

VAWA programs were both cut and received funding for new programs in the 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. However, the Victim of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) has been cut by \$35 million. The President's budget called for the elimination of the VOCA Fund by absorbing the balance into the Treasury. However, NCADV fought hard to save VOCA even ask for a raise the VOCA cap. Though many Members of Congress supported *increases* to the VOCA cap, pressure from the White House and continued vetoes of appropriations bills proved too delicate a political issue at this time.

Many essential VAWA programs received increases, including:

- \$8.8 million increase for *STOP Grants*
- \$2.6 million increase for *Transitional Housing*
- \$1.6 million increase for *Services for Rural Victims*

New programs that received funding are:

- \$2.8 million money 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*

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*.

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 \$2.2 million cut) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline will be funded at \$2.9 million (a \$52,000 cut).