



NNEDV
NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

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Funding to End Domestic Violence: FY27 Immigration Funding and Policy Requests

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. However, recent policy shifts are eroding access to these protections and fueling a climate of fear. Local law enforcement participation in federal immigration actions, the detention and deportation of victims of crime who have come forward, and enforcement actions at courthouses all work against the intent of these laws. These policies and practices do not just undermine survivor protections—they embolden abusers and put lives and communities at risk, and create an [immense chilling effect on survivors](#) coming forward to seek help.

Addressing The Needs of Immigrant Survivors - Funding and Policy Recommendations (CJS/DHS)

To fulfill this goal, we request that funds be utilized to improve oversight and accountability mechanisms, improve efficiencies in the adjudication of these benefits, and ensure that funds are not used to undermine the bipartisan laws Congress created to protect survivors and ensure continued access to these protections without fear.

We urge Congress to:

- Direct the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to improve accountability and oversight measures to safeguard protections for survivors. This includes directing the agencies to:
 - Maintain and publish annual data on asylum seekers whose claims are based on a fear of intimate partner violence in their home country (including approval rates);
 - Restore and improve critical safety and reporting requirements to protect trans immigrants from sexual abuse and assault in immigration detention;
 - Maintain and publish data on the number of individuals with pending victim-based benefit requests who have been subject to enforcement actions (including

removal orders).

- 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 over 249,000 primary petitioners and an additional 166,000 family members awaiting U visas by significantly cutting the backlog, helping eligible victims of crime to obtain stabilizing benefits, and facilitating family reunification.

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.