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District and City Attorneys Urge Continued State Funding for Crime Victims Through California's Family Justice Centers

SACRAMENTO, CA – District and City Attorneys, community leaders, and victim advocates across California are urging the Legislature and Governor Newsom to maintain critical state funding for the California Family Justice Program in the upcoming budget.

Since 2018, the program has supported a statewide network of Family Justice Centers (FJCs), helping more than 70,000 victims annually, 20% of whom are children, navigate the aftermath of domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse, and human trafficking.

“Family Justice Centers are the most effective system for the delivery of critical services for the most vulnerable victims and for the prevention of violence,” said San Diego County District Attorney and President of the National District Attorneys Association, Summer Stephan. “The return on California’s investment in Family Justice Centers is captured in the reduction of homelessness for women and children that is firmly linked to domestic violence, along with reduction in generational trauma and cycles of violence that keep families trapped in poverty and despair.”

Family Justice Centers (FJCs) are comprehensive multi-agency centers that provide a “one-stop shop” of support services to victims of interpersonal violence, including intimate partner violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. Recognized in California law since 2014 (CA Penal Code 13750), they represent a pivotal shift toward more effective, collaborative models of service delivery for victims of domestic violence and assault. Studies show their presence is linked to reductions in violence and homicides.

Senator Tim Grayson, Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom, and legislators from throughout California signed a letter to Senate and Assembly budget leadership requesting \$10 million be allocated in the FY 2025-2026 budget to support California’s 27 FJCs and six emerging centers. **District Attorneys from the following 13 counties as well as the City Attorney of San Diego have written letters offering strong support for the FJC budget request which will directly impact services for victims in their jurisdictions: Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, Nevada, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura.**

“This is a critical time for all of us to work together for safety, healing, and recovery,” said Susun Kim, Executive Committee member of the California Family Justice Network. “We are grateful to have this opportunity to serve so many individuals, children, and families while also promoting violence prevention, through the victim and community focused Family Justice Center model.”

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