



## Recommendations to Increase Funding For Domestic Violence Programs

- Increase the general fund allocation by \$2 million for domestic violence programs.
- Increase the marriage license fee by \$20 to fund domestic violence programs.

### Talking Points

- Approximately 90 domestic violence programs in the state provide crisis intervention services for all 100 counties, including shelter, crisis counseling, court advocacy and support groups.
- Additional funding will allow programs to stabilize their funding base to provide crisis intervention services AND to enhance prevention efforts with the goal of ending the cycle of violence.
- The number of adult victims served by domestic violence programs increased by 35.6% from 1997 to 2002, while the general fund allocation has remained at \$2,682,500 since 1997.
- Currently, domestic violence programs receive \$29,500 from the general fund allocation plus a percentage of marriage license fees, which was approximately \$12,800 in 2003. The amount of funding *per program* has actually decreased each year since 1997 due to fluctuations in the marriage license fees collected and the number of programs funded.
- Programs are suffering cuts from local funding sources at a time when the demand for services is continuing to increase, AND reduced funding for other community based services such as mental health and substance abuse has meant that victims rely more heavily on services provided by domestic violence programs.
- Finally, in fiscal year 2001-02, 1,448 victims were denied shelter because of a lack of capacity. Victims of domestic violence and their children should not be turned away from a safe place to stay.