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California's crime victim services will remain funded for another year in Governor's final budget, but long-term funding is needed

Advocates and survivors emphasize the need for long-term solutions to stabilize critical victim services

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SACRAMENTO - Today, Governor Newsom signed a final budget agreement that includes \$50 million in one-time funding to maintain, in dollar terms, funding for essential services for survivors of violent crimes.

While this funding stabilizes funding for crime victim services for another year, survivors and advocates warn that this solution is temporary as they brace for continuing funding uncertainty and deal with rapidly rising costs while receiving the same funding amounts for the last three years.

Holly Fleming, of the California VOCA Advocacy Alliance, issued the following statement:

“Survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, and other violent crimes, especially immigrants, LGBTQ+, Black, Native and Indigenous, and unhoused communities, are some of the most vulnerable in the state. By funding crime victim services, California's leaders show that all Californians deserve safety and healing after experiencing violence.

For one year, this will fund safety-net services that countless Californians depend on every day, like mental health support after sexual assault, shelter after fleeing domestic violence, legal support after escaping human trafficking, and advocacy after child abuse.

Unfortunately, after this year, programs and survivors will face another year of uncertainty. The demand for these services will continue, and survivors and advocates should not have to continue to share stories of personal trauma to justify the importance of crime victim services.

We must find a long-term solution to this problem. California cannot continue to underfund and threaten crucial services that [nearly 700,000 Californians rely on more than 5.3 million times](#) each year during the most traumatic and dangerous experiences of their lives.

We urge state leaders, including the incoming Governor, to prioritize California's crime victims and provide stable, ongoing funding for them. The California VOCA Advocacy Alliance will continue to advocate for survivors until the state commits to sustainable funding for shelter, forensic exams, counseling, and other necessary support for victims."

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About the California VOCA Alliance: The California VOCA Advocacy Alliance consists of over 250 statewide and local organizations dedicated to supporting survivors of crime, advocates, and their communities. Our large coalition represents over 400 programs across the state, and works to advance the rights of survivors of trafficking, child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and others. With a common goal to fearlessly advocate for our communities, we center equitable access to victim services in our decisions.

About ValorUS®: ValorUS® (VALOR) is a California-based, national anti-violence organization and California's sexual assault coalition committed to advancing equity and ending sexual violence. Since our founding in 1980, we have continued to build dynamic relationships across a diverse range of communities, institutions and systems, and mobilize our network of survivors and advocates to influence change. Through leadership, prevention, and advocacy, we are fearlessly pursuing a world free from violence where the dignity of every person is valued and respected. For more information, visit valor.us.

About the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence: The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership) works to prevent and end domestic violence in California by mobilizing over 1,000 survivors, advocates, organizations, and allies. Via public policy, prevention, communications, and community-based strategic engagement, we strive to build healthy relationships at all levels by eliminating the injustices which perpetuate cycles of violence, elevating and expanding opportunities for innovative solutions that center survivors, and building and funding support for local programs. For more information, visit cpedv.org.