

**Request for Recurring Funding for Domestic Violence Programs
By the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

Recent media attention has focused South Carolina on the scope of its domestic violence problem. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that that 41.5% of South Carolina women have experienced one of the intersecting crimes of physical violence, rape and/or stalking compared to the US average of 35% (CDC, 2011). While the rate of women murdered by men has decreased nationally, our state's rate remains stubbornly high. In 2013, the last year for which data is available, 57 women were killed by men in single victim/single offender incidents in South Carolina; a rate of 2.32 per 100,000, over twice the national average. Demand for emergency shelter and community support services for survivors is high. In FY 2014-2015, SCCADVASA's member organizations provided residential shelter to 2796 clients seeking services for the first time. Around 45% of this number were children and children aged 0-6 make up the largest population served in shelter. Crisis lines that operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, provide a life line that connected 16,618 individuals with the trauma-informed services they needed, from legal and medical advocacy to counseling, to transportation. These agencies are a vital partner in the community response to domestic violence and a valuable resource to communities striving to achieve positive outcomes for all their citizens far more than the traditional perception of shelter.

The legislature's appropriation of \$500,000 to support domestic violence services across the state in FY2015-2016 provided an essential investment in this work. We are requesting that the level of funding provided be increased to \$1.6 million for FY2016 and that it become a recurring line item in the budget to demonstrate the state's commitment to the long term sustainability of domestic violence intervention and prevention services. Each of these organizations has developed to meet the unique needs of the communities it serves and the scope of services will be influenced in part by the local resources and partnerships available. It is also important to remember that agencies have additional costs beyond the programmatic costs of direct service. Administrative and facility costs that provide for stability and accountability in the provision of services are essential expenditures that are often unsupported by direct purpose grant awards; this state appropriate can provide crucial sustaining support in these areas and provide the ability for organizations to leverage federal and local fundraising efforts.

Why are these funds needed?

- **1119 children aged 12 and under stayed in emergency shelter with their mothers**
- **31% of shelter clients returned one or more times—leaving an abusive relationship is often a process rather than a one-time event and is complicated by concerns about safety, financial instability, transportation and many other factors.**
- **93% of clients who completed an outcome survey reported that they increased their knowledge of strategies for enhancing their safety.**

Our state is in the process of changing and improving its response to domestic violence. As this continues, survivors are more likely to come forward and ask for assistance. This funding is a critical component of the agencies' ability to provide survivors with the services they and their children need to heal and move forward to live their lives in safety.

We respectfully ask that the non-recurring funds which were allocated to the Coalition and its domestic violence member organizations in FY 2014-2015 become recurring line item to enable these organizations to sustain and expand trauma-informed services to victims and their families in line with the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence and best practices within the field of prevention and intervention.

For more information, please contact Sara Barber, Executive Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, 803-256-2900, executivedirector@sccadvasa.org

INCREASED FUNDING REQUEST FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES 2016

AGENCY	COUNTIES SERVED	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (SHELTER) FY 2014-2015 ¹	NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (HOTLINE & ALL OTHER) ²	STATE FUNDING ALLOCATION ³
CASA/FAMILY SYSTEMS	Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg	Adults: 52 Children : 47	Hotline: 606 Non-Shelter clients: 165	\$85,814
CODA	Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton	Adults: 94 Children: 95	Hotline: 3640 Non-Shelter Clients: 368	\$90,258
CUMBEE CENTER	Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale	Adults: 74 Children: 72	Hotline: 1052 Non-Shelter Clients: 544	\$85,814
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER	Georgetown, Horry	Adults: 38 Children: 24	Hotline: 813 Non-Shelter Clients: 245	\$85,814
LAURENS COUNTY SAFE HOMES	Laurens, Saluda, Abbeville	Adults: 60 Children: 50	Hotline: 858 Non-Shelter Clients: 450	\$85,814
MEG'S HOUSE	McCormick, Edgefield, Greenwood	Adults: 51 Children: 42	Hotline: 1257 Non-shelter Clients: 94	\$85,814
MY SISTER'S HOUSE	Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester	Adults: 111 Children: 126	Hotline: 2367 Non-Shelter Clients: 154	\$85,814
PEE DEE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL	Florence, Darlington, Marion, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon,	Adults: 105 Children: 39	Hotline: 956 Non-Shelter Clients: 956	\$119,752

¹ Reported by South Carolina Department of Social Services

² Reported by South Carolina Department of Social Services

³ Combined total of Marriage License Fee Allocation (DSS) and State Budget Allocation (DHEC). Variations in DSS allocation dependent on number of counties served, shelters operated. DHEC allocation divided equally between all agencies.

INCREASED FUNDING REQUEST FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES 2016

ASSAULT	Williamsburg			
SAFE HARBOR	Greenville, Oconee, Pickens, Anderson	Adults: 389 Children: 289	Hotline: 1729 Non-Shelter services: 368	\$106,420
SAFE HOMES	Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union	Adults: 151 Children: 148	Hotline: 2818 Non-Shelter: 6884	\$106,420
SAFE PASSAGE, INC	York, Chester, Lancaster	Adults: 84 Children: 66	Hotline: 1314 Non-Shelter Clients: 169	\$101,976
SISTERCARE, INC	Richland, Lexington, Kershaw, Fairfield	Adults: 295 Children: 213	Hotline: 831 Non-Shelter: 6504	\$127,026
YWCA OF THE UPPER LOWLANDS, INC	Sumter, Clarendon, Lee	Adults: 43 Children & Youth: 40	Hotline: 499 Non-Shelter Clients: 115	85,814
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)	Statewide (rural and urban)	Training: 2905 units of training provided through 52 training events in 2015. Technical Assistance, Planning, Education for member organizations, system and community partnerships.		\$35,714

Request for Increased Recurring Funding for Rape Crisis Centers
~ South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
"You saved her life as well as mine... you gave her the will to live."
~ Mother speaking about her daughter, who received services from a rape crisis center

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime (CDC, 2011). In South Carolina, the sexual assault rate has exceeded the national rate since 1982 (SLED, 2008). This means that we all know someone who has been raped. Thankfully, every county in South Carolina is served by a rape crisis center that provides critical services to victims and their loved ones. These centers are struggling more than ever to meet the increasing need for their services and leverage state contracts with private fundraising efforts and federal funding to meet the need in their communities. In 2014, the fifteen rape crisis centers reported serving 5538 individual (unduplicated) victims and survivors who were seeking services for the *first* time. Annually, these agencies provide services to more than 8,000 victims of sexual assault, a significant percentage of whom are children.

The reinstatement of funding to 2008 levels in 2014 & slight increase in 2015 has provided essential support. We request that this level of funding this be increased to \$2.4 million for FY 2016-2017. These funds will help rape crisis centers maintain and increase the availability of critical services, especially in rural areas, that otherwise would not be covered. Historically, these funds do *not* come to SCCADVASA, but rather go directly from DHEC to the 15 rape crisis centers across our state, to provide advocacy and supportive services to victims and their families. If there is an increase in appropriated funds we request that SCCADVASA receive a portion help support its provision of technical assistance, training and planning to support these agencies in developing and maintaining best practices consistent with research-based national trends in intervention and prevention.

Why are these funds needed?

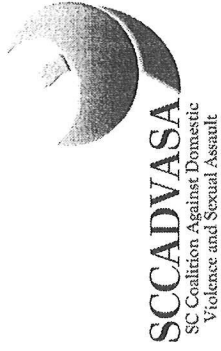
- **Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands (STSM)** served a total of **1996 survivors of sexual violence in FY 2014-15, an increase of 9% from 2013.**
- **Foothills Alliance** (Anderson and Oconee) served **890 clients in FY 2014-2015, with over 50% of their new clients being aged 11 or under**
- **Hope Haven** (Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton & Jasper) served **1284 new victims of sexual assault in 2014. Over 25% of these clients had been victims of both sexual assault and domestic violence.**

As media attention and community awareness increases, survivors are more likely to come forward and ask for assistance. This funding is a critical component of the agencies' ability to provide survivors with the services they need to heal and support the administrative accountability of agencies dependent on federal grant funding for large portions of their budget.

In addition to providing supportive and healing services to victims of sexual assault, these programs provide primary prevention education, aimed at stopping sexual violence before it starts. SCCADVASA and its member organizations are working with the Department of Education and local school districts to implement Erin's Law in a manner consistent with data-informed educational approaches while ensuring that students who disclose abuse are connected with the resources most equipped to help them. Prevention work is cost-saving work. A study conducted by Hope Haven and Darkness to Light revealed that the direct and immediate cost of child sexual abuse each year is \$2.7 million, in the Lowcountry alone.

We respectfully ask that the recurring funds which were allocated to the rape crisis centers in 2015 be increased to \$2.4 million to allow these organizations to sustain and expand needed services to victims and their families in rural communities, in schools, and all across our state.

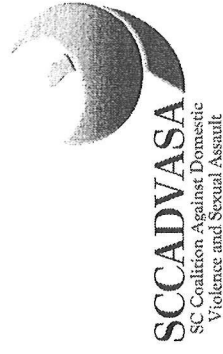
For more information, please contact Sara Barber, Executive Director, South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, 803-256-2900, executivedirector@sccadvasa.org



Program Name	Counties served	Total # of Victims ¹ Served 2014	Total RCC Agency Budget (\$)	Total 2014 State Funding	Total Staff
CASA/ Family Systems	Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg	133	124,063	74,953	1 FT 3 FT
Cumbee Center	Edgefield, Saluda, McCormick, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale	608 ²	250,000	117,614	3 FT
Family Resource Center	Kershaw, Lee	89	108,655	67,538	1 FT 1 PT
Foothills Alliance	Anderson, Oconee	894	250,411	73,318	4 FT 2 PT
Julie Valentine Center	Greenville	431	595,435	78,762	7 FT
Hope Haven	Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Jasper	1,509	400,00	87,140	11 FT
People Against Rape	Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester	471	186,797	107,046	3 FT 1 PT
Palmetto CASA	Lancaster, Chester, Fairfield	592	206,736	74,035	5 FT 5 PT
Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault	Florence, Marion, Darlington, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Williamsburg, Clarendon	257	561,030	140,848	11 FT 3 PT

¹ Primary and secondary survivors. No education numbers included.

² Data not provided. Estimates based on last year's submission

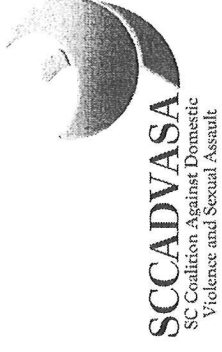


Rape Crisis Center	Horry, Georgetown	443	377,247	86,494	5FT
Rape Crisis Council of Pickens County	Pickens	69	260,000	106,393	4FT
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition	Spartanburg, Cherokee	348	437,197	78,762	7 FT
Safe Passage, Inc.	York, Union	97	170,641	73,488	5FT
Beyond Abuse	Greenwood, Laurens, Abbeville	306	600,979	76,865	12FT 1PT
Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands	Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Sumter	1,993	992,250	136,201	14 FT 8 PT
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	Statewide organization	Training: 2905 units of training provided through 52 training events in 2015. Technical Assistance, Planning, Education for member organizations, system and community partnerships.			8FT
Totals		8,240			

The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault on behalf of the 15 sexual assault service agency member programs requests that the FY2015 appropriation of \$1.2 million through recurring funds be increased to \$2.4 million in the DHEC FY2016 budget.

There is a public health epidemic of sexual violence in the State of South Carolina. In fact, South Carolina's rape rate has exceeded the national rape rate since 1982 (SLED). Teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, alcohol and other drug problems, and poor physical and mental health are only a few of the social impacts that have proven to arise in the devastating wake of sexual assault- especially for survivors who have limited support. Receiving these supportive services from the expert staff at these agencies can also increase a survivor's willingness to engage with the criminal justice system regarding their assault. These agencies provide the following services through their contracts with the state:

- 24-hour hotline response



- 24-hour hospital accompaniment
- Crisis intervention
- Personal and legal advocacy
- Outreach/Education

In 2014, these 15 centers provided these essential services to more than **8,240** victims of sexual violence in South Carolina, an increase of 898 over the previous year. **Rape Crisis agencies serve these increasing number of survivors as state funding remains at the 2008 level.** These services reduce the impact of the trauma of the sexual assault on the survivor and thus reduce the tremendous financial impact on the state for direct costs of mental and medical healthcare and indirect costs of lost productivity. These agencies are leveraging the State funding with federal and private dollars. In fact, at Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands for every \$1 provided by the State of South Carolina to protect the health of its citizens from the trauma of sexual assault, STSM matches \$8.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sara Barber, Executive Director, SCCADVASA (802-256-2900, executivedirector@sccadvasa.org) if you have any additional questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and your commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of South Carolina's citizens.