

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV)

27 Member Programs
22,317 Victims served in FY 2007



IowaCASA & ICADV
Funding Restoration Project

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (IowaCASA)

28 Member Programs
4,028 Victims served in FY 2007

The Funding Restoration Project is a partnership between ICADV and IowaCASA and their member programs to ensure vital state funding for sexual and domestic violence services in Iowa so that no victim finds the door to safety closed.

Funding Timeline

FY 1979: Iowa begins funding domestic abuse programs by appropriating \$60,000 from the general fund through the Department of Human Services (DHS).

FY 1990: Separate funds appropriated for sexual assault programs. Grant program is moved from DHS to the Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD).

FY 2003: The line item for victim assistance grants is eliminated from the budget due to state funding challenges.

FY 2003-2006: The Iowa Attorney General's Office utilizes monies from the Crime Victim Compensation Fund to provide funding at approximately 85% of the level appropriated in FY 2002.

FY 2005: The line item for victim assistance grants is reinstated with a \$5,000 appropriation.

FY 2007-2009: The Legislature conditions the Attorney General's appropriation on the transfer of at least \$3.2 million dollars to the victim compensation fund to be used for victim assistance grants.

FY 2008: The legislature

increases the victim assistance grant line item by adding an additional \$145,000.

FY 2009: Unprecedented federal cuts to the Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA) results in a loss to Iowa of \$777,234 for victim assistance grants. The Iowa legislature provides a *one-time* transfer of \$850,000 from the proceeds of forfeited property to alleviate the impact on victim services.

Current: The Crime Victim Compensation Fund's viability is in serious jeopardy. The fund was created to help crime victims and survivors with the many costs of violent crime. For the past five years, the fund's reserves have been reduced as they are used for victims and survivors while also contributing to victim assistance grants for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

FY 2010: In recognition of the financial necessity of providing for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, the General Assembly stated its *intent* to appropriate from the state's General Fund \$1 million for victim assistance grants during the FY2010.

Centers Respond to Shortfalls

- **Nine programs around the state closed their doors.**
Since 2002 nine dual (DV and SA) programs have closed or been forced to merge with other programs in the state. These centers were located in Algona, Carroll, Cherokee, DIAA, Jefferson, Knoxville, Shenandoah, Waterloo and Waukon.
- **Centers are only able to provide triage services.**
In an attempt to stay open, centers rural outreach and children's services are severely restricted. Remaining programs are forced to serve an increased number of victims in a larger area with fewer staff. Since 2002:
 - Average number of staff per program has decreased from 8 to 5.
 - Average number of counties served by each program has increased from 3 to 5.
- **Essential Funding Allows:**
 - Services to children
 - Community education
 - Legal assistance in the civil & criminal justice systems
 - Focus on prevention in addition to crisis response
 - Victim transportation
 - Longer term shelter
 - Experienced staff retention
 - Increased victim outreach
 - Prevention education
 - Support groups and hotlines

An appropriation of 4 million dollars is necessary to provide these critical services at their current level.

www.victimstosurvivors.org

