



May 2, 2023

# 2023 Day of Action

Toolkit

**NYSCADV**  
NEW YORK STATE COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**#DVFundingNowNY**

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# 2023 DAY OF ACTION TOOLKIT

New York State continuously has the highest demand for domestic violence services in the country. Survivors and DV agencies have sounded the alarm for years, but New York State has failed to respond. As a result, DV services across the state are at a tipping point. Funding cuts, a complex funding system, hundreds of agency vacancies, and static wages are significantly impacting the state's domestic violence service providers safety net, directly impacting survivors' ability to access services. Domestic violence services across the state are in crisis. New York's survivors deserve more. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 2nd and join the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV) in Albany for our 2023 Day of Action. We're counting on YOU – survivors, advocates, coalition and community partners, legislators, and community members – to raise your voices. Let the State know that it must invest in DV services.

Now is the time to reimagine New York's domestic violence services safety net.

## Agenda

Rally at the Well (10:30am start)

- focused on DV Funding, VOCA Cuts, Contract Reform, and Living Wages

March to the Million Dollar Staircase

Press Conference at the Million Dollar Staircase



## Contact Information

If you have any questions or would like assistance from NYSCADV, please contact us at [policy@nyscadv.org](mailto:policy@nyscadv.org).

# Main Priorities

2023 Day of Action priority messaging is largely based on these broad funding issues.

## DV Funding

Add a subheading

## VOCA Cuts

## Contract Reform

## Living Wages

# Legislative Priorities

Outside of the funding issues referenced above, NYSCADV's policy team has identified these four bills as priorities for the day:

## A.2105A Meeks/S.214A Myrie

Expands eligibility for victims of crime to access victim compensation funds

## A.3346A Hevesi/S.3170A Skoufis

Requires courts to conduct a review of any findings or allegations of DV, child abuse, heightened danger and risk of lethality before issuing orders of custody or visitation

## A.2583 Hevesi/S.15 Gounardes

Expands shelter capacity for single adult DV victims by requiring the state to provide full reimbursement when a shelter room intended for double occupancy is used to house a single individual

## A.1309 L. Rosenthal/S.2278 Cleare

permits DV survivors to dispute coerced debt



# How to Use This Toolkit

It's easy to participate and YOU can choose how to best contribute your time! This toolkit includes the following tools:

- **Effective Advocacy Tips:** Worried about stumbling over your words or missing a talking point? Maybe this is your first time meeting with a legislator. We've got you covered with tips for successful advocacy both in person and virtually.
- **Sample Social Media Posts:** We've pulled together a number of sample Facebook and Twitter posts for you to share. All you need to do is copy and paste... and remember to use #DVFundingNOWNY.
- **Shareable Graphics:** Spread the word by sharing these images on social media.
- **Sample Email and Phone Scripts:** There are only so many hours in a day. Not everyone has the flexibility to travel to Albany for a day. But you can still advocate for these priorities. Consider sending a quick e-mail or making a quick phone call. This toolkit contains sample scripts for both. Simply copy and paste, or use them as a jumping off point for your own message.



## Connecting With Your Legislator

Communicating with your state legislators is as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Identify your Assembly Member and Senator.
  - a. [Click here to find your legislator in the Assembly](#)
  - b. [Click here to find your legislator in the Senate](#)
2. Check out their official webpages to find their office phone numbers, social media or email.
3. Prepare in advance by reviewing these talking points and Q&As:
  - a. [Click Here to view the Talking Points](#)
  - b. [Click here to view the Q&A Document](#)

# Tips for Effective Advocacy

**Strategize +  
Be Prompt**

Legislators run on very tight schedules, even when remote. Meet with your group 10 minutes before start time to discuss roles. Be on time and be patient.

**Tell Survivors' Stories**

Make it personal and district-specific. Narratives are powerful advocacy tools that often are more impactful than statistics.

**Keep It Short and  
Focused**

Stress what's important. Focus on what you're asking them to do.

**Difficult Questions**

Difficult questions happen. Unsure of the answer? Simply say "I don't know but can have someone follow up."

**Take Notes + Make a  
Clear Ask**

Make sure at least one member of your group is taking notes. Include who is in the room, any questions that came up, and follow up needed. Don't forget to make the ask and note any commitment made.

**Thank Everyone**

Recognize everyone in the meeting and thank them for their time.

# Sample Meeting Request Email

Dear {Senator/Assembly Member},

I am \_\_\_\_\_(name), \_\_\_\_\_(position, title) at \_\_\_\_\_(organization), a community-based program providing services to New Yorkers experiencing domestic violence and their families.

I am e-mailing to request a meeting with {Senator/Assembly Member} during the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence’s (NYSCADV) 2023 Day of Action, on May 2, 2023.

On 2023 Day of Action, I will be joining domestic violence advocates, survivors, and allies from around the state in asking legislators to intentionally invest in and reimagine DV funding. Simply put, New York’s DV service delivery system is at a tipping point – one that we will surely cross unless New York chooses to invest in these critical services. We will also be elevating four bills that will significantly enhance DV survivor experiences.

I look forward to meeting with {Senator/Assembly Member} to discuss these important issues. Please let me know when the Senator/Assembly Member is available.

Sincerely,

{name}

# Sample Email Script

Subject: NYSCADV 2023 Day of Action

Dear {Assembly member/Senator + last name},

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

Domestic violence (DV) victim advocates, survivors, allies, and community members from across the state are joining together today for the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence's (NYSCADV's) 2023 Day of Action. We are sending a resounding message to state lawmakers: Thousands of New Yorkers experience domestic violence every day. Despite a tremendous demand for housing and other assistance, New York does not sufficiently fund DV services, preventing victims from getting the help they deserve.

New York consistently has the highest demand for services in the country. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence's national Domestic Violence Counts survey, on one day in New York in 2022, 9,157 adult and child victims of DV received services – a 38% increase from the year before. That translates to millions of victims over the course of a year. More troubling, on that same day, nearly 1,000 victims did not receive the help they asked for due to a lack of resources and staff. Despite the demand, DV not-for-profit programs like [name of your organization] do not receive the funding they need to provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed services for New Yorkers experiencing DV. As a result, we have to lay off staff, keep positions vacant and cut programming, just to have enough revenue to keep our doors open. After years of cuts or level funding, New York's DV service delivery system is at a tipping point – one that we will surely cross unless New York chooses to invest in these critical, life-sustaining services.

Today, we're also uplifting support for the following legislation to enhance the ability of survivors to get assistance and enhance the safety of children during court proceedings:

1. A.2105A Meeks/S.214A Myrie: expands eligibility for victims of crime to access victim compensation funds;
2. A.3346A Hevesi/S.3170A Skoufis: requires courts to conduct a review of any findings or allegations of DV, child abuse, heightened danger and risk of lethality before issuing orders of custody or visitation;
3. A.2583 Hevesi/S.15 Gounardes: expands shelter capacity for single adult DV victims by requiring the state to provide full reimbursement when a shelter room intended for double occupancy is used to house a single individual; and,
4. A.1309 L. Rosenthal/S.2278 Cleare: permits DV survivors to dispute coerced debt.

If you would like more information, I can be reached at {phone number}, or you can contact Joan Gerhardt, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at NYSCADV, at 518-482-5465.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

{Your name and title}

# Phone-Based Advocacy Tips

**Calling a legislator's office to provide information is well worth the time and preparation. Legislators keep detailed records regarding the calls they receive and the issues raised.**

- Remember your message prep! You won't have much time to deliver information, so it can be helpful to write out some talking points ahead of time to make sure you know what you want to say.
- Use the email script as a launching pad to get you started. It's best, however, to use your own words. Rehearse what you intend to say a few times. The more you practice, the easier it will become to deliver your message.
- When you get someone on the phone, tell them you are a constituent and you'd like to speak with someone about domestic violence issues. This information will help direct you to the most appropriate person. Alternatively, you can ask to speak with the chief of staff or the legislative director.



# Show Your Support on Social Media

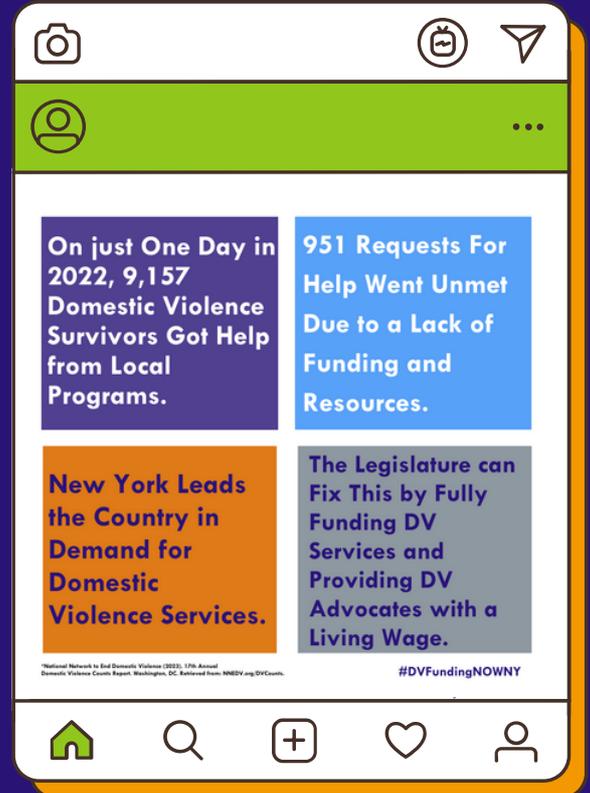
## Sample Tweets

New York leads the country in demand for DV services. Today we join @NYSCADV in saying #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivorsNY.

On just one day, DV advocates served over 9,100 survivors but the work is far from done. #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivorsNY

DV programs across NYS are at a tipping point— one that we will surely cross unless New York chooses to invest in these critical services. #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivorsNY

Survivors' requests for services can be complex. Programs deserve the ability to reimagine delivery to meet these needs. #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivorsNY



[Click here to view all graphics.](#)



Don't forget to tag us and share our posts



[NYSCoalitionAgainstDomesticViolence](#)



[NYSCADV](#)



[NYSCADV](#)



[NYS\\_CADV](#)



[NYSCADV](#)

# Sample Facebook & Instagram Posts

[Click here to view  
sample graphics + posts.](#)

Here are a few sample posts to help get your message out!

New York State leads the country in demand for domestic violence services. On just one day in 2022, DV advocates served over 9,100 victims of domestic violence. Today, we join the @New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence along with advocates and survivors from across the state to call on state lawmakers to ensure all DV survivors get the support they deserve. #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivors.

Due to lack of resources and staff, 951 requests went unmet. That translates to thousands of DV survivors a year. #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivors

New York once again leads the country in demand for DV services. Today we join NYSCADV in saying #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivorsNY.

An investment in New York's DV survivors IS an investment in a safer New York. Advocates deserve a living wage #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivors.

Increased requests for services. Challenges recruiting and retaining staff. Complex funding and contracting. DV programs are at a tipping point. But NY can fix this. Pay DV advocates a living wage and invest in contract reform before it's too late. #DVFundingNowNY #Safety4DVSurvivors.

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