



National Task Force to End
Sexual & Domestic Violence

Senator Shelly 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 Committee and Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

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

Senator Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Representative Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Representative Grace Meng, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Senator Kristin Gillibrand, 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 Jim Clyburn, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Senator Katie Britt, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Senator Chris Murphy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Representative Mark Amodei, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Representative Lauren Underwood, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

November 19, 2025

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. The needs of survivors are great and growing. In fact, the National Network to End Domestic Violence's (NNEDV) [19th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report](#) found that on one day in 2024, 79,088 victims of domestic violence received services; however, on that same day, 14,095 requests for services went unmet due to a lack of funding. In addition, [a 2025 survey](#) by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV), found 58% of programs addressing sexual assault experienced an increased demand for services, yet 40% experienced a decrease in funding. Accordingly, we write today to urge you to quickly pass final Fiscal Year (FY) 26 appropriations bills – and not another year-long continuing resolution – to support critical funding for programs addressing survivors' needs.

Survivors rely on federally-funded direct services such as shelter, rape crisis services, culturally specific services, legal assistance, counseling, prevention programs, and much more. However, the overwhelming demand for services and increased costs of living leaves many of these effective and essential programs short of the necessary funding to meet the need. In April, over **450** organizations signed a [FY 2026 Appropriations request letter](#) outlining survivors' needs and the role of federal programs in meeting their needs.

Ongoing and consistent FY 2026 funding is needed to support survivors and prevent sexual assault and domestic violence.

Maintaining and steadily increasing funding for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) programs, the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program, DELTA Prevention Program, and the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault set-aside in homelessness funds, along with increased funding released from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), will allow 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), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 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.

In addition, we strongly urge you to include language in the final FY26 appropriations bill preventing any effort to consolidate the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) into the Office of Justice Programs. The independence of OVW is well established in federal law. In 2002, Congress enacted the Violence Against Women Office Act (VAWA), which established the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) as a “separate and distinct office” within the DOJ

(34 USC 10442(b)). In 2022, Congress amended VAWA to add new language mandating that OVW be a “separate and distinct office, not subsumed by any other office.” (Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022, Pub. L. No. 117-103, div. W, sec. 901(a)(3) and codified as amended at 34 USC 10442(b)).

As you begin to work on the final FY 2026 spending bills, we urge you to provide the highest level possible for the following highlighted formula grant programs and national services while also rejecting any future rescissions.

- \$2 billion for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA, DOJ), a program that serves over 6,000 victim services agencies across the nation, including on tribal lands, to help victims/survivors deal with the immediate aftermath of a crime.
- \$79.5 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.
- \$11 million for the Culturally Specific Services Program (VAWA, DOJ), which provides specialized services for victims from culturally specific communities.
- \$240 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 lifesaving services including services for victims of sexual assault.
- \$20.5 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH, HHS), which receives over 740,000 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.
- \$7.5 million for the Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors Program (OFVPS, HHS), which addresses the health impact of domestic violence and sexual assault on victims from culturally specific communities.
- \$2.5 million included in the Senate LHHS bill for the Sexual Assault Technical Assistance Initiative (OFVPS, HHS).
- \$61.75 million for the Rape Prevention and Education Program (RPE, HHS, CDC), which supports comprehensive sexual violence prevention in every state for communities and schools, and \$7.5 million for the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA, HHS, CDC) prevention grant program.
- Support funding at Senate levels for key VAWA programs such as Transitional Housing, Legal Assistance for Victims, LGBTQ services, Outreach to Underserved, and restorative justice grants.
- \$52 million for housing for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault - the “DV/SA Bonus” in the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) homelessness assistance program (HUD) – which was eliminated in the House bill.

- \$5 million (HUD) for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking training and technical assistance to implement VAWA.
- Adequate resources to continue to support the Office on Gender-Based Violence at HUD.
- \$1 million for Workplaces Respond Resource Center to help survivors acquire and keep their jobs as a means to economic security and to implement new VAWA workforce development pilot program.

We ask you to support and prioritize investments to reach the most vulnerable survivors, including funding for culturally specific organizations; funding for LGBTQ and Deaf survivors; 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 such as prevention programs and public health responses to violence and abuse that all work to 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 ask that no funds appropriated or made available through VOCA, VAWA, FVPSA, or programs administered by HUD are conditioned in a manner that contravenes authorizing statutes and related guidance and regulation. This includes all pass-through formula funding administered by state, territorial, Tribal, and local agencies.

Thank you in advance for supporting substantive 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 or Terri Poore, National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, at terri@endsexualviolence.org. ***Your continued leadership in keeping victims safe and healthy is very much appreciated!***

List of Organizations

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
 Esperanza United
 Futures Without Violence
 Jewish Women International
 Just Solutions
 Legal Momentum
 National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
 National Council of Jewish Women
 National Network to End Domestic Violence
 National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence
 National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Respect Together
Tahirih Justice Center
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
ValorUS