



90 Pitkin Street  
East Hartford, CT 06108  
(860) 282-7899  
(860) 282-7892 Fax  
(800) 281-1481 (CT only)

**Member Shelter Programs**

The Umbrella  
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families  
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center  
Danbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse  
Enfield, CT

Greenwich YWCA  
Domestic Abuse Service  
Greenwich, CT

Interval House  
Hartford, CT

Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis  
Meriden, CT

New Horizons  
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center  
New Britain, CT

Domestic Violence Services  
New Haven, CT

Women's Center of SE CT  
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services  
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project  
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven  
Waterbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Willimantic, CT

To: Appropriations Committee  
From: Linda Blozie  
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Date: March 18, 2009  
Re: ACC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,  
2011, and Making Appropriations Therefor.

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Linda Blozie and I am the Director of Public Affairs for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Thank you for accepting my testimony regarding Bill 6365: An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2011, and Making Appropriations Therefor.

As you know, for the past seven years, CCADV and its members programs have been working to increase access to emergency shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence. This has been a particularly challenging experience. We have many compelling stories, but in the essence of time we have asked our member programs to submit written testimony. I understand your schedules are hectic, so I politely ask you to please take time to read what has been written.

I don't think there is anyone here today who cannot empathize or does not understand the need for domestic violence services. Yet, in an environment of limited funds for social programs, it seems important to demonstrate that our programs are *effective and efficient* – that these programs are improving people's lives in specific, measurable, and cost-effective ways.

This year, instead of asking you to make an additional \$3 million allocation that I know will not be feasible; I come to you with a possible solution that will require your support. With the passing of the federal stimulus package, Connecticut will see additional dollars through the Emergency Shelter Grant program. When speaking to Representative John Larson's office, it is estimated that anywhere from \$8.5-\$17 million will be headed our way. Some of this money will be allocated to municipalities, where our domestic violence programs can submit applications for funding. Some of our members receive this funding, while many do not.

The remainder of the Emergency Shelter Grant funding will sit within the Department of Social Services, specifically within the homelessness line item. If this additional funding becomes incorporated into the budget, I would ask that you allocate \$3 million of this money to support our request to increase access to shelter and support services.

In the meantime, we will be meeting with DSS to discuss our proposal. We will also be contacting the Governor's office and the Office of Policy and Management. I hope you will seriously consider our proposal. If necessary, I am available to speak further with members of the committee. Thank you.