



KEY MESSAGES FOR LEGISLATIVE VISITS

➤ Thank You

We deeply appreciate the State of California's \$31 million investment in Family Justice Centers (FJCs) through the Family Justice Center (FJ) Program since 2018, along with last year's crucial support to address the federal VOCA funding gap that funds vital, life-saving services statewide.

Thanks to your support:

- Communities across California have benefitted from innovative multi-agency collaboration facilitated by their FJCs.
- FJCs remained operational during the COVID-19 crisis, even as many providers faced closures.
- The FJC network expanded to meet the increasing needs of communities.
- Annually, over **70,000 survivors** -including **20,000 children** - receive essential assistance.
- Organizations serving victims and survivors of domestic and interpersonal violence across California were able to maintain operations last year amidst the VOCA funding shortfall.

Your investment has made a tangible difference—saving lives and strengthening communities.

➤ Why Family Justice Centers Matter

A Proven Model. Real Impact.

FJCs are multidisciplinary service hubs for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking. By **co-locating legal, medical, counseling, law enforcement, and housing services** FJCs reduce trauma and increase safety for survivors.

- Authorized under [CA Penal Code §13750\(a\)](#)

- **150+ FJCs nationwide**, 27 operating and six emerging in California
- Serving **victims in 18 counties** (soon to be 20) with interest growing statewide

Effective, Evidence-Based Approach

- **Fewer repeat incidents of violence.**
 - Improved **survivor safety, resiliency, and recovery.**
 - **Children receiving trauma support** are more likely to break cycles of violence.
 - Helps prevent crime, including **domestic homicides and mass shootings**—68% of which involve domestic violence history ([source](#)).
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> Current Crisis

Rising Demand, Shrinking Resources

- **30–40% increase** in FJC caseloads across jurisdictions.
- **Domestic and interpersonal violence is surging in severity**, even as homicide rates trend downward. Aggravated domestic assaults have reached a 20-year high ([source](#)).
- **Growing concerns about affordability and the economy increase stress** on families and can lead to increased incidents of interpersonal violence.
- The **federal VOCA fund has declined by 78% since 2018** ([source](#)).
- The 2025 May Revise budget includes **no funding** for FJCs or dollars to address the federal VOCA funding gap.

Without Funding, We Risk:

- Shutting down critical FJC services
- Losing 20+ years of progress
- Turning away victims in crisis

[Please provide specific examples of what's at stake for survivors at your FJC.]

> Policy Priority 1: \$10 Million for the Family Justice Center (FJ) Program (2-Year Allocation)

The FJ Program has received three rounds of funding since 2018, each consisting of a two-year, \$10 million investment. The most recent funding cycle concluded in March 2025. This request aligns with prior funding levels and is essential to maintaining statewide operations during a fiscally constrained year.

Real need: \$25 million

Request: \$10 million to keep doors open

Funding will support:

- Civil legal services
- Child trauma programming
- Counseling and mental health care
- Enforcement of firearm laws restriction (SB 320)
- Job training and placement
- Restraining orders
- Safe housing access, transportation, and basic needs
- Safety planning for every survivor
- Site security
- Staff training in alignment with [CA Penal Code §13750\(a\)](#)
- Support for new and emerging FJCs
- Volunteer and administrative support

Can we count on your support for this budget request?

Policy Priority 2: Emergency Request: \$260 Million (One-time)

Addressing Federal VOCA Cuts

- **The federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Fund** supports millions annually, but its nearly 50% cut threatens shelters, rape crisis centers, child advocacy centers, and family justice centers that collectively support over 800,000 survivors statewide.
- **State support** is urgently needed to bridge the gap.

[Please provide specific examples of VOCA funded programs at your FJC. What services would be reduced or eliminated and what needs won't you be able to meet?]

AB 2432: A Step Forward, But Not A Fix Yet

While AB 2432 (Gabriel, 2024) establishes a new long-term revenue stream by holding corporations accountable, the funding won't materialize soon enough. Without immediate action, the organizations that serve as the backbone of California's crime victim response will be forced to lay off staff or shut down.

Can we count on your support for this budget request?

➤ Policy Priority 3: Support SB 841 – Safety for Domestic Violence Victims

- SB 841, authored by Senator Rubio, aims to increase protections for survivors of violence by prohibiting immigration enforcement from entering private areas of rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, family justice centers, homeless shelters, and human trafficking shelters.
- It will achieve this by prohibiting staff who work at these facilities from allowing immigration enforcement to enter the locations without a valid warrant and ID.
- The bill passed out of the Senate Public Safety Committee unanimously at the end of April. It is now headed to Senate Appropriations.

The bill ensures that survivors can access safe spaces without fear of deportation or harassment.

[Please articulate how this bill increases protections for the immigrant survivors you serve and share stories illustrating the need for all survivors of domestic violence to feel safe when entering an FJC and other safe havens and shelters.]

Will you support the passage of SB 841?

➤ Why It Matters

FJCs Are Crime Prevention Infrastructure

- The cost of interpersonal violence to the State of California is **\$88,019 per victim** ([source](#)).
- In 2022, the cost approached **\$73.7 billion** ([source](#)).
- The estimated domestic violence cost over a **female victim's lifetime is \$103,767 and \$23,414 for a male victim** ([source](#)).
- FJCs save lives **and money** by intervening early.

Breaking the Cycle for the Next Generation

- Trauma-informed programs like **Camp HOPE America** help children heal.
- Over 62% of incarcerated individuals experienced childhood trauma—FJCs offer an off-ramp from this cycle ([source](#)).

Housing Is the #1 Need

- FJCs fill housing gaps through **tech tools** (e.g., DomesticShelters.org, SoCal Safe Shelter Collaborative).

- Some centers provide **on-site temporary beds**—a lifeline between crisis and safe placement.

> Recap of Key Messages

Thank You	For the \$31M in state support since 2018, for the vital short-term funding provided last year to address the VOCA shortfall, and for passing AB 2432 (Gabriel 2024) which will support survivors in the years to come.
Sustain the Investment	The Family Justice (FJ) Program has been instrumental in advancing the success and growth of the Family Justice Center (FJC) movement across California. Its impact has reached countless communities, providing critical support to survivors and strengthening local systems. Without continued funding of \$10 million, we risk closing doors, losing decades of progress, and dismantling a vital safety net for those facing violence.
FJCs Prevent Crime	FJCs reduce repeat offenses, enable early intervention, and support healing from trauma—key strategies in breaking the cycle of violence.
The Model Works	The FJC model is evidence-based, codified in law, and proven to increase safety, accountability, and positive outcomes for survivors.
Housing Is Critical	Safe, stable housing is often the difference between escape and return to danger. FJCs help survivors secure housing and stability, mitigating homelessness.
VOCA Funding is Essential	VOCA-funded services are the lifeline for survivors. From counseling and crisis response to housing support and legal navigation, these funds make comprehensive, trauma-informed care possible.

> Final Appeal

We urge you to:

- **Sustain the Family Justice Center Program** with a \$10 million investment.
- **Support SB 841** to strengthen survivor protections.
- **Protect California's victim services infrastructure** amid federal funding cuts.

Thank you for standing up for victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Your support makes a difference. Together, we can break the cycle of violence and prevent further harm in our families and communities.