

Sexual and Domestic Violence Support and Services Funding

**Fiscal Year 2017 Budget
March 2016**

Line Item (service area)	FY2015	FY2016 (current)	FY2017 Gov's H2	FY2017 JDI request	Amount of increase requested
If Governor's H2 Consolidation is proposed by the Legislature, JDI makes the following budget request. Proposed consolidation language follows below.					
<i>Governor's H2 Consolidated Line Item</i> DPH Line Item 4513-1130			\$30,647,153	\$33,500,000	\$2,852,847
If Legislature maintains separate line items as currently in FY16 budget, JDI makes the following budget request					
<i>Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention & Treatment Services</i> DPH Line Item 4513-1130	\$5,757,078	\$6,482,068		\$7,500,000	\$1,017,932
<i>Support Services for People at Risk of Domestic Violence</i> DCF Line Item 4800-1400	\$24,448,905	\$26,148,905		\$28,000,000	\$ 1,851,095
SANE 4510-0810 is not included in consolidation proposal; budget request below is the same with or without consolidation of the other 2 line items.					
<i>Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and Pediatric SANE</i> DPH Line item 4510-0810	\$3,754,426	\$4,357,869	\$4,450,449	\$4,595,000	\$144,551
Totals	\$33,960,409	\$36,988,842	\$35,097,602	\$38,095,000	\$2,997,398

DPH Line Item 4513-1130 + DCF Line Item 4800-1400

The Governor's H2 budget proposal includes a **consolidation of Support Services for People at Risk of Domestic Violence (DCF 4800-1400) into DPH Line Item 4513-1130**. The stated intention of the consolidation is to move all sexual and domestic violence services funding together under the Department of Public Health, emphasizing a public health approach to addressing these critical issues. Programs and services funded under these line items are considered level funded to FY16 in H2.

Should such a consolidation be in the final FY17, JDI and our member programs advocate for a smooth transition that will not disrupt survivor services and violence prevention activities, nor negatively impact program functioning. We also advocate for revised language (below) from what was proposed in H2, to maintain the existence of critical services that are currently being provided to survivors.

Proposed Language 4513-1130 if consolidated with DCF 4800-1400:

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention and Survivor Services

For sexual and domestic violence prevention and survivor services including intimate partner abuse education (formerly batterer intervention services); services for immigrants and refugees; rape crisis center survivor services and prevention; community engagement, intervention services and crisis housing for sexual violence and intimate partner violence in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities; provided further that services funded through this line shall include a statewide domestic violence hotline, community based domestic violence response, emergency and transitional residential services for sexual and domestic violence victims and their children, supervised visitation and trauma services for children who witness violence.

Thanks to Legislative support, sexual and domestic violence funding was increased by \$3m in FY16!

In FY16, we advocated for approximately \$6m in funding for the 3 line items above that support a wide array of sexual and domestic violence programs and services. We are grateful that the Legislature approved \$3m of this request!

Because of the increase to DPH 4513-1130 and DCF 4800-1400, programs in local communities have been able to build capacity in a number of ways:

- Rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs are able to increase levels of staffing, address staff pay and benefits to employees;
- Survivors are receiving increased access to emergency services such as transportation, goods to meet basic needs, access to interpreters, housing stabilization resources, and more;
- More resources are available for staff professional development and support;
- Each program funded to support refugee and immigrant survivors of domestic violence has received small increases to increase advocacy and language access;
- Intimate partner abuse education programs (formerly batterer intervention) have increased staffing and added 20 additional education groups in addition to a new program in Berkshire County. Some programs were able to provide increased staffing to promote victim contacts; and
- LGBTQ/T services have also increased, such as expansion of crisis line access.

The FY16 increases allowed us to get halfway to our goal to recover from FY09 funding cuts and address remaining unmet need. We hope to build on this capacity even further! The unmet needs and need for program capacity in the Commonwealth are evidenced by the most recent Domestic Violence Census and the increasing number of calls to Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Hotlines (see accompanying data sheet). **Adjusted for inflation, FY09 funding was higher for some programs than current FY16 funding.**

Resources are still needed to:

- Increase # of advocates across the Commonwealth supporting sexual and domestic violence survivors.
- Increase capacity for local programs to participate on local high risk teams, sexual assault response teams, and other multidisciplinary groups that are identifying gaps and changing systems.
- Additional language access capacity to meet the needs in local communities.
- Further increase Intimate Partner Abuse Education resources and groups.
- Expand the capacity of culturally specific services, including access for LGBTQ/T victims and survivors.
- Increase outreach and education, as well as prevention education, in schools and in communities.

DPH Line Item 4510-1810 (SANE and Pedi-SANE)

Additional funding in FY16 allowed the SANE program to expand in the Berkshires and the South Shore and a new SANE program is currently being developed in Lowell. As this expansion has occurred, the need for medical accompaniment from local rape crisis center and other victim supports are needed to meet the increased capacity in these locations and across the Commonwealth. The increase proposed in H2 over FY16 reflects maintenance funding to maintain the current level of service in FY17.

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