

Sample Email To State Legislators Re: FY 2019 – 2020 Budget

SUBJECT: FY '19 –'20 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUNDING

Dear **Senator/Assembly Member XXXXX**,

I am writing to you today as **a/an {advocate, program director, executive director, etc.} at {your organization}**.

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 This includes abolishing outdated policies – such as those requiring survivors to apply for public assistance and be charged fees for services – to ensure that victims in need of shelter and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 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 the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence 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.

Please review the enclosed letter, which contains more information about these proposed investments.

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!