

own beds," says Albemarle Hopeline's Patricia Youngblood. When that's not possible, for whatever reason, women can turn to the program's shelter, which provided 4,000 nights of service during 2003. That's an impressive number, but it doesn't represent the total level of need. In fact, about 360 women who qualified for shelter could not receive it through the Hopeline because the 12-bed facility was full.

In the foothills of Western North Carolina, Kathleen Humphrey is the former director of Safe Inc. in Wilkes County, where more than 600 women and children were provided services last year and 125 spent at least one night in the shelter near downtown Wilkesboro. This free, confidential service is similar to many throughout North Carolina: grassroots agencies working to help families undergoing domestic violence and struggling to come up

Funding for Domestic Violence Services in North Carolina

According to figures collected by the legislature's Fiscal Research Division for the N.C. House Select Committee on Domestic Violence, in fiscal year 2003–2004 North Carolina spent almost \$27 million on domestic violence services and programs. (See Table 4) Services to victims—such as emergency shelters, hotlines, counseling, transitional housing, and other basic needs—accounted for almost \$12.9 million of the total state spending. Nearly half of that amount, \$6.2 million, was provided through grants by the Governor's Crime Commission, a Division of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

In the past, these grants have been awarded on a two-year, non-competitive basis to the local provider of domestic violence victim services. However, the Governor's Crime Commission has decided to return to competitive grants to assure that standards are met such as 24-hour staffing, hotlines with no answering machines, and weekend intake. Training for law enforcement, counselors, prosecutors, and social workers accounted for almost \$5 million of the \$27 million total.

The Department of Correction was appropriated \$67,410 to create an abuser treatment program at Albemarle Correctional Institution. The program, called the S.T.O.P. (Survey Think Options Prevent) and Change Direction Program, involves two anger management groups per year. A total of 50 inmates per year attend the program. The program has been in operation at Albemarle since 2001 and was the first program offered in a state prison facility on a continuing basis.¹ A

2004 law requires all inmates who have committed acts of domestic violence to complete such a program while incarcerated by the state.²

North Carolina spent more than \$4 million on legal services and court advocacy for domestic violence victims and their children. Roughly half of that amount went to the state Guardian Ad Litem program in the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts to cover costs of cases in which a child lives in a home where domestic violence occurs. The Governor's Crime Commission awarded more than \$1 million to legal services agencies. Legal Aid of North Carolina's Domestic Violence Initiative received \$1.2 million.

As mentioned above, new fees in the 2004 law will provide an estimated \$1.4 million to legal services agencies like Legal Aid of North Carolina. The bill amends Chapter 7A of the North Carolina General Statutes to add a new article entitled the Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Act that allots 95 cents of each fee collected for certain criminal and civil cases for the provision of legal services to domestic violence victims by legal service agencies.³

The state also provided more than \$100,000 in funding for community education programs related to domestic violence. An appropriation of \$53,650 from the N.C. Department of Administration funded grants to domestic violence agencies for educational services. The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services funded support groups facilitated by health departments and other providers. The Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, via the Governor's Crime Commission, awarded a

with the funding to meet the needs. Such programs can be literal lifesavers to victims and the first place where damage to children is being assessed. "These children are vulnerable to post-traumatic stress disorder," Humphrey says. "They have developmental problems, they become desensitized, they become aggressive. In healthy families, parents are supposed to keep kids safe. But in these kids' lives, mom is not able to protect herself, and dad is a per-

petrator. Many times, the child may even think he did something to cause it."

"There's typically an overlap of child abuse and domestic violence, but most counties have a fragmented approach to providing services, such as child care or psychological services," Starsoneck says. This is due largely to the varying sources of funding that must be tapped to pay for each service.

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\$64,694 grant to the Council for Women for community outreach.

For educational programs within the public schools, the Department of Administration awarded grants totaling \$26,825 to domestic violence agencies who facilitate anti-violence programs.

The Department of Correction in 2003–2004 spent more than \$1.6 million to develop specialized probation and parole caseloads for domestic violence in Wake and Mecklenburg counties. The specialized caseloads are in conjunction with the special domestic violence courts in these two counties. In addition, the Governor's Crime Commission administered more than \$1 million in grant funds to local law enforcement agencies.

North Carolina spent more than \$1 million on the judicial administration of domestic violence matters, both criminal and civil. The Governor's Crime Commission awarded some \$860,000 in grants to the Administrative Office of the Courts and to local prosecutors' offices to be used for domestic violence.

Finally, the Governor's Crime Commission, under authority of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, awarded another \$1 million in grants for other domestic violence services, including the statewide domestic violence registry and North Carolina's Statewide Automated Victim Assistance and Notification (SAVAN) system. The Statewide Domestic Violence Registry contains all domestic violence protective orders entered into the registry by the sheriff's office in the county where the order was issued and available to law enforcement officers

and the courts. SAVAN is a free and anonymous telephone program that provides information and notification to victims about an offender in prison or on community supervision. Callers may register for automatic telephone notification by SAVAN when an offender's status changes.⁴ The system is intended to alert the victim to any danger that may exist if the offender is transferred or released from jail or prison.

In May 2004, Governor Mike Easley announced the awarding of \$10 million in grants from the U.S. Departments of Justice and of Health and Human Services to support domestic violence programs in fiscal year 2004.⁵ The average award for a county domestic violence agency will be \$41,000. Funded projects include basic victim services, a children's counseling center, sheriff's investigators, court advocacy, and legal services.

—Adrienne Allison

FOOTNOTES

¹ Pamela Walker, "Domestic Violence Program Touts Success," press release, N.C. Department of Correction, Jan. 15, 2004. Available on line at <http://www.doc.state.nc.us/NEWS/2001/releases/domesticviolence.htm>.

² Session Law 2004-186 (House Bill 1354), "An Act To Strengthen the Laws Against Domestic Violence," Part I, Domestic Violence Offender Treatment, Section 1.2. Amends G.S. 143B-262(e).

³ N.C.G.S. 7A-305(a)(2).

⁴ See <http://www.ncsavan.org> for more.

⁵ "Governor Easley Announces \$27 Million in Crime Commission Grants," press release, Office of the Governor, May 26, 2004. Available at www.nccrimecontrol.org/NewsReleases/2004/GCC/GCCGrantsMay2004.html.