



FY 2009 Appropriations Fact Sheet

Violence Against Women Act, Victims of Crime Act Fund and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act

Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking affect 1 in 4 American women and touch the lives of many families and individuals. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund support services that meet the needs of victims and help keep communities safe. Cuts in funding and increased demand for services are halting progress to end domestic violence and endangering lives.

In order to effectively intervene and prevent domestic and sexual violence, we urge Congress to fully fund VAWA and FVPSA programs in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) bill at \$320 million and the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) bill at \$683 million, and to raise the VOCA Fund cap to \$717 million in FY '09.

LHHS: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)/Battered Women's Shelter Program

- On one day in 2007, over 53,000 Americans – women, men and children – received services at local domestic violence programs. FVPSA funding supports lifesaving emergency shelter, crisis lines, counseling, victim assistance, prevention, outreach, and programs for underserved communities.
- As the criminal justice system response improves, more victims come forward for help and the demand for services increases. Every day shelters and service providers must turn away families in danger due to lack of resources; on one day, over 7,700 requests for services were unmet due to lack of resources and 60% of those were for shelter and housing.
- In the FY '08 Congressional Budget, FVPSA received \$122.6 million in appropriations – \$52.4 million below the authorized level and a \$2.1 million cut from the FY '07 level. To enable shelters to meet the growing demand for services and help victims escape life-threatening situations, Congress must fund FVPSA programs at \$175 million in the FY '09 Congressional Budget.

CJS: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grants

- VAWA programs in the CJS budget support the work of law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, shelters, and other state and local programs that provide services for victims and families. Studies show that domestic violence has declined significantly since VAWA was first enacted. Remarkably, VAWA has saved money while saving lives; the original VAWA, authorized in 1994, saved taxpayers at least \$14.8 billion in net averted social costs in its first 6 years alone.
- The President's Budget Request would decimate VAWA by cutting \$120 million (30%) of funds, eliminating the individual VAWA grant programs and consolidating them into one competitive block grant. This proposal would damage the comprehensive, efficient and lifesaving response to victims, created and sustained by VAWA.
- To continue our progress toward ending domestic violence, we urge Congress to once again reject the President's block grant and cuts and fully fund VAWA CJS programs at \$683 million in the FY '09 Congressional Budget.

CJS: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund

- VOCA funding has helped millions of victims each year at no expense to taxpayers. The VOCA fund is made up of fines levied against federal criminals, and funds support services that help victims deal with the trauma and aftermath of crime. More than 4,400 local agencies from all 50 states depend on VOCA assistance grants, serving millions of crime victims each year. Without VOCA funding, some counties and communities would have no victim services.
- The FY '08 Congressional Budget cut \$35 million from the VOCA Fund. The President's FY '09 Budget again proposes to cancel the entire balance of the VOCA Fund, endangering the future availability of victim services.
- The Office of Justice Programs plans to divert an additional \$32 to \$41 million dollars of FY '08 funds from victim services to use for administrative and management costs.
- To secure lifesaving services for victims, Congress should again reject the President's rescission and provide \$717 million for the VOCA Fund cap to restore funding to FY '06 levels.

We thank Congress for supporting victims and urge them to sustain critical efforts to end domestic violence.

For more information, please contact Monica McLaughlin, at mmclaughlin@nnev.org or 202.543.5566.