

## THE ASK

We are requesting a total of **\$954,000 in state funding through the Department of Social Services** (where all state-only funding for domestic violence services is currently housed) to cover 18 full-time Child & Family Advocates (1 FTE per member organization). This equates to \$53,000 in state funding per site to supplement the \$11,500 each site currently receives in federal pass-through. When combined, these dollars will cover the **salary and benefits of 1 FTE per site** (not administrative overhead).

## THE PROBLEM

- There is currently **no state funding provided in Connecticut for Child & Family Advocates** within the state's 18 local domestic violence organizations (CCADV's 18 member organizations).
- Federal pass-through funding provided by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) covers approximately .3 FTE Child & Family Advocates at each of the 18 member organizations (\$11,500 per site in federal pass-through funding)
- Considering that there were 4,632 children served in FY19 and that funding was provided for .3 FTE Child & Family Advocate in our 18 local member organizations, current funding allows Child & Family Advocates to provide **2.4 hours of service to each child per year**.
- Providing supportive evidence- and strengths-based resiliency services for children and the non-offending parent (e.g. survivor) is paramount to the overall safety and stability of the family, but is not sustainable under the current funding structure.

## CT-SPECIFIC DATA

In fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), CCADV's 18 member organizations provided direct services to...

- **4,632 children**, including both shelter-based (e.g., the child and parent/survivor resided in shelter) and community-based services (e.g. child and parent/survivor attended services without residing in shelter).
- In total, **921 children** stayed in shelter with their parent and over **60% were under 6 years old**.

According to the Connecticut State Police 2018 Family Violence Arrest Report, **children under the age of 18 were present at 1,474 family violence incidents**.

## PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING TRAUMA

It is important that children who experience family violence in their home are provided a comprehensive and holistic approach that takes into account their different needs. Families benefit from services that incorporate a multi-faceted approach involving both large and small scale change. By working with the family unit, service providers gain greater insight into the level of violence experienced by all members of the family and can assist in the continuous development of age appropriate safety planning.

The Child & Family Advocate will support the non-offending parent in identifying protective factors that will enhance the relationship with child(ren). Building protective factors are about helping to ensure the basic needs of the family are met, such as food, clothing, and shelter, as well as connecting parents and children to various services they request. Building resilience is not only important for the child, but also the parent experiencing violence. Parental resilience is the ability to constructively cope with all types of challenges. It is about creatively solving problems, building trusting relationships, maintaining a positive attitude, and seeking help when it is needed. While no one can eliminate stress from parenting, building parental resilience can positively affect how a parent interacts with her or his child(ren). The most effective interventions that help children are those that help their parents to increase their own safety and build on their own resiliency.

## EVIDENCE-BASED SERVICES PROVIDED BY CCADV MEMBER ORGANIZATION CHILD & FAMILY ADVOCATES

Currently Child & Family Advocates utilize various trauma-informed, evidence-based, and resiliency-driven approaches to their work with children and families:

- Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA)
- Mom's Empowerment & Kid's Club Curriculum
- Play, music and art therapy
- Child-specific responses to trauma and violence

*For questions or additional information, please contact:*

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Learn more at [www.ctcadv.org](http://www.ctcadv.org)

## OUR MEMBERS

Our members, the state's 18 domestic violence organizations, provide critical services to survivors across the state 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Services include:

- Individual counseling and support groups
- Emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid rehousing
- Advocacy to access basic needs
- Court-based advocacy in criminal and civil court
- Age-appropriate advocacy and support services for children & teens
- Community education



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