

TALKING POINTS

1. Thank you for the State's previous funding of California's Family Justice Centers - Past funding allocations included \$10 million General Fund for a two year period in 2018-19 and \$11 million in 2021-2022 for another two year period. Funding ends March 2024.

Past and current grants through Cal OES allowed FJCs to continue operating throughout the COVID-19 crisis, even when other service providers had to close, and resulted in an expansion of the FJC network to serve thousands more victims in need. FJCs were able to provide critical staffing in areas of unmet need, training to partners including police, and basic necessities such as access to safe shelter, clothing, transportation and many other urgent needs, including supports for children.

2. Today we are asking for your continued support for victims of violence.

- **The Governor's January budget proposal includes no funding for the Family Justice Center Program** and raises concerns about the well-being of victims of violence in our communities.
- **Violence is on the rise.** While the homicide rate which had a historic 31% in 2020 is now beginning to trend down, domestic violence and FJC caseloads are still rising dramatically. **Demand for our services has increased by 30%.**
- **The FJC model is key to effective crisis response and violence prevention in our communities,** especially during this time of increased inter-personal, domestic and mass violence. Government response to violence can improve through increased collaboration and communication between agencies and with community partners.
- **The two budget allocations were crucial to our ability to serve the growing need in our community.** PLEASE OFFER AN EXAMPLE.
- **A \$25 million allocation will help keep our doors open** and ensure we can continue serving the more than 70,000 victims of violence each year, 20% of whom are children.

• **Specifically, the \$25 million allocation will support:**

- Providing every victim that comes to an FJC with a safety plan;
- More trauma reduction programming for children to help children heal and break the cycle of violence;
- Greater enforcement of the firearm restriction law (SB 320 passed in 2021 but still needs enforcement to ensure child protection);
- Civil legal services, mental health, mentoring, counseling, domestic violence and victim advocacy services;
- Increased security and staffing
- Support for emerging Family Justice Centers