
News from the office of
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2002

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GROUP RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT TO EXPAND SERVICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

(Westminster, CO) -- Colorado Congressman Mark Udall (D-CO) today announced that the U.S. Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office has awarded \$522,9100 to the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, (CCADV). The grant, which increases CCADV's annual budget by 50%, will be used to implement their Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Program.

"Rural victims of domestic violence face unique circumstances. Geography, economic structure, social and cultural pressures and lack of available services all act as barriers to those who are trying to end the violence in their lives," said Udall, who was a cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2000. "The Rural Program grant awarded to the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence will help them create or enhance partnerships between rural criminal justice agencies, community organizations, health care providers and businesses to ensure the safety of women and children and prosecute offenders for their violent behavior."

The Rural Program is part of the Violence Against Women Act, which Congress passed in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000. The Rural Program was designed to support projects that address the needs of rural law enforcement and prosecution agencies, the courts and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services programs that respond to domestic violence, dating violence and child victimization. Funds are used to prosecute incidents of domestic violence, provide advocacy to victims, and develop education and prevention strategies to end domestic violence in rural areas.

The prevention and elimination of domestic violence is the main CCADV mission. As a statewide, grassroots, nonprofit organization coordinating services for battered victims and their families since 1978, the Coalition called this grant, "an important milestone for battered women and their children in Colorado." In addition to providing training, education and services, CCADV develops and distributes materials on domestic violence awareness and referral throughout the State of Colorado.

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