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**California Governor and Legislature ensure that services for crime survivors remain intact**

*A critical \$100M will provide a lifeline to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking for another year.*

SACRAMENTO, CA - Today, Governor Newsom and the Legislature announced a final budget agreement that includes \$100 million in funding to keep essential services for survivors of violent crimes operational for another year.

While advocates express their gratitude and relief, they also recognize that this solution is temporary as they brace for another year of funding uncertainty.

Krista Colón, of the California VOCA Advocacy Alliance and Executive Director of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, issued the following statement:

“A budget is a moral document. By funding victim services, this budget dictates where California’s values lie. California has shown that survivors and the programs that support them are a priority for the upcoming fiscal year.

Despite this win, programs and survivors will still have to face another year of uncertainty starting this coming July. Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, and other violent crimes are some of the most vulnerable Californians, yet their safety net continues to be a budget item up for negotiation every year. California can and should do better.

Services survivors rely on to heal after violence – like mental health support after sexual assault, shelter after fleeing domestic violence, legal support after escaping human trafficking, and advocacy after child abuse – are not luxuries; they are lifelines.

We cannot continue to jeopardize crucial services that Californians rely on during the most traumatic and dangerous experiences of their lives. In 2021 and 2022, this totaled [816,000](#) people, more than the population of Sacramento. We urge state leaders, including the Governor, to consider survivors as an ongoing priority in the California Budget in future years. Our coalition will continue to advocate for survivors until the state commits to sustainable funding for essential healing services.”

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### **About the California VOCA Advocacy Alliance**

The California VOCA Advocacy Alliance represents over 200 organizations that hundreds of thousands of California victims and survivors depend on each year. Our large coalition works to advance the rights of survivors of human trafficking, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and others. We are dedicated to supporting survivors, advocates and communities, and have a common goal of advocating for equitable access to core services.