



NEWS RELEASE

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ICADV Applauds Governor Reynolds & AG Bird \$5.5 m funding commitment for crime victim services

DES MOINES, Iowa – August 8, 2024 – The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is relieved on behalf of the victim service providers they represent and extremely grateful to Governor Reynolds and Attorney General Bird for [committing](#) \$5.5 million in federal ARPA funding from Iowa’s State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to help ensure Iowa crime victims continue to have access to critical support services in all of Iowa’s 99 counties.

“We are extremely grateful for their leadership and support in allocating these federal funds to victim support services. This one-time bridge funding was desperately needed to help fill a gaping hole resulting from the 42% cut to Iowa’s FY24 federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) victim assistance grant. The loss of \$5.4 million to Iowa’s largest source of funding for victim services would have decimated the capacity of service providers to continue offering the same level of support to crime victims,” said Dr. Maria Corona, ICADV Executive Director.

The current landscape for the availability of victim support services in Iowa is reaching a breaking point as the demand for support continues to rise and funding to provide victim services dwindles, leaving service providers without adequate resources to effectively meet the needs of crime victims across the state. Inconsistent funding over the last several years is already impacting access to services statewide and to the support most victims want and need. Limited funding for victim services not only means fewer crime victims can get help, but it also restricts the kinds of services available and ‘where’ victims can find support. Post-crisis services are most frequently requested because victims need help beyond what family and friends can provide. However, serving rural areas; effectively serving rape and human trafficking victims; and helping victims regain economic stability by finding safe housing or navigating drawn out legal proceedings are staff and resource intensive.

The one-time bridge funding helps mitigate the devastating impact of last year’s massive loss in federal funds, but ICADV remains concerned about FY 25 funding. Federal VOCA grants are the largest source of funding for victim services nationwide and without Congressional action to stabilize the fund, service providers will be in the same position next year. Moving forward, increased investment for victim services from federal and state policymakers is needed to effectively support crime victims. ICADV appreciates Governor Reynolds and AG Bird’s commitment to crime victims by allocating these desperately needed federal funds and looks forward to continued partnership to ensure quality victim support services remain available statewide.

About the [Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)

The [Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(ICADV\)](#) provides education and certification training, support, and technical assistance to domestic violence service providers, enabling them to establish housing and supportive services for victims/survivors and their dependents. We also serve as an information clearinghouse, primary point of contact, and resource center on domestic violence for the state. We support the development of policies, protocols, and procedures to enhance domestic violence intervention and prevention.

To learn more, visit www.icadv.org or follow us on social media:

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