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## Advocates Rally for Iowa Crime Victims: ICADV and IowaCASA Host Advocacy Day at State Capitol

DES MOINES, Iowa – February 27, 2024 – The [Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(ICADV\)](#) and the [Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault \(IowaCASA\)](#) alongside their network of 26 victim support provider agencies, are gearing up for a crucial Advocacy Day at the Iowa State Capitol on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Their collective goal is to urge legislators to address the urgent need for at least a **\$10 million investment in state funding for Iowa crime victims**.

The current landscape for the availability of victim support services in Iowa is reaching a critical moment as the demand for support services continues to rise and funding to provide victim services dwindles, stretching existing victim support provider agencies thin and struggling to meet the needs of survivors across the state. State funding for victim services has not increased for a decade and now, at the forefront of this persistent challenge is the impending [41% cut to Iowa's largest source of federal funds for victim assistance](#), a move that threatens the very core of support for those most vulnerable in our communities.

"We need as many voices as possible up at the Capitol to engage with legislators on key issues," says Dr. Maria Corona, executive director of ICADV. "Our goals are clear: to advocate for proactive policies that prevent violence, increase funding to meet diverse survivor needs, and improve access to the services victims tell us they need."

The range of services victim support provider agencies offer is extensive, covering everything from crisis intervention to long-term support. These services include counseling, safety planning, legal assistance, job applications, housing support, and financial independence resources. However, years of inadequate state and federal funding have strained the capacity of these organizations to effectively provide comprehensive services, leading to reduced staff, limited crisis response, and gaps in the availability of the long-term support services most frequently requested by victims, particularly in rural areas.

"Victims of crime deserve unwavering support during their journey towards healing and justice," says Dr. Corona. "By investing at least \$10 million in state dollars, Iowa can do its part to ensure that victim service agencies have the resources they need to provide comprehensive, accessible, and timely support to all survivors."

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Advocacy Day is open to all individuals and organizations dedicated to ending violence in Iowa – victims /survivors, victim service providers, advocates, community partners, allies, and concerned public members. Attendees can meet with legislators, share personal stories, and emphasize the critical need for sustained investment in victim services.

To learn more about [Advocacy Day](#) and the Coalition's [policy priorities](#), visit [www.icadv.org](http://www.icadv.org) or [www.iowacasa.org](http://www.iowacasa.org).

**About the [Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)**

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence works to enhance the capacity of direct service providers and communities to support victims. We provide training, education, and technical assistance to service provider agencies to help increase access to effective services, meet the needs of victims, and ensure services are responsive. We serve as a statewide resource on Intimate Partner Violence(IPV) to increase understanding of the problem, promote funding for effective responses, and improve access to support. The network has survivor advocates available throughout all 99 Iowa counties. To learn more, visit [www.icadv.org](http://www.icadv.org).

**About the [Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)**

The Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (IowaCASA) provides training, resources and support across the state to rape crisis centers, culturally specific programs, emergency sheltering programs, and allied agencies. Our mission is to end sexual violence and improve support available to survivors of sexual assault. We are a bridge between advocates at sexual assault service programs, statewide policy makers, and federal responses to sexual violence. To learn more, visit [www.iowacasa.org](http://www.iowacasa.org).

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