

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in the Fiscal Year 2008 Federal Budget:

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VAWA PROGRAMS INCREASED BY \$17.3 MILLION, VOCA FUND CUT BY \$35 MILLION

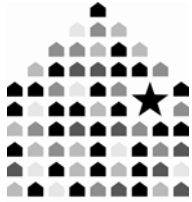
FISCAL YEAR 2008 OVERVIEW

CUTS

- A 6% cut was applied to all Congress's FY '08 budget for Department of Justice programs which include most VAWA programs and VOCA.
- Cuts to the VOCA Fund cap:
 - **\$35 million cut** from VOCA Fund cap
 - Further administrative cuts could reduce the VOCA Fund cap by an additional **\$30 to \$40 million**
- Cuts to VAWA programs:
 - **\$2.1 million cut** to *Legal Assistance for Victims*
 - **\$3.2 million cut** to *Grants to Encourage Arrest*
- A 1.74% rescission was applied to all Labor, Health and Human Services programs which include some VAWA programs:
 - **\$2.1 million cut** to *Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA)*
 - **\$52,000 cut** from the *National Domestic Violence Hotline*

INCREASES

- Congress's FY '08 budget agreement included increases to some VAWA programs. A 6% cut was still applied to these programs but their increases were large enough to maintain increases despite the 6% cut.
- **\$17.3 million** to overall Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs
- Funding for the first time to:
 - **\$2.8 million** for *Services for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence*
 - **\$2.8 million** for *Services for Teens*
 - **\$2.8 million** for *Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention*
 - **\$9.4 million** for the *Sexual Assault Services Program*
- Increases in funding to:
 - **\$8.8 million** increase for *STOP Grants*
 - **\$2.6 million** increase for *Transitional Housing*
 - **\$1.6 million** increase for *Services for Rural Victims*



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THE DETAIL

Overall, VAWA programs administered by the Department of Justice have seen a \$17.3 million increase in the FY 2008 budget!

While there were clear successes for VAWA programs in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, we were shocked and upset to learn that the Victim of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) has been cut by \$35 million and that other core VAWA program received cuts.

The President's budget called for the elimination of the VOCA Fund but we fought hard to maintain it and even to raise the VOCA cap throughout the appropriation's process. Though many Members of Congress supported *increases* to the VOCA cap, the pressure from the President to cut funding was just too strong.

The fact that we were able to save the VOCA fund from complete elimination is a direct result of your calls. We celebrate that victory but know that this cut is unacceptable and we need to act!

SUCCESS – VAWA INCREASES!

Many essential VAWA programs received increases, including an **\$8.8 million** increase for *STOP Grants*, a **\$2.6 million** increase for *Transitional Housing* and a **\$1.6 million** increase for *Services for Rural Victims*! New and vital programs have been funded, including **\$2.8 million** for *Services for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence*, **\$2.8 million** for *Services for Teens*, **\$2.8 million** for *Engaging Men and Youth in Prevention*, and **\$9.4 million** for the *Sexual Assault Services Program*!

We know that Congress worked for these increases under extreme pressure to make cuts. This is a huge victory for us! Your calls about VAWA funding are surely the reason behind these increases! Please click here to see the chart with the other increases, highlighted in black borders. http://nnedv.org/docs/Policy/AppropsChartFY08_Omnibus.pdf

Additionally, many core social safety net programs, upon which victims rely, won increases in this appropriations bill, including heat assistance (LIHEAP), WIC, and Community Health Centers.

CUTS TO VAWA PROGRAMS

Although VAWA programs received an overall increase, some programs were cut. There was a \$2.1 million cut to *Legal Assistance for Victims* and a \$3.2 million cut to *Grants to Encourage Arrest*. Please click here to see the chart with the other cuts, highlighted in dotted borders. http://nnedv.org/docs/Policy/AppropsChartFY08_Omnibus.pdf

Labor Health and Human Services programs like the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and Rape Prevention and Education received no funding increases or cuts, leaving them the same as last year. Each year, however, all programs have a small percent taken off their overall budget, called a rescission. This year the rescission is at 1.747% which essentially cuts funding to these programs. FVPSA will now be funded at \$122.6 million (a \$2.1 million cut) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline will be funded at \$2.9 million (a \$52,000 cut).

CUTS TO THE VOCA FUND

A 6% cut to all Department of Justice programs meant that the VOCA Fund cap was reduced by \$35 million. A separate administrative assessment of 5.5% could further reduce the cap by an additional, devastating \$30 to \$40 million.