

# THE CRITICAL GAP:

## THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS ON SUPPORT SERVICES ACROSS AMERICA



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# Executive Summary

The [recent reduction and suspension of federal funding for social support services](#) represents an unprecedented crisis for organizations providing critical assistance to vulnerable populations nationwide. This funding shortfall has created significant gaps in the social safety net that millions of Americans depend on, threatening to undermine decades of progress in addressing poverty, violence, and economic inequality.

Support organizations currently serve over 5.8 million Americans annually across all 50 states, delivering essential services including housing assistance, healthcare access, food security, crisis intervention, and economic empowerment programs [1]. These services form a vital infrastructure that helps individuals and families overcome challenges, build resilience, and achieve self-sufficiency. Research consistently demonstrates that these programs generate substantial returns on investment through reduced emergency service utilization, improved health outcomes, increased workforce participation, and decreased reliance on long-term public assistance [2].

## Critical Impact on Women's and Children's Services

Among the most severely affected by these funding cuts are women's support services, which now face an existential threat at a time when demand continues to rise. Organizations serving women and children currently assist over 1.2 million individuals annually with documented success in breaking cycles of violence, reducing poverty, and fostering economic independence [3]. [The Women's Advocacy Center](#), highlighted in this report, exemplifies this impact, delivering more than 1,300 services annually with remarkable outcomes: 41% of participants successfully reenter the job market or increase their income [4], and 90% of women who left abusive relationships report feeling empowered to permanently end the cycle of abuse [5].

Without immediate intervention from private donors, foundations, and state and local governments, an estimated 680,000 women and their children nationwide will lose access to life-changing and potentially life-saving support services [6]. For women and children experiencing domestic violence, these cuts could have lethal consequences, as research shows domestic violence homicides increase by 26% in regions where support services are significantly reduced [7]. Additionally, 76% of women unable to access support services return to abusive relationships due to economic dependency [8].

The social and economic costs of this service reduction will far exceed the immediate budget savings, with research indicating each dollar cut from women's advocacy programs generates \$7.25 in additional community costs through increased emergency services, healthcare utilization, lost productivity, and greater reliance on public assistance [9].

## Call to Action

We urge immediate action from all stakeholders:

- **Individual donors:** Consider establishing [monthly giving commitments](#) to provide reliable, sustainable support that organizations can count on during this critical transition period.
- **Corporate leaders:** Initiate matching gift programs and explore partnerships with local women's support services to leverage your resources and expertise.
- **Foundations:** Create rapid response funds specifically targeting organizations facing imminent service reductions due to federal funding cuts.
- **Policymakers:** Prioritize the restoration of critical funding streams and develop transitional funding mechanisms to prevent service disruptions.

The time to act is now. Lives literally depend on our collective response to this funding crisis.

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current funding landscape, documents the proven effectiveness of women's and children's support services, and offers actionable recommendations for developing sustainable funding alternatives during this critical transition period.

# Introduction

## The Changing Federal Funding Landscape

For decades, federal funding has provided the foundation for women's support services across America, enabling organizations to deliver comprehensive assistance to survivors of domestic violence, women in poverty, and those seeking economic independence. This support network, comprising over 3,200 specialized organizations nationwide, has developed effective, evidence-based interventions that demonstrate measurable success in improving outcomes for vulnerable women and their children.

Recent policy changes at the federal level have dramatically altered this funding landscape. Nationwide reductions in Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants, Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funding, and related programs have created an annual funding shortfall of \$1.8 billion, affecting services in every state [10]. In 2023 alone, federal funding for women's services decreased by 28%, with further reductions and suspensions scheduled to take effect over the next 18 months [11].

The timing of these cuts is particularly concerning as organizations report a 34% increase in service requests since 2020, driven by economic pressures, housing instability, and heightened awareness of available support services [12]. This combination of declining resources and increasing need has created what the National Network to End Domestic Violence describes as "a perfect storm threatening the survival of critical support systems for our most vulnerable community members." [13]

**Call to Action for Policymakers:** Federal legislators must prioritize the immediate review and restoration of these critical funding streams. We call on lawmakers to schedule emergency

hearings within the next 60 days to assess the impact of these cuts and develop transitional funding mechanisms.

## National Scope and Regional Impact

The funding crisis affects organizations in every region of the country, though with varying severity based on state-level financial support and alternative funding mechanisms. Rural communities and economically disadvantaged regions face the most severe consequences, with some service areas already experiencing complete elimination of certain programs.

In Tennessee, women's support organizations have historically relied on federal funding for 63% of their operational budgets, compared to the national average of 58%. This higher dependency has made Tennessee providers particularly vulnerable to federal funding changes, with projections indicating that without intervention, service capacity will decrease by 58% within three months of funding cessation.

Similar patterns have emerged across the country:

- Organizations in the Midwest report average service reductions of 42% following initial funding cuts
- 37% of rural service providers in the Southwest have eliminated outreach programs
- In the Northeast, waiting times for non-emergency services have increased from an average of 12 days to 47 days
- West Coast organizations have reduced service hours by an average of 35%

While this report includes specific examples from [The Women's Advocacy Center](#), the challenges, impacts, and potential solutions apply to women's support organizations nationwide.

**Call to Action for State Legislators:** We urge state legislators to implement emergency funding measures within your next legislative session. States that have already developed supplemental funding mechanisms have successfully preserved 82% of critical services despite federal cuts.

## Section I: Essential Services and Documented Outcomes

### The Comprehensive Support Model

Women's advocacy centers across the nation have developed a multi-faceted approach to supporting women in crisis, addressing immediate safety concerns while simultaneously building pathways to long-term stability and independence. This holistic model recognizes the interconnected nature of the challenges facing vulnerable women—where housing insecurity, economic disadvantage, and safety concerns create complex barriers requiring coordinated intervention.



The comprehensive support model typically encompasses four core service areas, each critical to achieving lasting positive outcomes:

**Crisis intervention** services form the front line of response, providing immediate safety planning, emergency housing, and legal advocacy for women in dangerous situations. In 2023, women's advocacy organizations nationwide provided emergency shelter to approximately 68,000 women and 103,000 children, while developing safety plans for over 412,000 individuals facing threats of violence [14].

**Supportive** services address fundamental needs that, if unmet, can force women to return to dangerous situations or prevent economic advancement. These services include childcare assistance, food security programs, housing support, transportation, utility payment assistance, and provision of personal and household necessities. Last year, these programs prevented an estimated 78,000 instances of homelessness among women and children and enabled approximately 124,000 women to maintain employment by addressing critical barriers.

**Economic empowerment programs** such as job readiness coaching, career development, financial literacy education, and one-on-one mentoring create pathways to financial independence. These initiatives have demonstrated remarkable success, with national data showing 44% of participants securing employment or increasing their income within 12 months [15]. The long-term impact is substantial: women who complete these programs are 68% less likely to return to abusive relationships and 72% less likely to require public assistance within three years [16].

**Trauma recovery** services provide the psychological support necessary to break cycles of abuse and build resilience. Through individual counseling, group therapy, and specialized recovery programs, these services help women overcome trauma and develop healthy coping mechanisms. Data from programs across 42 states shows that women who complete trauma recovery programs experience a 64% reduction in symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and an 82% improvement in overall well-being measures [17].

**Call to Action for Individual Donors:** Your contribution directly enables life-changing services. A donation of \$1,000 provides comprehensive support services for one woman for six months. [Consider making a commitment today](#) to your local women's advocacy center.

## Evidence of Effectiveness

The impact of these services extends far beyond immediate crisis response, generating substantial benefits for individual recipients, their children, and the broader community. Comprehensive studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Justice, and numerous academic institutions have documented the effectiveness of women's support services across multiple dimensions:

Health outcomes improve significantly for women who access comprehensive support services. Emergency room visits decrease by 58% within the first year, while preventive care utilization increases by 47% [18]. Mental health improvements are particularly notable, with 73% of

program participants reporting reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety [19]. These health benefits extend to children as well, with a 42% reduction in behavioral health referrals for children whose mothers receive support services.

Economic advancement is a consistent outcome of comprehensive support programs. National data indicates that 41% of participants in economic empowerment programs secure employment or increase their income within 12 months. Long-term tracking shows even more impressive results, with 76% of program graduates maintaining stable employment after three years, compared to 31% in matched control groups without access to similar services.

Safety and stability metrics demonstrate the life-saving impact of these programs. Women who complete comprehensive support programs are 83% less likely to experience severe physical violence in the subsequent two years compared to those without access to services [20]. Housing stability improves dramatically, with 64% of program participants maintaining safe, independent housing for at least 18 months following program completion [21].

Intergenerational effects represent perhaps the most significant long-term benefit. Children whose mothers receive comprehensive support services show measurable improvements across multiple domains:

- 35% increase in school attendance [22]
- 28% improvement in academic performance [23]
- 53% reduction in behavioral problems [24]
- 67% decrease in their own future risk of experiencing or perpetrating relationship violence [25]

These outcomes translate into substantial economic benefits for communities. Research across multiple states indicates that each dollar invested in comprehensive women's support services generates an average social return of \$7.40 through:

- Reduced public expenditure on emergency services (nationwide savings estimated at \$1.2 billion annually) [26]
- Increased tax revenue from women who gain employment (estimated \$426 million in new tax revenue) [27]
- Decreased healthcare costs associated with ongoing abuse (estimated \$1.8 billion reduction) [28]
- Reduced long-term dependence on public assistance programs (62% of program graduates exit public assistance within 18 months) [29]

**Call to Action for Corporate Leaders:** Businesses benefit directly from these improved economic outcomes. We urge corporate leaders to establish employee giving programs with matching components, which can generate substantial support while fostering workplace engagement. Companies with established women's support partnerships report 33% higher employee satisfaction and 27% lower turnover.



# Section II: The Funding Crisis and Its Consequences

## Dismantling the Safety Net

The current federal funding reductions represent the most significant threat to women's support services in over three decades. These cuts affect multiple funding streams simultaneously, creating a compounding effect that threatens organizational viability nationwide. Major impacts include:

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant allocations have decreased by 38%, affecting 1,872 programs nationwide [30]. These funds previously supported critical legal advocacy, safety planning, and specialized services for underserved populations. The reduction represents a loss of approximately \$32.9 million annually for direct service provision.
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grant processing has been suspended indefinitely, impacting 1,600 domestic violence shelters across the country [31]. FVPSA funding previously provided \$175 million annually to support emergency shelter operations, crisis hotlines, and counseling services. Organizations report that without these funds emergency shelter capacity nationwide will decrease by approximately 42%.
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are being redirected, with 23% of funds previously allocated to social services now designated for infrastructure projects. This shift represents a loss of approximately \$62 million for women's services nationwide, particularly affecting housing support programs and economic development initiatives.

New eligibility restrictions have made 42% of previously eligible organizations now ineligible for certain federal grants, effectively eliminating \$215 million in funding for economic empowerment initiatives. These restrictions disproportionately impact culturally-specific programs serving immigrant women, Native American communities, and other marginalized populations.

The timing of these funding reductions coincides with increased demand for services, creating an unsustainable situation for providers. Nationwide, organizations report:

- 34% increase in requests for emergency shelter since 2020 [32]
- 52% increase in calls to domestic violence hotlines [33]
- 41% increase in requests for legal advocacy services [34]
- 67% increase in needs related to housing assistance [35]

**Call to Action for Federal Officials:** We urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice to implement immediate measures to expedite pending grant applications and establish an emergency funding bridge for organizations facing critical service disruptions. Your swift action can prevent life-threatening service gaps.

## Human and Economic Costs

The consequences of these funding reductions extend far beyond organizational budgets, creating ripple effects that will impact vulnerable women, their children, and entire communities. Without intervention, these cuts will force organizations to significantly reduce service capacity, with devastating results:

An estimated 680,000 women nationwide will lose access to critical support services within the next fiscal year. This figure includes approximately 186,000 survivors of domestic violence who will be unable to access emergency shelter or safety planning services.

Staffing reductions will eliminate an estimated 7,200 specialized positions across the country, including advocates, counselors, case managers, and economic empowerment specialists. This workforce contraction represents not only job losses, but the dissolution of institutional knowledge and expertise built over decades.

Geographic service disparities will widen dramatically, with rural areas experiencing the most severe impacts. An analysis of 42 states indicates that 67% of counties already have limited or no specialized services for women in crisis; funding cuts are projected to increase this figure to 78%, creating vast "service deserts" particularly in rural regions.

The human consequences of these service reductions are stark and supported by extensive research on previous funding contractions:

- Domestic violence homicides increase by 26% in regions where support services are significantly reduced [36]
- 76% of women unable to access support services return to abusive relationships due to economic dependency [37]
- Child abuse reports increase by 38% when family support services are reduced [38]
- Homelessness among women and children increases by 42% when housing support programs are eliminated [39]

The economic impact extends well beyond immediate budget savings. Research conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence indicates that for every \$1 cut from women's support services, communities incur approximately \$4.60 in additional costs through:

- Increased emergency room utilization (estimated \$840 million increase) [40]
- Greater law enforcement and criminal justice system involvement (estimated \$1.2 billion increase) [41]
- Lost workplace productivity (estimated \$2.6 billion increase) [42]
- Increased utilization of public assistance (estimated \$1.8 billion increase) [43]
- Higher long-term healthcare costs (estimated \$3.2 billion increase) [44]

These projections are not theoretical; they are based on documented outcomes in communities that have already experienced significant reductions in women's support services. In states where

similar funding cuts occurred between 2018 and 2022, the predicted impacts materialized within 18 months, with some consequences becoming apparent much sooner.

**Call to Action for Community Leaders:** Local governments cannot afford to ignore these costs. We urge county commissioners and city councils to allocate emergency funding from discretionary budgets to preserve essential services. Communities that have implemented dedicated local funding report net fiscal benefits within 2-3 years.

## Section III: The Critical Role of Private Funding

### Bridging the Gap

The current funding crisis creates an urgent need for private philanthropic engagement to preserve critical services for vulnerable women and children. While policy advocacy continues for the restoration of federal funding, private donors, foundations, and corporations have a unique opportunity to prevent service disruptions during this transition period.

Private funding can be particularly effective in addressing immediate needs while fostering innovation and sustainability in the women's services sector. Unlike government funding, which often comes with substantial restrictions and reporting requirements, private philanthropy can provide flexible support that allows organizations to adapt to changing circumstances and develop innovative service models.

The funding gap varies by region and organization type, but national estimates suggest that maintaining current service levels would require approximately \$1.2 billion in replacement funding. While this figure appears daunting, targeted investments in high-impact services can significantly reduce the immediate human costs of federal funding reductions.

Priority funding areas include:

- Emergency shelter operations (\$320 million needed nationally)
- Violence prevention and intervention services (\$280 million)
- Economic empowerment programs (\$240 million)
- Legal advocacy services (\$180 million)
- Culturally specific programs for underserved populations (\$160 million)

For context, private funding of \$100,000 to a typical women's advocacy center:

- Provides 62 women with comprehensive support services for one year.
- Prevents an estimated 27 instances of homelessness.
- Enables 14 women to secure employment.
- Saves the community approximately \$740,000 in long-term social costs.

**Call to Action for Philanthropic Leaders:** We call on community foundations to establish dedicated funds specifically for women's services affected by federal cuts. A \$1 million initial investment can preserve services for over 600 women and children while generating \$4.6 million in community cost savings.

## Framework for Philanthropic Engagement

Effective philanthropic response to this funding crisis requires strategic coordination among multiple stakeholders. This white paper proposes a structured approach to private funding engagement:

### Individual Donor Mobilization

Individual donors provide the foundation of supplemental support for many women's organizations. Expansion of individual giving programs represents a critical strategy for replacing federal funding. Effective approaches include:

- Monthly giving programs create reliable revenue streams that enable organizations to plan effectively despite funding uncertainty. Organizations with robust monthly donor programs report 24% greater financial stability and 36% lower administrative costs compared to those relying primarily on episodic fundraising [45].
- Donor education initiatives help potential supporters understand the critical importance and demonstrated effectiveness of women's support services. Research indicates that donors who receive detailed information about program outcomes give an average of 42% more than those who receive general appeals [46].
- Legacy giving options enable supporters to make significant long-term commitments through estate planning. Women's organizations with established legacy programs report that these gifts represent an average of 18% of annual revenue, providing crucial stability during funding transitions [47].

**Call to Action for Individual Donors:** Start your support today with a monthly giving commitment. Even \$50 per month provides critical services that can break the cycle of violence and create pathways to independence. Consider contacting your [local women's advocacy center to establish your recurring gift](#).

### Corporate Partnership Strategies

The corporate sector represents a largely untapped resource for women's support services, with significant potential for mutually beneficial partnerships. Effective corporate engagement strategies include:

- Employee giving programs with matching components can generate substantial support while fostering workplace engagement. Companies with robust matching gift programs report 33% higher employee satisfaction and 27% lower turnover compared to industry averages[48].

- Skill-based volunteering initiatives enable companies to contribute professional expertise in areas such as legal services, financial management, marketing, and technology. This approach provides substantial value to nonprofits while offering meaningful engagement opportunities for employees.
- Cause marketing collaborations create win-win partnerships that generate funding while raising awareness of women's issues. Research indicates that 76% of consumers prefer brands associated with social causes, making these partnerships attractive for corporate marketing objectives [49].

**Call to Action for Corporate Leaders:** Implement a corporate match program for employee donations to women's support services. Companies that have established such programs report not only significant social impact but measurable improvements in employee engagement and retention.

## Foundation Leadership

Private foundations have a critical leadership role in responding to the current funding crisis. Effective foundation strategies include:

- Rapid response funds provide emergency support to organizations facing immediate service reductions due to federal funding cuts. Several community foundations have already established such funds, with documented success in preserving critical services during transition periods.
- Capacity building investments help organizations develop more sustainable funding models and operational efficiencies. Foundations that focus on organizational capacity report that grantees achieve 64% greater long-term sustainability compared to those receiving program-specific funding alone [50].
- Collective impact initiatives bring together multiple funders, government agencies, and service providers to develop coordinated responses to the funding crisis. This approach has proven particularly effective in maintaining service continuity during periods of significant funding transition.

**Call to Action for Foundation Leaders:** We urge foundations to establish rapid response grant programs specifically for organizations affected by federal funding cuts. Consider allocating 10% of your annual grantmaking to this critical need for the next two years.

## Section IV: Policy Recommendations and Advocacy

The preservation of women's support services requires a multi-faceted approach that combines private funding with strategic policy advocacy. While private donors can address immediate funding gaps, sustainable solutions require policy change at multiple levels of government.

# **Federal Policy Recommendations**

Advocacy for federal policy change represents a critical long-term strategy for sustainable funding. Key recommendations include:

## **Restoration of Critical Funding Streams**

Immediate advocacy should focus on restoring funding to proven programs with demonstrated effectiveness. This advocacy should emphasize the cost-effectiveness of prevention and intervention services compared to the substantially higher costs of emergency response, healthcare, and criminal justice involvement.

## **Implementation of Transition Funding**

Federal agencies should establish dedicated transition funding to prevent service disruptions during periods of policy change. This approach has been successfully implemented in other policy domains, providing organizations with time to develop alternative funding strategies without compromising service delivery.

## **Development of Public-Private Partnership Models**

Federal policy should actively encourage private sector engagement through matching fund programs, tax incentives, and formal partnership structures. These mechanisms can leverage private investment to extend the impact of limited public resources.

**Call to Action for Federal Legislators:** We urge the immediate introduction of bipartisan legislation to restore critical funding streams for women's support services. The cost savings and social benefits far outweigh the budgetary impact, making this a fiscally responsible investment in our communities.

# **State-Level Solutions**

States have a critical role in addressing the current funding crisis through both legislative action and administrative innovation:

## **Dedicated Revenue Streams**

State legislatures should establish dedicated funding mechanisms for women's services through specific budget allocations or dedicated revenue sources. Several states have successfully implemented this approach, creating stable funding through mechanisms such as marriage license fees, divorce filing fees, or specific tax allocations.

## **Regulatory Reform**

States can enhance organizational sustainability through regulatory changes that reduce administrative burden, facilitate innovative service models, and enable more efficient use of limited resources. Streamlining reporting requirements alone can redirect an estimated 12% of organizational resources from administration to direct service [51].

## **Tax Incentives for Private Support**

State tax codes should be modified to provide enhanced incentives for private donations to women's service organizations. States that have implemented such incentives report an average 28% increase in private giving to targeted nonprofit sectors [52].

**Call to Action for State Legislators:** Introduce legislation in your next session to establish dedicated funding streams for women's support services. States with such mechanisms have maintained 84% of critical services despite federal funding reductions.

## **Local Government Engagement**

Municipal and county governments have both the capacity and responsibility to support women's services within their communities:

### **Dedicated Local Funding**

Local governments should allocate specific tax revenue to support women's services, recognizing both the humanitarian imperative and the substantial cost savings these programs generate for local public services. Communities that have implemented such dedicated funding report net fiscal benefits within 2-3 years [53].

### **In-Kind Support**

Local governments can provide substantial assistance through in-kind contributions such as facility space, utilities, administrative support, and professional services. These contributions can significantly reduce organizational overhead, allowing more resources to be directed toward service delivery [54].

### **Multi-Jurisdiction Coordination**

Regional approaches to funding and service delivery can maximize efficiency and impact, particularly in metropolitan areas with multiple municipal governments. Coordinated funding models ensure equitable service access while avoiding duplication and inefficiency.

**Call to Action for Local Officials:** Implement immediate measures to provide facility space, utilities, or other in-kind support to women's service organizations in your community. These contributions can reduce operating costs by up to 18%, allowing more resources to be directed toward direct services.



# Section V: Case Studies and Success Models

## Public-Private Partnership: Charlotte, North Carolina

Following a 52% reduction in federal funding in 2021, women's support organizations in Charlotte faced imminent service reductions with potentially devastating consequences for vulnerable women and children. Through coordinated leadership from the private sector, local government, and nonprofit organizations, the community developed an innovative funding model that not only preserved services but enhanced their effectiveness.

Key components of this successful response included:

- Creation of a dedicated fund through the community foundation, with \$1.8 million in initial capitalization.
- Challenge grants from three major corporations that generated \$2.4 million in matching funds from individual donors.
- County government allocation of \$1.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- Streamlined application process that reduced administrative burden for service providers.

This coordinated response enabled women's support organizations to maintain 93% of service capacity despite the substantial reduction in federal funding. More importantly, the initiative created a sustainable funding model that continues to support these critical services through a diverse funding base and innovative public-private partnership.

**Call to Action for Community Leaders:** Convene a cross-sector task force in your community to develop a coordinated response to the funding crisis. The Charlotte model demonstrates that collaborative approaches can preserve essential services while developing more sustainable funding structures.

## Foundation Leadership: Colorado

In 2022, a consortium of eight foundations in Colorado created a \$4.2 million emergency fund for women's services affected by federal funding cuts. This proactive response preserved critical services for 3,840 women and children while developing a sustainable funding model for ongoing support.

The initiative's success stemmed from several innovative approaches:

- Pooled funding that streamlined application and reporting requirements.
- Data-driven allocation that directed resources to areas of greatest need.
- Investment in organizational capacity building alongside direct service funding.
- Coordinated advocacy that secured \$3.1 million in state funding within 18 months.

The Colorado model demonstrates the catalytic role foundations can play in responding to public funding reductions. By combining immediate financial support with strategic capacity building and policy advocacy, the foundation consortium helped transform a funding crisis into an opportunity for system strengthening and innovation.

**Call to Action for Foundation Leaders:** Initiate conversations with peer foundations in your region to establish a coordinated response fund. The Colorado model demonstrates that collective foundation action can preserve critical services while developing pathways to sustainable funding.

## Corporate Leadership: Atlanta, Georgia

When federal funding cuts threatened economic empowerment programs for vulnerable women in Atlanta, five major employers established a collective impact fund providing \$3.6 million annually. This corporate leadership initiative not only preserved critical services but enhanced their effectiveness through innovative public-private partnership.

The program's design included several noteworthy elements:

- Direct funding for job training and placement services.
- Creation of dedicated employment pathways within participating companies.
- Provision of skill-based volunteers to enhance program quality.
- Development of a shared measurement system to track outcomes and impact.

This corporate leadership initiative resulted in a 63% employment rate among program participants, substantially exceeding the national average of 41%. The program's success has attracted additional corporate partners, expanding both funding and employment opportunities for program participants.

**Call to Action for Corporate Leaders:** Engage with women's support organizations in your community to develop partnerships that leverage your company's strengths. The Atlanta model demonstrates that strategic corporate engagement can create significant social impact while addressing workforce development needs.

## Conclusion

The reduction in federal funding for women's support services represents both a challenge and an opportunity for communities across America. While the immediate funding gap threatens essential services for vulnerable women and children, it also creates space for innovative approaches to social service sustainability.

The demonstrated effectiveness of women's support programs—with documented success in breaking cycles of violence, fostering economic independence, and improving health outcomes—provides compelling evidence for continued investment through alternative funding channels. Private donors, corporations, foundations, and local government entities now have the

opportunity to sustain and potentially enhance these critical services through strategic philanthropic engagement.

Without immediate action, however, an estimated 680,000 women nationwide will lose access to potentially life-saving services within the next fiscal year. The social and economic costs of this service reduction will far exceed the immediate budget savings, with communities experiencing increased emergency service utilization, higher healthcare costs, reduced workforce participation, and greater dependency on public assistance.

By transitioning from federal dependency to a diversified funding model with significant private donor participation, women's support organizations can maintain their vital role in creating safer, healthier, and more equitable communities. The case studies presented in this white paper demonstrate that such transitions, while challenging, can ultimately strengthen both organizations and the services they provide.

The critical question is not whether we can afford to maintain these essential services, but whether we can afford not to.

**Here is How You can Help:** The time for action is now. Every stakeholder—donors, corporate leaders, foundation executives, and policymakers at all levels—has a role to play in preserving these essential services. We urge you to:

- Make a financial commitment today to women's support services, such as [The Women's Advocacy Center](#), in your community.
- Advocate for policy change at federal, state, and local levels.
- Leverage your personal and professional networks to raise awareness of this funding crisis.
- Engage directly with organizations affected by funding cuts to identify specific ways you can help.

The lives and futures of hundreds of thousands of women and children depend on our collective response to this critical funding gap. What will you do today to be part of the solution?

## About TWAC

Our mission is to empower and support survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and stalking in rural and suburban communities by showing them the love of God. To accomplish our mission, we educate survivors and victims on ways to experience stability in their lives through economic independence, healthy relationships, and a strong faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Our vision is for rural and suburban communities to courageously collaborate in creating safe environments where women and children can grow and thrive.

Our beliefs are rooted in our faith. We believe in compassion without compromise; ethical behavior in all our relationships; fearless advocacy for the voiceless; good stewardship over what God has entrusted to us; love for God, ourselves, and others; inclusiveness; and time for fun, rest, and stillness.

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