Last month Governor Scott Walker released his budget proposal to the Legislature, outlining his vision for funding government programs in the state for the next two years. Unfortunately, the governor recommended flat funding the Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) grant program, which is the only state funding for sexual assault services, prevention, and education. Thus, the governor recommends funding SAVS at essentially the current level, approximately $2 million annually.

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) needs your help to educate lawmakers on why it is important to fund more sexual assault services, prevention, and education in Wisconsin. The next steps in the budget process provide opportunities for you and your allies to do just that.

The Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee is the next governmental body to work on the governor’s proposed budget. The Committee plans to hold hearings across the state this month and hearings in Madison in April, to gain input from constituents and experts about the proposed budget. The budget is such an important matter that lawmakers who do not serve on the committee are holding their own town halls or listening sessions in their districts to obtain their constituents’ opinions on the proposed budget.

WCASA urges all sexual assault advocates and allies to speak up at these events and contact your lawmakers by letter, phone, and/or email in support of increased funding for the SAVS grant program. You can use this page to identify your state representative and state senator, and find their contact information. You can monitor this page to see when the Joint Finance Committee will hold hearings in your part of the state. This handout provides a detailed look at WCASA’s budget “ask” for increased SAVS funding.

Lastly, stay tuned for an action alert email soon, complete with suggested talking points. Thank you!

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National Youth Violence Prevention Week
March 23rd – 27th, 2015

The goal of the youth violence prevention week campaign is to raise awareness and to educate students, teachers, school administrators, counselors, school resource officers, school staff, parents, and the public on effective ways to prevent or reduce youth violence. This is a great week to look at the intersections of violence, understand how they impact our youth, and promote solutions! Check out these resources from the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) and join their daily challenges – tangible recommendations are listed for each day!

- **Day 1:** Promote Respect and Tolerance
- **Day 2:** Manage Your Anger, Don’t Let it Manage You!
- **Day 3:** Resolve Conflicts Peacefully
- **Day 4:** Support Safety
- **Day 5:** Unite in Action

Here’s a one page handout which might be helpful in outreach efforts.

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Help our collective impact grow!

Stay tuned on Facebook and on March 3rd during The Big Share, an online day of giving. Support WCASA’s effort to increase funding for sexual assault victim services and prevention initiatives across the state. Schedule a donation today.
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March 8 is
International Women's Day

Upcoming Events
3/3: The Big Share Online Day of Giving
3/6: Webinar: SAAM Planning
3/25: Legislative Advocacy Day Madison
4/8: Male Survivors (Webinar)
4/25: Survivors & Allies, Voices of Courage Awards Luncheon, Wrap Around the Capitol, Madison
5/13 & 5/14: Spring Director’s Meeting, Weston
6/11: Paths to Healing Conference, Madison
6/22-6/25: Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy School (SAVAS), Black River Falls
7/14 & 7/15: Northern Training, Location TBD

Nominate Someone for a Voices of Courage Award

Last year, Alma Mann, Sexual Assault Victim Advocate at People Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (PADA) was nominated in the Victim/Survivor Advocacy category.

According to her nominators, Alma is a constant source of support for survivors and is dedicated to breaking the silence about sexual assault in Jefferson County. She has been very successful at raising awareness in the Latino/a and greater community.

Know someone you’d like to nominate in your community? NOMINATE HERE

Why Attend Survivors & Allies?
Survivors and Allies Task Force Meetings are held to bring Wisconsin survivors and their allies together so they may network and discuss new developments in the sexual assault movement and attend relevant and educational breakout sessions. Previously featured sessions: Healing thru Art, Boundaries, Survivor Stories, Healthy Relationships, 1 Billion Rising Dance practice (see video to see what it’s like!). Stay tuned to the SATF page; more to come!

REGISTER HERE

Legislative Advocacy Day
March 25

Organized by WCASA and End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, Legislative Advocacy Day is an opportunity for those who care about ending sexual and domestic violence to speak to their state lawmakers. Participants will learn more about current public policy issues that affect survivors and their families. Then participants will educate legislators about victim services and policy priorities for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

REGISTER HERE

Click for Details

Saturday Sept. 26, 2015
HOST A PARTY IN SUPPORT OF SURVIVORS
Dining for Peace, Prevention and Healing
Celebrate 30 years of WCASA

View the latest webinars on: