
Invest \$20M



In Sexual Assault Crisis Services in Illinois

Illinois sexual assault crisis centers request an investment of **\$20 million** in state General Revenue Funds for sexual assault victims and sexual assault prevention activities. This investment is overdue in our state as it has been more than **two decades** since Illinois significantly increased General Revenue funding for rape crisis services. A \$20 million investment averages \$943 per survivor served by a center.

Why Now?

Sexual assault crisis services are suffering from two devastating funding issues:

○ **Funding Cuts:** A \$9.4 million cut in FY24 federal VOCA funding and an expected additional 40% cut in VOCA funding in FY25.

○ **Increased Costs:** Centers are struggling to pay competitive staff wages as the cost of living rises. Without a significant increase in state General Revenue funds to address wage gaps, centers are experiencing greater turnover and staff that remain are suffering burnout. 45% of centers were unable to provide cost of living adjustments in FY24. If state funding increases, every center would increase staff salaries.

Reduced staff and frequent turnover mean sexual assault survivors are waiting longer for or going without crucial services. Sexual assault crisis center staff are among the first responders to survivors. It is critical for the state of Illinois to increase its investment in these vital services.

Impact of Funding Crisis

1,400

fewer clients expected to receive in-person services from rape crisis centers in FY24 compared to FY23.

57%

of crisis centers reduced staff.

45%

of crisis centers were forced to create a waiting list for counseling and/or advocacy services.

4

crisis center satellite offices closed in Illinois communities.

15

hospitals no longer receive 24/7 emergency response from sexual assault crisis center staff to support survivors.