

OVERVIEW & OUTLOOK

Fiscal Year 2012 President's Budget and the White House's Commitment to Combating Violence Against Women

In 2010, the Obama Administration announced unprecedented cooperation across the entire government to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence and enable survivors to break the cycle of abuse.

The 2012 Budget: Provides \$777 Million to Combat Violence Against Women

- Since the 1994 passage of VAWA, thousands of victims have broken their silence and reached out for help, benefiting from life-saving services, a more robust and proactive criminal-justice system, and increased public awareness.
- The President's FY-2012 Budget continues this strong response, bolsters current funding, and responds to the emerging needs of communities

Addresses Funding Gaps in Local Services for Neediest Victims

- The FY-2012 Budget provides \$100 million funding increase from the Department of Justice's Crime Victims Fund to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other local services for victims.
 - The Crime Victims Fund does not consist of a single taxpayer dollar; it is self-sustaining and supported by criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, and penalties for federal offenders.
- The Budget also includes \$135 million for battered women's shelters and services through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, an increase of \$5 million over FY-2010.

Puts a Strong Emphasis on Combating Sexual Assault

- Sexual assault has a devastating effect on victims. Women who have been raped have high rates of PTSD, depression, anxiety and suicide attempts.
- In response, the Budget dedicates \$70 million to crisis intervention, advocacy within the criminal justice system, support during forensic exams, and mental health services through the Sexual Assault Services Program and the Crime Victims Fund. This funding is a \$55 million increase over FY-2010.
- The Budget also includes \$3.8 million for a Sexual Assault Problem Solving Initiative to assist communities with high rates of sexual assault and develop strategies that can improve prevention and law enforcement responses elsewhere.

Bolsters Legal Support for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Victims

- The budget provides \$50 million in VAWA funding for Legal Assistance for Victims, a \$9 million increase over FY-2010.
- To continue improvements in the criminal justice system, the budget provides \$182 million in STOP grants for better training, improved data collection, specialized law enforcement and prosecution units, and specialized courts

Takes Strides to Reduce Domestic Violence Homicides

- Domestic violence homicides are often predictable and therefore preventable. Three women are killed every day by husbands or boyfriends, and researchers estimate that for every victim who is killed, nine more are nearly killed. By using evidence-based tools, we can identify high risk cases and intervene to keep victims and their children safe. The Budget targets \$9 million in funds to reduce domestic violence homicides.

Provides Vital Funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline

- To ensure that every call for help is answered, the budget provides \$4.5 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Teen Dating Violence Helpline, an increase of \$1.3 million increase over FY-2010.
 - In 2010, the National Hotline received more than 280,000 calls for help, an 11% increase over 2008, but 29% of callers hung up before they could be helped.

Creates Opportunities to Intervene Early with Youth

- The Budget provides \$14 million for youth programs focused on stopping violence before it starts.
- This funding will help engage the systems that reach teens and college-age women: helping schools develop protocols; providing services for young victims; improving the response of courts to minor victims; and engaging men and youth in prevention.

Helps Victims Regaining Housing and Self-Sufficiency

- Without a secure place to live, victims of domestic violence are often forced to choose between staying in an abusive relationship or facing homelessness.
- To help victims and their children say safe over the long term, the Budget provides \$25 million to connect victims with stable housing.