



Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Services Funding FISCAL YEAR 2010 Budget Request

<i>Line Item (service area)</i>	FY2007 GAA	FY2008 GAA	FY2009 GAA	FY2010 Gov House 1	JDI Request 2010
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention & Treatment Services DPH Line Item 4513-1130 *	\$ 3,735,066	\$ 3,866,677	\$ 6,391,677	<i>Line Consolidated Into 4510-2500 (see below)</i>	\$6,400,000
Health Promotion, Violence Prevention and Workforce Expansion DPH Line Item 4510-2500	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$52,544,238	<i>Maintain Separate line item as above: 4513-1130</i>
Support Services for People at Risk of Domestic Violence DCF Line Item 4800-1400	\$21,688,691	\$23,019,767	\$23,473,036	\$23,482,061	\$23,500,000

** DPH Line Item 4513-1130 includes: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) services, Refugee and Immigrant Services, Batterer Intervention Programs and prevention funding.*

Two distinct funding streams (Line Items 4513-1130 & 4800-1400) support comprehensive, community-based programs that respond to sexual assault and domestic violence. Programs provide free and confidential crisis services, shelter, legal and medical advocacy, children’s services and much more.

Every minute of every hour of every day in Massachusetts a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence needs access to support, options and resources to seek safety and justice for themselves and their children. Yet, too many victims cannot access the life-saving help they need, when they need it.

As a result of the current economic crisis in the country, a majority of sexual assault and domestic violence programs in Massachusetts are reporting an increase in demand for services ranging from 30 – 60%. Most anticipate that they haven’t yet experienced the full impact but increase in demand is already evident and all indications are that will continue.

***On behalf of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors and their families,
Jane Doe Inc. is asking the Legislature to maintain the current level of funding
for these essential services.***

Jane Doe Inc.'s Budget Request for FY2010:

1. At a minimum maintain House 1 as detailed above.

2. Create a 3-5 year comprehensive funding plan

The Need

Despite the successes of thirty-plus years of advocacy, awareness raising, systems building and policy-making, an overwhelming need for services, education and training still remains:

- ❖ One in six women and one in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape.ⁱ
- ❖ One in every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime.ⁱⁱ
- ❖ Since 2003, there have been 173 known victims of domestic violence homicide in Massachusetts.ⁱⁱⁱ
- ❖ More than half of all rapes of women occur before they reach the age of 18.^{iv}
- ❖ One large study found that men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, and adult domestic violence as children were almost 4 times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults.^v
- ❖ 57% of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons report homelessness due to domestic violence.
- ❖ The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.^{vi}
- ❖ On September 17, 2008, a 24-hour survey of domestic violence programs found that 1,017 victims were served in one day in Massachusetts. Unfortunately, due to a lack of resources, there were 292 unmet requests for services.

Massachusetts' Capacity

Recently released international research on violence against women offers a framework for Massachusetts, indeed the entire United States, to determine what a truly comprehensive network of services and programs needs to be in order to meet the needs of its residents. Since this research was focused on violence against women, additional research is necessary to ensure that all populations and communities are considered when establishing funding and programmatic priorities. Keeping this in mind, the following table shows what a fully realized network that's equipped to meet the needs of the residents in Massachusetts might look like:^{vii}

Type of Service	Comprehensive Funding Formula	Need for Massachusetts	Currently in Massachusetts
Family shelter (3 beds)	1 per 1,000 people	650 programs / 1950 beds	60 programs / 376 beds
Rape crisis center (RCC)	1 per 200,000 women	16.5 RCCs	4 RCCs
Sexual assault services	1 program per 400,000	8 (sole) programs	10 (dual) programs
Advocacy programs	1 per 50,000 women	130 programs	≈ 60 programs
Counseling programs	1 per 50,000 women	130 counseling programs	≈ 60 programs

Comparison with other states of similar size:

State	Population	Shelter bed capacity
Washington	6.4 million	805 shelter beds
Arizona	6.3 million	1,100 shelter beds
Missouri	5.8 million	750 beds
Wisconsin	5.6 million	822 beds

The gap in available services per capita in Massachusetts is pronounced. Devising a plan to create an infrastructure of sexual assault and domestic violence services will take vision, commitment and, most definitely, resources. We must invest in the safety and well-being of vulnerable members of the Commonwealth.

Solution Step 1: Maintain stable funding now

Given this growing need, losing ground now would be devastating to local programs and the people they serve.

Solution Step 2: Adopt a 3-5 year plan.

We recognize that tough economic times will unlikely result in new funding. This financial reality shouldn't stop our thinking creatively and strategically for when the economy has strengthened. In fact, it's the perfect time to step back and assess and plan for the future.

JDI would propose that the budget committees along with the appropriate state agencies engage with advocates, service providers and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence to determine the long-term needs to improve victim safety, dignity and liberty in Massachusetts.

ⁱ U.S. Department of Justice, *Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey* (1998).

ⁱⁱ Tjaden, Patricia & Thoennes, Nancy. National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey." 2000

ⁱⁱⁱ Jane Doe Inc. Domestic Violence Homicide Study. (2009)

^{iv} National Violence Against Women Survey, "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women," November 1998.

^v Whitfield, C.L., Anda, R.F., Dube, S.R., & Felitti, V.J. (2003) Violent childhood experiences and the risk of intimate partner violence in adults. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 18, 166-185.

^{vi} *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. (2003). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control. Atlanta, GA.

^{vii} Map of Gaps: The Postcode Lottery of Violence against Women Support Services. End Violence Against Women, 17-25 New Inn Yard London EC2A 3EA, 2007