

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Funding Cuts Threaten Access for Domestic Violence Survivors — Community Support Needed to sustain our quality of services.

There have been recent funding cuts of over \$160K, not including sexual assault education cuts, threatening life-saving resources just as the demand for them reaches unprecedented levels. Since the statewide implementation of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in July 2023, there has been a 100% increase in LAP referrals state-wide, averaging 433 per month, with 92% of those referrals being high danger, demonstrating the urgent need for shelter, advocacy, and support.

More specifically, SVS has seen a 90% increase in Salt Lake County, and in Tooele County, our Pathways Shelter, an 89% increase. With this alarming rise, our elected officials have yet to expand LAP funding to meet the growing demand, leaving survivors without the additional resources they desperately need.

South Valley Services provides essential, life-saving support to survivors of domestic violence, including emergency shelter, advocacy, and prevention education. These funding cuts jeopardize our ability to continue meeting the growing needs of survivors in our community, particularly in Tooele County, where our services are often the only available lifeline.

In the past year, we have served 3,812 survivors. However, due to funding cuts, we could see a shortage of advocacy staff, survivors in our community will experience longer wait times, reduced access to critical resources, and increased barriers to safety and stability.

"Every day, year-round, survivors reach out to us for safety and support. With LAP screenings on the rise, we know more people than ever are connecting with our services. Funding cuts threaten the very services that help survivors escape violence and rebuild their lives," said Lindsey Boyer, Executive Director of South Valley Services. "Thanks to generous local, non-government funding, we've been able to continue supporting survivors—but the gap between need and resources is growing. We need our communities' support to ensure survivors aren't left without options and funding cuts make expanding towards transitional housing harder to reach."

Be the hope in this setback. We need your support to sustain the growing demand for these essential services. Your donation can make a life-changing difference for survivors and their families in Salt Lake and Tooele County. Every dollar helps keep our doors open, shelters running, and our advocates on the front lines.

Commit to standing with survivors. Donate today at www.svsutah.org/donate and help ensure no survivor is turned away. Together, we can create a future where everyone can live free from violence.