

Request for recurring Domestic Violence funding (DSS)  
Ways and Means, Healthcare Subcommittee January 21, 2020

Domestic violence remains a critical issue impacting thousands of South Carolina's citizens. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence survey (CDC) estimates that 36.4% of women have experienced physical violence in an intimate relationship during their lifetime. Although the rate of report to law enforcement for domestic violence is low, SLED data from 2018 still reports 4,402 aggravated assaults and 23,485 simple domestic assaults being recorded. South Carolina's history of lethal domestic violence that far exceeds the national average continued; 48 homicides were recorded in 2018, and the rate of homicide is beginning to rise, mirroring a new and disturbing national upward trend.

In FY2019, the legislature appropriated \$1.3 million to support programming addressing domestic violence. This funding is split equally between the thirteen organizations that meet the state standards for a full service domestic violence program, and SCCADVASA, in recognition of the different fundraising capacity in the diverse communities in which they are located. For FY 2020, SCCADVASA is requesting, on behalf of these organizations that the amount of state support be maintained as a \$1.3 million recurring line item so that critical services for survivors and their children can be supported and expanded.

During the state FY 2018, these organizations provided:

- **3,744 adults and 2,433 children** with emergency shelter for a total of **80,905 sheltered nights**. Lack of space resulted in a further 762 people being turned away.
- **2,161** support groups
- **44,191** individual counseling sessions for adults
- **12,717** individual counseling sessions for children
- 24/7 emergency hotlines that responded to **19,215 calls**
- **23,725** legal advocacy hours
- Over 1600 activities to build community awareness
- SCCADVASA provided 120 training events, reaching 4,623 professionals in the criminal justice and other systems, advocates and community members
- SCCADVASA staff responded to 904 requests for technical assistance

All services are provided free of charge to survivors, their children, and the community.

The needs of these organizations are as diverse as the communities that we serve and will be critical in the coming financial year due to further dramatic decreases in federal funding from the Victims Crime Fund (VOCA). Funding will be utilized to support basic services in rural areas, to needed maintenance on shelters, to the necessary administrative support to support good business practices that grants will not fund, to additional staff to do the critical prevention work that provides the hope that South Carolina can become a state where everyone can expect to live within healthy and safe relationships rather than homes dominated by fear and violence.