Sample Email To State Legislators Re: FY 2020 – 2021 Budget

(Please feel free to edit as you’d like)

SUBJECT: FY ’20–’21 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}.

New York State is in the process of transforming its system of funding and oversight of domestic violence programs. The system has not been updated since it was established more than 30 years ago. {Your organization}, domestic violence service providers across the State and the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) have been working collaboratively with Governor Cuomo, State Agency representatives and the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to re-envision New York’s domestic violence service delivery system.

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. Take the first step toward modernizing the way domestic violence services are funded and provided to survivors by supporting the Governor’s pilot of an innovative, survivor-centered flexible funding model for DV services — a $5 million allocation proposed in the FY’20–’21 Aid to Localities Budget.

2. Funding for non-residential domestic violence services in the State Budget is at the same level it was 20 years ago when it was first proposed. I ask the Legislature to increase this funding to $6 million.

3. I urge the Legislature to provide $150,000 in the state budget to strengthen NYSCADV’s efforts to provide statewide training and technical assistance to domestic violence service providers.

4. We are requesting $4 million for primary prevention initiatives focused on stopping violence before it begins.

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!