



MISSIONS INC.
PROGRAMS



Domestic Violence Services
Chemical Dependency Services
Supportive Housing

May 11, 2022

The Honorable Carlos Mariani
449 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Warren Limmer
3221 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Mariani, Chair Limmer, and Conference Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to emphasize the need for Crime Victim Services funding in the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee Report. Missions Inc. Programs relies on Crime Victim Services funding to provide shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence. Despite a growing demand for services, there has not been an increase in base funding for Crime Victim Services since 2007.

Last year, 207 adults and children received over 7,600 nights of safe shelter and 966 individuals received legal advocacy from our programs. These services were made possible by Crime Victim Services funding. We are proud of the safety and support we were able to provide; but importantly, last year we also received 653 requests for shelter that we were *not* able to meet due to lack of capacity. When there aren't sufficient emergency shelter services to meet the needs of victims/survivors, many are forced to stay in unsafe situations or become homeless.

An increase in base funding for Crime Victim Services is crucial for programs like ours to not only continue the life-saving services we currently provide but to meet the emerging needs of victims/survivors in our community. Specifically, the increased investment would support direct client assistance to survivors, competitive wages for direct service staff, safe hotel stays for victims/survivors, culturally responsive programming, prevention programming, and more.

We urge you to include \$12.5 million in FY23 and \$17 million in FY24 and beyond in base funding for Crime Victim Services in the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee Report. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katy Daniels, MSW, LGSW
Executive Director
Missions Inc. Programs
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