

American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Fund Recommendation Cover Sheet

Please submit this document with any recommendations for funding from Rhode Island's allocation of federal fiscal recovery funds available through the American Rescue Plan Act. This information will be made available to the public along with any detailed documents submitted that describe the proposal. It is encouraged that such documents identify clear goals and objectives and quantifiable metrics.

This is not a formal request for funds, and submission of recommendations does not guarantee a response, public hearing, or appropriation from the General Assembly.

Name of Lead Agency: Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Additional agencies making recommendation (if applicable): _____

Contact Person / Title: Tonya King Phone: (401) 467-9440

Address: 422 Post Road Warwick, RI 02888

Email Address (if available) tking@ricadv.org

Brief Project Description (attachments should contain details)

Request for \$28 million of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to address the needs of domestic violence victims in our state.

Total request: \$ \$28 million

One-time or Recurring Expense? _____

ARPA Eligibility Category (check all that apply) – See link for further information

<https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/arpa/commdocs/Treasury%20-%20Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf>

- Respond to the public health emergency and its economic impacts x
- Premium pay to eligible workers _____
- Government services/state revenue replacement __x
- Water/sewer/broadband infrastructure



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Member Agencies

Blackstone Valley
Advocacy Center
Domestic Violence
Resource Center of
South County
Elizabeth Buffum
Chace Center
Women's Resource Center

Task Force

Sisters Overcoming
Abusive Relationships

Affiliate Members

Center for Southeast Asians
Crossroads Rhode Island
Family Service of Rhode Island
McAuley Ministries –
McAuley Village
Progreso Latino
YWCA Rhode Island

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Ryan Pearson
Chairman, Finance Committee, State Senate
The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chairman, Finance Committee, House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House

Dear Chairman Pearson & Chairman Abney,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV), our network of member agencies, our task force of survivors, SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships) and domestic abuse victims across Rhode Island to request the immediate release of **\$28 million of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to address the needs of domestic violence victims in our state.**

The RICADV is the state's coalition made up of agencies serving domestic violence victims from one end of Rhode Island to the other. Our core member agencies were among the first agencies to provide services for victims of domestic violence in R.I., and our services have been the bedrock of our community's response to domestic violence for almost half a century and have been a critical part of the COVID-19 pandemic response infrastructure in our state. The pandemic has layered a crisis over the already existing public health issue that is domestic violence. Since **the ARPA funding provides us the opportunity for rebuilding our state**, we were dismayed when initial spending plans did not have specific provisions to address the needs of domestic violence victims. Furthermore, while we are pleased the Rhode Island Foundation's Steering Committee has specifically noted domestic violence survivors as part of the \$50 million immediate relief funding, we are concerned a portion of this immediate funding alone will not adequately address the needs of victims and their children and may leave them even more vulnerable than they are now. For those reasons, we are respectfully requesting:

- 1) Immediate authorization and release of **\$2 million** of the ARPA funding **to cover the dramatic Victims of Crime Act cuts** affecting domestic violence victim services provided by the RICADV and its member agencies since 2019.
- 2) **\$10.2 million** for immediate relief **to support advocacy services** provided by the RICADV and its network of member agencies that will support victims and their children.
- 3) **\$3 million** to address severe gaps in specialized services for the most vulnerable populations affected by domestic violence including Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) individuals, immigrants, elderly, LGBTQ+ and gender non-

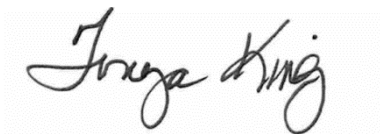
conforming individuals, people with disabilities and victims who are incarcerated with **\$3 million**.

4) As recommended by the Rhode Island Foundation, allocate **\$9 million to build, renovate and increase domestic violence shelter capacity** and provide long-term and short-term safe, affordable housing to victims of domestic violence, including emergency and transitional housing and supportive services needed for victims to thrive.

5) **\$3.8 million to prevent domestic violence from happening in the first place** by investing in strategies that will create healthy communities and increase the quality of life for Rhode Islanders and prevent victimization of domestic violence.

As the state's coalition, we are leading the effort to gather service providers and create a sustainable plan for the investment of the funds. **Our expertise in domestic violence and our network are an asset to the Rhode Island community. We would welcome a meeting with you, or an opportunity to appear before your committee, to discuss our plan to end domestic violence in our state and how the ARPA funds can be invested to safeguard the lives of the Rhode Islanders with the most life-threatening needs: Victims of domestic abuse.**

We all know someone – whether we recognize it or not – who has experienced or been affected by domestic abuse. Today, we have the chance to truly support them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tonya King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tonya" and last name "King" clearly distinguishable.

Tonya King
Executive Director

Cc: Representative Alex D. Marszalkowski, Co-Chair, ARPA Task Force
Representative Carlos E. Tobon, Co-Chair, ARPA Task Force



FACT SHEET:

About the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV)

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence. It was formed in 1979 by local domestic violence service agencies to provide statewide leadership on the issue and to coordinate the state's domestic violence response and advocacy efforts.

- The RICADV is the leader in the passage of domestic violence-related legislation and systems change in Rhode Island to make them more responsive to the needs of survivors and their children.
- The RICADV provides statewide support, training and technical assistance to its member agencies, state partners and community-based agencies. Grounded in anti-oppression and anti-racism, we strive to create conditions to improve the lives of victims while working to disrupt the systems of oppression.
- The RICADV is nationally recognized for its task force of survivors, SOAR (Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships), its awarding-winning strategic communications and media advocacy and its innovative domestic violence primary prevention programs and efforts. The RICADV is also a member of the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

The RICADV is a network of ten member agencies providing a wide range of free, confidential comprehensive services ranging from emergency crisis interventions to supportive culturally-specific services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence and stalking in every city and town in Rhode Island.



Full Member Agencies

Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center
Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County
Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center
Women's Resource Center



Affiliate Member Agencies

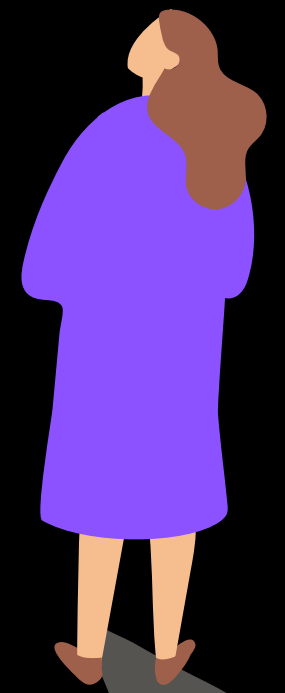
Center for Southeast Asians
Crossroads Rhode Island
Family Service of Rhode Island
McAuley Ministries
Progreso Latino
YWCA Rhode Island

In 2020 alone, RICADV member agencies provided the following:

- **9,259** individual victims of domestic violence received services
- **45,543** individual services were provided by advocates to survivors
- **17,690** Statewide Victims of Crime Helpline and agency hotline calls were answered
- **2,648** victims were assisted by a court advocate in obtaining a restraining order
- **489** victims of domestic violence received clinical/counseling services
- **486** children who witnessed domestic violence received services
- **333** adults and children stayed in shelters/safe homes totaling **20,649** emergency shelter bed nights
- **127** adults and children lived in transitional housing totaling **26,616** transitional housing bed nights
- **207** victims participated in a support or educational group



WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MORE LIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Invest in Rhode Islanders' safety through the American Rescue Plan Act

Rhode Island is the only state in the northeast that hasn't released any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) emergency funds.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on survivors of domestic violence, leaving them even more vulnerable. On top of this crisis, agencies serving victims face more devastating cuts to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding in R.I., which are bound to cut programs and advocate positions who respond to victims in need.

The lack of state investment in safe, affordable housing, supportive services and prevention of domestic violence is putting Rhode Islanders at risk.



*See reverse for breakdown of investments.

THE TIME IS NOW TO INVEST
IN LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS:

INVEST \$28M

from ARPA funding to
address the needs of
domestic violence
victims in our state.*

R.I. Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

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Tonya King,
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Media Contact:
Brittany Ballantyne,
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HOW CAN WE INVEST IN THE SAFETY OF RHODE ISLANDERS?

By investing \$28 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding to:

REPLENISH

life-saving victim services provided by the RICADV and member agencies affected by cuts to VOCA funding with \$2 million.

STABILIZE

survivors in crisis by establishing and strengthening long-term services with an investment of \$10.2 million.

ADDRESS

severe gaps in specialized services for the most vulnerable populations affected by domestic violence including Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) individuals, immigrants, elderly, LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming individuals, people with disabilities and victims who are incarcerated with \$3 million.

SHELTER

victims and their children by allocating \$9 million in housing funds to rebuild, renovate and increase domestic violence shelters capacity, and to provide short-term safe and affordable housing.

PREVENT

the cycle of violence by dedicating \$3.8 million to primary prevention strategies that will create healthy communities and increase the quality of life for Rhode Islanders.