



## **AB 1956 (Reyes): Crime Victim Services Stabilization Act** **(Coauthors: Addis Alanis, Bonta, Friedman, Gipson, Grayson, Kalra, Low, Nguyen, Ortega, Joe Patterson, Quirk-Silva, Santiago, Soria, Waldron, & Ward)**

### **SUMMARY**

AB 1956, requires California to support funding for essential crime victim services when there are major reductions in funding. These critical services impact survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, and other crimes.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), through deposits into the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) from fines and penalties in federal cases, is the largest federal funding source for victim service providers. VOCA funds essential services that crime victims need access to such as rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, child abuse programs and Court Appointed Special Advocates, legal assistance, human trafficking services, and more. In California in FY 21-22, VOCA funding supported:

- Housing for domestic violence survivors and their children, including 354,227 emergency shelter nights; providing transitional housing 180,628 times; and supporting 6,882 individuals with housing services through a Housing First approach.

- Services for 46,461 individuals experiencing sexual violence, served by California's Rape Crisis Centers.
- Culturally appropriate victim services for 42,184 unserved/underserved survivors of crime, and another 4,333 child and youth survivors of crime from unserved/underserved communities.
- Supporting 16,636 child abuse survivors and their families who received support through victim-centered, trauma-informed forensic interviews, advocacy, direct or referral to therapy/counseling, and referrals for medical exams.

Deposits into the CVF and the amount released each year through Congressional funding bills have declined significantly in recent years. This is jeopardizing funding for local direct service programs and putting survivors of crime at risk of not being able to access these services in the midst of their trauma. This instability led to California providing a one-time allocation in 2021, and the continued federal declines have created a looming shortfall for FY 24-25 without additional state funding. Should the State not step in to support these services, survivors will face increased wait times and fewer available services, many service providers will be forced to lay off staff and some will

be forced to close their doors entirely. The reductions put survivor's safety and well-being at risk who deserve consistent, reliable access to healing services.

### THIS BILL

AB 1956 will:

- Require the State to provide supplemental funding when the federal VOCA award is reduced more than 10% than the amount awarded the prior year.
- Require Cal OES to award these funds to federal VOCA funding grant recipients in a consolidated and streamlined manner to simplify the grant process for service providers.

### SUPPORT

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (Co-Sponsor)  
Children's Advocacy Centers of California (Co-Sponsor)  
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (Co-Sponsor)  
Culturally Responsive Domestic Violence Network (Co-Sponsor)  
Legal Aid Association of California (Co-Sponsor)  
Los Angeles LGBT Center (Co-Sponsor)  
VALOR (Co-Sponsor)  
The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach  
3strands Global Foundation  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California  
Asian Women's Shelter  
Beloved Survivors Trauma Recovery Center  
Bet Tzedek Legal Services  
Bill Wilson Center  
Calico Center  
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform  
California Coalition for Youth  
California District Attorneys Association  
California Elder Justice Coalition (CEJC)

California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
California State Sheriffs' Association  
Californians for Safety and Justice  
Californians United for A Responsible Budget  
Catalyst Domestic Violence Services  
Center for Community Solutions  
Center for Domestic Peace  
Central California Family Crisis Center, INC.  
Child Guidance Center, INC.  
Children's Assessment Center  
Children's Legacy Center  
City of Kerman, CA  
Community Resource Center  
Community Solutions  
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services  
County of Fresno  
County of Kern  
County of Kings  
County of Santa Clara  
Crime Victims Alliance  
Debt Free Justice California  
Downtown Women's Center  
Empower Yolo  
Family Assistance Program  
Family Healing Center  
Family Violence Appellate Project  
Family Violence Law Center  
Free to Thrive  
Friends Committee on Legislation of California  
Futures Without Violence (UNREG)  
Glendale YWCA  
Haven Hills, INC.  
Healthy Alternatives to Violent Environments  
House of Ruth, INC.  
Human Options, INC.  
Humboldt Domestic Violence Services  
Initiate Justice  
Interface Children & Family Services  
Jenesse Center, INC.  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (UNREG)  
Korean American Family Services, INC (KFAM)  
La Defensa  
Lassen Family Services, INC.  
Laura's House  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Legal Aid of Marin

Live Violence Free  
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice  
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office  
Lumina Alliance  
Madera County  
Marjaree Mason Center  
Modoc County Victim Services  
Modoc Crisis Center  
Napa County District Attorney's Office  
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles  
County  
NEWS  
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence  
Partners Against Violence  
Partners Against Violence, INC.  
Prevail (formerly Women's Center - Youth &  
Family Services)  
Prosecutors Alliance of California, a Project of  
Tides Advocacy  
Public Law Center  
Rady Children's Hospital  
Rainbow Services, Ltd.  
Rape Trauma Services: a Center for Healing and  
Violence Prevention  
Rural County Representatives of California  
Sacramento LGBT Community Center  
Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments  
San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium  
San Francisco Public Defender  
San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention  
Council DbA: Center for Family Strengthening  
Senior Advocacy Network-senior Law Project  
Sheedy Consulting, LLC  
Siskiyou Domestic Violence & Crisis Center  
Smart Justice California, a Project of Tides  
Advocacy  
Stand Up Placer INC.  
Standing Together to End Sexual Assault  
Stanislaus Family Justice Center  
Strong Hearted Native Women's Coalition, INC.  
The Children's Advocacy Center for Child Abuse  
Assessment and Treatment  
The People Concern  
The University Corporation DbA Strength United  
Urban Counties of California (UCC)  
Ventura County Office of The District Attorney

Victims Empowerment Support Team  
Waymakers  
Weave  
Wild Iris Family Counseling & Crisis Center  
Woman INC  
Women's Transitional Living Center, INC.  
Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter INC.  
Yolo County District Attorney  
Yolo County Mdic  
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley  
YWCA Monterey County

15 Private Individuals

## CONTACT

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