



The Funding Restoration Project is a partnership between the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault and their member programs to ensure state funding for sexual and domestic violence services in Iowa so that no victim finds the door to safety closed.

Talking Points:

- Introduce yourself and let your legislator know why you care and what your relationship is to the issue. Help the legislator understand why **YOU** think it matters—why it’s important to **YOU**.
- “It is my understanding that in the 2008 session the Iowa Legislature said they *intend* to appropriate \$1 million from the General Fund for domestic violence and sexual assault services in Iowa. I am asking that you please honor that *intent*. We appreciate the \$1 million; however, \$1 million is **NOT** enough to sustain these crucial victim programs.”
- For programs to maintain funding and services at the current level, a \$4 million state appropriation is essential.
- The reserve dollars in the Attorney General’s Crime Victim Compensation Fund that have been used since 2003 to make up the state budget line item shortfall have all been spent. There is no longer a reserve to draw from.
- Due to state and federal funding cuts, nine victim service programs have been closed since 2002.
- Without a state appropriation of \$4 million, we will lose additional programs and many other programs will be forced to limit their services and the areas of the state they cover. (*Add information about the impact to your local program.*)
- It may be necessary to educate your legislator on the kinds of services victim service agencies offer and therefore, what services communities could potentially lose. For example, the loss of state dollars could result have the following impact on local communities: children’s services no longer offered; community education programs eliminated; legal assistance in civil and criminal justice systems minimally offered or eliminated; crisis intervention offered in limited rural areas; prevention education eliminated; programs unable to offer transportation services or 24-hour medical advocacy; shelter closed or services dramatically cut; and individual/group counseling offered on only a limited basis.
- Victim service programs provide essential, quality services to local communities. (*Talk about your local program services, statistics, and strengths.*)

If your legislator has questions that you do not have the answer for, please notify either your local victim service agency or Nancy Robertson, Senior Staff Attorney/Public Policy Director, ICADV, (515)244-8028 or nancyr@icadv.org; Beth Barnhill, Executive Director, IowaCASA, (515)244-7417 or director@iowacasa.org; Erika Anderson, joint legislative liaison/consultant, (515)333-1202 or ea2@mchsi.com.