



## **VAWA, VOCA & FVPSA Domestic Violence Appropriations Talking Points**

VAWA, VOCA and FVPSA funding and programs have been critical in providing vital services to all victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. It is imperative that these programs receive authorized funding in order to be properly implemented, so that survivors may receive continued and improved life saving services.

### **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**

- **It is critical that Congress fully fund successful existing and new programs that were created in VAWA and was recently signed by the President.**
- We must continue to fully fund STOP grants to compensate for the various earmarks that exist within that allocation of funds.
- We must fund transitional housing as a separate line item as authorized in 2005. Transitional housing provides survivors with a method to escape abusive relationships, and to ensure they are not forced to return to abusive situations. This program is currently funded through earmarks.
- VAWA programs provide a broad spectrum of services for victims as well as support to criminal justice professionals. Failure to provide full funding to these programs jeopardizes life-saving services and violence prevention programs.

### **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)**

- The Family Violence Protection and Services Act (FVPSA) funds life-saving emergency shelters, crisis lines, counseling, and victim assistance.
- FVPSA promotes coordination between community resources, making the response to violence more effective.
- **In order to meet increased demands for services, we request that Congress fully fund FVPSA programs at the authorized amount of \$175 million.**
- Funding FVPSA above \$130 million will ensure that much needed programs will be available to children who witness domestic violence.

### **The Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA)**

- The Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA), started by President Reagan in 1984, helps victims of ALL types of crime.
- VOCA is funded by fines and penalties collected from criminals, NOT taxpayers.
- More than 4,400 agencies from every state and territory depend on VOCA to serve over 3.8 million victims yearly.
- **The Administration wants to rescind the entire VOCA balance, which means that there would be no funds available to states and victims in FY 2008.**
- Last year's attempt by the Administration to eliminate the fund balance was defeated by Congress.
- Congress must again retain the VOCA fund in order to continue offering vital victim services.