



WASHINGTON STATE COALITION

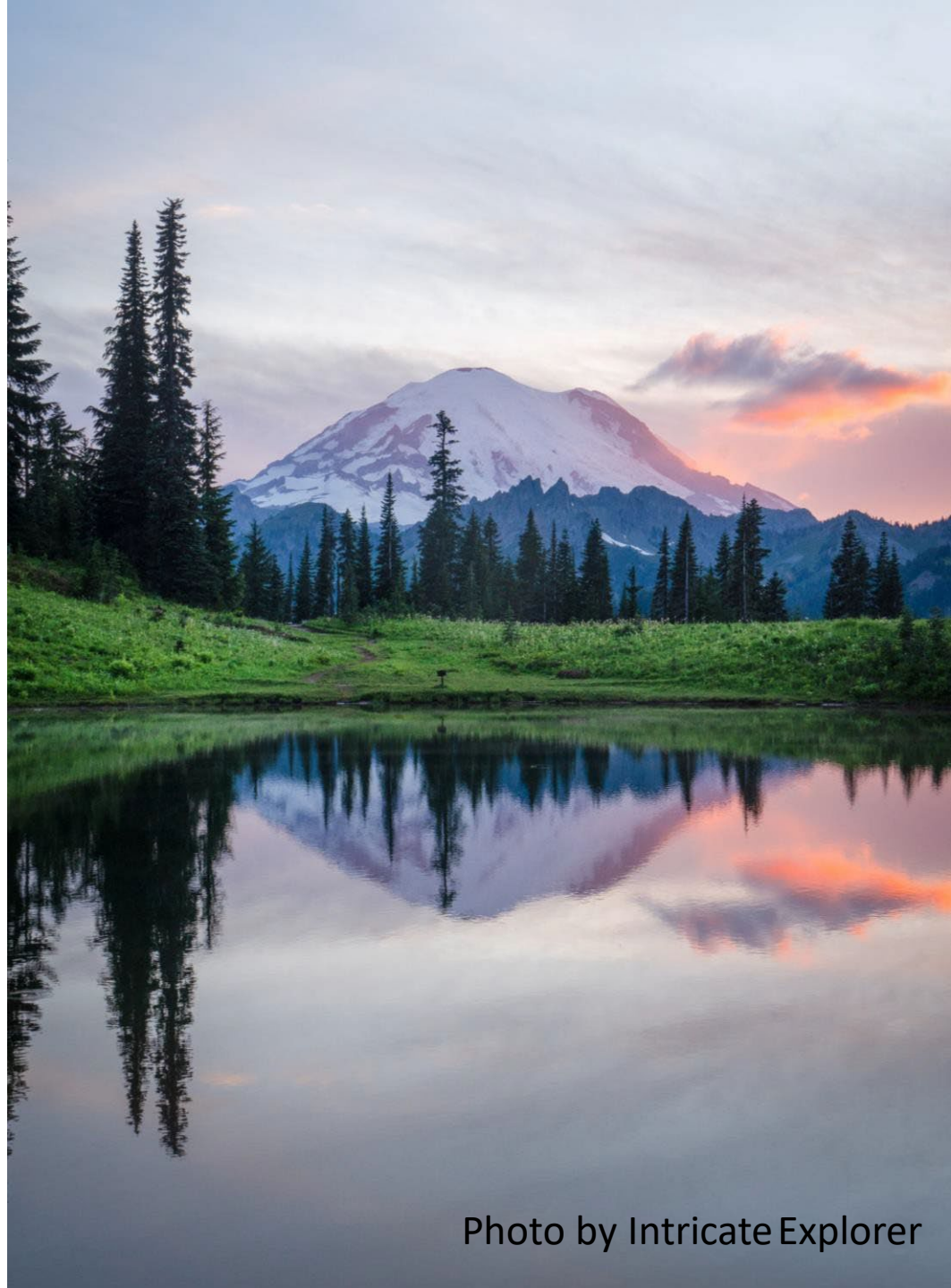
WSCADV

AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

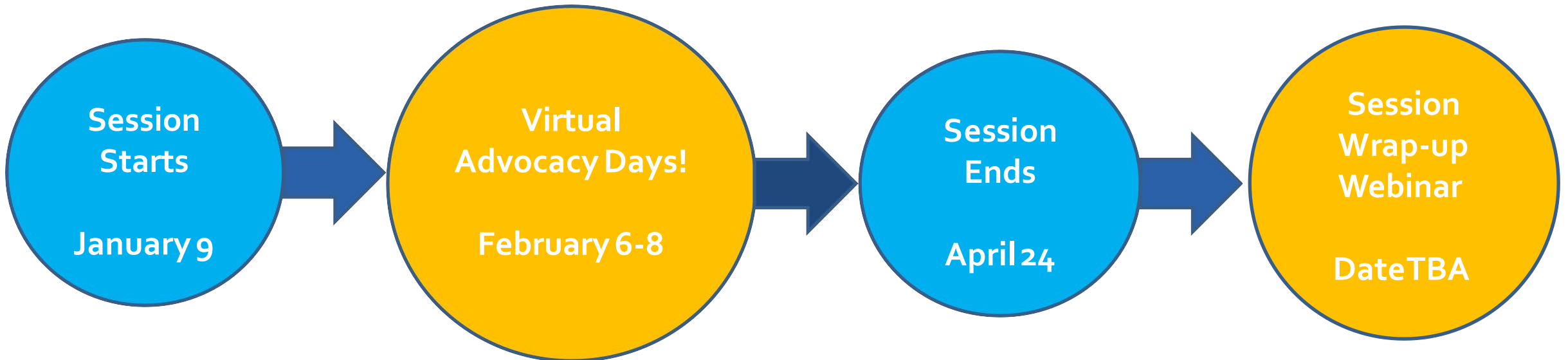
2023
Legislative
Session Guide

Table of Contents

- 2023 Legislative Session Key Dates.....page 3
- WSCADV Policy Priority.....pages 4-5
- Get Involved.....page 6
 - Know Your Legislators.....page 7
 - Follow Our Bill Tracker.....page 8
 - Sign Up For Our Action Alerts.....page 9
 - Attend our Membership Check-In.....page 10
 - 2023 Advocacy Days.....page 11
 - Advocacy Tips.....pages 12-14
 - Contact Us.....page 15



2023 Legislative Session Key Dates



2023 Legislative Session Priority: \$132 million budget proviso

- **WHO?**

- Our “coalition of coalitions”: WCSAP, WSCADV, Office of Civil Legal Aid, Children’s Advocacy Centers of WA, NW Immigrant Rights Project, WA Sexual Assault Working Group

- **WHAT?**

- \$132 million allocated in the 2023-2025 state budget for crime victim services

- **WHY?**

- While the demand for survivor services has increased, programs are not adequately funded. For domestic violence survivor services, state general funding has stayed level at \$6.1M for about 2 decades, despite the increase in services.

Crime Victims Programs

Request: **\$132 Million**

*WA Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Office of Civil Legal Aid, WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Children's Advocacy Centers of WA, NW Immigrant Rights Project, Washington Sexual Assault Working Group*



Support victims of crime and protect those at risk

Programs that support crime victims across Washington have been chronically underfunded and have had to rely on unstable federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to keep their doors open. Significant state investment is needed to meet the rapidly rising needs, retain staff and ensure that quality services continue to be available in every county.

Programs in your community that support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking and extreme violence need your help NOW.

Demand for services has never been greater

Decades of inadequate funding from the State and the loss of VOCA dollars, combined with the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has put vulnerable individuals and families at even higher risk. Service providers across our state are resorting to wait lists for services.

A snapshot of the escalating need:

Children's Advocacy Centers	Domestic Violence Programs	Sexual Assault Program	Civil Legal Services
Double-digit increase statewide, between 15-43%	Single day count 2020, 75% of WA programs served 2,306 survivors; 603 requests for help went unmet	Double-digit increases statewide; King County increased by 19%	Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault experience 2x as many civil legal problems each year

Working together to strengthen the safety net for victims

A broad coalition of statewide programs are working together to protect and strengthen the services and supports provided to survivors in Washington by respectfully requesting ongoing stable state funding to ensure quality and dependable services for our communities.

These life-saving programs are struggling to provide trauma-informed care and direct services to those in need and are at a breaking point. No one asks to be a victim of crime - it is our duty to step up and fund the services they need to recover.

Please support our \$132M request to support victims of crime

Funds to be allocated according to current state plans and formulas

Sustainable funding is necessary for the following vital Statewide Services

- Domestic Violence Services
- Sexual Assault Services
- Children's Advocacy Center Services
- Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime and their Families
- Civil Legal Aid for Immigrant Victims of Crime
- Services for Victims of Trafficking
- Crime Victim Witness Assistance Services
- Tribal Government Crime Victims Services

*For Additional Information Please Contact:
Rebecca Johnson (360) 359-8872 rebecca@rebeccajohnson.com
Carey Morris (360) 961-7125 careymorris27@gmail.com*

SEE and
SHARE our
one-pager!



Get Involved: Choose Your Own Adventure!

- [Know](#) who represents you in Olympia and talk to them!
- [Follow](#) our online bill tracker
- [Sign up](#) for action alerts
- [Hang](#) with us on Zoom every other Friday from 1-1:30
- [Attend](#) Virtual Advocacy Days on February 6-8

Know Your Legislators

Your legislators may have changed after 2022 redistricting

If you don't know your district, you can look it up at:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

Everyone has 2 state Representatives (House) and 1 Senator (Senate)

These are different than your Members of Congress (U.S. House & Senate)

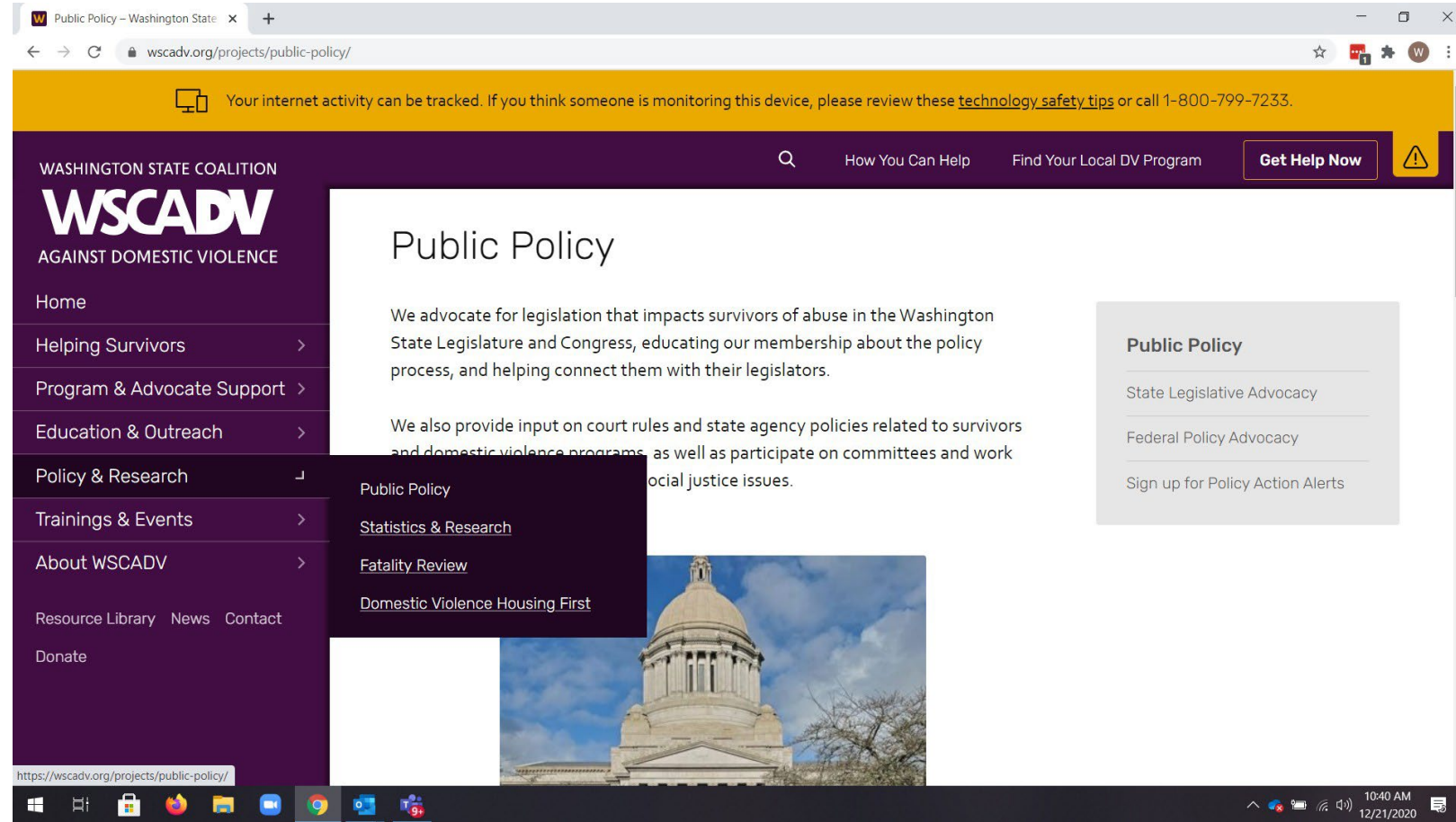


Get Involved!

Follow updates
at wscadv.org



Select "Policy &
Research" from the left-
hand menu, then select
"Public Policy"



<https://wscadv.org/projects/public-policy/>

Sign up for action alerts to receive a weekly summary every Thursday afternoon during session!

Public Policy – Washington State

wscadv.org/projects/public-policy/

Your internet activity can be tracked. If you think someone is monitoring this device, please review these [technology safety tips](#) or call 1-800-799-7233.

WASHINGTON STATE COALITION
WSCADV
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Home
Helping Survivors >
Program & Advocate Support >
Education & Outreach >
Policy & Research >
Trainings & Events >
About WSCADV >
Resource Library News Contact
Donate

Public Policy

We advocate for legislation that impacts survivors of abuse in the Washington State Legislature and Congress, educating our membership about the policy process, and helping connect them with their legislators.

We also provide input on court rules and state agency policies related to survivors and domestic violence programs, as well as participate on committees and work groups that address a variety of social justice issues.

Want to get involved?

[Sign up for Action Alerts](#) and join us at our annual [Advocacy Day](#).

Locate your elected officials: [State](#) [Federal](#)

[Learn about the restrictions guiding non-profit advocacy around elections.](#)

Public Policy

- State Legislative Advocacy
- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Advocacy Day
- Sign up for Policy Action Alerts

<https://wscadv.org/projects/public-policy/action-alerts/>

Membership Check-Ins

We will host Zoom meetings every other Friday from 1:00-1:30 pm for WSCADV member program staff to hear updates and opportunities for action from our public policy team.

We will convene on:

- January 20
- February 3
- February 17
- March 3
- March 17
- March 31
- April 14

[Register here!](#) (*WSCADV members only please*)





February 6-8, 2023

- Virtual Information Session: Monday, February 6th from 9-11 am
- Virtual legislative appointments will be scheduled throughout February 6th-8th.

Register at advocacydays2023.eventbrite.com

EMILY'S BEST ADVOCACY TIPS

(FROM A FORMER
LEGISLATIVE
ASSISTANT)

- **Contact** your legislators
 - Share more about your program, who you serve in the community, and what you're advocating for
 - **Email** them using the [web form](#)
 - No response? That's okay! Even if you don't receive a response, your opinion is still noted (they receive hundreds of emails per day during session but read them all)
 - **Leave a message** for your state Senator or Representatives using the Legislative HOTLINE at 1 (800) 562-6000
 - You can email legislators more than once!
 - General rule of thumb: one email per issue, bill, or topic
 - *Legislators tally up how many emails they receive about an issue*

EMILY'S BEST ADVOCACY TIPS

(FROM A FORMER
LEGISLATIVE
ASSISTANT)

- **Meet** with your legislators
 - Reach out for a 15-minute virtual or in-person meeting in Olympia during session
 - *Meet with staff if the legislator is not free*
- The **legislative website** (www.leg.wa.gov) is your best friend!
 - You can find out who your legislators are, look up bills, create your own bill tracker, etc.
 - A virtual website tour can be found [here](#)
- **Advocate for/against bills** that impact your community & survivors
 - Get your [position on a bill noted](#) for the legislative record
 - Be ready to provide the committee information which can be found [here](#)
 - [Sign up to testify](#) on a bill, if able (virtual testimony now available)
 - Email your legislators – they tally up these emails!

EMILY'S FINAL THOUGHTS

- Tell your **stories!** That's what folks will remember
Showing how these huge policy decisions impact everyday people in their communities is so impactful
- Email, call, text me anytime. I want to hear from **YOU!** You are my eyes and ears on the ground, and **I can't do this without you**
 - The legislature is a whirlwind and things change on a dime – sometimes with little to no explanation. But I will try to make sure you are all kept in the loop. I want to make this process as accessible as possible
- Wherever you are at in your policy advocacy journey – **YOU ARE ENOUGH!**
 - You don't need to be a policy expert. You are already the experts working on the ground with survivors (or are a survivor) and that is so valuable

Let's Stay Connected!

Emily (Em) Stone

Public Policy Director

Emily@wscadv.org



Anna McKnight

Public Policy Specialist

Anna@wscadv.org

