276 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 70% (193) Were for Housing
Victims made more than 250 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential services that couldn’t be provided were housing advocacy and legal representation, followed closely by financial assistance.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help
Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren’t available; however 58% of programs report that victims return to their abuser, 16% report that victims become homeless, and 6% report that the families are end up living in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help
35% reported reduced government funding.
32% reported not enough staff.
16% reported cuts from private funding sources.
16% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Minnesota 48 (7%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

“On the Survey Day, we accepted a family into shelter in the morning and were full the rest of the day. Most shelters in our area are usually full. This year we have turned away 60% of the people who seek shelter because we have no room.”

— Advocate