

Mission & History

WEAVE's mission is to bring an end to domestic violence and sexual assault in partnership with our community. Founded in 1978 as a domestic violence service program, WEAVE has provided confidential emergency shelter, counseling, crisis line support, and legal advocacy to victims for three decades. In 1988, at the request of Sacramento County, WEAVE assumed operations of rape crisis services to ensure comprehensive support and advocacy for victims of sexual assault. Today, these services include the 24-hour Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) which responds when a sexual assault victim is taken to the hospital for an evidentiary examination and provides follow up support during interviews with law enforcement, prosecutors, and defense attorneys and provides support during prosecution. Additional services include the 24-hour crisis line and individual and group counseling.

The 30 year cumulative impact on victims is astounding. WEAVE has provided:

- Safe and confidential shelter to 16,600 domestic violence victims - over half were children.
- Individual and group counseling to more than 40,000 adults
- Individual and group counseling to more than 4,000 children.
- Support and advocacy for more than 7,500 survivors of domestic violence through the Domestic Violence Response Team (a partnership with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department).
- Legal assistance and advocacy to more than 22,000 domestic violence victims.
- Crisis Line support to more than 520,000 calls to its 24-hour crisis line.
- Support and advocacy for more than 7,400 victims of sexual assault – one per day for 20 years.
- Prevention education and awareness building to more than 90,000 community members and over 10,000 professional partners including law enforcement, legal, medical, and educators.
- Prevention education to more than 10,000 children and 78,000 adolescents.

The cumulative support from the community is equally impressive:

- Each year, more than 2,000 individuals, businesses, foundations, and groups contribute more than \$2 million to WEAVE– over 50% of WEAVE's annual operating budget.
- More than 200 volunteers contribute 10,000 to 12,000 direct service hours and 2,000 to 4,000 non-direct service volunteer hours to WEAVE every year.
- WEAVE is preparing to build a new Safehouse capable of sheltering 80 victims (more than double the current capacity). The \$4 million facility will be built with 75% of funding from private donations and 0% of funding from Sacramento County.

An Integrated Continuum of Services

WEAVE is the only local agency providing *comprehensive* services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As a state and federally funded domestic violence and sexual assault program, WEAVE must meet stringent service criteria and provide state funded services at no charge to victims.

WEAVE is mandated to provide 14 core services for victims of domestic violence:

- 24-hour Crisis Hotline
- Individual & Group Counseling
- Business Center
- Confidential Emergency Shelter
- Emergency Food and Clothing
- Emergency Response to Calls from Law Enforcement
- Hospital Emergency Room Protocol and Assistance
- Emergency Transportation
- Counseling for Children
- Court and Social Advocacy
- Legal Assistance with Temporary Restraining Orders & Custody Disputes
- Community Resources & Referrals
- Household Establishment Assistance
- Cultural & Linguistic Competency

As the recipient of state and federal funding for Rape Crisis Services, WEAVE must provide 10 core services:

- Crisis Intervention Services including 24-hour crisis line and Business Center
- Follow Up Counseling Services
- Short-term In-Person Counseling Services
- Long-term In-Person Counseling Services
- Long-term Therapy Services
- Support Groups
- Accompaniment Services
- Advocacy Services
- Information and Referral Services
- Community Education and Rape Prevention Programs

Any employee or volunteer working with victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault must complete and keep current peer counselor training certification. As a dual agency, WEAVE is required to provide a 65-hour training for staff and volunteers. Staff and volunteers are required to obtain 12 hours of continuing education every year thereafter.

The required core services create an integrated system of supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault while maximizing the efficiencies of duplicated service requirements (24-hour crisis line, counseling, Business Center, etc.). The resulting continuum of services draws strength from the interrelated requirements and features. The continuum also requires an integrated system of funding that ensures the continued support and operation of every core service. As the county's sole provider of the 24 core services, WEAVE does not have the option of eliminating a specific service. All services must be maintained to keep the continuum whole and operational.

Cost of Providing an Integrated System of Support in Sacramento County

WEAVE uses federal, state, county, city, and private dollars in addition to leveraging in-kind support from volunteers and donations to provide the integrated system. WEAVE leverages all funding sources to stretch limited resources and to serve a greater number of victims.

WEAVE receives \$912,000 in state and federal dollars each year. In order to receive key funding through the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Maternal and Child Health for domestic violence programs, WEAVE is mandated to provide a continuum of 14 core services which include a confidential Safehouse, staffed 24-hour crisis line, group and individual counseling, and legal advocacy. To meet this mandate, WEAVE leverages \$1.3 million in philanthropic funds, nearly half of a million dollars in in-kind support and funds from the County of Sacramento. The proposed \$538,000 in cuts puts all of these funds at risk.

Source	Amount	% of Budget
Government Funding	\$1,822,439	46%
Community Support	\$2,030,819	51%
Service & Training Fees, Interest & miscellaneous income	\$95,025	2%
Released from Restriction*	\$50,000	1%
Total	\$3,998,283	100%

* Funds released from restriction are private funding revenues for a multi-year project.

Note: Sacramento County funding has not increased since 2002.

WEAVE leverages the donation of volunteer hours and in-kind items such as food and clothing to further stretch its limited funding.

In-Kind Source of Support	Estimated Annual Value
10,000 to 12,000 hours of volunteer direct service hours (5 FTEs)*	\$165,000
4,000 hours of volunteer service; non-direct service	\$68,000
Canned Goods & Fresh Food for Safehouse	\$25,000
Donations to WEAVE Thrift Stores	\$300,000
Clothing Donations given to Safehouse residents and counseling clients	\$110,000
Total In-Kind Value (Minimum)	\$668,000

* Volunteer hours shown are only direct services hours.

Efficiencies of an Integrated System

The model WEAVE has developed over the past three decades has enabled it to perfect operational efficiencies that create a structure of cost-effectiveness that can not be replicated from scratch but can be maintained. Key examples include:

SART Program – WEAVE guarantees an advocate will be available to every sexual assault victim in the county who reports the crime to law enforcement and receives an evidentiary examination. WEAVE ensures a primary and secondary responder are on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week due to the high likelihood of two victims requiring an examination during the same time frame. WEAVE’s on-call structure costs only \$3.13 per hour. When called out, an advocate is then paid \$15 per hour (plus mileage) during the period of advocacy. As on-call staff, SART advocates do not receive benefits. The SART program operates at an annual cost of \$190,000 to ensure 24-hour response and follow up advocacy to more than 400 victims per year. The per client cost of \$475 results in increased success in prosecution of rapists leading to a reduction in subsequent assaults.

Crisis Line – The cost of maintaining separate sexual assault and domestic violence crisis lines would create an unnecessary duplication of costs and effort. WEAVE answers more than 20,000 crisis line calls annually at a direct cost of only \$171,742 – approximately \$8.58 per call. This amount includes the cost of 24-hour staffing, which is leveraged through significant volunteer support, maintaining equipment, and a three line capacity to ensure maximum availability.

Counseling Services – WEAVE uses peer counselors and MFT interns to provide psycho-educational counseling. Because counselors can work with both domestic violence and sexual assault victims and serve both adults and children, WEAVE has greater flexibility in its service offerings. Under the current budget, WEAVE provides more than 9,500 individual and group counseling sessions to a minimum of 3,000 clients per year at a combined cost of only \$509,000 - \$169.66 per client. This is just \$53.47 per client per counseling session. Costs include staffing, supervision of staff and MFT interns, ongoing professional development and training of staff, and physical space for providing services.

Volunteer Involvement in Direct Service Provision – WEAVE uses trained volunteers to leverage public and private funding and stretch its financial resources further. As a state and federally funded program, all WEAVE staff and volunteers are mandated to complete and maintain peer counselor status. The annual cost of training to an average of 70 volunteers is \$15,960 or \$228 per volunteer. WEAVE’s investment in providing the training is returned within the first two months of volunteer service. The \$15,960 annual investment saves WEAVE a minimum of \$181,000 in staffing costs each year.

The efficiencies are destroyed when significant funding is lost. Infrastructure costs such as facility space, telephone service, and administrative support remain constant resulting in a lower percentage of funding being directed to client services and unnecessarily increasing the cost per call, client, and/or session.

Impact of Funding Reductions

Significant funding reductions require WEAVE to shift its remaining funds to those services intended for victims at the greatest risk of physical harm – shelter and legal advocacy. While essential, these services are not required by the majority of clients served by WEAVE.

WEAVE will be forced to shift limited crisis line and counseling funding to only provide counseling for victims residing at the Safehouse. Funding cuts will result in a 30% decrease in Crisis Line capacity and an 85% reduction in voluntary counseling appointments.

The average cost per Safehouse client is \$729.41 – significantly higher than the cost to answer a crisis line call (\$8.58) or to provide counseling to one victim (\$169.66). Furthermore, with a current Safehouse capacity of only 35 beds, WEAVE would be forced to turn away two to three families for every family it is able to serve. While WEAVE is preparing to build a new Safehouse with double the capacity, the new facility will not open for at least 12 months.

The impact is far greater than reduced services at increased costs. The societal impact incurs additional costs not offset by other funding:

- Victims will be forced to remain in abusive relationships until the violence escalates to a point where they qualify for shelter. Victims who remain in an abusive relationship are at an increased risk for significant injury or death. This shifts the cost of domestic violence services to law enforcement, the legal system, and medical providers.
- Victims will not have access to staff skilled in assessing lethality and assisting with safety planning via the 24-hour crisis line. Women are already at the greatest risk for injury or death when attempting to leave a relationship. Lack of a sufficient safety plan will increase domestic violence homicides.
- Over 75% of the victims seeking help have children. These children witness the violence. When violence escalates to homicide, children witness the murder or find their mother's body in 70% of the cases. Children exposed to violence who do not receive appropriate interventions, such as counseling, become the next generation of victims and abusers, shifting costs to the next generation.
- 70% of the victims accessing voluntary counseling are employed at the time they access services compared to only 35% of Safehouse residents. As violence escalates, maintaining employment becomes difficult due to injuries, harassment, and stalking. Maintaining voluntary counseling helps victims remain employed and avoid requiring public assistance.
- Once a victim enters the Safehouse, they are homeless and immediately qualify for public assistance which is necessary for their short-term survival. This creates increased, yet avoidable, costs on the public benefit system.

Maintaining an Integrated System

WEAVE has continued to provide essential services to an increasing number of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault despite stagnate government funding. WEAVE has leveraged its philanthropic and volunteer resources to continually do more with less. To ensure the community has quality services delivered in the most efficient manner, a fundamental level of funding must be maintained. WEAVE has succeeded in maintaining this level but cannot reduce funding without compromising services. When funding is cut, services are compromised and the cost to the county increases while being shifted to more costly interventions including shelter, law enforcement, and legal interventions.

WEAVE can meet the growing demand with the existing level of funding. Any decrease in funding will result in a reduction of critical services at an increased cost to the community.