



For Immediate Release  
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## **LOWERED FUNDING JEOPARDIZES SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

SEPTEMBER SURVEY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITIONS SHOWS HIGHER NEED, REDUCED RESOURCES

### ***Funding Decreases Force Cuts to Much-Needed Services for Victims***

Washington, DC – Wednesday, January 30, 2013.

A [new report released today](#) by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) shows that funding cuts and decreased resources have had a significant detrimental impact on the ability of local programs to provide lifesaving services to victims of domestic violence.

NNEDV surveyed its member organizations, the 56 state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, in September 2012, in order to assess recent changes in funding at the state and local levels, as well as the impact of these changes on the provision of services to victims. The data collected reflects the current funding climate and the unmet needs in our communities.

Across the country, state and local programs are experiencing substantial cuts in funding from federal, state and local governmental sources. Additionally, the vast majority of states reported that their programs have seen decreases in private donations, one of the lingering effects of the recent economic downturn. Nearly 70% of states reported that domestic violence programs have seen an overall decrease in their total funding in the last fiscal year.

“At the same time that funding is being cut, causing programs to offer fewer services and operate with fewer staff, we are seeing an increase in demand for those services,” said Kim Gandy, president and CEO of NNEDV. Nearly 90% of states reported that programs in their area have experienced a rise in requests and need for services. “Increased demand combined with reduced resources creates a dangerous gap in services,” said Gandy.

When faced with budget cuts, domestic violence programs are forced to cut services. Almost half of the state coalitions responding reported that their local programs had been forced to cut direct services to victims as a result of funding shortages. The same percentage of states responded that their programs had to cut children’s services. Over a third of states reported that their programs had to cut legal services for victims. Tragically, since 2011, at least 19 domestic violence programs have been forced to close entirely, often leaving victims in those areas with nowhere to turn.

Programs and coalitions have also been forced to lay off staff and/or to operate with unfilled positions. This has hampered the ability of state and local programs to provide much-needed services and advocacy to victims.

When victims take the difficult step to reach out for help, many are in life-threatening situations and must be able to find immediate safety and support. Given the dangerous and potentially lethal nature of domestic violence, we cannot afford to ignore victims’ needs.

“The funding available under the Violence Against Women (VAWA) is critical for state and local organizations, and increased federal investment in VAWA’s programs is necessary to meet the urgent need for safety and services,” concluded Gandy. “Swift reauthorization of VAWA is essential to ensure the long-term stability of both funding and services.”

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*NNEDV, a 501(c)(3) organization, is the leading voice for domestic violence victims and their allies. NNEDV members include all 56 of the state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, including over 2,000 local programs. NNEDV has been a premiere national organization advancing the movement against domestic violence for almost 20 years, having led efforts among domestic violence advocates and survivors in urging Congress to pass the landmark Violence Against Women Act of 1994. To learn more about NNEDV, please visit [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org).*