



Maintain State Funding to Support Domestic Violence Programs

Maintain state funding to support domestic violence programs funded by the Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission so that local programs can keep their doors open and continue providing lifesaving services to victims and their children across the state.

Talking Points

- ❖ With funding cuts occurring, state funding is more vital than ever for domestic violence programs to keep their doors open and to provide the life saving services that are essential to victims of domestic violence and their children.
- ❖ According to the North Carolina Department of Justice's latest figures, **at least 106 women, children, and men were murdered in 2011** as a result of domestic violence.
- ❖ North Carolina ranked **21st in the nation** in the number of per capita homicides committed by men against women, according to the Violence Policy Center Study, *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data*.
- ❖ The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System reported that in 2010, the most recent year for which data is available, **82 homicides, 17% of all homicides, in North Carolina (507) were related to intimate partner violence.**
- ❖ Approximately 90 local domestic violence programs in the state provide lifesaving services for victims and their children in all 100 counties, including emergency shelter, crisis counseling, court advocacy and support groups.
- ❖ According to the North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission, in the 2010 fiscal year, local domestic violence programs served over **61,000 victims** and responded to over **95,000 crisis line calls.**
- ❖ Over **6,300 children stayed in domestic violence** shelters last year alone.
- ❖ The demand for services increases during an economic downturn. As financial stress increases for families, violence in the home often escalates.
- ❖ Children who witness violence in the home are much more likely to continue the cycle of violence in the next generation.
- ❖ Nationally, the **cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion** each year, including 8 million paid work days, according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.
- ❖ Investing in critical life-saving services provided by domestic violence programs is a smart choice for North Carolina because this will not only **save lives, but will also save money.**

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