NNEDV Update on Federal Funding (03/25/2020):

Please see below for a breaking news update on the COVID 3 stimulus package - no action steps at this precise moment - but we will likely ask you to contact your Senators and Representatives once the bill passes to set us up for success in the next stimulus package.

The Senate has released its negotiated COVID 3 stimulus package, S. 3548 The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, today with significant improvements to address the needs of the most vulnerable among us. While some funds were included for domestic violence programs, significant gaps still remain to meet needs of programs, advocates, and survivors - and no specific sexual assault funding was included.

The Senate will vote on the package today and the House will likely pass by unanimous consent tomorrow. At this point, we need to pivot our attention to the next federal stimulus package - COVID 4 - and administrative advocacy, technical assistance, and implementation.

DV specific resources included in the final package
- $45 million for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, with a match waiver
- $2 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline

The Good
- Unemployment insurance provisions are expanded
- Serious investment in housing and homelessness including Emergency Solutions grants
- Direct payments to individuals - $1,200 for adults and $600 for children who filed taxes last year and meet the income requirements
- Small business loans that can help nonprofits in these challenging times with no exemption for non-profits under 500 employees who receive Medicaid
- Additional SNAP, Child Nutrition program, and Emergency food assistance program appropriations
- Funding for Legal Services Corporation
- Increase in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Childcare Development Block Grant
- Additional Appropriations for Runaway and Homeless Youth

The Gaps – Resources
- $100 million for the Sexual Assault Services Program (VAWA DOJ)*
- $55 million additional for FVPSA*
- $100 million for the STOP Formula Grant Program (VAWA DOJ)*
- $25 million for transitional housing (VAWA DOJ)*
- $25 million for rural programs (VAWA DOJ)*
- $25 million for Legal Assistance to Victims (VAWA DOJ)*
- $25 million to support families in the justice system (VAWA DOJ)*
- Other VAWA programs not included in House bill like Culturally Specific and Outreach to Underserved grant programs
*included in the House March 23rd counterproposal (H.R. 6379 – Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act).

The Gaps – Policies

- Match waivers for VAWA (DOJ) and VOCA Crime Victims Fund (DOJ)
- Specific language to ensure DV programs have access to HUD funding
- Immigrant access to healthcare
- Paid sick leave
- Other issue which may emerge

Next steps
We will continue to share messaging and strategy to ensure that we are set up for implementation, and the next stimulus package. We will likely email you once the package is passed in the House and the Senate will an action step!

Your advocacy helped secure these initial funds - we are incredibly grateful for your efforts! Thank you all for your relentless advocacy on behalf of survivors.

Team NNEDV