Needs of DV Survivors Are Outpacing Available Financial Resources

Available funding for New York’s DV services has either decreased or remained flat for many years, drastically impacting the ability of DV service providers to keep up with demand for DV services. In fact, for the last five years in a row, New York State has had one of the highest demands for DV services in the country, according to a national survey.

New York’s Current Per Diem Reimbursement Model:

- Prioritizes emergency shelter at a time when many DV victims are in need of non-residential DV services
- Requires providers to spend inordinate amount of time chasing down reimbursement payments, which diverts critical resources away from service provision
- Halts payments to DV agencies when local counties deny fiscal responsibility; in some cases, DV agencies have waited years to be reimbursed
- Makes it extremely difficult for smaller DV agencies with sporadic openings in shelter to estimate incoming revenue, wreaking havoc on operational budgets
- External factors, such as the current COVID-19 Pandemic, impact the number of survivors that seek shelter, influencing the funding a DV agency will receive
- Does not permit a DV agency to “hold a bed” for a survivor who has temporarily left shelter to travel out of the area (e.g., for court, a funeral, etc.) or for a child to visit another parent
- The per diem rate set by OCFS for DV shelter is far below what other related services and programs in New York receive.

TANF DV Non-Residential Set Aside Set At Same Level as 20 Years Ago

- Non-residential DV services include telephone hotlines, information and referral services, counseling, legal advocacy and financial empowerment.
- The New York State Budget set aside of federal TANF funds remains at $3 million, the same level it was 20 years ago when it was first proposed.
- $3 million in 2020 dollars doesn’t go nearly as far as it did in 2000. In fact, if the Legislature adjusted the allocation for inflation, it would have been set at $4,580,641 in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Deep Reductions in Federal VOCA Funds Coming to New York, a Major Funding Stream for DV services

- According to OVS, New York’s VOCA victim assistance funding decreased 28% from 2018 to 2019 and will decrease another 26% from 2019 to 2020. OVS informed NY’s DV agencies that “should federal funding levels continue to be reduced, OVS may have to opt not to extend the current three-year contracts for the two-year renewal option... If our federal award in the future is significantly lower, or if it continues at the 2020 level, OVS would have to issue a new RFA for a reduced amount compared to what was awarded in 2019.”

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Revised: May 6, 2020