



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PCADV Praises Gov. Wolf for Proposing Additional \$1.5 million for Domestic Violence Services

Money will be used to stabilize critical services across commonwealth

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 3, 2015 – The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence today commended the Wolf administration for proposing additional funding for domestic violence services for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The \$1.5-million increase would be used to provide lifesaving services to victims of domestic violence through PCADV's network of 60 community-based domestic violence centers that serve all 67 counties of Pennsylvania. The money will be used to stabilize critical services such as civil legal representation, medical advocacy and emergency shelter for victims and their children.

Noting that 141 Pennsylvanians died in domestic violence-related incidents in 2014, PCADV Executive Director Peg J. Dierkers said, "By his action today, Gov. Wolf has demonstrated his commitment to reducing violence in our communities and keeping families and children safer, a core function of government. We ask that members of the General Assembly join together, as they did last year, to approve Gov. Wolf's funding request for domestic violence services."

Dierkers pointed out that domestic violence remains at epidemic levels in Pennsylvania. In 2014, PCADV's community centers provided shelter, counseling, legal assistance and other services to 85,643 Pennsylvanians. They also handled 120,364 hotline calls seeking assistance. However, the centers had to refuse 6,152 requests for assistance due to insufficient funding.

"This restoration of funds continues the commitment of the Governor's office to restore lost capacity after a decade of flat state funding for domestic violence services in Pennsylvania," said Dierkers. "For many of our domestic violence centers, it has been a struggle to keep their doors open and provide the community with free and confidential services. This funding will help ensure that victims of domestic violence across Pennsylvania will continue to have access to high-quality, supportive services as they pursue a life free from violence."

About the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Founded in 1976, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the oldest statewide domestic violence coalition in the nation. Each year its statewide network of 60 community based centers serving all 67 counties provides assistance to more than 85,000 victims of domestic violence. PCADV also promotes public awareness of domestic violence-related issues through its PA SAYS NO MORE campaign, which it operates in partnership with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. For more information, visit www.pcadv.org or www.pasaysnomore.com; or follow PCADV on Twitter @pcadvorg and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pennsylvania-Coalition-Against-Domestic-Violence/479697025386367>.

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