

North Dakota Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

Senate 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, Jill McDonald (DVCC/Minot), Michelle Erickson (AARC/Bismarck), Darianne Johnson (DVRCC/Dickinson) and Yvonne Griffin (CVIC/Grand Forks)

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



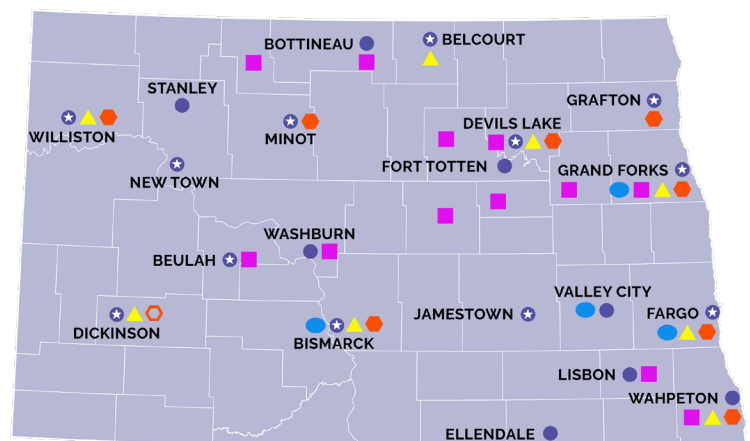
State funding for many of our DV/SA agencies has remained relatively flat (and in some years decreased) throughout the past 10 years, even though services/needs have increased. A majority of this pattern transpired long before an international pandemic, fear of a potential recession and loss of major 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%

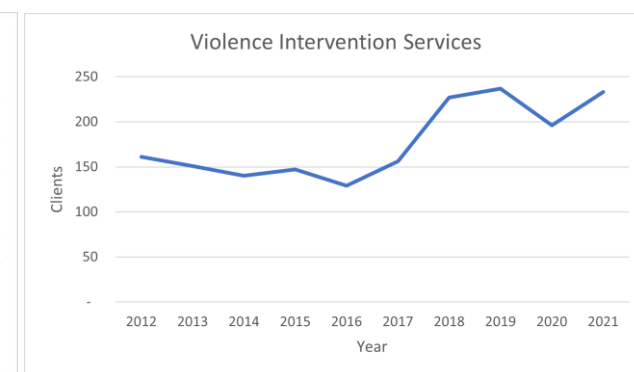
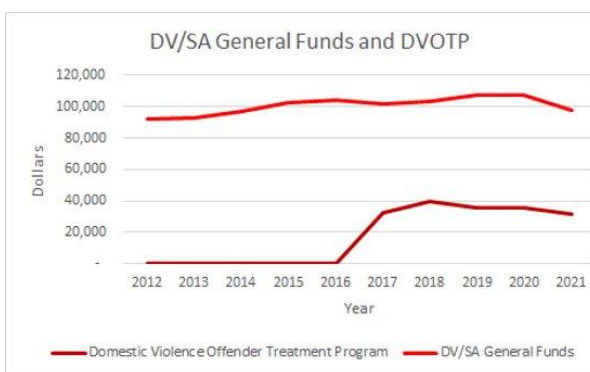
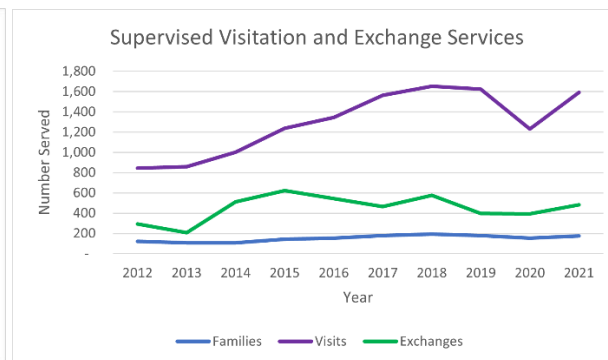
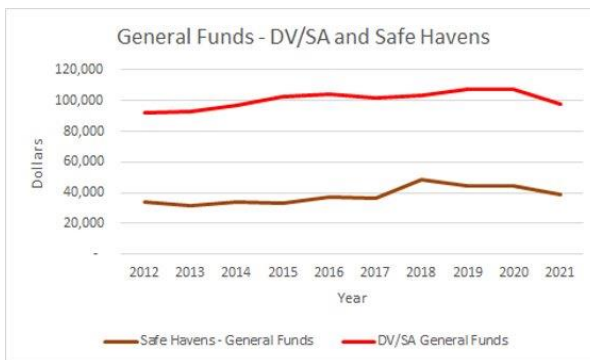
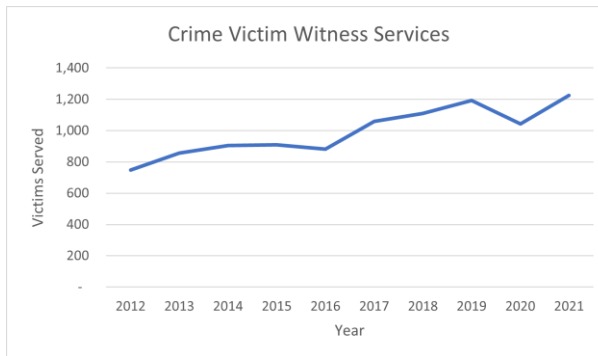
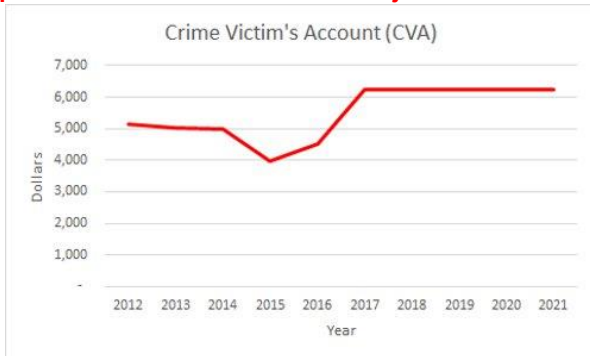
Domestic Violence Offender Treatment

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.