

North Dakota Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division Testimony

Submitted by:

CAWS ND (statewide domestic violence/sexual assault coalition) Legislative Committee

In-Person Testimony Shared By:

Coiya Tompkins, CVIC/Grand Forks & CAWS Legislative Committee Chair
(in partnership with CAWS Agency/Member Representatives: Michelle Erickson
(AARC/Bismarck), Dr. Christopher Johnson (RACC/Fargo), Jill McDonald (DVCC/Minot) and
CAWS Staff: Tara Muhlhauser and Seth O'Neill

Package Contents:

- Statewide Coalition Service Summary, Financial Needs Overview & Service Areas
- Decision Package Proposal for Gov. Doug Burgum (submitted: July 1, 2022)
- Partner Testimonies: Bismarck Police Department, Burleigh County Sheriff's Office, Cass County Sheriff's Office, Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, Grand Forks County State's Attorney and Grand Forks Police Department
- Client Testimony: Yvonne Griffin, CVIC Board Member & Former Client

Statewide Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services



The following is collective data from all member programs in the CAWS North Dakota coalition. North Dakota domestic violence/sexual assault (DV/SA) programs are uniquely structured and vary significantly in size (i.e., with the largest program’s annual operating budget reaching nearly \$6M and the smallest at nearly \$160K).

DV/SA programs provide wrap-around safety, healing and education/prevention services. This includes round-the-clock crisis response, shelter/housing, counseling, accountability/education for those who have used violence, crime victim advocacy, sexual assault response/advocacy, supervised visitation and exchange, prevention/outreach, legal services and transitional housing/self-sufficiency support.

Collectively,
North Dakota
DV/SA agencies:



SERVE more than **6,556 survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault** (5,417 DV/1,139 SA),



EDUCATE over **49,476 community members and professionals** annually about interpersonal violence, intervention and prevention, **data from 17 agencies,*



EMPLOY approximately **337 employees,** **data from 18 agencies,*



PROVIDE safety, healing and education/prevention benefits to 53 North Dakota counties, and,



REPRESENT nearly **710 years of service** to North Dakota in both urban and rural communities, **data from 18 agencies.*

Lifetime Impact of DV/SA in North Dakota—Statewide Population (779,094)

- **139,155 North Dakotans** are estimated to have experienced DV/SA in their lifetime (18% of our population—94,660 women and 44,495 men.)
- **6,556 DV/SA victims** (5,646 female, 910 male) were served across 19 programs in 2021, **representing only about 5% of the nearly 140,000 North Dakotans impacted.**



Nearly 1 in 5 North Dakotans are estimated to have experienced DV/SA in their lifetime.

5%

The victims served in ND in 2021 represent only about 5% of the total number of North Dakotans impacted by DV/SA.

Financial Need

With a collective annual operating need of nearly **\$22M** and an average **state contribution of only 9%** across the state of ND, our DV/SA centers are in dire need of increased resources. In fact, in aggregate, private fundraising and private grants represent nearly three times the state funding allocated (\$5M/private vs. \$1.9M/state).

State contribution of DV/SA agency funding



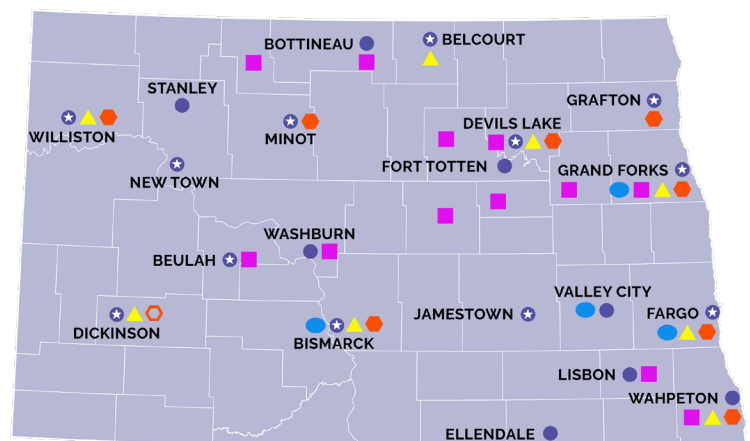
State funding for many of our DV/SA agencies has remained relatively flat (and in some years decreased) throughout the past 10 years, even though services/needs have increased. A majority of this pattern transpired long before an international pandemic, fear of a potential recession and loss of major resources such as Lutheran Social Services. **Funding is for services only and does not currently provide for any indirect costs to agencies.**

- Domestic Violence General Funds (currently \$1.9M per biennium):
 - **Requesting \$10M/biennium, executive/recommended budget: \$2,686,285**
This amount represents the gap between our fundraising and state funding as well as our crime victim witness costs. Please note that several programs support crime victim witness services pro-bono, even though contracts for these advocacy services are administered through county state’s attorney offices.
- Domestic Violence Offender Treatment (currently \$300K per biennium)
 - **Requesting \$1.45M/biennium, executive/recommended budget: \$700,000**
- Supervised Visitation and Exchange (currently \$425K per biennium)
 - **Requesting \$2.2M/biennium, executive/recommended budget: \$0**
- Sexual Violence Prevention Funds (currently \$200K per biennium)
 - **Requesting \$4M/biennium, executive/recommended budget: \$0**
Allocations for this are currently significantly under resourced. The fund also does not provide for domestic violence prevention needs. Enhancing this fund’s flexibility and capacity would offer significant savings to ND.
- **Total request: \$17.65M/biennium, executive/recommended budget: \$3,386,285**

Statewide Services Map

The map to the right shows the services currently provided by DV/SA agencies in ND. The above request is just to **maintain the status quo in services**. Expanding services into areas not currently being served would require additional investment.

Evidence-based primary prevention and overall **services to our reservation communities** are particularly lacking. Other services, such as supervised visitation in the Minot area offered by the Village, closed operations in 2021.



- crisis intervention center
- ★ includes shelter services
- battering intervention services
- ◻ service offered by an external agency
- ▲ supervised parenting time and exchange services
- victim witness services
- primary prevention

Learn more about statewide DV/SA services at cawsnorthdakota.org

North Dakota Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

Decision Package for Consideration: Governor Doug Burgum's 2023-24 Budget
Department of Health & Human Services

Requested by: Deanna Askew, MPA, RDN, LRD

Director, Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program & Director, Division of Family Health and Wellness

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Decision Package Proposal Authors
(representing all member programs in the statewide coalition):

- Melandie Deplazes, SAAF (Devils Lake)
- Michelle Erickson, AARC (Bismarck)
- Dr. Chris Johnson, RACC (Fargo)
- Darianne Johnson, DVRCC (Dickinson)
- Jill McDonald, DVCC (Minot)
- Tara Muhlhauser, CAWS ND (Statewide Coalition)
- Lynne Tally, SS (Jamestown)
- Coiya Tompkins, CVIC (Grand Forks) (Chair, CAWS ND Legislative Committee)

Dear Deanna,

Thank you again for your willingness to spend time with several of the programs in the statewide coalition regarding our funding challenges related to domestic violence and sexual assault. Per your request, as you and other state department leaders are building your budgets and presenting decision package considerations for Governor Doug Burgum's 2023-24 budget, we appreciate your consideration of domestic violence and sexual assault resources. The following is a summary of answers to your questions as well as our position (both current and future) and justification for additional state funding. We hope the following data, charts and narrative shed a little more color on our collective needs.

STATEWIDE BENEFITS/COMMUNITY IMPACTS

We were able to garner collective data from all member programs in the CAWS ND coalition. North Dakota domestic violence/sexual assault (DV/SA) programs are structured slightly differently and vary significantly in size (i.e., with the largest program's annual operating budget reaching nearly \$6M and our smallest nearly \$160K). Collectively, however, they provide wrap-around safety, healing and education/prevention services. This includes round-the-clock crisis response, shelter/housing, counseling, accountability/education for those who have used violence, crime victim advocacy, sexual assault response/advocacy, prevention/outreach, legal services and transitional housing/self-sufficiency support.

Collectively, these agencies:

- Serve more than 6,556 survivors of domestic violence/sexual (5,417 DV/1,139 SA),
- Educate nearly 49,476 community members/professionals annually about interpersonal violence intervention and prevention, *data from 17 agencies,
- Employ approximately 337 employees, *data from 18 agencies,
- Provide safety, healing and education/prevention benefits to 53 North Dakota counties, and
- Represent nearly 710 years of service to North Dakota, in both urban and rural communities. *data from 18 agencies.

ANNUAL OPERATING RESOURCES

Included in this report is data for all member programs in the state coalition, which itemizes annual operating budgets according to the following sources: federal grants, state grants, private grants & fundraising, contracts and other sources. **The charts below illustrate each of our agency's funding sources, which reflect collective annual operating needs of nearly \$22M and an average state contribution of only 9%.** In fact, in aggregate, private fundraising and private grants represent nearly three times the state funding allocated (\$5M/private vs. \$1.9M/state).

	Annual Budget	Federal Grants	State Grants	Private Grants & Fundraising	Contracts	Other
Beulah	\$ 545,836	\$ 152,386 28%	\$ 45,500 8%	\$ 345,000 63%	\$ - 0%	\$ 2,950 1%
Bismarck	3,716,737	2,274,497 61%	280,922 8%	303,425 8%	- 0%	857,893 23%
Bottineau	167,657	101,780 61%	42,502 25%	18,800 11%	- 0%	4,575 3%
Devils Lake	625,437	526,992 84%	30,282 5%	16,028 3%	- 0%	52,135 8%
Dickinson	822,500	348,975 43%	125,566 15%	222,000 27%	- 0%	125,959 15%
Ellendale	157,681	94,300 60%	30,364 19%	33,017 21%	- 0%	- 0%
Fargo	2,853,489	1,137,305 40%	200,568 7%	960,000 34%	43,178 2%	512,438 17%
Grafton	367,418	254,966 69%	56,452 15%	25,000 7%	- 0%	31,000 9%
Grand Forks	5,711,475	1,931,728 34%	238,563 4%	2,343,292 41%	518,514 9%	679,378 12%
Jamestown	304,206	138,423 45%	68,705 23%	97,078 32%	- 0%	- 0%
Lisbon	284,637	162,388 57%	30,866 11%	88,042 31%	- 0%	3,341 1%
Minot	1,954,073	1,265,991 65%	120,446 6%	445,380 23%	90,756 4%	31,500 2%
Stanley	218,878	179,287 82%	26,391 12%	13,200 6%	- 0%	- 0%
Valley City	311,000	145,000 47%	85,000 27%	80,000 26%	1,000 0%	- 0%
Wahpeton	293,721	148,766 50%	84,555 29%	34,000 12%	- 0%	26,400 9%
Washburn	177,310	85,347 48%	31,900 18%	60,063 34%	- 0%	- 0%
Williston	534,900	233,263 43%	195,875 37%	90,162 17%	15,600 3%	- 0%
TOTAL NON-TRIBAL	\$ 19,046,955	\$ 9,181,394 48%	\$ 1,694,457 9%	\$ 5,174,487 27%	\$ 669,048 4%	\$ 2,327,569 12%

	Annual Budget	Federal Grants	State Grants	Private Grants & Fundraising	Contracts	Other
Belcourt	\$ 2,403,628	\$ 2,268,206 94%	\$ 135,422 6%	\$ - 0%	\$ - 0%	\$ - 0%
Spirit Lake	463,777	392,412 85%	71,365 15%	- 0%	- 0%	- 0%
TOTAL TRIBAL	\$ 2,867,405	\$ 2,660,618 93%	\$ 206,787 7%	\$ - 0%	\$ - 0%	\$ - 0%

	Annual Budget	Federal Grants	State Grants	Private Grants & Fundraising	Contracts	Other
TOTAL	\$ 21,914,360	\$ 11,842,012 54%	\$ 1,901,244 9%	\$ 5,174,487 23%	\$ 669,048 3%	\$ 2,327,569 11%

INTERSECTION OF STATE LAWS AND DV/SA SERVICES

Unfortunately, funding is significantly incongruent with the need, particularly as it relates to state-mandated laws and our agencies' services in support of those laws. The three core programs enforced by state laws (and for which some of our coalition agencies are the service providers) include: crime victim witness, supervised visitation and exchange, and domestic violence intervention.

Crime Victim Witness

Six agencies serving more than 1,400 clients.

SERVICE LOCATIONS	ANNUAL COST TO PROVIDE SERVICE	STATE FUNDING	STATE % OF TOTAL ANNUAL COST
Benson Bottineau Eddy Grand Forks McLean Mercer	Nelson Ramsey Ransom Renville Richland Wells	\$603,371	\$18,750 4%

Parenting Time/Exchange

Seven agencies currently serving more than 400 families (663 adults & 531 children), providing nearly 6,000 hours of parenting time and more than 1,000 safe exchanges. Please note that Minot lost its parenting time services when The Village ceased services due to funding.

SERVICE LOCATIONS	ANNUAL COST TO PROVIDE SERVICE	STATE FUNDING	STATE % OF ANNUAL TOTAL COST
Belcourt Bismarck Devils Lake Dickinson	Fargo Grand Forks Wahpeton Williston	\$1,088,057	\$212,500 20%

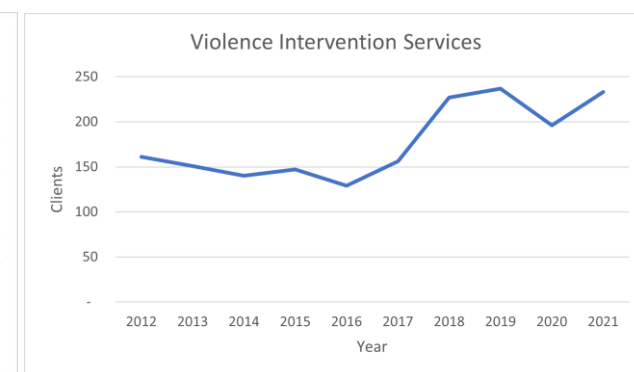
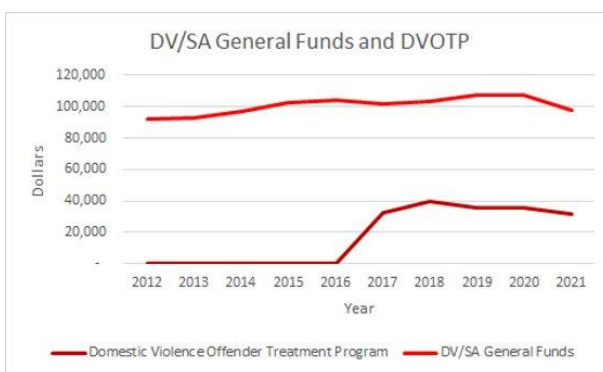
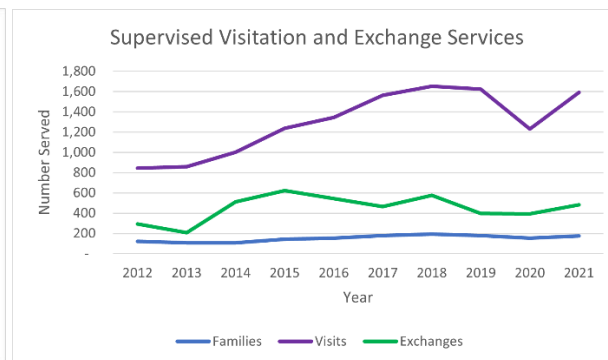
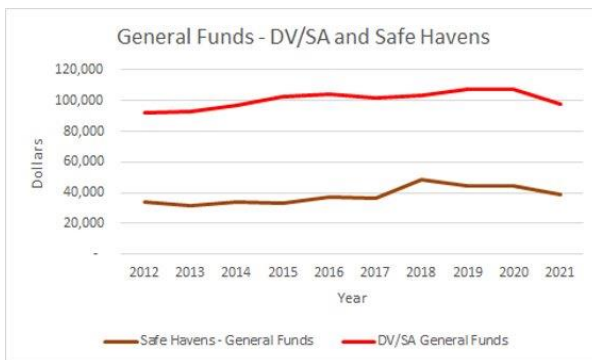
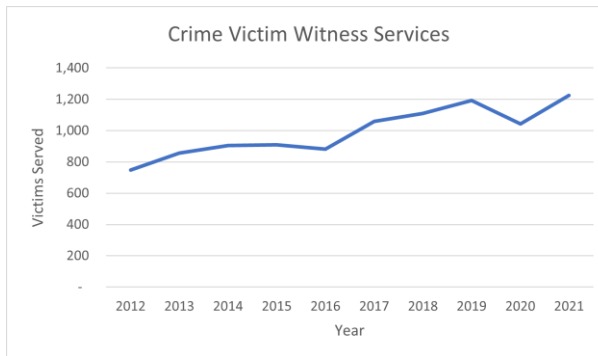
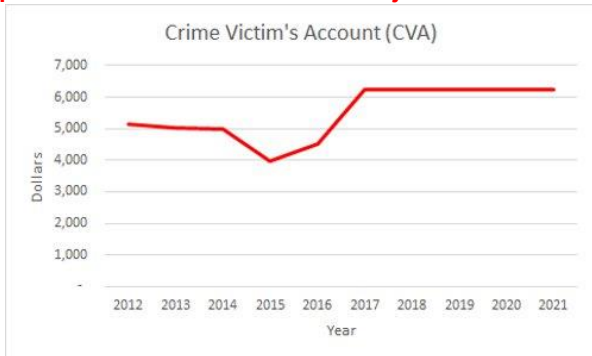
Domestic Violence Offender Treatment

Eight agencies provided evidence-based curriculum to more than 390 individuals. All agencies meet the Battering Intervention Standards and deliver services in a collaborative approach with the criminal justice system.

SERVICE LOCATIONS	ANNUAL COST TO PROVIDE SERVICE	STATE FUNDING	STATE % OF TOTAL ANNUAL COST
Bismarck Devils Lake Fargo Grafton	Grand Forks Minot Wahpeton Williston	\$723,067	\$150,000 21%
TOTAL	\$2,414,495	\$381,250	16%

NEED HAS EXCEEDED RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Compounding our concern is that state funding has not kept up with DV/SA demands. As you will see from the charts below, state funding for our largest DV/SA agency has remained relatively flat (and in some years decreased) throughout the past 10 years, even though services/needs have increased. **A majority of this pattern transpired long before an international pandemic, fear of a potential recession and loss of major resources such as Lutheran Social Services.**



RESULTS IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS

In spite of several compounding obstacles, agency teams have produced powerful results for violence prevention and intervention.

- In one county alone, for instance, our domestic violence offender treatment program documented a 74% decrease in 911 calls and 90% decrease in criminal charges two years post program completion. This agency's same offender treatment program also educated more than 200 adults who were the parents/guardians of more than 380 children.
- Continued funding for these important programs promote opportunities for communities to thrive with less crime, and for individuals to become more resilient. This impacts adults who complete the program as well as their children, future generations.

PREVENTION IS KEY (AND FAR LESS EXPENSIVE THAN INTERVENTION) BUT SHORT FUNDED

Through a comprehensive, collaborative approach that is possible thanks to fervent partnerships with law enforcement, education, health care, human services and others, our intent is to not only eradicate violence, but prevent it.

- Four programs also offer bystander intervention training (Green Dot).
- This program is sourced with \$200,000 of state funds and without private support, this prevention program could not be implemented.
- A focus on prevention not only creates resilient individuals, strong families and thriving communities, it saves North Dakota considerable violence-related costs.
- If we are to end violence in future generations, we need to enhanced engagement within our communities, from grade school students to retirees. Providing prevention programming for young people is very important but imagine what we could accomplish if we had whole communities on board. With additional funds we could hold round table discussions, conduct marketing campaigns, sponsor events, and get more people involved in the work of publicly promoting respect and accountability, and encouraging others to do the same. That's how we build healthy communities for generations to come.

DV/SA AGENCY RESPONSE TO UNANTICIPATED SERVICE, ECONOMIC AND VIOLENCE-RELATED CHALLENGES

- When Lutheran Social Services (LSS) closed in January 2021, several DV/SA agencies throughout the state responded to a crucial need to continue services related to domestic violence intervention (mandated court-ordered programming for those who have used violence), restorative justice (holding offenders accountable, facilitating collaboration between offenders, survivors and community support networks) as well as other support services such as counseling.
- Recent program closures were exacerbated by a national pandemic. Agencies are reporting increases in the number of victims served during the last six months. Victims in our communities are experiencing increased danger, harm and more intense violence-related situations, too many of which include fatality risks and murder.
 - Most recently, a mother was shot and killed in broad daylight while holding her infant son in a public parking lot.
 - One agency in a heavily populated county reported that nearly 60 percent of 200 individuals screened by law enforcement in 2021 were deemed to be in high lethality situations.
 - In another highly populated county, 94% of danger assessments completed were identified as increased danger or higher.
- Without additional state resources to bring our current funding to a place of sustainability, our ability to serve will be impacted. Private funding has enabled us to stay the course, but it's not sustainable long term, nor is it the ideal way to allocate resources for base services. In addition, violence severity and incidences are likely to escalate, particularly as economic conditions and fear of a recession loom, and many of our communities continue to grow in population.

FUNDING REQUEST TO ADVANCE DV/SA WORK (SERVE MORE & SERVE BETTER)

- **Domestic Violence General Funds (currently \$1.9M per biennium):**
 - **Requesting \$10M/biennium**
 - This amount represents the gap between our fundraising and state funding as well as our crime victim witness costs. *Please note that several programs support crime victim witness services pro-bono, even though contracts for these advocacy services are administered through county state's attorney offices.*
- **Domestic Violence Offender Treatment (currently \$300K per biennium)**
 - **Requesting \$1.45M/biennium**
- **Supervised Visitation and Exchange (currently \$425K per biennium)**
 - **Requesting \$2.2M/biennium**
- **Sexual Violence Prevention Funds (currently \$200K per biennium)**
 - **Requesting \$4M/biennium**
 - Allocations for this currently are significantly under resourced. The fund also does not take into account domestic violence prevention needs, which as we noted above are significantly incongruent with need. Enhancing this fund's flexibility and capacity would better the health and safety of North Dakota and ultimately, move toward eradicating violence and its devastating impacts to the economic, health, and wellbeing of our communities.
- **Total: \$17.65M/biennium (vs. \$2.825M/biennium)**

Please reach out if there are additional questions we can answer. Thank you again for listening to our concerns and for considering this request on behalf of the families and individuals we serve.

Best Regards,
(on behalf of the authors noted above/statewide member programs)



Coiya M. Tompkins
Chair, CAWS/ND Legislative Committee
President/CEO, Community Violence Intervention Center, Inc.

North Dakota Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division Testimony

PARTNER TESTIMONIES

Bismarck Police Department, Chief Dave Draovitch

Burleigh County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Kelly Leben

Cass County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Jesse Jahner

Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Andy Schneider

Grand Forks County State's Attorney, Haley Wamstad

Grand Forks Police Department, Chief Mark Nelson



Bismarck
POLICE

January 18, 2023

Rep. Jon Nelson, Chairman
North Dakota Legislature
House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations/HR Division

My name is Dave Draovitch and I serve as Chief of the Bismarck Police Department.

The Bismarck Police Department (BPD) and The Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC) have been community partners for decades. BPD has been involved with AARC's community task force including helping to write community protocols and leading the implementation in 2011 of Law Enforcement conducting lethality assessments while on scene at a domestic violence situation.

AARC team trains with BPD to provide education around domestic violence and sexual assault to new Law Enforcement officers. We believe that if our officers are better educated in these topics not only will it keep them safer on the streets but will also help them to provide information to victims on where to go for help. Implementing lethality assessments 11 years ago has also improved Law Enforcement's response to those situations and helped link victims to an advocate right there on scene.

AARC's willingness to take on Domestic Violence Offender Treatment when Lutheran Social Services closed shows that they are dedicated to finding other opportunities to continue providing resources to those in need. We also appreciate that the Family Safety Center exists for supervised visits and exchanges so that families are not having to exchange their children in the police department parking lot or other public areas.

BPD feels that this partnership and open communication with AARC only benefits the victims in our community and continues to help decrease violence in communities. We support more funding for AARC and the other crisis agencies around our state.

Sincerely,

Dave Draovitch
Chief of Police
Bismarck Police Department

Dave Draovitch, Chief of Police

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BURLEIGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

KELLY LEBEN
SHERIFF

January 18, 2023

Rep. Jon Nelson, Chairman
North Dakota Legislature
House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations/HR Division

I write to you today to show my support for the Abused Adult Resource Center (AARC). I apologize I can't be there in person due to scheduling conflicts.

The AARC and its team are an integral part of our community's mission to decrease violence. AARC and the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department (BCSD) have partnered for decades to work together to eradicate violence in our community; particularly in regards to domestic violence and sexual assault situations.

We consider AARC to be the experts in this field and BCSD feels that by connecting victims on scene to an advocate takes the burden off of Law Enforcement to provide those resources and referrals. For approximately the last 11 years, BCSD along with other community law enforcement agencies have been conducting lethality assessments on scene during domestic violence incidents. This process provides Law Enforcement not only the opportunity to understand who the actual victim is in a situation but also gives the advocate information to better able to assist the victim with safety planning and other resources.

BCSD feels that without this strong partnership, victims would likely fall through the cracks and not get connected to resources they need which then leads to victims staying in unsafe situations longer than necessary. I would fully support additional funding for AARC as well as the other domestic violence/sexual assault crisis agencies in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Leben".

Kelly Leben
Sheriff

Burleigh County Sheriff's Department

COURTHOUSE

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Bismarck, ND 58502-1416

P 701-222-6651 • F 701-221-6899

www.facebook.com/BurleighCountySheriffsDepartment 013

BURLEIGH MORTON DETENTION CENTER

4000 Apple Creek Road • PO Box 2499
Bismarck, ND 58502-2499

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www.casscountynd.gov

Office of the Sheriff

Jesse Jahner, Sheriff

January 18, 2023

Rep. Jon Nelson, Chairman
North Dakota Legislature
House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations/HR Division

The Cass County Sheriff's Office is proud to partner with RACC and its advocates to provide a coordinated approach to responding to domestic violence and sexual assault calls.

By working in tandem with key partners from industries such as health care, education, military and law enforcement, RACC has been able to respond more effectively to domestic violence situations, more quickly align victims with its resources, and ultimately, reduce potential lethality associated with domestic violence situations. In tandem with our officers and other partners, RACC has reached several hundred potential victims of homicide.

In 2022, RACC served over 3220 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, 117 domestic violence offenders and provided supervised visitation and safe exchange services to 154 parents of 120 children (3611 people total). In addition to direct services, RACC provided 924 total presentations to 18,276 attendees including education in 47 different elementary schools.

The Cass County community relies on RACC programming and services to maintain health and safety and our partnership is crucial to serving the citizens of our community.

Sincerely,

Jesse Jahner
Cass County Sheriff

Cass County Sheriff
Law Enforcement Center
1612 23rd Avenue North
P.O. Box 488
 Fargo, North Dakota 58107-0488
Phone: 701-241-5800
Fax: 701-241-5806

Cass County Sheriff
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Cass County Jail
450 34th Street South
 Fargo, North Dakota 58103
Phone: 701-271-2900
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GRAND FORKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

122 S 5TH ST, SUITE 210

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA 58201-4632

SHERIFFS.OFFICE@GFCOUNTY.ORG

PHONE: 701-780-8280

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SHERIFF ANDY SCHNEIDER

**To: Rep. Jon Nelson, Chairman
ND House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division
From: Sheriff Andy Schneider
RE: Domestic Violence intervention Services Funding
Date: 1/18/2023**

Chairman Nelson and Members of the Appropriations Committee/HR Division,

Throughout the past 20-plus years, deputies of the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office have developed important relationships with advocates at the Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC). This partnership has enabled us to not only provide more immediate support for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, but also reduce the risk of homicide and recidivism in our county. Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The LAP is an innovative, multi-pronged strategy to prevent domestic violence homicides.

Deputies who respond to domestic violence and sexual assault incidents place calls on scene directly to advocates at CVIC any time of day or night. Our colleagues at CVIC report that victims are 50% more likely to seek services when law enforcement provides this first line of defense. The partnership also has resulted in decreased lethality risk for victims. In 2021, nearly 200 individuals were screened by law enforcement with nearly 60% of those determined to be in high lethality situations. In fact, 55 of those in the most dangerous situations spoke with a CVIC advocate while law enforcement was still with them on scene.

From my perspective, this partnership is extremely vital for our taxpayers. The state funding needed to carry out important domestic violence intervention services is extremely important. Additional state funding is vital to support CVIC and its counterparts throughout the state who are working to reduce interpersonal violence. Thank you for your time and consideration

Respectfully,

**Andy Schneider
Sheriff
Grand Forks County**



Office of the State's Attorney

January 18, 2023

Rep. Jon Nelson, Chairman
North Dakota Legislature
House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations/HR Division,

As state's attorney for Grand Forks County, I have worked with the Community Violence Intervention Center's (CVIC's) crime victim witness team for several years. This team provides advocacy and emotional support to victims of crime. Our relationship throughout the past 10 years, in particular, has enabled us to serve more than twice the victims we did in 2011. In 2021, 1,225 victims and witnesses of crime received case information and support through criminal proceedings, the largest number served in a single year, to-date, and an 18% increase from 2020. CVIC's crime victim specialists made nearly 4,000 contacts with collaborating professionals and attended more than 1,400 court hearings with or on behalf of crime victims in 2021.

We've also appreciated CVIC's support of domestic violence court and violence intervention in its work with those who use violence. More than 200 men and women participated in New Choices, domestic violence intervention programming, which addresses offenders' use of violence and holds them accountable for causing harm to others. Collectively, these participants are parents of more than 300 children. In reviewing call data two years post completion, we are fortunate in Grand Forks County to experience a 74% reduction in 911 calls for participants who complete the program.

Of the 200 participants, 156 were also enrolled in domestic violence court, a specialized post-sentencing review court, which works in tandem to hold individuals accountable, monitor their sentencing progress and encourage successful completion.

Please consider additional state resources to enable CVIC to continue supporting this important work on behalf of both victims and those who use violence.

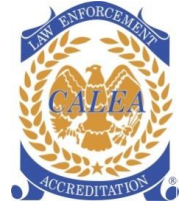
Sincerely,

Haley Wamstad
Grand Forks County State's Attorney



Grand Forks Police Department

122 South Fifth Street • P.O. Box 5548 • Grand Forks, ND 58206-5548
Mark A. Nelson, Chief of Police



January 18, 2023

Rep. Jon Nelson, Chairman
North Dakota Legislature
House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations/HR Division

As a law enforcement officer and a retired veteran (U.S. Army Reserve and North Dakota Army National Guard), I have been fortunate throughout my career to work alongside a variety of professionals and partners who not only make it easier to safeguard our city and country, but also improve the lives of entire communities. The Community Violence Intervention Center (CVIC) and its team of leaders and advocates are that kind of agency. Throughout the past couple of decades, in particular, our team at the Grand Forks Police Department has partnered with CVIC and its advocates to provide a coordinated approach to responding to domestic violence and sexual assault calls.

By working in tandem with key partners from industries such as health care, education, military and law enforcement, CVIC has been able to respond more effectively to domestic violence situations, more quickly align victims with its resources, and ultimately, reduce potential lethality associated with domestic violence situations. In tandem with our officers and other partners, CVIC has reached several hundred potential victims of homicide. In 2021 alone, officers used the evidence-based Lethality Assessment Program to identify nearly 200 individuals facing highly volatile domestic violence environments. Of the nearly 200 individuals, more than 50 percent of them were deemed to be in high lethality situations. By assessing the danger level of people harmed by domestic violence at the scene of 911 calls, our officers and CVIC advocates are 50% more likely to connect those at risk to important intervention and safety planning resources. This partnership is not only enabling officers to connect victims to the best resources, it's preventing future violence.

Because of this program, and the results we're seeing through our relationship with CVIC, Grand Forks Police Department has invested in purchasing personally issued cell phones for our officers. I would fully support additional funding for CVIC as well as its counterparts throughout the state who may want to implement similar programs likely to bring similar results for their communities.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Nelson

Mark Nelson
Chief of Police
Grand Forks Police Department

North Dakota Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division Testimony



CLIENT TESTIMONY: Yvonne Griffin, CVIC Board Member & Former Client

- Childhood domestic violence in home between stepfather and mother. Alcohol was a factor also for removal. There were no services available to families that had issues with dv and it wasn't the original issue that was brought to the forefront. Alcoholism was pushed as a reason for family dysfunction.
- Removed from parental home and placed in foster home. In many cases the homes had issues of DV and other forms of abuse also known as complex childhood traumas. More than one form of violence or abuse. (complex posttraumatic stress disorder) CPTSD) 5-8 is a crucial period of brain development and exposure to stress.
- Relationships. Traumatic events result in vulnerability and confusion about what is safe or healthy in a personal relationship. Stockholm's.
- Generational, intergenerational trauma or pattern of broken relationships.
- Interpersonal and domestic violence has many long-term effects far into adulthood. Post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders, depression, personality disorders, substance use disorders, eating disorders,
- Relocation disorder. Thinking I could run away from my problems, but they continued to follow me from one town to the next or relationship to relationship.
- Counteracting abuse and breaking free. Fortifying one's defenses for the exit. CVIC 2004.
- CVIC services offered then vs services now.