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## **Domestic abuse opponents express concern about federal budget cuts**

**Illinois would fare worse under 2009 funding that will reduce victim-aid grants by about 20 percent, advocates say**

Tribune staff report

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People at risk for domestic violence would have a harder time getting help if proposed federal funding cuts are approved, advocates and two members of Congress said Monday.

The Bush administration's proposed 2009 federal budget, which covers the year beginning Oct. 1, would reduce by about 20 percent the main federal grants that fund victim assistance for those seeking to escape abusive relationships or stalking situations, domestic violence advocates said.

In Illinois, the cuts would be sharper, by about 25 percent, from about \$11.6 million this year, they said.

In Cook County, advocacy groups would have to cut staff and serve 3,500 fewer people, said Dawn Dalton, executive director of the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, at a news conference Monday in downtown Chicago.

U.S. Sen. [Dick Durbin](#) (D-Ill.) and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) joined the advocates and pledged to fight for the funding.

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