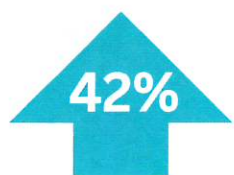


FY 2024 NEW JERSEY STATE BUDGET SUPPORT VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

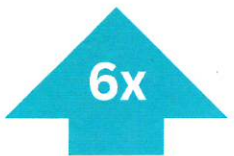


The New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence (NJCEDV) is a statewide organization with a membership of 34 domestic violence providers and culturally specific organizations that are partially funded through allocations made in the state budget.

In 2022, Domestic Violence Programs continued to serve an increasing number of victims.



Domestic violence programs served 42% more victims of domestic violence in 2022 when compared to 2021¹



Unmet requests for services, due to insufficient funding and resources, increased by nearly 6 times the number of unmet requests in 2021.²

36% of unmet requests were for emergency shelter and housing.

Recommendations for FY2024 State Budget:

Support Governor Murphy's Proposal to include:

- \$6 million in funding for Domestic Violence Housing
- \$3 million in funding for Abuse Intervention Programming

Support Additional Funding to Meet the Needs of Victims

- Increase funding for domestic violence services to \$10 million above the FY21 funding level
- Allocate \$2 million in funding to the Office of the Attorney General to support implementation of the Domestic Violence Response Team program in every county.

¹ Based on data available in the Department of Children and Families' *Commissioner's Monthly Reports*

² National Network to End Domestic Violence (2023). *17th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report*. Washington, DC

Support Access to Housing for Victims of Domestic Violence



Housing means safety for victims of domestic violence. The inability to access or afford housing makes it more likely that a victim will return to their abuser or end up homeless. As a result, many victims find themselves having to choose between homelessness or returning to the abusive partner.



Housing Needs

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence Annual Census Report, 36% of unmet needs victims of domestic violence in New Jersey have is for housing.

Currently, there are approximately 1000 victims and children placed in hotels across the state searching for safe stable housing.²



Underserved Survivors

Black households account for 13% of all households, yet they account for 26% of all extremely low-income renters and 40% of people experiencing homelessness.

Latino households account for 12% of all U.S. households, 21% of extremely low-income renters, and 22% of people experiencing homelessness.

Native Americans are significantly overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness.³



Economic Barriers

An annual income of \$65,137 is required to afford the rent of a two-bedroom apartment in New Jersey according to HUD's Fair Market Rent.⁴

99% of victims experience economic abuse and control.⁵

Skyrocketing housing costs, poor credit, lack of steady employment and housing discrimination make it nearly.

Recommendations:

- **Support Governor Murphy's proposal to include \$6 million in funding for Domestic Violence Housing in the Fiscal Year 2024 State Budget.**
- **Eliminate the credit score standard for recipients of state and federal housing subsidies (S934/A669).**
- **Eliminate income requirements as a determining factor for housing.**
- **Support a right to legal representation for individuals in eviction proceedings.**

¹ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2023). 17th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC.

² Numbers based on reports from domestic violence and culturally specific provider agencies.

³ National Low Income Housing Coalition, 2021.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *Measuring the Effects of Domestic Violence on Women's Financial Well-Being*. Center for Financial Security. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011.

Support Utilization and Funding of Domestic Violence Response Teams



All 21 counties have a Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) program, a state mandated program coordinated by local domestic violence programs to provide trained advocates for victims through local police departments. Advocates provide confidential crisis intervention support, safety planning and advocacy to victims of domestic violence.



Domestic Violence Response Teams Provide Immediate Support

DVRT advocates go through extensive domestic violence training, and are on-call with local police departments to provide immediate crisis intervention and safety planning support to victims of domestic violence as they engage with police. Advocates also provide critical connection to additional services that may be needed like emergency shelter, legal advocacy and counseling for themselves or their children.



DVRTs Are Recommended as Part of a Coordinated Community Response

The New Jersey Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board, the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence, Rutgers University Center on Research for Ending Violence, Partners for Justice, the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Attorney General have all recommended mandatory utilization of DVRTs by law enforcement to ensure victims have access to critical domestic violence services,^{2,3,4,5,6} and the information they need as they navigate the civil and criminal legal systems.



Funding Need

The DVRT program has been primarily funded through federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) monies which have decreased and insufficient in meeting the needs of the program. Additional funding would help support the recruitment, training, supervision and retention of advocates, training and collaboration with law enforcement, and community outreach.

Recommendations:

- **Allocate \$2 million in the FY24 State Budget to the Division on Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance in the Office of the Attorney General to support implementation of the Domestic Violence Response Team program in every county.**
- **Ensure law enforcement officers provide victims with access to the Domestic Violence Response Team in their community (A227).**

¹ N.J.S.A. 2C:25-20 (b)(3)(1)

² New Jersey Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board Annual Report: A Look at the Impact of Teen Dating Violence, 2016; Report on the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence, June 2016; Examining Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRTs) in the State of New Jersey, Rutgers University Center on Research for Ending Violence (formerly the Center on Violence Against Women and Children), April 2019; In Their Own Words: Domestic Violence Survivors on Seeking Safety and Police Responses, Partners for Justice, September 2022. New Jersey Domestic Violence Procedures Manual, Supreme Court of NJ and the Attorney General of the State of NJ, 2022.

Legislative Priorities



S1000/A1704 (Ruiz/Speight)

Requires court to consider information concerning coercive control in domestic violence proceedings.

S1809/A1475 (Ruiz/Lopez)

Requires the court to issue domestic violence restraining orders in languages in addition to English under certain circumstances.

S3708/A5285 (Greenstein/Greenwald)

Requires copies of certain law enforcement records to be provided to victims of domestic violence upon request.

S1516/A3093 (Greenstein, Stanley)

Authorizes court to include in domestic violence restraining orders a provision making the order applicable to a pregnant victim's child upon birth of the child.

S2052/A3808 (Turner/Lopez)

Allows court to authorize domestic violence victim with temporary or permanent restraining order to change locks on residential rental unit.

A227 (Munoz)

Requires uniform procedures for utilization of domestic violence crisis teams established or participated in by law enforcement agencies.

For more information:

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