

# FY 2023 NJ STATE BUDGET

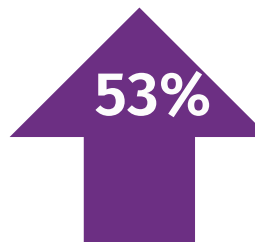
## INVEST IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

The New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence (NJCEDV) is a statewide organization with a membership of 30 domestic violence providers and culturally specific organizations. These programs are partially funded by the state budget through allocations made to the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Division on Women (DOW) .

### In 2021, domestic violence programs...



Received 37% more hotline calls.



Provided shelter to 53% more victims.

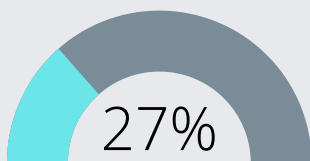


Served 28% more victims through Domestic Violence Response Teams.



Provided nonresidential services, such as counseling and legal advocacy, to 22% more victims.

While the need for services increased, programs experienced a 12% decrease in staffing with critical frontline positions like hotline operators, shelter staff, and counselors being the most difficult to retain.



27% of advocates rely on a second job to survive.



The median salary for advocates is below a living wage for a family of four in NJ.

*"I receive very great support and appreciation from my supervisors. Unfortunately, the pay and health benefits are awful especially compared to the stressful work we do."*

An advocate in response to NJCEDV's Wage and Benefits Survey



# FY 2023 NJ STATE BUDGET ADDITIONAL NEEDS

## Emergency and Permanent Housing

Approximately 37 victims of abuse, in a single day, were unable to receive much-needed housing. That is approximately 1,100 victims every month.



## Mental Health Support and Services

Programs continue to see an increased need for mental health support. Without enough clinicians, programs have long waiting lists for counseling.



## Access to Services

Without transportation, childcare, language services, technology, or wifi access it is nearly impossible for victims to be able to access services and move forward in their lives.



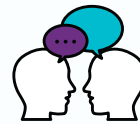
## Legal Advocacy and Representation

NJ lost \$6 million in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding which largely funded legal advocacy and representation services.



## Abuse/Batterer Intervention Programs in Every County

Abuse/Batterer Intervention programming works to reduce recidivism rates and increases safety for families and communities. However, these programs exist in less than half of New Jersey's counties. Without these programs, the individual responsible for the abuse continues to be isolated, and lacks the tools and support needed to make healthier choices in their relationships.



## Funded Prevention Education in Schools

In 2011, New Jersey revised statute §18A:37-33 requiring each school district and charter school to approve a policy which prevents, responds to, and educates their students and the school community on dating violence. However, this effort has been left unfunded, leaving students without the critical education, tools and resources to prevent and address dating violence.



## Recommendations for FY2023 State Budget:

- Increase the funding allocation for domestic violence and culturally specific services, through DCF's DOW, \$18 million above FY22 allocations to invest in staff development, advocate retention and to meet the increasing needs of survivors.
- Allocate \$10 million to DCF to expand Abuse/Batterer Intervention programs to make them available in all 21 counties.
- Allocate \$10 million in funding to the Department of Education to fund mandated school-based dating violence prevention education.

Domestic violence program numbers are based on data shared by eighteen provider agencies with NJCEDV.

Job and salary information from NJCEDV's 2021 Wage and Benefits Survey.

*Living wage calculator.* Living Wage Calculation for New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY. Retrieved February 8, 2022, from <https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/35620>

Housing information from the National Network to End Domestic Violence (2022). 16th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC.