



Funding Talking Points

Prevalence of Sexual Violence

- Sexual violence is a significant problem. In Wisconsin:
 - 440,000 women have experienced rape in their lifetime (**1 in 5**)
 - 787,000 women have experienced contact sexual violence (**1 in 3**)
 - 404,000 men have experienced contact sexual violence (**1 in 6**)

Prevalence of Domestic Violence

- In 2022, **96** individuals died in Wisconsin due to domestic violence at a rate of approximately **one** death every **3.8 days**.
- **1** in every **6** domestic violence homicides in the United States happens in Wisconsin.
- The annual economic cost of domestic violence in Wisconsin is estimated at **\$657 million**.

Tell Your Story

Number of DV and SA victims served:

Trends in your community:

Overview of SA/DV Victim Services Funding in Wisconsin

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds victim service providers across Wisconsin; services provided under this program include safety planning, community service referrals, counseling, crisis intervention and legal advocacy.

Programs are expecting devastating VOCA cuts beginning in October 2024.

- Based on this news, the DOJ will only be able to award **\$13 million** per year beginning 10/24. This will be the next competitive VOCA cycle for programs. That will be a 3-year grant cycle.
- Currently the DOJ awards **\$44.5 million** per year, spread amongst **135** agencies.
- That is a **70% reduction** in the amount DOJ will be awarding for VOCA beginning on 10/1/24.
- DOJ is expecting they will have to have a cap of **\$250k** on grant awards for programs beginning on 10/1/24. Around **half** of all current VOCA recipients are above that cap amount of \$250k.
- The DOJ will fund **52** agencies across WI (as opposed to **135** currently).
- VOCA is formula-based funding, meaning we can't simply ask for more VOCA funding at the federal level.



Sexual assault and Domestic Abuse Services Funding

- The Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) Grant Program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), is the only state program that funds sexual violence prevention initiatives and direct services for survivors and their families. The DV services program administered through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is the only state program that funds domestic violence prevention initiatives.
- SAVS is currently funded at **\$2.235 million** annually, DV services are currently funded at **\$12.4 million** annually. Those funding levels have been relatively static for the past decade.
- The static nature of funding has been a barrier to expanding culturally specific programs, who are providing services to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) survivors, often without adequate funding.
- Even at existing levels, SAVS and DV Services funding do not meet the needs of survivors in Wisconsin. With the expected reductions in VOCA funding, now is the time for Wisconsin to make an investment in sexual and domestic violence services and prevention.
- Increases for both DV and SA funding were included in the Governors 23/25 executive budget. Unfortunately, those increases were removed in the final budget adopted by the legislature.

Program-Specific Information (see below for some suggested topics for talking about the importance of funding, please use them as you see fit)

Funding:

What cuts are you projecting?

What are the expected cuts in funding going to mean for your program/services? For survivors?

What would an increase in funding mean for your program? For survivors?

Programs not currently receiving state and/or federal funding:

How is your program currently funded?

What would accessing state funding mean for your program?

- Funding the work you are currently doing.
- Increasing your ability to reach those disproportionately impacted by sexual and domestic violence.
- Increasing your ability to focus on prevention.

Our ask:

Please coauthor/cosponsor legislation that will increase funding for sexual assault and domestic violence services at \$14 million for Fiscal Year 23 and \$36 million for Fiscal Year 24.

Why that dollar amount?

- **7 million** increase per year for SAVS for the current biennium (as requested by DOJ)
- **7 million** increase per year for DV funding for the current biennium (requested in Gov. Budget)
- **22 million** for fiscal year 24 (estimated impact of the VOCA cuts on DV/SA programs)