

What Happens Next?

The funding increases that domestic violence programs received over the last two weeks were passed by the House and Senate subcommittees. **The bills must now go to their respective full committees for final vote and passage.** After this, the bills must go to the entire House and Senate for final vote and passage. The full House and Senate votes could take place this July or sometime in the fall. After both the House and Senate pass their bills separately, the separate bills must be reconciled into one final bill that the entire Congress can vote on, pass, and send to the President for his signature.

The President and Congress focused this year in depth on bills that funded what they found to be essential domestic and international programs and services our country could not do without. Because it took Congress a while to finalize this other business, it is possible that they will not finish the FY09 Appropriations process before FY09 (which begins in October). But, do not fear! **While Congress works to finish Appropriations, most likely in February or March 2009, your programs will continue to be funded at the FY08 funding levels.**

Our voices must continue to be heard, no matter how long it takes Congress to finish its business. To make certain that domestic violence programs are not forgotten during this process, **stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved in the Appropriations process** and make sure survivors and your programs receive essential support and funding!!!