

NCEDSV Visits Washington, D.C. to Advocate for Sustained Funding



In early June, NCEDSV's Executive Director, Elizabeth Abdur-Raheem, and Policy Director, Serena Evans, traveled to Washington, D.C., to collaborate with fellow coalitions and advocate for sustained funding for domestic and sexual violence prevention and programming. NCEDSV spent two full days building collective power, unifying the anti-violence movement, and learning about the most pressing federal policy issues impacting domestic and sexual violence victim-survivors and programs. The most pressing issue is federal funding and the continuation of services nationwide, specifically Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding.

While VOCA is just one funding source, we are navigating uncharted waters with unprecedented funding cuts. During the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations process, **VOCA was cut by \$600**

million and Nevada is preparing for a 40% VOCA funding cut. This has left direct service providers on edge, concerned about how they will continue to meet the needs of victim-survivors. However, there is a glimmer of hope in the form of bipartisan action being taken at the federal level to intervene and sustain this critical funding source.

House Resolution (H.R.) 8061: Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2024, introduced by Representative Ann Wagner (R-MO), would divert funds from the False Claims Act into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), which is the account that funds VOCA. This diversion would be a temporary solution through 2029, allowing the CVF to replenish. Senator Murkowski (R-AK) and Senator Durbin (D-IL) also introduced a Senate counterpart bill. This legislation would provide a much-needed funding diversion to preserve the Crime Victim Fund and, therefore, VOCA.

On June 12, the NCEDSV team hit Capitol Hill to meet individually with each office of the Nevada Federal Delegation. We discussed the importance of continued funding and advocating for the support of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2024. We reminded our Nevada Representatives and Senators that Nevada does not have a line item in the general budget for domestic and sexual violence services and prevention programming, so federal funding cuts are felt deeply in Nevada. The Nevada federal delegation was receptive to the messaging and understood the direness of the situation.

NCEDSV is unwavering in its commitment to be the voice for Nevada victim-survivors and programs. We will persist in our advocacy for sustained funding. As the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2024 progresses, we will keep you updated and continue to call on you for

your invaluable support. After our visit the House cut the CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Injury Center) out of the proposed budget. The Injury Center contains all federal Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) funding. In August we will be returning to DC for the National Sexual Assault Conference and will take the opportunity to again visit our Representatives and educate them on the importance of restoring RPE funding in the budget.

Serena Evans

NCEDSV Policy Director

