

OVERVIEW & OUTLOOK

The White House's Commitment to Combating Violence Against Women Nationwide

In June 2009, the White House Announced the First-Ever Position of White House Advisor on Violence Against Women

- For the past six months, Lynn Rosenthal has led the first-ever White House effort to stop violence and sexual assault against women and to continue and expand Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) initiatives

The White House Raised the Profile of Domestic Violence Issues Across Departments, Agencies, States, Tribal Communities, and Localities – and Took Unprecedented Steps to Address Them

- Provided much-needed leadership and coordination of interagency workgroups to strengthen collaboration among federal agencies to combat domestic violence
- Integrated domestic-violence issues into other Administration priorities, such as the White House Fatherhood Initiative, The White House Council on Women and Girls, HUD's efforts to fight homelessness, and the Justice Department's recent effort to better combat the disproportionate violence in tribal communities
- Put a strong emphasis on combating sexual assault, bringing federal agencies together to focus on an endemic backlog of rape kits

Persistent and Collaborative Leadership Resulted in a \$130.5 Million Fund Increase in the President's FY-2011 Budget to Combat Violence Against Women

- The White House worked with federal agencies and constituency groups to identify the most critical needs and gaps in the response to domestic violence and sexual assault
- Conversations with the Office of Management and Budget led to a FY-2011 budget that helps meet critical needs for emergency services and assistance for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking

The 2011 Budget: Provides Record \$730 Million to Combat Violence Against Women

- Since the 1994 passage of VAWA, thousands of these victims have broken their silence and reached out for help, benefiting from life-saving services, a more robust and proactive criminal-justice system, and increased public awareness
- The President's FY-2011 Budget continues this strong response, bolsters current funding, and responds to the emerging needs of communities

The 2011 Budget: Addresses Funding Gaps in Local Services for Neediest Victims

- Provides a \$100 million funding increase from the Crime Victims Fund to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other local services for victims
 - The Crime Victims Fund does not consist of a single taxpayer dollar; it is self-sustaining and supported by criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, and penalties for federal offenders
- Provides \$140 million for battered women's shelters and services, an increase of \$10 million over 2010

The 2011 Budget: Provides Vital Funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline

- To ensure that every call is answered, the budget provides \$4.5 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Teen Dating Violence Helpline, an increase of \$1.3 million increase over 2010
- In 2009, the National Hotline answered more than 260,000 calls for help, an 8% increase over the 2008 – but an additional 10% of callers hung up before they could be helped

The 2011 Budget: Bolsters Legal Support for Victims of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

- Recognizing that 1 in 6 women – and 1 in 33 men – will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes, the budget provides \$30 million in VAWA funding for victims of sexual assault, a \$15 million increase over 2010
 - The Sexual Assault Services Program provides crisis intervention, advocacy within the criminal justice system, support during forensic exams, and related assistance
- To support victims in the legal system, the budget provides \$50 million in VAWA funding for Legal Assistance for Victims, a \$9 million increase over 2010
 - The Civil Legal Assistance Program provides legal representation to help victims obtain protective orders and other relief provided by the courts.
- To continue improvements in the criminal justice system, the budget provides \$188 million in STOP grants for better training, improved data collection, specialized law enforcement and prosecution units, and specialized courts

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