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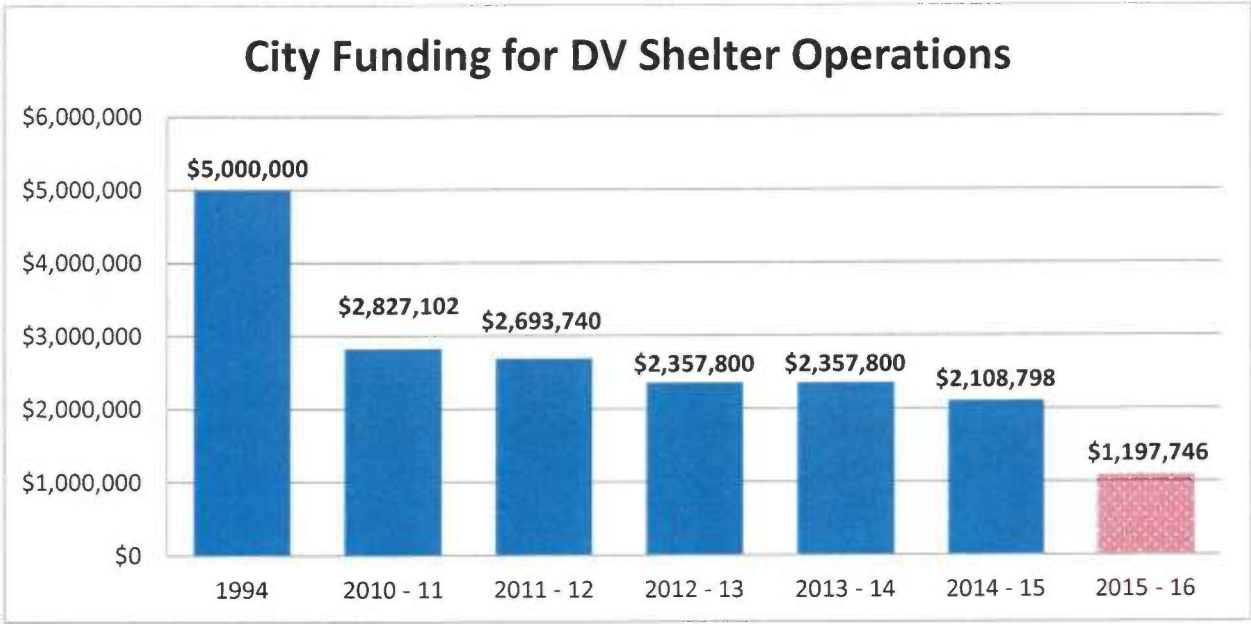
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Public

**Domestic Violence Shelter-based program's response
to the potential reduction in CDBG funding**

March, 2015

The City of Los Angeles currently provides funding for services to victims of domestic violence through the Housing and Community Investment Department's (HCID) Domestic Violence Shelter Operations (DVSO) contracts. At this time the City contracts with 10 agencies to provide shelter based services to victims of domestic violence. The 10 agencies are: Rainbow Services, 1736, Angel Step Inn/SCADP, Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Haven Hills, Jenesse Center, Jewish Family Service, Chicana Service Action Center, Prototypes and Sojourn Services For Battered Women and Their Children.

In 1994 the City made and passed a motion directing that the City set aside \$5M for services to victims of domestic violence. Below is a chart showing how this commitment as diminished over time:



The funding listed for 2015 – 16 is the CLA's recommended funding level of CDBG funding. **Unless steps are taken, the proposed funding level would cut the services available to victims of domestic violence by half** at a time when the demand for the services is on the increase.

According to Police Chief Beck, domestic violence reports are up over 20%.

This is an alarming increase.

The chart below shows the services currently provided by 9 of the 10 nonprofits funded by the City through its Domestic Violence Shelter Operations grants:

Services to DV Victims Provided by DVSO contractors			
	FY 12/13	FY 13/14	% Change
Hotline calls	20,970	21,860	4.2%
# of Shelter Beds	545	545	0.0%
# of People Referred for Shelter	2,017	2,771	37.4%
Unduplicated # Clients Served (Shelters) - Adults	779	866	11.2%
Unduplicated # Clients Served (Shelters) - Children	967	1,007	4.1%

Even though the number of actual shelter beds remained the same, **agencies were able to provide housing to 11.2% more adults** (this is done by working to shorten the length of stay for each family so that more people can be served).

The CLA's proposed level of funding is about a 50% reduction in funding for Domestic Violence Shelter Operations. A funding cut of this magnitude would result in:

- 1. A loss of 25,390 nights in a shelter for victims of domestic violence.**
- 2. Assuming a 30 day average length of stay for each victim, this would mean that 846 more victims of domestic violence would be turned away from shelters.**
- 3. A loss of 27 full time employees.**

It is clear that demand for the services is increasing at the same time that the City's commitment to funding the services has greatly decreased.

Recommendations:

- 1. At a minimum, include Funding for Domestic Violence Shelter Operations in the PY 41 Consolidated Plan (2015 – 2016) at the level proposed in the Mayor's PY 41 budget - \$1,674,470. Do not reduce the DVSO funding coming from CDBG funds.**
- 2. At a minimum, continue to augment the funding for Domestic Violence Shelter Operations with \$683,330 of City General Revenue funds for FY 2015 – 2016. This would return the funding back to the 2013 – 14 funding level (which is still 52% below the City's commitment of \$5M in funding back in 1994).**
- 3. And finally, identify a member to work with the City's DV Task Force, specifically their Funding Subcommittee, who is willing to help identify funding sources that will help stabilize and hopefully expand the critical, life-saving safety net provided by violence shelter-based programs in an effort to reduce the DV-homicide rate in Los Angeles.**