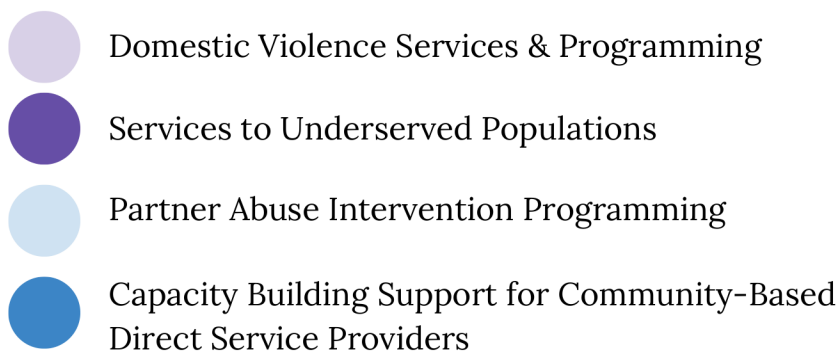
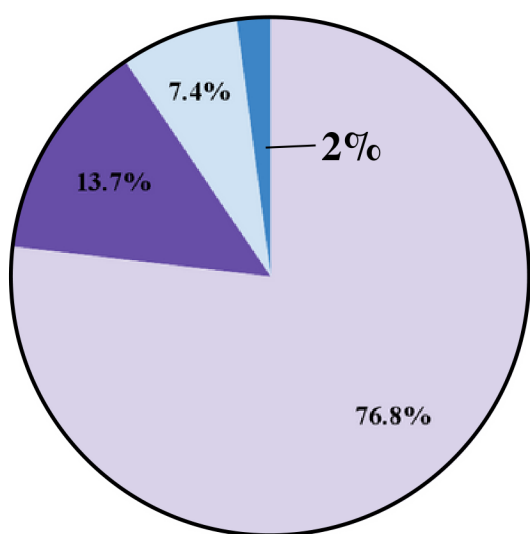




Last year Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly made a **critical investment** in the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) community by increasing the state allocation to **\$70.65 million** for fiscal year 2023. This was the first substantial increase in gender-based violence services funding since it was first added to the state budget. Service providers across the state have shared details on the change the additional funding has meant for their organizations, their staff and the survivors they serve. **Our ask as a community is for Governor Pritzker to include some of these success stories in his budget address** and reiterate his commitment to the gender-based violence community, frontline workers and survivors by signaling to the General Assembly the need to keep our current levels of funding intact.

## FY '23 Total Domestic Violence Funding Allocation Breakdown



## Service Needs

As stewards of the Illinois Domestic Hotline, The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence can track statewide trends related to survivor needs. In 2022, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline received contacts from more than 37,000 individuals seeking assistance. **This is the fourth consecutive year of record-breaking call levels, a 50% increase in calls since 2019.** Hotline texts and chats saw a drastic increase of 64% and 587% from 2020 to 2022, respectively.<sup>1</sup> The Safe Rides program, which began in February of 2021 and provides survivors with Uber rides to safe destinations, has doubled in its second year.<sup>2</sup> This influx of calls has been managed by a dedicated team of Victim Information & Resource Advocates (VIRAs) and their supervisors who worked more than 1,850 hours of overtime in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

Between pre-pandemic 2019 and 2022 service needs increased: shelter (39%), legal advocacy (78%), and counseling (11%). Regions in the state experienced long periods of time without domestic violence shelter beds (88 days), cribs (199), or bed and cribs (96) in 2022.<sup>4</sup>

Number of Nights Without Shelter in 2022 Statewide	
No Beds	88
No Cribs	199
No Beds & No Cribs	96
Less than 5 Beds	209

[1] Statistics from internal IL DV Hotline's database, iCarol

[2] Statistics from internal Illinois Domestic Violence ride tracking system, Uber Health

[3] Statistic from internal Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline human resources database, ADP

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# Sustained Investment

While the direct service providers have only had a handful of months to use the state's increased investment in gender-based violence services, we have already been able to see the investment have a real impact on services and providers.

- **Waitlists for essential services have been cut** as organizations have had funding to increase staffing and ensure more manageable caseloads for their teams.

"For this fiscal year, our domestic violence program can increase our counseling and therapy capacity to help more survivors and better tackle our waiting list that has persisted since before the COVID-19 pandemic."

- Direct Service Provider

- **Staff pay increases** have been made possible for those providing direct services to survivors. Multiple service providers have emphasized the impact pay increases have had on staff moral and their ability to recruit staff and remain competitive in the job market.

"We were having a huge problem hiring direct service staff because the pay was so low. As a result, we had to turn people away due to having no staff to take care of them. The managers were doing the overnight shifts due to no staff. When we got the increase, we were able to increase the hourly rate by 25%. We saw an immediate effect of being able to attract new staff." - Direct Service Provider

"The increase has helped to make significant salary adjustments aligned with our Latina Pay Equity commitment. We have been able to increase the minimum wage from \$16.25 to \$18.25/ hour which will allow us to expand our administrative and childcare capacity." - Direct Service Provider

- **Educational outreach and domestic violence prevention** efforts have been expanded by some providers. We know as a community the key to preventing abuse is early intervention, education and access to support systems.<sup>5</sup>

"We have been able to create 6 additional positions, including a prevention and outreach coordinator. In just one quarter, we have reached an additional 130 people getting prevention education and outreach on domestic violence to both schools and the community. We have also expanded after-hours and weekend counseling availability with a part-time remote counselor which has enabled us to provide counseling services to an additional 17 clients in just three months with that one part-time position. An additional counselor has also recently come on board which will expand our reach even further."

- Direct Service Provider

- **Workforce development training** is one of the most critical aspects of breaking the cycle of abuse many survivors live through. Having service providers who understand the complexities of what it means to be a survivor is vital to preparing them for long term success in the workforce.

"We have partnered with Women Employed (WE) to pilot their Career Foundations Curriculum in a domestic violence/trauma informed manner. This is a tremendous opportunity to help create opportunities for survivors to move from economic dependence to not only independence but beyond. This project will cover local pathway resources, programs of study and planning for a sustainable career." - Direct Service Provider

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[4] Statistics from internal IL DV Hotline's database, iCarol

[5] Centers for Disease Control, Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices (2017) <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv-technicalpackages.pdf>