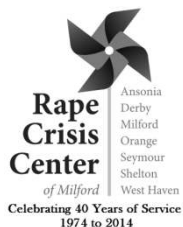




CONNECTICUT SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS SERVICES

The State's leading voice to end sexual violence.

2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



PRESERVE FUNDING FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS SERVICES

Rape Crisis funding in the Department of Public Health budget supports the vital work of CONNSACS' nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs, including statewide hospital and court accompaniment, support groups, and crisis counseling for survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones. Sexual assault crisis services are the only programs in Connecticut that specialize in both the counseling and advocacy needs of sexual assault survivors and their loved ones.

ENSURE TIMELY TESTING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAM KITS

When a victim of sexual assault undergoes a sexual assault forensic exam, the expectation is that the kit will be sent to the lab to be tested. Unfortunately, for many, that is not the case. Initial findings from a survey conducted by the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations of all police departments in the state found that many had untested sexual assault forensic exam kits in their possession, some more than five years old. The state should adopt a clear timeline for sexual assault exam kits to be sent to the state's crime lab for testing.

REMOVE THE CIVIL & CRIMINAL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is a unique crime. Victims of child sexual abuse face numerous barriers to disclosing their abuse when it happens, including fear of their offender, fear of not being believed, or not being able to identify that what happened to them was abuse. The impact of sexual violence lasts a lifetime, but for many survivors of child sexual abuse, the chance for justice does not. Eliminating the civil and criminal statute of limitations doesn't eliminate the need for evidence, it simply gives those who have evidence the time to have their day in court.

Support Efforts to Establish Paid Family Leave

CONNSACS supports efforts to establish a paid family leave program in the state for workers to take time out of work to care for themselves or a loved one after a sexual assault.

Support Efforts to Prevent Sexual Assault of Senior Citizens

CONNSACS supports efforts to increase penalties for sexual violence against senior citizens and to provide those responsible for caring for the elderly with information and services.

Support Efforts to Improve the Rape Shield Law

CONNSACS supports efforts to ensure that a victim's prior sexual history not be discussed in open court and that a hearing on a motion to offer such evidence be held in camera.

Support Efforts to Criminalize Online Gender Based Violence

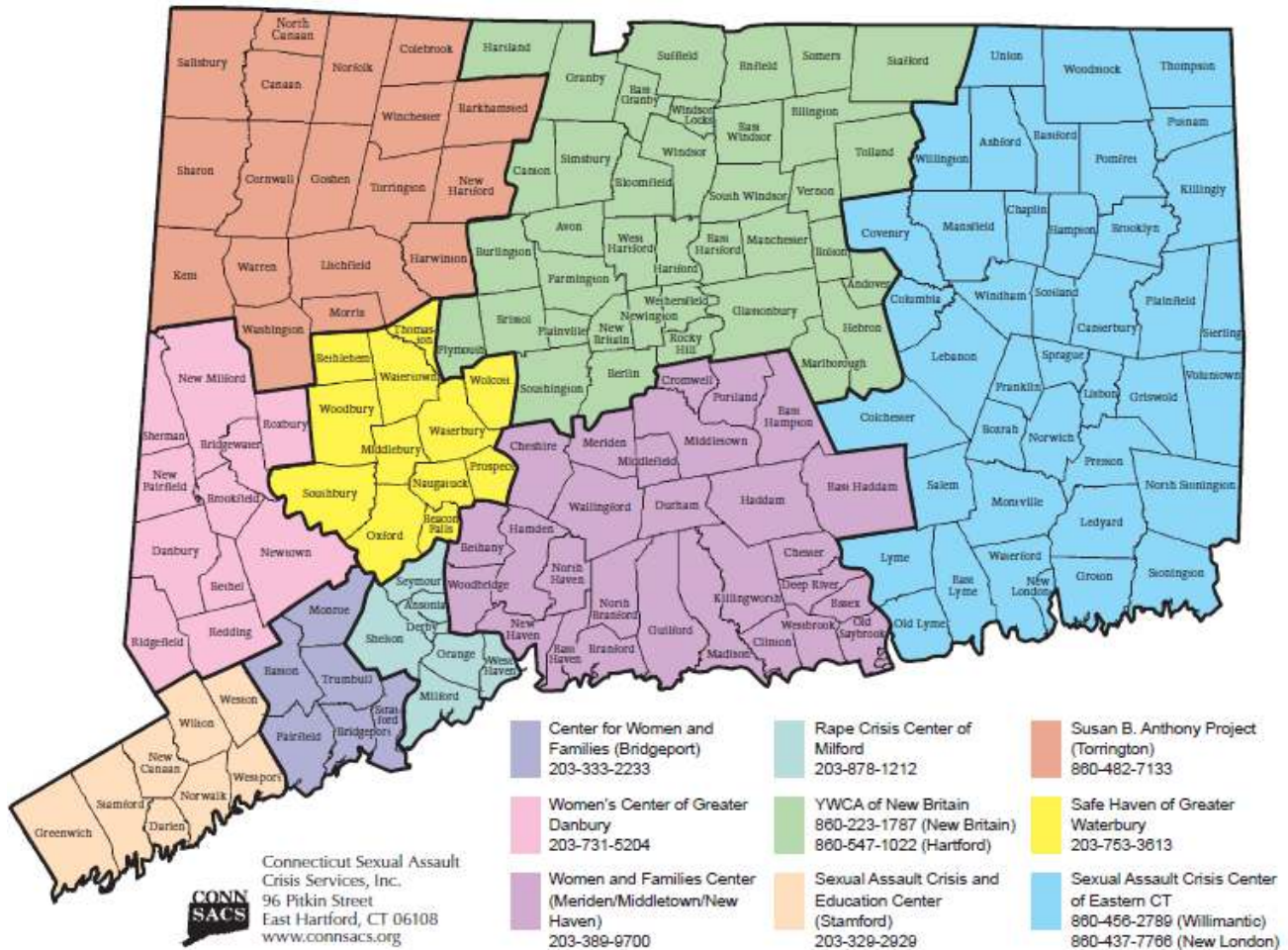
CONNSACS supports efforts to address online sexual harassment and violence, including the sharing of intimate photos of someone without their consent.

Support Efforts to Adequately Fund Nonprofit Providers

CONNSACS supports efforts to provide the nonprofit community-based service system with a level of funding that would allow providers to raise wages to recruit and retain a qualified workforce.

Sexual Assault Crisis Services Programs in Connecticut

Trained and certified sexual assault crisis services counselors/advocates provide services to every town and city in Connecticut. All services are provided to victims/survivors free of charge.



Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS) is the coalition of Connecticut's nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs. Our mission is to end sexual violence and ensure high quality, comprehensive and culturally competent sexual assault victim services. Advocates at CONNSACS and our member programs provide vital services to sexual assault victims/survivors and their loved ones. Free and confidential services include:

- 24/7 Hotline Services in English and Spanish
- Crisis counseling
- Hospital accompaniment
- Police and court accompaniment
- Advocacy for children and non-abusing parents
- Short-term counseling
- Support groups
- Community education programs

ENGLISH HOTLINE: 888-999-5545

SPANISH HOTLINE: 888-568-8332

Sexual assault crisis services are the only programs in Connecticut that specialize in both the counseling and advocacy needs of sexual assault survivors, their family and friends.

Important funding for these programs comes from the Rape Crisis line item in the state budget.

CONNECTICUT SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS SERVICES

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