

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)

Why It Matters:

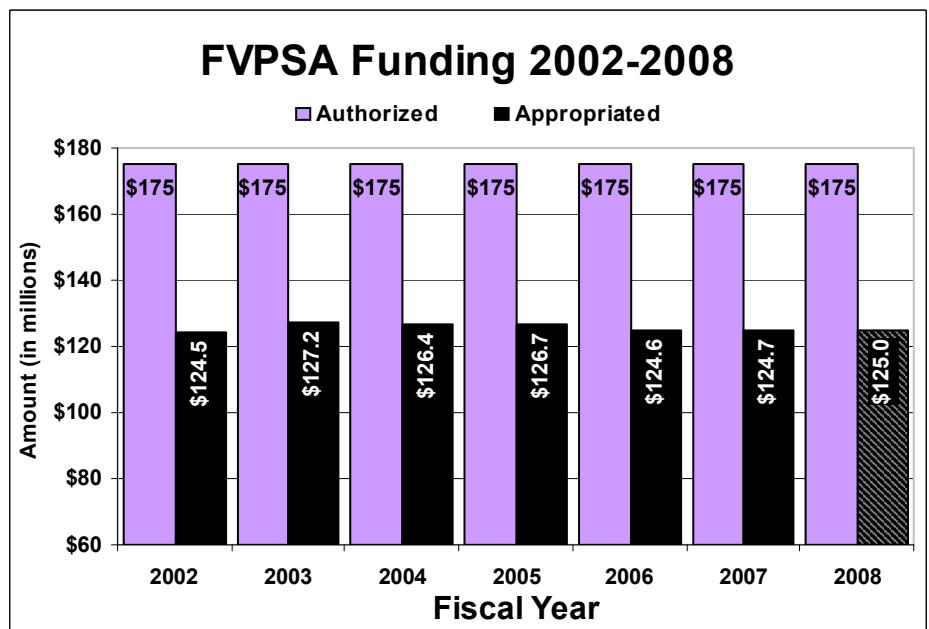
The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) is the single largest funding source of emergency services for domestic violence victims and their children. FVPSA funds *life-saving* emergency shelters, crisis lines, counselling, and victim assistance. These programs promote coordination between different community resources, making the response to violence more effective. Full funding of FVPSA at the amount authorized is *critical* to the continuance of these life-saving services and violence prevention programs for men, women and children.

HISTORY

- The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act was enacted as Title III of the Child Abuse Amendments of 1984. It was reauthorized and amended by the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003.
- FVPSA is administered from within the Family and Youth Services Bureau of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Congress has authorized \$175 million a year for FVPSA programs. However, because FVPSA has always been **funded below \$130 million, programs for children have never been enacted**.

FUNDING FOR FVPSA

- As the success of VAWA programs *increases* the number of victims who are referred to emergency services, the demand for FVPSA programs have steadily risen over the years.
- Current funding for FVPSA stands at \$124.7 million, which is \$50.3 million (71%) below the authorized amount of \$175 million.
- Not providing full funding for FVPSA cripples local programs and decreases the services available to victims and their children in all states.
- **We ask Congress to follow through on its commitment to victims of domestic violence and their children by fully funding FVPSA at \$175 million in fiscal year 2008.**



NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and their children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them, and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

PREVENTION, PUBLIC AWARENESS and COOPERATION

- The FVPSA State and Tribal grant program serves as the primary Federal mechanism for encouraging state, Tribal, and local support to implement, maintain, and expand programs and projects to prevent family violence and increase public awareness of domestic violence issues.
- Ten percent of FVPSA funding is awarded to state coalitions to provide technical assistance to state agencies and organizations on policy and practice related to domestic violence intervention and prevention; this funding also allows state coalitions to provide training and support to local domestic violence programs. Five percent of appropriated funds go to national resource and special issue centers, which offer collaboration and training resources to government agencies, service providers and other relevant domestic violence programs.
- Coordination and collaboration of law enforcement, legal and social services, and health care professionals at the local level facilitates a more responsive network of protection and support for families dealing with domestic violence. HHS urges state agencies and Indian Tribes receiving funds under FVPSA to coordinate planning activities with new and existing state, local, and private sector agencies.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- There are more than 2,000 domestic violence shelters and safe-houses in the U.S. that use FVPSA funding to provide emergency shelter and intervention services for victims of domestic violence and their children.
- Domestic violence shelters provide a core set of services that include: physical shelter for the protection and safety of the victim and children; crisis intervention hotline services; individual and group counseling; and information and referral services.

THE NEED

- ⇒ Two out of three women who seek shelter for domestic violence in **Arizona** will be turned away due to lack of space.
- ⇒ In one year, there was a 65% increase in the number of individuals seeking shelter who had received referrals to other shelters from the previous year in **Florida**.
- ⇒ With a shelter capacity of only 453, **Kentucky** was unable to shelter 1,316 eligible victims in 2005.
- ⇒ In 2005, 4,697 men, women, and children were turned away from shelters in **Missouri** because they were full.
- ⇒ For every abused woman and her children who are able to access **New York City's** domestic violence emergency shelters, fifty are turned away for lack of space.
- ⇒ There were 6,538 requests for shelter by victims of domestic violence in **Oregon** that could not be met in 2005.
- ⇒ In 2004, 7,201 victims and their children in **Texas** were denied shelter due to lack of space.

WHY FVPSA MATTERS: Testimonials from survivors and service providers

“FVPSA funding is vital to all of the services our organization provides. We operate two safe houses, educate the public, operate a 24-hour hotline, provide free counseling, and offer legal advocacy. **Without funding, we would have to cut services**, leaving victims and their children with nothing to turn to.” - *Shelter Service Provider, South Carolina*

“As an attorney, my clients lack the financial resources to hire private counsel, many of whom are not sensitive to domestic violence. Without full funding, I will not be able to assist women with obtaining orders of protection against their abuser and other services.” - *Attorney, Missouri*

“I am a survivor of domestic violence. My resources from my local shelter included a domestic violence advocate, who was important to me for many reasons. **My advocate helped me to learn how to be safe** for me and my children, she went to all my court hearings with me for my protection order, she helped me get my car back from my abuser, and most important, she really listened to me and heard me. Now, three years later, I still have contact with my advocate, and am helping other people in domestic violence situations.” - *Survivor, Delaware*

“Now that we are seeing services for Native victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking for the very first time, we are being threatened with the possibility of these programs losing their funding.” - *Coalition Director, California*

“Without funding for support for the victims and abusers, we are setting ourselves up for an epidemic that is bound to grow beyond repair. In this land of opportunity, it should be and **must be a top priority to help make every victim a survivor.**” - *Victim Advocate, North Carolina*