



MINNESOTA
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA
THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE



Talking Points from the state-wide Coalitions for a \$50 million increase in Crime Victim Services (CVS) Funding

Minnesota's 6 crime victim service coalitions are continuing our request for an increase in base funding for crime victim services. These badly needed funds allow crime victims to access the services and support they need to care for themselves and their children.

Together, Mending the Sacred Hoop, Minnesota Alliance on Crime, Minnesota Children's Alliance, Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, and Violence Free Minnesota represent over 200 programs and individuals providing services and advocacy to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, general crimes, and sexual assault across the state of Minnesota. Crime victim services have not received an increase in base level state funding in over 8 years.

The main talking points are specifically the impact that NOT increasing the funding would have on your organization and the number of people you serve annually in your community.

- In collaboration, Minnesota's 6 statewide anti-violence coalitions are asking for a \$25 million-dollar annual increase to base level funding for crime victim services (this includes child abuse, domestic violence, general crimes, and sexual assault).
- Prior to the pandemic, we had identified a need of an additional \$20 million dollars annually to address the unmet needs of victim survivors and their children and gaps in funding experienced by crime victim services programs. The pandemic has only exacerbated the situation, as victims' need has grown, and the funding gaps expanded.
- Minnesota hasn't had an increase in base funding for crime victim services in over eight years, and one-time COVID emergency funding does not sustain the important work being done across the state.
- Crime victim service funding is in a state of crisis: in addition to zero additional base-level investment from the state in over 8 years, we are now facing a federal VOCA funding shortfall of \$15 million per year.
- The loss of federal dollars coupled with further inaction by our state legislature will have a catastrophic and devastating impact on the ability to provide services to crime victims. Programs will close, services will be eliminated, and the cost of these services will fall to law enforcement, substance abuse centers, child protection agencies, hospitals, and other systems.



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- Crime victim services are a critical core function of Minnesota state government because of the integral and vital part these programs play in ensuring public safety.
- The state must not leave the most vulnerable members of our communities, survivors of crime, without access to the services and resources they need. The legislature needs to provide robust, long term, stable state funding for crime victim services.
- This funding will fill direct program and survivors needs by providing direct client assistance to survivors, competitive wages for direct service staff who serve on the front lines risking their health and safety, hotel stays, responsive programming, violence prevention, and more.
- Programs that serve victims of crime are continuing to provide the critical services that victims and their children need during times of increased violence and abuse.
- Our entire sector of services is facing burnout at an incredible rate. Crime victim services programs are facing an exodus of advocates during the “Great Resignation”; due to the inability to provide competitive wages and benefits to those who take on emotionally demanding jobs that require long, and at times odd, hours, at great risk to themselves and their families.
- Programs are losing advocates to places like Walmart and McDonalds who offer more competitive wages that our advocacy programs can.
- In FY21 OJP funded crime victim service programs provided support and services to 14,907 abused children, 55,475 domestic violence victims, 56,231 victims of general crimes, and 8,255 sexual assault victims.
- To meet the demands of this moment, our elected officials must invest in community-based advocacy services for all victims of crime.

Sincerely,

Cinnamon Bankey
Executive Director
Mending the Sacred Hoop

Bobbi Holtberg
Executive Director
Minnesota Alliance on Crime

Marcia Milliken
Executive Director
MN Children’s Alliance

Artika Roller
Executive Director
MN Coalition Against
Sexual Assault

Nicole Matthews
Executive Director
MN Indian Women’s
Sexual Assault Coalition

Guadalupe Lopez
Executive Director
Violence Free Minnesota