



FEDERAL SPENDING CUTS REDUCE AID FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

March 10, 2013

The following is an archived video story. The text content of that video story is available below for reference. The original video has been deleted and is no longer available.

Your Community Connection, an Ogden organization, is already facing financial difficulty, as are so many non-profits in recent days, but losing tens of thousands of dollars in federal grants to sequestration means having to turn away more victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

“Right now we have 26 beds in our shelter, and we serve a population of over 245,000 people. We're turning people away,” said YCC Executive Director Julee Smith.

A White House report estimated the sequester would result in a reduction of \$59,000 in funding for the STOP Violence Against Women Program and 200 fewer victims being served.

But Smith said the loss of funding for YCC would be around \$79,000 and could affect far more victims.

“The need has gone up, and the availability of funds has down,” said Smith, referring to an increase in demand for victims’ services.

Saying no to a victim is the hardest answer to give for YCC staff members, Smith said.

“Nothing is worse than to get a phone call to say, ‘I’m in danger, I’ve got to get out, I’ve got to get out now,’ and we have to tell them, ‘I’m sorry. We have no place for you,’” Smith said.

Adults aren’t the only victims YCC serves. A parent who stays at the shelter can receive day care for their children, access to Head Start classes and family counseling, among other services. Children make up about half of YCC’s residents, and cribs are available at the shelter, according to Smith. YCC allows victims to stay in apartments on the property for up to two years as they get their lives back on track.

The organization also provides aid for those struggling below the poverty line.

“When the dreams that they never thought, they never dared to dream, are coming true, that’s when we know that what we’re doing is making a difference. This changes people’s lives as well as saves them,” Smith said.

The loss of federal funding is a big hit for the shelter, but some Utah lawmakers have accepted Smith’s invitation to visit YCC and have dedicated themselves to pushing for thousands of dollars in supplemental state funding, Smith said.

“We have got, as far as I’m concerned, heroes in our state legislature,” Smith said.

<http://www.kutv.com/template/cgi-bin/archived.pl?type=basic&file=/news/top-stories/stories/archive/2013/03/AIEiS65n.xml>

The Salt Lake Tribune

TAX TALKS UNNERVE SOME UTAH INVESTORS, CHARITIES

February 20, 2013

By Jennifer Napier-Pearce

With the average Utahn giving 10.6 percent of their income to philanthropic causes, any talk of tampering with charitable tax deductions is sure to make some local investors and nonprofits queasy.

Last week, Congress resumed its conversation about the role charitable giving should play in the tax code, with dozens of witnesses testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee. President Barack Obama and some Republicans have suggested capping tax breaks for the top 20 percent of taxpayers, arguing it would be fairer and could simplify tax filings. Others say limiting the deduction would severely cut into charities' bottom lines.

Brent Andrews, a shareholder at the law firm Kirton McConkie, said his estate-planning clients are watching the discussion closely.

"I think it's fair to say that anytime Congress is talking about changes, clients are very concerned," he said.

Andrews said individual taxpayers are nervous about anything that would increase their taxes, from instituting a cap on the dollar amount of itemized deductions to replacing tax breaks with tax credits.

"The reality is there has been so much talk. There's constant discussion of possible changes," said Andrews. "People are just skittish. They don't know what's going to happen."

He notes that nervousness also extends to his nonprofit clients, which rely on charitable giving to survive.

"What's been in place has really been an incentive, and when you reduce or eliminate that incentive, people's behavior changes," Andrews said. "Charities are probably right to be concerned."

According to the Utah Nonprofits Association, there were more than 5,500 nonprofits based in Utah in 2009. Today, that number is down to 3,500, with 75 percent bringing in less than \$100,000 per year in revenue.

Once operating expenses are factored in, the razor-thin margins that result are why any reduction in charitable giving would hit nonprofits hard, said Fraser Nelson, executive director of the Community Foundation of Utah, a nonprofit that pools individual charitable contributions into various funds to support community-based causes.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/55853486-79/tax-charitable-percent-giving.html.csp>