Funding Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services in Georgia: A Data Driven Approach

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

• Created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1981 as an executive branch agency, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is a statewide body established to build consensus and unity among the State’s diverse and interdependent criminal justice system components.

• CJCC serves as the statewide clearinghouse for criminal justice information and research, administers grant funding supporting victim assistance and criminal justice programs, and operates as the governing body for financial assistance to crime victims.

• CJCC administers the Crime Victims Emergency Fund which supports the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP). This offers financial support to innocent victims of violent crimes and encourages greater victim participation in the criminal justice process.
Georgia Statistical Analysis Center

- Established by executive order as a CJCC function in 1992
- Supports all the data collection and analysis for the Justice and Compliance Division and the Victim Assistance Division
- Fulfills CJCC’s statutory authority to serve as a criminal justice data clearinghouse and provide policy-relevant criminal justice research
- Small but mighty team of 11 analysts and DBAs
In the SFY 2022 Georgia budget conference bill (HB 81), the General Assembly instructed the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to “engage stakeholders to evaluate the current funding formula for domestic violence shelters and sexual assault centers and study the merits of an updated formula that takes into account many of the factors involved, including but not limited to the number of services provided, number of bed nights provided, area poverty level, service area, and area population.” (212.5)

Research Questions:
• What is the state’s role in funding domestic violence and sexual assault services?
• How should the state determine the cost of providing basic services for domestic violence and sexual assault serves?
• What factors should go into a funding formula?
First, we had to understand our current state of domestic violence and sexual assault programs in Georgia and understand the influence of state standards.

- **Certified Domestic Violence Shelters**: 41
- **Certified Dual Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Centers**: 7
- **Certified Sexual Assault Programs**: 21

**Standards for Service Provision**

**Domestic Violence Shelters**
- Nine Core Services
- Two services required to be provided 24/7
- Requirement for community outreach
- Requirement for coordination with criminal justice system
- Requirements for organization governance and fiscal management
- Requirements for staff training specific to domestic violence

**Sexual Assault Centers**
- Six Core Services
- 24/7 Crisis Hotline requirement
- Requirement for community education and outreach
- Requirement for coordination with criminal justice system
- Requirements for organizational governance and fiscal management
- Requirements for staff training specific to sexual assault
By understanding the cost for agencies to meet minimum state standards, we can communicate funding needs or goals to legislators, subgrantees, CJCC staff, and other external partners.

CJCC conducted a survey of domestic violence and sexual assault centers to assess agency financial health.

45 domestic violence agencies and 18 sexual assault centers responded to the survey.

### Key Takeaways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic Violence Shelters</th>
<th>Sexual Assault Centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>79%</strong></td>
<td><strong>70%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of Total Agency Expenses Associated with State Standards Compliance</td>
<td>Portion of Total Agency Expenses Associated with State Standards Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>9%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of State Standards-Associated Expenses covered with State-grant funds</td>
<td>Portion of State Standards-Associated Expenses covered with State-grant funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9%</strong></td>
<td><strong>6%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care services required under state standards</td>
<td>Care services required under state standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of different types of services available to victims from domestic violence agencies in most recent FY</td>
<td>Average number of different types of services available to victims from domestic violence agencies in most recent FY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$44.2M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12.3M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs to comply with state standards for State Certified Domestic Violence Shelters</td>
<td>Costs to comply with state standards for State Certified Sexual Assault Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>43%</strong></td>
<td><strong>55%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of expenses associated with state standards-compliance paid for with federal funds</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>#1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Service Personnel is the largest expense category associated with standards compliance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$25.6M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6.01M</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of state Standards-Associated Operating Expenses attributable to direct service provision</td>
<td>Portion of state Standards-Associated Operating Expenses attributable to direct service provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>71%</strong></td>
<td><strong>62%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portion of total Standards-Associated Operating Expenses attributable to direct service provision</td>
<td>Portion of total Standards-Associated Operating Expenses attributable to direct service provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$896K</strong></td>
<td><strong>$275K</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the median (50th percentile) as the benchmark, agencies spent over $896,000 on operating expenses to comply with state standards</td>
<td>Sexual Assault agencies spent an average $275,000 last Fiscal year on costs associated with standards compliance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The indicators in the funding formula show what is considered by CJCC when making a funding decision.

The formula rankings take into consideration how an agency performs in relation to their piers.

The ranking formula provides consistency in decision making when there are fluctuations in funding.
Funding Formula Factors

**Legislative Required Factors**
- Service Area Population
- Service Area Poverty Rate
- Service Area Square Miles
- Number of Counties Served
- Number of Victims Served
- Bed Nights

**Effort-Related Indicators**
- Number of DV Victims Served
- Number of non-DV/SA Victims served
- Number of Crisis Calls Received
- Number of Child Care Services Provided
- Number of Emergency Legal Advocacy Services Provided
- Number All Other Services

**Agency Capacity**
- Number of Victims Turned Away
- Average Three-Years Cash-on-Hand
- Number of Months Operating Expenses Cash-on-Hand
- Number of Months Operating Expenses Investments
Funding Formula Findings

**Distribution of Current Award Amounts**

\[ y = 738.46x + 293485 \]

\[ R^2 = 0.0127 \]

**Distribution of Awards after Formula 75% Current Award Base**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formula Permutation</th>
<th>Dollar Loss</th>
<th>Percent Loss</th>
<th>Number Agencies Losing Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-Factor Ranked Sum</td>
<td>(18,287.47)</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Committee Factors Ranked Sum</td>
<td>(18,260.99)</td>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Weighted Formula</td>
<td>(23,450.86)</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-Factors Ranked Sum</td>
<td>(22,657.99)</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>41</td>
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Samuel Gonzales
Statistical Analysis Center Director
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

sgonzales@cjcc.ga.gov  404-657-1971