



March 3, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable James Ramos
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #6
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: \$10 Million to Support California Family Justice Centers in the 2025-2026 Budget

Dear Chairs Gabriel and Ramos:

I respectfully request \$10 million one-time General Fund dollars to provide funding to Family Justice Centers throughout California. Created in 2002, Family Justice Centers (FJCs) represent a fast growing movement that has transformed how communities across California respond to survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and other crimes.

FJCs are comprehensive multi-agency centers that provide trauma-informed services to more than 70,000 victims of domestic and interpersonal violence in California each year, with 20 percent of victims being children. California has 27 Family Justice Centers, with two more under development. The FJC collaborative "one stop" model is proven to lessen trauma for victims and to support healing and violence prevention for victims of violence and their families.

State Budget allocations in 2023 and 2021, administered through CalOES, have helped to lead this trauma-informed collaborative response to the alarming escalation of interpersonal, domestic and gun violence in our communities. As violence, especially reports of domestic violence, continues to rise, FJCs are increasingly on the front lines of victim support and recovery. This \$10 million allocation will ensure the safety and recovery of thousands of victims and prevent escalating violence in our communities.

FJCs transform how communities respond to violence. By co-locating services under one roof - including law enforcement, legal aid, medical care, counseling, and job support - FJCs provide trauma-informed, "one-stop-shop" prevention and support services to victims of interpersonal violence, including domestic violence, gun violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking.

The \$10 million allocation will fund wrap-around trauma reduction and recovery services for victims of violence and their families, violence prevention practices, mental health services, gun relinquishment education, enforcement of restraining orders statewide and increased safety and protection for child visitation when domestic violence has been reported. Funding will also support:

- Building capacity to serve more victims of violence through increased staffing for victim safety plan development, trauma-informed therapy and coordination between government, community and law enforcement partners;
- Increased trauma reduction programs in FJCs for children and youth;
- Technical assistance, training, and best practice development for FJCs and their local partners, including law enforcement;
- Statewide public education, convenings, and coordination in local jurisdictions between family law, criminal courts, law enforcement, and social services agencies for firearms relinquishment and safety pertaining to domestic violence restraining orders;
- CFJN coordination with FJCs and state partners to identify comprehensive improvements to supervised visitation safety protocols and practices, including expanded judicial education on lethality factors that contribute to increased violence and homicides, increased communication and coordination between criminal and family courts, coordination and capacity building assistance to California's growing FJC network;
- Direct support for developing new FJCs in historically underserved and new immigrant communities.

California needs to focus on community solutions to reduce violence and FJCs play a vital role in prevention and healing from trauma. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Tania Dikho (Tania.Dikho@asm.ca.gov) in my office.

Sincerely,



Rhodesia Ransom
Assemblymember, District 13



Damon Connolly
Assemblymember, District 12



Lori Wilson
Assemblymember, District 11



Patrick Ahrens
Assemblymember, District 26



Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember, District 4



Anamarie Avila Farias
Assemblymember, District 15



Dr. Corey Jackson
Assemblymember, District 60



Dr. Jasmeet Kaur Bains
Assemblymember, District 35



Ash Kalra
Assemblymember, District 25



Isaac Bryan
Assemblymember, District 55



Mia Bonta
Assemblymember, District 18



Jessica Caloza
Assemblymember, District 52