







November 9, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
California State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Request for Inclusion in the January Budget Proposal – \$15 Million Ongoing Funding for Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention

Dear Governor Newsom,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to include within your January Budget Proposal \$15 million in ongoing funds for sexual and domestic violence prevention programs administered by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) through a competitive grant process. Your leadership on ensuring ongoing, stable funding is critically needed and will provide community based organizations with the ability to develop and implement programs for long-lasting impact. Incorporating this modest request into the budget will demonstrate your commitment to ending gender-based violence and supporting healthy communities.

This year, the state budget included \$15 million in funding for domestic and sexual violence, and the budget previously allocated one-time funding for this purpose in the FY 18-19 and FY 19-20 budgets, at \$10 million and \$5 million respectively. We are deeply grateful for the administration's support for these funds. However, the one-time nature of the funding means that our state administrator, Cal OES, cannot plan for lengthy grant periods and community-based organizations cannot commit to the long term work needed to change societal norms and change our culture around consent and healthy relationships. Preventing violence and abuse so deeply embedded in our society will take time, and ongoing funding is critical for this work.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought light to a crisis within a crisis - the stressors and dynamics related to COVID-19 increased the rates and severity of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Even as the pandemic subsides and we emerge into a new normal, the trauma and impacts on survivors and their families will be long lasting. This does not need to be an inevitable element of our state's reality, but without an ongoing state investment in prevention, high rates of tragedy and trauma will persist.

If healthy relationship and consent skills were built into the fabric of Californians' lives, we could avoid the devastating outcomes we currently see. There is a growing evidence base of what works to truly prevent violence and abuse, and thanks to one-time investments, organizations across California have been implementing a range of prevention efforts.

FY 2022 January Budget Request

We respectfully request \$15 million in ongoing funds dedicated to supporting community-based prevention be included within your January Budget Proposal. With a per-project grant award of \$150,000 per year, this request could fund approximately 100 community-based prevention programs, truly allowing prevention to reach across California.

State spending on prevention is especially critical since the federal funding sources to address domestic and sexual violence administered through Cal OES are heavily focused on crisis intervention victim services. The largest federal funding source, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), expressly prohibits funds from being used for prevention efforts. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP formula grant and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grants cap prevention at 5 and 25 percent, respectively. **Without state investment, we will make no meaningful progress in preventing these types of harms.**

Background information on the need for prevention

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 3.3 million California women and men experience intimate partner violence each year.¹ In 2012 alone, an estimated 948,000 California residents were sexually assaulted. However, given that some victims were assaulted repeatedly during the year, the total estimated incidences of sexual assault is 1.1 million.² The costs of sexual and domestic violence are astronomical: sexual violence costs the state of California \$140 billion annually³ and the lifetime economic burden of domestic violence in California is nearly \$400 billion.⁴

It's time for California to invest in prevention to stop future incidences of sexual violence and reduce the costs of sexual and domestic violence to victims, and our communities. Prevention works by teaching safe and healthy relationship skills to school-age youth, improving school climates and safety with peer-led programs, shifting culture by engaging boys and men in gender equity, and promoting racial justice with culturally responsive solutions. Changing the conditions and norms that allow sexual and domestic violence to occur will take time. Thriving communities and healthy relationships can prevail over sexual and domestic violence if we sustain these efforts.

Using recent state investments in domestic and sexual violence prevention, programs have:

- Increased their capacity to provide healthy relationship educational workshops.
- Provided outreach and training to local correctional facilities in order to expand services to incarcerated survivors.
- Expanded empowerment self-defense and trauma-informed rape prevention education workshops.
- Implemented a nationally recognized curriculum to engage men and boys as allies in prevention and promote healthy, respectful manhood.
- Expanded outreach to focus on at-risk, homeless & runaway youth.
- Developed inclusive queer and trans youth outreach.
- Expanded their already successful youth leadership work to additional schools and college campuses.

¹ Victim estimates: Smith, S., Chen, J., Basile, K., Gilbert, L., Merrick, M., Patel, N., et al. (2017, September 25, 2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Retrieved October 2018 from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/summaryreports.html>. Lifetime cost per victim estimates: Peterson, C., Kearns, M. C., McIntosh, W.L., Estefan, L. F., Nicolaidis, C., McCollister, K. E., et al. (2018). Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults. *Am J Prev Med*, 55(4), 433-444.

² "Cost and Consequences of Sexual Violence in California," 2018, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, <http://www.calcasa.org/the-cost-consequences-of-sexual-violence-in-california/>

³ Ibid

⁴ Cora Peterson, PhD, Megan C. Kearns, PhD, Wendy LiKamWa McIntosh, MPH, Lianne Fuino Estefan, PhD, MPH, Christina Nicolaidis, MD, MPH, Kathryn E. McCollister, PhD, Amy Gordon, MS, Curtis Florence, PhD, "Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults" [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(18\)31904-4/pdf](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(18)31904-4/pdf)

- Implemented Athletes As Leaders, which empowers high school female student athletes to take an active role in promoting healthy relationships and ending sexual violence.
- Developed prevention curricula that is culturally sensitive to Spanish speaking populations, and provided California certification Sexual Assault Counselor trainings in Spanish.
- Engaged LGBTQIA+ youth and adults to enhance peer knowledge of healthy relationships and bystander empowerment.
- Adapted programs to reach parents and youth through online virtual spaces and provide virtual trainings.

Now is the time to prioritize prevention and build upon the existing groundwork and momentum to end sexual and domestic violence. For these reasons, we, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request that you consider this budget allocation of \$15 million.

Sincerely,

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
 ValorUS
 A Window Between Worlds
 ACLU California Action
 Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault
 Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
 Alliance for Community Transformations
 American Indian Movement So Cal
 Antelope Valley Domestic Violence Council
 Asian Women's Shelter
 Asian Youth Center (AYC)
 Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR)
 BRAV Consultations
 BreastfeedLA
 California Mental Health Connections
 Californians for Safety and Justice
 Casa de Esperanza
 Catalyst Domestic Violence Services
 Center For A Non Violent Community
 Center for Community Solutions
 Center for Domestic Peace
 Center for the Pacific Asian Family
 Central California Family Crisis Center, Inc.
 Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)
 Community Resource Center
 Community Solutions
 Community Violence Solutions
 Corona-Norco United Way

DeafHope
DOVES of Big Bear Valley, Inc.
Downtown Women's Center
Empower Yolo, Inc.
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Equal Rights Advocates
Family Violence Appellate Project
Family Violence Law Center
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Futures Without Violence
Gathering Strength Collective
GENup (Generation Up)
Gray's Trauma Informed Care Services Corp
Haven Hills
Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus
Human Options
Interface Children & Family Services
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Korean American Family Services
LA Best Babies Network
Lassen Family Services
Laura's House
License to Freedom
Live Violence Free
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Lumina Alliance
Maitri
Marjaree Mason Center
Me Too Survivors' March International
Monarch Services of Santa Cruz County
Monterey County Rape Crisis Center
My Sister's House
Narika
National Center for Youth Law
National Organization for Women, Hollywood Chapter
Nevada County Citizens for Choice
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
OCA Sacramento Chapter
One Safe Place
Orange County Equality Coalition
Orangewood Foundation
Peace Over Violence
PolicyLink
Positive Results Center
Prevention Institute
Project Sanctuary
Project Sister Family Services

Project: Peacemakers, Inc
Public Health Institute
Public Law Center
Rainbow Services, Ltd.
Rape Counseling Services of Fresno
Ready 2 Imagine
Realized potential Inc
Safe Alternatives to Violence Environment (SAVE)
SAFE Family Justice Centers
San Diego Domestic Violence Council
San Diego Youth Services
Shelter From The Storm, Inc.
Shepherd's Door Domestic Violence Resource Center
Sierra Community House
Sister to Sister 2, Inc.
STAND! For Families Free of Violence
Stopping Domestic Violence
Strategic Prevention Solutions
StrengthUnited
Su Casa~Ending Domestic Violence
The Coalition for Family Harmony
The One Love Foundation
The People Concern
Time of Change
Tri-Valley Haven
Verity ~ Compassion. Safety. Support.
Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center
Waymakers
WEAVE INC.
Western Center on Law and Poverty
What is LOVE
Wild Iris Family Counseling and Crisis Center
Wild Iris Family Counseling and Crisis Center
Women's Center - Youth & Family Services
Women's Center-High Desert, Inc.
Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC)
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley
YWCA Sonoma County

CC: Department of Finance
Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Senate Republican Leader Scott Wilk
Assembly Minority Leader Marie Waldron
Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee

Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Members, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Legislative Analyst's Office

2019 Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention (SD) Program Grantees Grant Period: May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021		
Organization	Funding	City
Asian Youth Center	\$150,000	San Gabriel
Center Against Sexual Assault of Southwest Riverside County	\$150,000	Hemet
Child and Family Center	\$150,000	Santa Clarita
Coalition for Family Harmony	\$150,000	Oxnard
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo	\$150,000	San Luis Obispo
Community Violence Solutions	\$150,000	Antioch
Corona-Norco United Way	\$150,000	Corona
El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center	\$150,000	San Bernardino
Girls Incorporated of Alameda County	\$128,050	Oakland
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	\$150,000	Los Angeles
Haven Hills, Inc.	\$122,450	Canoga Park
House of Ruth	\$150,000	Pomona
Interface Children & Family Services	\$150,000	Camarillo
Jenese Center, Inc.	\$150,000	Los Angeles
Los Angeles LGBT Center	\$150,000	Los Angeles
NEWS	\$150,000	Napa
Northridge Hospital Foundation	\$150,000	Northridge
Opening Doors	\$150,000	Sacramento
Project Sister Family Services	\$150,000	Pomona
Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments	\$150,000	Fremont
San Diego Youth Services	\$150,000	San Diego
Stand Up Placer	\$150,000	Roseville
Standing Together to End Sexual Assault	\$150,000	Santa Barbara
Time of Change	\$150,000	Woodland
Tri-Valley Haven for Women	\$150,000	Livermore
Verity	\$150,000	Santa Rosa
Volunteers of America of Los Angeles	\$150,000	Los Angeles

Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	\$150,000	Santa Cruz
Women's Center - Youth & Family Services	\$150,000	Stockton
Women's Transitional Living Center	\$150,000	Fullerton
Women's and Children's Crisis Center	\$150,000	Whittier
WomenShelter of Long Beach	\$149,500	Long Beach

2018 Domestic Violence Family Violence Prevention (FX) Program Grantees Grant period: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020		
Organization	Funding	City
Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse	\$300,000	San Mateo
Interval House	\$300,000	Seal Beach
Center for Community Solutions	\$300,000	San Diego
Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus	\$300,000	Modesto
Center for Domestic Peace	\$300,000	San Rafael
Para Los Ninos	\$300,000	Los Angeles
Stand Strong	\$300,000	San Luis Obispo
Legal Aid Society of Orange County	\$300,000	Santa Ana
Human Services Association	\$300,000	Bell Gardens
Indian Health Council, Inc.	\$300,000	Pauma Valley
Laura's House	\$300,000	Ladera Ranch
Chest of Hope	\$300,000	Tracy
Community Resource Center	\$300,000	Encinitas
Waymakers	\$1,000,000	Santa Ana
<i>*Additionally, the 84 state-funded Rape Crisis Center programs also received \$58,000 in funding per program to address sexual violence prevention in every county in California.</i>		