

# Community Initiatives to Prevent Abuse/DELTA

FUNDING NEED: \$6 MILLION

FY '10 APPROPRIATION: \$5.5 MILLION

## THE NEED: PRIMARY PREVENTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Experiencing and witnessing abuse is shown to be a predictor for many short and long-term problems,<sup>94</sup> as well as increased healthcare utilization.<sup>95</sup> Beyond the human costs, intimate partner violence (IPV) has significant financial implications, both in the immediate and long term. To address these issues and to ultimately end domestic violence, we must simultaneously work on prevention and intervention.

## THE SOLUTION: COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS FOCUSING ON PRIMARY PREVENTION

Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) integrates primary prevention principles and practices into local coordinated community responses that address and reduce the incidence of IPV. One of the few sources of funding for prevention work, DELTA programs use innovative strategies including:

- Peer education programs for men about family and relationships;
- Community changes initiatives focused on engaging men in prevention efforts;
- School-based education to prevent youth bullying that often carries into adulthood; and
- Youth-led initiatives to prevent dating violence and promote healthy relationships.

Examples of DELTA-funded projects:

**Wisconsin:** A community-based organization started a peer education program in the Hmong community that engages men in classes about family and relationships. Past participants of the classes become facilitators. In March 2006, they hosted a conference that drew 250 people to discuss family issues in the Hmong community.

**California:** Advocates created "Steps to Respect," an 11-week curriculum confronting community attitudes that support violence and lack of tolerance. The program involves all school personnel, from the principal to bus drivers. In August 2006, the school and county board of supervisors adopted resolutions to fully support the anti-bullying efforts for the entire school district.

**Delaware:** Grantees work with youth in middle and high schools to promote healthy relationships. A group of young men and women at one high school formed "Teens Talking About Relationships" (TTAR), a volunteer club that uses skits, monologues, poetry, music, and pledge cards to change the culture of their school into one that promotes healthy, equal, and respectful relationships.

**New York:** One community change initiative is focused on engaging men. "Northern New York Call 2 Men" meets monthly, shares leadership with women, and sponsors trainings and events that increase their knowledge and capacity to mobilize the larger community to challenge men's violence against women.

Funding the Community Initiatives to Prevent Abuse/DELTA program at \$6 million will help prevent domestic violence and its costs to communities.

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