

ESSENTIAL WORKERS. ESSENTIAL SERVICES. EVERY SURVIVOR.

Just six months ago while signing into law critical domestic violence legislation, the Governor spoke of being on a journey to end domestic violence. Yet domestic violence was the only essential service that lacked a significant investment in the Governor's proposed budget. The minimal proposed increase will lead to a further depleted community of advocates and more survivors without access to services. The gender-based violence community maintains its request for an allocation of **\$50 million** to address survivor needs.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS

- The majority of Domestic Violence Advocates earn less than \$40k annually while providing critical crisis intervention services with more hours and higher caseloads than private counselors[1]
- Human service worker turnover rates range between 30 - 50% primarily attributed to low wages & high occupational stress[2]. High turnover rates lead to less skilled and equipped providers which ultimately lowers the efficacy of services and standard of care survivors receive.
- The staff that do remain report experiencing increased financial hardships, with approximately 1/3 of providers reporting decreased household financial stability during the COVID-19 pandemic[3].
- When service providers' cost of living needs are met, burnout and rates of secondary traumatic stress are reduced. Investing in service providers means increasing the capacity of domestic violence organizations to continue providing essential, quality services.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

- In 2021, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline received contacts from more than 32,000 individuals seeking assistance. This is over an eight percent increase in contacts from 2020, which was already a record-breaking year[4].
- Throughout the pandemic, over 50% of surveyed providers reported receiving increased requests for services[5].
- Between pre-pandemic 2019 and 2021 service needs increased: shelter (4%), legal advocacy (123%), and counseling (26%)[6].
- Regions in the state experienced over 2 months without domestic violence shelter beds, cribs, or bed and cribs in 2021[7].

EVERY SURVIVOR

- Every year thousands of survivors are turned away from services as providers do not have the capacity to meet the need. Service providers have substantial waitlists that continue to grow[8].
- The number of these homicides and shootings in Chicago is already on track to outpace 2021 rates which were already 29% and 130% higher than pre-pandemic 2019, respectively[9].

[1] Multiple Sources - (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Human Services Edu, Glassdoor, Nonprofit Quarterly, Payscale)

[2] On the Front Lines of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Occupational Experiences of the Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault Workforce (Wood et al., 2020). Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Statistics from the IL DV Hotline's internal database, iCarol.

[5] Network survey of service provider members, March, 2021

[6] Statistics from the IL DV Hotline's internal database, iCarol.

[7] Statistics from the IL DV Hotline's internal database, iCarol

[8] Turnaway counts provided by ICJIA as measured in Infonet.

[9] Chicago Mayor's Office of Violence Reduction. Violence Reduction Dashboard.