Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 55(4): 433-444.
- <sup>2</sup>Peterson C, DeGue S, Florence C, Lokey CN. Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults. *Am J Prev Med*. 2017 Jun;52(6):691-701. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2016.11.014. Epub 2017 Jan 30. PMID: 28153649; PMCID: PMC5438753.
- <sup>3</sup>Reckdenwald, A., & Parker, K.K. (2010). Understanding gender-specific intimate partner homicide: A theoretical and domestic service-oriented approach. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38: 951-958.
- <sup>4</sup>Campbell, R. (2006). Rape survivors' experiences with the legal and medical system: Do rape victim advocates make a difference? *Violence Against Women*, 12: 30-45.
- <sup>5</sup>Coker, Anne, et al., RCT Testing Bystander Effectiveness to Reduce Violence, available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28279546>
- <sup>6</sup>The Impact of Federal Funding on Local Rape Crisis Centers: A 2023 National Alliance to End Sexual Violence survey of rape crisis centers (2023). Retrieved from [https://endsexualviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/infographic\\_white\\_FINAL\\_brother1816.pdf](https://endsexualviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/infographic_white_FINAL_brother1816.pdf)
- <sup>7</sup>National Network to End Domestic Violence (2024). 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: [NNEDV.org/DVCounts](https://www.nnedv.org/DVCounts)
- <sup>8</sup>See further detail on the President's CVF and VOCA budget proposal here <https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/ojpFY26budgetrollout508.pdf> and [ojpFY26budgetrequestoverview508.pdf](https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/ojpFY26budgetrequestoverview508.pdf)



National Task Force to End  
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Senator, Tammy Baldwin, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Representative Robert Aderholt, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Representative Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

April 22, 2025

Dear Senators Moore Capito and Baldwin and Representatives Aderholt and DeLauro:

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. The 459 undersigned organizations join with the NTF to urge you to increase funding for federal programs that address domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive crimes significantly impacting the safety and wellbeing of millions of people every day. We implore you to build upon our nation's progress in addressing these crimes by providing incredibly needed investments in the FY26 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) bill.

Our nation has made phenomenal strides in understanding and addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Congress is committed to making an ongoing, annual investment. Survivors rely on federally funded direct services such as shelters, rape crisis services, culturally specific services, counseling, and more. However, the overwhelming demand for services leaves many of these effective and essential programs short of the necessary funding to meet the need.

### **Return on Investment**

Federal funding plays a vital role in protecting survivors of these horrific crimes—offering them not just safety, but the opportunity to rebuild and thrive. When that happens, our nation sees lower long-term costs, better public health, and safer communities. When survivors don't get the services they need, they face increased risks of long-term physical, emotional, and psychological harm—on top of economic impacts due to higher medical bills and loss of income as a result of trouble focusing at school or work.

A study shows that the lifetime economic cost of intimate partner violence to the U.S. population is \$3.6 trillion.<sup>1</sup> The societal costs of sexual violence are incredibly high, including medical and mental health care, law enforcement response, and lost productivity. Recent research sets the lifetime economic burden of rape at \$122,000 per victim and reveals a strong link between sexual violence and chronic disease.<sup>2</sup> While these crimes are costly, advocacy programs supported by federal funding save lives, money and help victims heal. Referring a victim to an advocate has been linked to an increased willingness to file a police report, keeping our communities safer.<sup>3</sup> A 2017 study highlighted the effectiveness of bystander intervention funded through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)'s Rape Prevention and Education Program in reducing sexual assault perpetration.<sup>4</sup> Domestic violence shelters, funded in significant part by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), have proven to be successful at addressing victims' urgent and long-term needs while helping victims protect themselves and their children.

## Desperate Need Remains

Despite the efficacy of support programs, domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, culturally specific organizations, and other domestic violence and sexual assault service providers continue to face budget shortfalls, exacerbated by economic strain in communities and increased rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. The ongoing national spotlight on these crimes brings more survivors out of the shadows and increases requests for services. We applaud survivors and are trying to address the increased demand for services. Unfortunately, many programs, as well as hotlines, are forced to turn away victims who are desperate and have nowhere to go.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) reveals that domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are widespread. In fact, about 47% of women and 40% of men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and reported an intimate partner violence-related impact during their lifetime. Over 26 percent (26.8%) of women and 3% of men have experienced a completed or attempted rape in their lifetime, and almost 9.5 million women and almost 4.5 million men experienced sexual violence in the past year. A 2024 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence shows that **58% of rape crisis centers** reported **increased demand** for services; **43% of rape crisis centers** had been forced to **reduce staff** in the past year; **61%** of programs report having **NO full time therapists/counselors** on staff; and **88% indicated they need at minimum one additional full time staff to meet the current demand**. According to the **National Network to End Domestic Violence's 19th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report**, **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**.

Native women face some of the highest levels of violence of any group. Four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their

lifetime and overall, which comes to more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women. Over 90% of these victims have experienced that violence at the hands of a non-Indian intimate partner.

## **FY26 Funding Needed to Support Survivors**

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.

Additionally, the LHHS bill funds a number of other vital programs and services that 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. These programs and national services include:

- Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors Program - at the Office on Family Violence Prevention and Services to support survivors from Communities of Color who urgently need culturally specific services that address the nexus of domestic violence and sexual assault with other health outcomes. The program supports the leadership of Communities of Color advocates and organizations to develop or enhance appropriate services that are specific to their communities' needs.
- The Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA; HHS/CDC) - 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.
- Rape Prevention and Education Grants (RPE) (HHS/CDC) formula grants, providing 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.
- Rape Crisis Centers, Partnerships, and Resources to address sexual assault at the Office for Family Violence Prevention and Services (HHS) - \$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 level.

- The National Domestic Violence Hotline (HHS), which receives over 742,000 contacts per calendar year; 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, which is the only national service program for Deaf and hearing-challenged survivors of domestic violence.

**We ask Congress to provide:**

- \$500 million for FVPSA;
- \$35 million for Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors Program;
- \$100 million to continue rape crisis services, partnerships, and resources to respond to sexual assault at OFVPS;
- \$100 million for RPE;
- \$26 million for DELTA program; and
- \$30 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, StrongHearts Native Helpline, and Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services.

We call on you to support increased funding for these vital programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melina Milazzo, National Network to End Domestic Violence, at [mmilazzo@nnev.org](mailto:mmilazzo@nnev.org) or Terri Poore, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, at [terri@endsexualviolence.org](mailto: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,

(list in formation)

**National, International and Tribal Organizations**

Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence  
 Battered Women's Justice Project  
 Esperanza United  
 Futures Without Violence  
 Jewish Women International  
 Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund  
 National Alliance To End Sexual Violence  
 National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health  
 National Domestic Violence Hotline  
 National Indigenous Women's Resource Center  
 National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence  
 National Network To End Domestic Violence  
 National Organization for Women  
 National Organization of API Ending Sexual Violence

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
South Asian SOAR  
Stepping Stones, Inc.  
Tahirih Justice Center  
The Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
The Freedom Train Project Incorporated  
Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community  
VALOR  
YWCA USA  
Zero Abuse Project

### **Alabama**

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence

### **Alaska**

AWARE  
Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc.  
Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
Bering Sea Women's Group  
Cordova Family Resource Center  
Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies  
Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living  
Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center  
North Slope Borough Department of Health & Social Services  
Sitkans Against Family Violence  
Standing Together Against Rape  
The LeeShore Center  
Tundra Women's Coalition  
Women in Safe Homes

### **American Samoa**

American Samoa Alliance against Domestic and Sexual Violence

### **Arizona**

A New Leaf  
Alice's Place  
Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence  
Eve's Place, Inc.  
HAVEN Family Resource Center  
Mt. Graham Safe House, Inc.  
North Country HealthCare  
Shelter Without Walls, JFCS Phoenix

### **Arkansas**

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking

Lonoke County Safe Haven  
Ozark Rape Crisis, Inc.  
Second Chance DV SA Shelter  
White County Domestic Violence Prevention, Inc.

### **California**

Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)  
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence  
DOVES of Big Bear Valley, Inc.  
Family Assistance Program  
Family Violence Appellate Project  
Human Options  
Lumina Alliance  
Plumas Rural Services  
Solano County Family Health Services  
Solano County Health and Social Services  
Stand Up Placer, Inc.  
Wild Iris Family Counseling and Crisis Center  
Women's Resource Center (WRC)

### **Colorado**

Advocate Safehouse Project  
Better Tomorrow  
Bright Future Foundation for Eagle County  
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Crisis Center  
Domestic Safety Resource Center  
DOVE  
Hispanic Affairs Project  
Lifelong  
Mariposa Center for Safety  
PeaceWorks, Inc.  
Project Hope of Gunnison Valley  
Project PAVE  
Project Safeguard  
Rise Above Violence  
Rocky Mountain Victims Law Center  
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence  
San Luis Valley Immigrant Resource Center  
The Alliance  
The Blue Bench  
Three Birds Alliance  
Violence Free Colorado

### **Connecticut**

BHcare, The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Project SAGE  
Rape Crisis Center of Milford, Inc.  
Rowan Center, The  
Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury  
Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut  
Susan B. Anthony Project  
The Center for Empowerment and Education  
The Center for Family Justice  
Women and Families Center

### **Delaware**

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

### **District of Columbia**

Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project  
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

### **Florida**

Florida Council Against Sexual Violence

### **Georgia**

Caminar Latino  
Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence

### **Hawaii**

Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
YWCA Kuaai

### **Idaho**

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

### **Illinois**

Arab American Family Services  
Clove Alliance  
Community Crisis Center  
Freedom House  
Illinois Accountability Initiative  
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Mutual Ground  
Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault  
Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault  
Prevail Illinois  
Quincy Area Network Against Domestic Abuse

Resilience  
Safe Passage  
Survivor Resource Center  
VOICES of Stephenson County  
Western Illinois Regional Council Community Action Agency  
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago  
Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

### **Indiana**

A Better Way Services, Inc.  
Alternatives Incorporated of Madison County  
Beaman Home  
Coburn Place  
Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc.  
Desert Rose Foundation, Inc.  
Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County Indiana  
Family Service Association of Howard County, Inc.  
Family Support Services of West Central Indiana  
Hands of Hope/Radiant Health Services  
Haven House, Inc.  
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.  
Middle Way House, Inc.  
New Directions  
Sheltering Wings  
St. Jude House, Inc.  
The Center for Nonviolence  
Tu Refugio Seguro  
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services  
YWCA Evansville  
YWCA Greater Lafayette

### **Iowa**

Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program  
Centers Against Abuse and Sexual Assault  
Crisis Intervention Services  
Domestic Violence Intervention Program/Rape Victim Advocacy Program  
Family Crisis Centers  
Family Resources  
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (L.U.N.A.)  
Monsoon Asians and Pacific Islanders in Solidarity  
Riverview Center  
SafePlace

### **Kansas**

## Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

### **Kentucky**

Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc.  
Bethany House Abuse Shelter, Inc.  
Cumberland Valley Domestic Violence Services  
DOVES of Gateway  
GreenHouse17  
Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc.  
Merryman House Domestic Crisis Center  
Owensboro Area Shelter and Information Services (OASIS)  
Safe Harbor of Northeast KY, Inc.  
Sanctuary, Inc.  
Springhaven, Inc.  
The Center for Women and Families, Inc.  
The Ion Center for Violence Prevention  
The Rising Center  
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services  
ZeroV

### **Louisiana**

Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault  
Metro Centers For Community Advocacy  
Pine Hills Advocacy Center

### **Maine**

AMHC Sexual Assault Services  
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence  
Rape Response Services  
Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine  
Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center  
Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine  
Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services

### **Maryland**

CARE Healing Center  
CASA, Inc.  
Center for Abused Persons  
Dove Center  
Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.  
HopeWorks of Howard County, Inc.  
Human Trafficking Prevention Project  
Life Crisis Center, Inc.  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence  
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence  
The Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center at the University of Maryland,  
Baltimore  
The Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC)  
The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.

### **Massachusetts**

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence  
Casa Myrna Vazquez  
Family and Community Resources, Inc.  
Jane Doe, Inc.  
Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center  
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Boston  
Melrose Alliance Against Violence  
New Hope, Inc.  
On The Rise  
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence  
Transition House, Inc.

### **Michigan**

Domestic Violence Escape, Inc. (DOVE)  
Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

### **Minnesota**

Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project DBA Standpoint  
Bluff Country Family Resources  
Central MN Sexual Assault Center  
Cornerstone Advocacy Service  
Deerwood Police Department  
Hands of Hope Resource Center  
Lakes Crisis and Resource Center  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
New Horizons Crisis Center  
Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA)  
Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County  
Sexual Assault Services  
Sexual Violence Center  
Terebinth Refuge  
Tubman  
Violence Free Minnesota  
WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc. (WRAP)

### **Mississippi**

Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Missouri**

ALIVE

Citizens Against Domestic Violence, Inc.

Citizens Against Spouse Abuse, Inc.

Crime Victim Center of St. Louis

Life Source Consultants

Lydia's House, Inc.

Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Rose Brooks Center

Russell House: Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence

Safe House of Southeast Missouri

Safe Passage

Saint Martha's

**Montana**

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

**Nebraska**

Bright Horizons Resources for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Inc.

Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Shelter

Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services

enCourage Advocacy Center

Friendship Home of Lincoln, Inc.

Haven House Family Services Center

Healing Hearts and Families

Heartland Family Service - Domestic Violence / Sexual Assault Program

Hope Crisis Center

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence

Project Response, Inc.

Rape and Domestic Abuse Program

Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program

Sheltering Hands

Spouse Sexual Abuse Family Education Center, Inc.

The Bridge

The DOVES Program

Voices of Hope Lincoln, Inc.

Willow Rising, Inc.

Women's Center for Advancement

**Nevada**

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

**New Jersey**

A Place for Us

ACCESS Family Services, Inc.

Atlantic County Women's Center

Coalition Against Rape and Abuse, Inc.  
Hispanic Family Center of Southern NJ, Inc.  
JBWS  
Jewish Family Service of MetroWest NJ  
New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence  
Partners (Partners for Women and Justice, Inc.)  
Passaic County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center  
SAFE in Hunterdon  
Safe + Sound Somerset  
Salem County Women's Services  
The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
The Safe House  
Town Clock Community Development Corp.  
Wafa House  
Women Aware  
YWCA Union County  
180 Turning Lives Around

### **New Mexico**

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

### **New York**

A New Hope Center, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Project | Urban Justice Center  
Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc.  
Hope's Door  
Karen Tremer  
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
The Retreat, Inc.

### **North Carolina**

Families First, Inc.  
Friend to Friend Moore County  
Hyde County Hotline, Inc.  
NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Partnership of Ashe  
REACH of Macon County  
SAFE, Inc. of Transylvania County  
Safe Haven of Pender, Inc.  
Safe Space, Inc.  
Safelight  
Turning Point, Inc.

### **North Dakota**

## North Dakota Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition

### **Ohio**

A.L.I.V.E., Inc.  
Alliance Area Domestic Violence Project  
Artemis Center  
Asian American Community Services  
Asian Services in Action, Inc.  
Auglaize County Crisis Center  
Bethany House  
Christina House  
COMPASS Family and Community Services  
Crisis Care Line  
Crossroads Crisis Center  
DWAVE  
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.  
East Cleveland Domestic Violence Program  
Equitas Health  
Eve, Inc.  
Family Abuse Shelter of Miami County  
Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center  
Family Crisis Network  
First Step Domestic Violence Services  
Forbes House  
Haven House of Pickaway County, Inc.  
Homesafe, Inc.  
Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center  
Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland, Ohio  
Journey Center for Safety and Healing  
LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence  
Lorain County Safe Harbor  
My Sister's Place  
New Choices, Inc.  
New Directions  
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
Ohio Hispanic Coalition  
OneEighty, Inc.  
Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services  
Peace House of Community Action  
Rape Crisis Domestic Violence Safe Haven  
Ross County Community Action Commission  
Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter  
Sarah's Friends  
Safer Futures and Someplace Safe, Programs of Axess Family Services  
Shelter From Violence, Inc.

Southern Ohio Task Force on Domestic Violence  
Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program  
The Center for Child and Family Advocacy, Inc.  
The Center for Family Safety and Healing (TCFSH)  
The Cocoon  
The Lighthouse, Inc.  
The Woodlands Serving Central Ohio, Inc  
Transitions, Inc.  
Tri-County Help Center, Inc.  
Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter  
Violence Free Futures  
WomenSafe  
Women Helping Women  
YWCA of Greater Cincinnati  
YWCA of Northwest Ohio

### **Oregon**

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

### **Pennsylvania**

A Safe Place, Inc.  
A Way Out  
Abuse and Rape Crisis Center  
Blackburn Center  
Centre Safe  
Congreso De Latinos Unidos  
Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County  
Domestic Violence Service Center  
Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania  
Grace A. Coleman  
HAVEN of Tioga County  
Helping All Victims in Need  
Laurel House  
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect  
Respect Together  
SAFE, Inc.  
Safe Berks  
Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence  
The Abuse Network, Inc.  
Vashti M Bledsoe  
Victim Outreach Intervention Center  
Victim Services, Inc.  
Victims Resource Center  
Victims' Intervention Program of Wayne and Pike County  
Women Against Abuse

Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh  
Women's Center of Montgomery County  
Women's Services, Inc.  
Women's Resource Center  
YWCA Bradford- Victims' Resource Center  
YWCA Greater Harrisburg  
YWCA Hanover  
YWCA York

### **Puerto Rico**

Coordinadora Paz Para La Mujer

### **Rhode Island**

Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center  
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Women's Resource Center

### **South Carolina**

Beyond Abuse  
First Light  
Hopeful Horizons  
Julie Valentine Center  
Meg's House  
Palmetto Citizens Against Sexual Assault  
Pee Dee Coalition  
Pickens County Advocacy Center  
Project R.E.S.T.  
Rape Crisis Center Serving Horry and Georgetown Counties  
Safe Harbor  
Safe Passage, Inc.  
Sistercare, Inc.  
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
The Family Resource Center  
Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S. Sexual Assault Center  
YWCA Upper Lowlands, Inc.

### **South Dakota**

South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault  
South Dakota Coalition Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence

### **Tennessee**

Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

### **Texas**

Texas Council on Family Violence

**Utah**

CAPSA  
Canyon Creek Services  
Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake  
Northeastern Utah Friends Against Family Violence  
Peace and Equality Therapy  
Peace House, Inc.  
Raven, Lotus and Grey  
Safe Harbor Crisis Center  
Seekhaven Family Crisis and Resource Center  
The Refuge Utah  
Utah Domestic Violence Coalition  
YCC Family Crisis Center  
YWCA Utah

**Vermont**

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

**Virginia**

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

**Washington State**

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**West Virginia**

AWAY  
Centers Against Violence  
CONTACT Huntington, Inc.  
Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center  
Family Crisis Center, Inc.  
Family Crisis Intervention Center  
REACH/The Counseling Connection  
Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center  
SAFE, Inc.  
Task Force on Domestic Violence, "HOPE, Inc."  
Upper Ohio Valley Sexual Assault Help Center, Inc.  
West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services

**Wisconsin**

ASTOP, Inc. Sexual Abuse Center  
BeLEAF Survivors  
Benedict Center  
Bolton Refuge House, Inc.  
Cia Siab, Inc.  
Core El Centro

Deaf Unity  
Embrace Services, Inc.  
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin  
Family Advocates  
Hope House of South Central Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth  
New Beginnings APFV  
New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers, Inc.  
Rainbow House Domestic Abuse Services, Inc.  
Safe Harbor of Sheboygan County, Inc.  
The Women's Community  
UNIDOS  
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Wyoming**

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault