



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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GEORGE GASCÓN • District Attorney  
JOSEPH F. INIGUEZ • Chief Deputy District Attorney

DANIEL FELIZZATTO • Legislative Advocate  
TAMAR TOKAT • Legislative Advocate

May 30, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Assembly Budget Committee, Chair  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
Senate Budget Committee, Chair  
1021 O Street, Suite 8620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES VOCA FUNDING AUGMENTATION SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Gabriel and Senator Wiener:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office strongly supports the \$103 million appropriation included in the Assembly and Senate budget bill to provide financial assistance and support to victim services providers to ensure all victims of crime in California receive the services they need.

This additional funding would help cover the reduction in federal dollars from the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA).

In 2023, the federal government appropriated \$1.9 billion for the VOCA's Crime Victims Fund (CVF). This year the federal government will only fund the CVF at \$1.2 billion. This significant reduction in federal funding caused CalOES to reduce California's VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program by almost 45%.

Funding from the CVF provides the largest consistent funding source for support to Californians who have been victims of crime. VOCA provides funds for an array of critical services and programs, which include domestic violence service providers, Rape Crisis Centers, legal assistance, human trafficking services, services to address crime survivor homelessness, and other vital services.

The reduction to California's VOCA funding will have a detrimental impact on the ability of Los Angeles County's provider network to provide domestic violence shelter/housing, legal and other services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Our Bureau of Victim Services will also be directly impacted by the upcoming reduction in California's VOCA funding. Without additional funding the Bureau of Victim Services will lose funding for approximately 20 Victim Services Representatives. Victim services representatives provide a range of free services to help victims become survivors. They work in courthouses and

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1100 K Street, Suite 404  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 442-0668  
Fax: (916) 444-8729

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police stations and are available to provide assistance in several languages. Program services are provided free of charge and there is no legal residency or citizenship requirement. Victim services representatives work in coordination with deputy district attorneys and are specially trained to help children, seniors, people with disabilities and victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and other violent crime.

Our Office is deeply concerned that cuts in VOCA CVF funding will have devastating impacts to crime survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other violent crimes and their families.

The proposed \$103 million in funding included in the budget for the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) is critically needed by states like California due to a dramatic decrease in federal VOCA funding.

For this reason, our Office strongly supports the funding for victim services included in the CalOES budget.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,



**GEORGE GASCÓN**  
District Attorney

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom  
Assembly Member Robert Rivas, Assembly Speaker  
Senator Mike McGuire, Senate President pro Tempore  
Members, Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation