

Creating Access to Safety: Funding for Family Violence Services

Request: \$88 million in the 88th Legislative Session, Article II - HHSC Family Violence Services Funding

The Need for Services is Critical

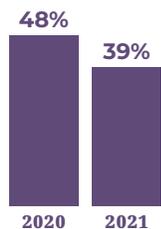
1.5M

In FY 2021, Texas Family Violence Programs provided **over 1.5 million services** to victims of domestic violence.

175k

Nearly **175,000 child services** were offered in just one year.

Investing in Survivor's Needs is Working



In 2021, 39% of survivors were denied shelter solely because there was no space left. This represents a 10% decrease from only a few years ago when the figure hovered just under 50%. This means so many more survivors who called hotlines in Texas in 2021 have been able to access critical shelter services when they have made the decision to flee violence

and seek safety for their families. Yet with the increase in services in 2022, and continued high cost of housing in the state, this number is on the rise again with one metro area reporting 79% of survivors turned away.

Shadow Impact of the Pandemic

While in many ways we are beginning to emerge from the immediate public health crisis the pandemic created, the work of family violence programs grows. Between FY 2019-2021, the number of Texas family violence incidents reported to law enforcement increased significantly. These funds create safety for thousands of Texans each year as they flee potentially lethal violence in their homes.



74% of family violence and sexual assault staff surveyed reported **decreased survivor safety** during the pandemic.

“It showed me that I could be ... a different person. I could do this...”

— TEXAS SURVIVOR ON
FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

OUR FUNDING REQUESTS:



Lifesaving Family Violence Program Services

Support for HHSC's full request of **\$78.7 million** for core family violence services



Addressing the Capacity Crisis

\$6.3 million exceptional item increase for enhanced capacity and to break down barriers to long-term safety such as housing and legal services



Invest in Creating a Safer Texas

\$3 million exceptional item increase for targeted violence prevention and community education

\$88M IN THE 88TH

Promoting Offender Accountability and Focusing on Homicide Prevention

Request: \$5 Million in the 88th Legislative Session, Article V - TDCJ, Battering Intervention and Prevention Programming (BIPP)

Battering Intervention & Prevention

In an evaluation of BIPPs, offenders completing at least three months of a program were **50% less likely to re-assault their partners** in the 15-month follow-up compared to a comparable group who did not complete the program.



The average cost per person for BIPP is only **\$2.35/day** versus the average cost per person of those housed in prison in 2020 at **\$69.27/day**.



BIPP funding has not increased in **nearly a decade**.

Many victims, when asked the support they most needed, cited help to make their homes and relationships safer. Victim safety is the core goal of BIPPs, which offer group educational sessions to hold those who batter accountable. Holding offenders accountable for their actions creates alternatives to incarceration and increases safety in homes and communities throughout Texas.

“*I have learned how to become a better father and partner with all the information that has been provided to me.*” — BIPP PARTICIPANT

OUR FUNDING REQUEST:



Promote Offender Accountability

TCFV requests level funding of \$3.5 million in the TDCJ CJAD budget as well as a \$1.5 million increase for staffing support, for a total request of **\$5 million**.

Request: \$600,000 in the 88th Legislative Session, Article I - OOG, Domestic Violence High Risk Teams (DVHRTs)

Domestic Violence High Risk Cases



204 Texans were killed by their intimate partner in 2021.



Domestic Violence High Risk cases **went up over 30%** in just the last year.

DVHRTs support survivor safety by creating a community coordinated initiative in which survivors at the highest lethality risk get enhanced support from team members including law enforcement, advocacy representatives, probation and parole officers, and the prosecutor's office. The presence of these various partners ensures that not only is the criminal legal system working to hold offenders accountable, but survivors at the most risk receive supportive and stabilizing services. This holistic wraparound model is a trauma-informed approach to maximize victim safety.

The 204 Texans who lost their lives at the hands of an intimate partner can never fully and truly be represented... their deaths represent an incalculable loss to their families and communities.

— HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS REPORT, 2021

OUR FUNDING REQUEST:



Engage in Homicide Prevention

TCFV requests level funding of **\$600,000** in the Office of the Attorney General budget.