

NYSCADV'S 2021-2022 Budgetary Priorities

FY'22 Executive Budget: Aid to Localities (S.2503/A.3003)

1) OTDA: Increase TANF set aside for non-residential domestic violence services to \$6 million

New York's non-residential DV services include telephone hotlines, information and referral services, counseling, legal advocacy and financial empowerment. NYSCADV urges the State to increase the TANF set-aside for non-residential services, which is at the same level in the State Budget as it was 20 years ago when it was first proposed.

2) Add \$10 million emergency fund to ensure sustainability of New York's domestic violence services during the Pandemic

Although requests for domestic violence services have increased during the Pandemic, funding to domestic violence service providers has decreased due to New York's antiquated method of providing funding only when survivors are in shelter. Since March, DV shelters have had to reduce occupancy for social distancing and quarantine by as much as 55%. Further, many domestic violence survivors have been reluctant to enter shelter due to the public health emergency. Most programs report keeping vacant 10% of available beds, a loss to the system of more than \$1 million a month. New York State must provide an influx of funding to domestic violence agencies now to ensure services remain available to all who need them.

3) OCFS: Maintain Governor's \$5 million re-appropriation in Aid to Localities Budget to pilot a new flexible funding model that reduces the barriers and challenges for domestic violence service providers assisting survivors. Add funding to assure the pilot can continue.

Last year's budget included \$5 million to pilot a new flexible funding model that would reduce challenges for agencies assisting survivors. Transforming New York's antiquated domestic violence service delivery system is critical to ensuring victims and their families receive the support they need immediately and without conditions.

4) DCJS: Restore \$2,356,000 for domestic violence programs and legal services for domestic violence victims

Domestic violence survivors turn to legal advocates for assistance obtaining orders of protection, securing child custody orders so that a parent and children can legally and safely leave an abusive parent, and to provide critical assistance during criminal proceedings as well as separation and divorce. For several years, the Legislature has restored proposals to eliminate \$2,356,000 in the DCJS Aid to Localities budget. We ask you to restore these appropriations to maintain critical domestic violence services to victims.

5) OCFS: Allocate \$150,000 to expand supports for domestic violence victims through statewide coordination of services

The purpose of NYSCADV, the designated statewide domestic violence coalition in New York, is to provide education, support and technical assistance for domestic violence service providers for them to establish and maintain shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their dependents. Additional funding will enable NYSCADV to expand its training and technical assistance opportunities for domestic violence advocacy programs on topics such as trauma-informed, victim-centered service provision; laws and regulations; cultural competency; special considerations for historically marginalized communities; program operations; community coordination; and housing options for survivors.

FY'22 Executive Budget: Public Protection and General Government (S.2505/A.3005)

NYSCADV supports:

- **Part A:** Extending by two years the sunset provisions for mandatory arrest laws, maximum length for criminal orders of protection, and the use of closed circuit TV for child witnesses.
- **Part E:** Compilation of additional domestic violence-related statistics by OCA and DCJS.
- **Part F:** LGBTQ fairness in child custody.
- **Part G:** Eliminate discriminatory policing of transgender New Yorkers.
- **Part H:** Remove the label of “incurable” in law.
- **Parts Q-U:** Various election reforms.
- **Part II:** NY Data Accountability and Transparency Act.

NYSCADV is evaluating:

- **Part B:** NYSCADV supports improved communication between state agencies who work on domestic violence-related issues. And, we support the evaluation of coordinating the administration of funds used to support New York’s domestic violence services. We recommend revisions to the Governor’s definition for gender-based violence to ensure it is inclusive of everyone on the gender spectrum, and we seek clarity in understanding how OPDV will “develop and implement policies and programs to assist victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence and their families” when this work is already housed and funded in other state agencies. NYSCADV is obtaining feedback from DV advocates and will provide New York State with additional reactions to this proposal.
- **Part C:** NYSCADV supports the Governor’s goal of getting more offenders entered in the federal NICS database, restricting them from purchasing guns in the future. However, NYSCADV is opposed to creating a new misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to achieve the goal. NYSCADV looks forward to working with New York State to identify another approach. NYSCADV is obtaining feedback from DV advocates and will provide New York State with additional reactions to this proposal.
- **Part D:** NYSCADV is obtaining feedback from DV advocates regarding this proposal, which would enable judges to order abusers to compensate victims for their housing, moving and relocation costs as a condition of a civil or criminal Order of Protection.

FY'22 Executive Budget: Education, Labor and Family Assistance (S.2506/A3006)

NYSCADV supports:

- **Part M:** Requires all county Departments of Social Services to offer an Alternate Family Assessment Response Program in lieu of child protection assessments or investigations.
- **Part N:** Expansion of veterans’ treatment courts outside of New York City, with the caveat that individuals who commit crimes against family or household members may not have their cases moved to a veteran’s treatment court.
- **Part S:** Prohibits discrimination based on citizenship or immigration status.
- **Part Y:** Permits tenants who claim hardship to use their security deposits to pay rent.
- **Part Z Subpart A:** Restricts families on public assistance from paying more than 20% of their household income on childcare.

(Revised: 2/2/21)