



## THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA) OF 2010

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), first authorized in 1984, is the only federal funding source dedicated directly to domestic violence shelters and programs. Congress passed a bill to reauthorize FVPSA as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) reauthorization through fiscal year 2015 on November 10, 2010. The bill was signed into law by the President in December, 2010.

FVPSA-funded programs are the foundation of our nation's response to adult and child victims of domestic violence. Over 2,000 local domestic violence agencies rely on FVPSA-funding to keep their doors open to hundreds of thousands of victims seeking safety each year. FVPSA funds essential services that are at the core of ending domestic violence: emergency shelters, hotlines, counseling and advocacy, and primary and secondary prevention. A recent multi-state study shows conclusively that the nation's domestic violence shelters are addressing victims' urgent and long-term needs and are helping victims protect themselves and their children.

The FVPSA reauthorization of 2010 builds upon the successes of the existing program while making key improvements.

Overall, the bill maintains the core work of the FVPSA program, which includes:

- Formula grants to states to provide shelter and supportive services through subgrantees to local domestic violence programs – local programs serve approximately 300,000 adult and child victims annually;
- National and specialized training and technical assistance resource centers;
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline – often the first point of contact victims make when fleeing a violent home;
- Grants to State Domestic Violence Coalitions, which act as the information clearinghouses and coordinate statewide domestic violence programs, outreach and technical assistance; and
- A Tribal formula grant program.

Key improvements to the Act include:

- A distinct definition of dating violence, based on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) definition, to ensure that all victims in danger can access services;
- An expanded emphasis on prevention, by improving and statutorily defining the DELTA prevention program;
- A newly authorized program for children who are exposed to domestic violence (the Specialized Services for Abused Parents and their Children program);
- A formula fix in funding for State Domestic Violence Coalitions to evenly distribute funding to the coalitions in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and American Samoa;
- Amendments to the state planning process to better involve the State Domestic Violence Coalitions in planning and monitoring and to ensure that the needs of underserved communities are assessed and addressed;
- A clarification that culturally and linguistically appropriate services are eligible activities for subgrantees; and
- Streamlined and updated language to reflect current and emerging best practice, enhance consistent implementation and monitoring by HHS and Congress, and make provisions consistent with those of the VAWA 2005.