NYSCADV
NEW YORK STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

MAIN OFFICE: 119 WASHINGTON AVENUE | ALBANY, NY 12210
P. 518-482-5465 | **F.** 518-482-3807

WESTERN OFFICE: PO BOX 17893 | ROCHESTER, NY 14614
P. 585-413-0887 | **F.** 518-482-3807

WWW.NYSCADV.ORG

DV Advocates' Recommendations for Changing How New York State Funds Domestic Violence Services

- Combine federal funds used to support domestic violence services (e.g., FVPSA, VAWA STOP, and VOCA) into one pool that is distributed by one New York State government agency directly to DV service providers via contract.
    - Provide funding to DV nonprofit agencies on a non-competitive basis.
    - Permanently eliminate match requirements which disproportionately impact rural, culturally specific and under-resourced organizations.

- Supplement federal funding used to support domestic violence services with state funding to ride out year-to-year fluctuations in New York's federal grants.

- Rather than reimbursing DV residential programs for a survivor's stay in shelter, fully fund DV shelters at 100% occupancy for 365 days/year (e.g., per diem rate x # of shelter beds x 365). And increase the per diem rate to be on par with other per diem rates set by OCFS, such as those for OCFS-licensed youth facilities.

- Increase the federal TANF set-aside for non-residential services from $3.2 million to $6 million to meet high demand and adjust for inflation.

- Provide all state-funded DV advocates with a living wage floor of no less than $21/hour and an 8.5% COLA on all state-funded DV contracts. (DV advocates were not included in the COLA included in the FY'24 State Budget.)

- Ensure all State agencies that contract with nonprofits are:

    - providing adequate agency staffing to allow for faster processing of RFPs, execution of contracts and processing of vouchers for payment;
    - executing and approving new and renewal contracts before the commencement date of the contract;
    - providing annual COLAs across all contracts so providers can keep pace with the rising cost of doing business and remain competitive in attracting and retaining staff;
    - providing advance payments to nonprofits if contracts are not fully executed and approved before the commencement date of the contract;
    - reimbursing nonprofits for any interest incurred on loans obtained by the nonprofits when the State fails to provide payment when services are provided;
    - ensuring consistency across state agencies in the way agencies contract and voucher with nonprofits; and,
    - allowing nonprofits to draw down awards on a monthly basis.

DATED: May 1, 2023