

Increase Funding for Rape Crisis Centers

Over the last 7 years NC Rape Crisis Centers have seen a 28% increase in victims seeking services. Since then Rape Crisis Centers have received only one increase in funding from the general fund. In 1999 the NC General Assembly increased funding from \$838,500 to its current level of \$1,117,500. When this increase was allocated only 65 programs shared this money. Now in 2004 there are 73 Rape Crisis Programs serving 100 North Carolina counties sharing the same \$1,117,500. These funds are critical for supporting sexual assault programs 24-hour hotlines, crisis counseling to victims, support groups, community education and prevention efforts, as well as victim accompaniment during medical treatment and throughout the legal system. The cost of preventing sexual violence is FAR LESS than treating its effects-medical treatment, counseling, work absenteeism; law enforcement time, prosecution and court costs.

- The fiscal year 03-04 \$1,117,500 is distributed by the NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission and when broken out the numbers are:

65 Sexual Assault programs	\$17,911.75 each
8 new Sexual Assault programs¹	\$13,500 each
North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault	\$13,500

- In the U.S. rape is the most costly of all crimes to its victims totaling \$127 billion a year considering factors such as medical cost, lost earnings, pain, suffering and lost quality of life.²
- The average salary of NC rape crisis first responder/victim advocates on call twenty-four hours a day seven days a week is only \$ 21, 033.³
- NC Rape Crisis Centers have undergone cutbacks in funding from other funding sources such as the United Way and local governments as well as experienced significant decreases in charitable contributions.
- For fiscal year 04-05 only 16 programs providing sexual assault services received funding through the federal Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA). The VOCA fund comes from fines and forfeitures from offenders in the federal court system, NOT FROM TAX DOLLARS.

¹ These programs previously only provided services to domestic violence victims

² Miller, Ted, Mark Cohen & Brian Wiersema (January 1996) *Victims Costs & Consequences: A New Look* Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice Report, U.S. Department of Justice.

³ Salary Survey Results for Local Rape Crisis Centers (2000) NCCASA.

