

The Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant

What is The Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant?

The Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant (PHHSBG), which was appropriated \$98.9 Million for FY 2006 and \$99 million in the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution, provides states with grants for a wide range of important preventive health activities, including approximately \$7 million for victims of sexual violence. Since 1981, the PHHSBG has provided 61 states, tribes and territories with flexible funding the grantee can use to support services for those who need it most. Similar to his FY 2007 budget request, the President has once again recommended eliminating funding for the PHHSBG in FY 2008.

Why is the PHHSBG important to victims of sexual assault?

Within the PHHSBG, approximately \$7 million is set aside for programs and services that support victims of sexual violence. With the President's proposed elimination, the federal government shows a lack of understanding for the substantial needs of victims of sexual assault and the funding necessary to provide vital services. These funds are crucially important to rape crises centers, state sexual assault coalitions, and state health departments that provide services to victims.

During this year's Congressional appropriations process, we urge Congress to preserve PHHSBG funding to ensure victims of sexual violence continue to receive the support needed to overcome this trauma and lead productive lives.

What will happen if the PHHSBG is eliminated?

Every year 250,000 innocent people become victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault. We know that services to these victims are critical in helping with recovery, but equally important, they help break the cycle of sexual violence. In some states, PHHSBG funds are the only direct service funding available for rape crisis centers and state sexual assault coalitions. The loss of PHHSBG funds would result in a drastic reduction or elimination of critical services that help support:

- Rape crisis hotlines;
- Rape crisis centers;
- The Rape Prevention Resource Center;
- Technical assistance to programs providing services to sexual assault victims;
- Training of professionals to respond to the needs of sexual assault victims;
- Training of sexual assault counselor volunteers;
- Education materials and training to help prevent sexual assault;
- Purchase of rape exam kits;
- State and territorial sexual assault coalitions; and
- State surveillance systems.

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