



## 2012 NMCADV

### Key Legislative Requests

#### Who We Are

The New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NMCADV) provides statewide leadership as a voice for victims and survivors of domestic violence and the programs that serve them. We advocate for positive social change, provide training, build alliances, secure resources and develop public policy to eliminate domestic violence.

#### Restore \$2.0 million to the Domestic Violence Budget

Deep Cuts to domestic violence have negative effects for the entire community. In just 3 years, domestic violence service providers have endured a drastic 33% cut. This means they are trying to handle the same amount of responsibility with 1/3 fewer resources. This has them busting at the seams. There have been almost 100 jobs lost or left vacant by NMCADV program members. These cuts spill into our communities as well. During a governmental round table we hosted this year, The Albuquerque Police Department illuminated a frustration they have been facing. Oftentimes they are transporting a victim of domestic violence from the scene, arrive at the shelter and get told there is no vacancy. So the officer has to take the victim to the next closest site. This is not only an inconvenience to the victim, but also to the officer. Increasing the domestic violence budget would help alleviate this problem.

\*See attached DV Budget Sheet

#### Strangulation update gives Law Enforcement and DA's more tools

Adding the definition of strangulation to the criminal code for Aggravated Assault and Battery §30-3-19 would give law enforcement and DA's more tools to work with when dealing with potential homicides. Strangulation is the highest indicator of lethality for victims of domestic violence. There have been 18 other states that have included this type of legislation into their statutes. This type of clarification would have a positive impact for victim safety and offender accountability.