

Budget Cuts Would Lead to Waiting Lists and Neglect of Rape Victims

July 1, 2008 - The Illinois Governor's proposed budget cut of \$5.2 million from the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA) General Revenue Funds would be devastating to Family Resources, Inc. Rape Crisis Center. Family Resources served approximately 300 rape victims through counseling and advocacy services last year. This number does not include the hundreds of victims served through our crisis line, or the thousands served through our community education program.

"Family Resources Illinois Rape Crisis Center currently runs with only eight full-time employees," said Nicole Cisne, Director of Victim Services for Family Resources, Inc. "The proposed cut would wipe out 30% of our overall program budget resulting in our center losing almost half of our full-time staff. Without this funding, **100 rape victims** would have to go without counseling or advocacy services, and our **entire community** would go without violence prevention education."

Family Resources, Inc. Rape/Sexual Assault Counseling & Advocacy Program is the only rape crisis center serving the Quad Cities Metropolitan area, a population of approximately 350,000. "Our center serves all ages and genders. These jobs are hard work, with little pay, and we perform our job duties 24 hours a day, seven days a week" said Cisne. "All of our services are free to victims, survivors, and their non-offending family members. We all undergo intense and specialized training to deal with this difficult subject matter in order to best serve the victims. Our training enables us to provide services that no other agency in this area can offer" she added.

These budget cuts would affect all Illinois rape crisis centers including Family Resources, Inc. Staff and services would have to be cut and ultimately the victims of these devastating acts of violence would pay the price.

For more information contact Nicole Cisne, Director of Victim Services for Family Resources, Inc. at 563/468-2326.

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