

## Call Script To The Governor and Legislature Re: FY 2019 – 2020 New York State Budget

Hello, my name is [redacted] and I am a/an {advocate, program director, executive director, etc.} at {your organization}. I'd like to speak to a staff person who handles budget related issues for the {Governor/Senator/Assemblymember}.

{Reintroduce yourself to the staffer}.

This is a momentous year for domestic violence service providers and survivors in New York. The State will be implementing a new funding and regulatory structure for domestic violence programs statewide.

This includes abolishing outdated policies – such as those requiring survivors to apply for public assistance and be charged fees for services – to ensure that victims in need of shelter and other services are able to obtain support immediately and without conditions.

We're hoping that it also means the Legislature will close long-standing gaps in funding for domestic violence programs across the state that have resulted from years of flat or reduced investments.

I urge the Governor/Legislature to support these budget requests:

1. Funds for domestic violence residential programs have been flat for years. An additional \$50 million of support is needed to fix the system. We urge the Legislature to move toward this funding goal.
2. Funding for non-residential domestic violence services in the state budget is at the same level it was 19 years ago when it was first proposed. We urge the Legislature to increase this funding to \$6 million.
3. We are asking the Legislature to provide \$250,000 in the state budget to enable NYSCADV to provide statewide coordination of domestic violence issues and represent domestic violence service providers during this critical time of assessment and re-visioning.
4. We are requesting \$4 million for primary prevention initiatives focused on stopping violence before it begins.
5. We urge the state to revert to a system of monthly vouchering and payment, instead of the current quarterly process, so that domestic violence programs can maintain the cash flow they need to keep their doors open for survivors.

**I urge you to support increases to critical funding in the budget so no one who is asking for shelter or other domestic violence services is ever turned away.**

Thank you!