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**Proposed cuts to federal funds to impact local programs working to end violence against women**

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Proposed cuts to federal funds to impact local programs working to end violence against women

Monday, February 11, 2008

Reported by: [Lauren Knight](#)

CENTRAL COAST



Local programs aimed at helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault face major cuts by the federal government.

Here are the Facts First:



- President Bush's proposed budget for the 2009 fiscal year cuts \$120 million dollars from the Violence Against Women Act, a third of the total budget.
- It also caps the Victims of Crime Act at its lowest level in six years.
- Both acts provide core funding to local nonprofits, like the Women's Shelter Program and the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center.



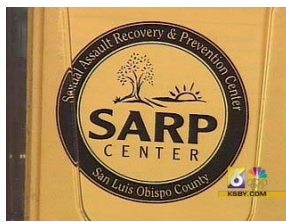
The state is already cutting funding to these programs by 10 percent in order to balance the budget. Now, local agencies are facing even more cuts in their funding, this time, by the federal government.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 23 percent of women and 11 percent of men report being victims of domestic violence.



Agencies working to bring down these numbers say the proposed cuts may affect the amount of victims they serve, and that a one-third cut would make things really tight.

"That's the biggest concern here. When you have budget cuts and you come to a lack of funding, you end up with victims who fall through the cracks," said Beth Raub, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for the Women's Shelter Program.



"That's 10 percent of our budget, on top of all of the other cuts, and as a nonprofit, we don't have a lot of fluff in our budget," said Jennifer Adams, Executive Director of the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center.

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Congresswoman Lois Capps is an advocate of preventing these cuts and released a statement.

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- ▶ Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo

"I am appalled that the President would propose gutting these essential programs. These cuts would be devastating for domestic violence and sexual assaults services on the South and Central Coasts, and would harm countless women and children who are survivors of domestic violence," Capps said in her statement.



If the cuts do become a reality, the agencies said they will have to get creative with funding, and they will be looking to the community for support.



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