

Meeting Guide & Talking Points



Welcome to Advocacy Day 2026!

Advocacy Day is a powerful opportunity to elevate the voices and highlight the life-saving work of Family Justice Centers across California. As violence becomes more severe and complex, our collective mission to support survivors, prevent violence, and strengthen families is more urgent than ever.

KEY GOALS

1. **Educate** lawmakers on the impact of Family Justice Centers in their communities.
2. **Thank** legislators for supporting the Family Justice Program (\$10 million, 2-year allocation) and prior VOCA-related funding.
3. **Advocate** for:
 - \$50 million for VOCA stabilization funding in the final state budget
 - Strengthening Survivor Safety Protections (SB 1056 Grayson and AB 1657 Rogers)
 - Sustaining California's Family Justice Centers

CORE MESSAGES

- **Domestic violence is becoming more severe**, lethal, and complex, with increasing aggravated assaults and high-lethality risk.
- **Family Justice Centers** are a proven, evidence-informed public safety solution that both responds to and helps **prevent violence**.
- **Demand for services is increasing** while federal and philanthropic funding is declining.
- **Investing in survivors strengthens families**, stabilizes communities, and improves public safety statewide.

BEFORE THE MEETING

- Review legislator committees and prior support ([Assembly Committee on Public Safety, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 6, Senate Budget Subcommittee 5](#)).
- Confirm prior support for the 2025 Family Justice Center funding request.
- Coordinate speaking roles with your team.

MEETING FLOW

1 Introductions & Opening (1-2 minutes)

Thank you for meeting with us today. I'm [Name] with [FJC/Org] in [City]. We serve approximately [#] survivors and [#] children annually.

- Introduce team members and partners

We are part of the California Family Justice Network, representing 26 centers and 4 emerging centers, serving over 70,000 survivors statewide through coordinated, trauma-informed services.

2 Why We're Here (30-60 seconds)

We're here on Family Justice Center Day in California, to discuss priorities critical to survivor safety and public safety in California.

- Violence is becoming more severe and lethal
- Demand for services is rising statewide
- Family Justice Centers reduce repeat violence through coordinated, prevention-focused response
 - Local example [1 sentence]

3 Thank You & Prior Support (30-60 seconds)

Thank you for your support of the Family Justice Center Program (last year's \$10M allocation over 2-years) and prior VOCA stabilization funding.

State investment has helped maintain services during rising violence and increased demand.

- VOCA funding remains critical to us, but is unstable and declining
- Local impact [1 sentence]
"This funding has allowed us to..."

4 Legislator Priorities & Listening (2-3 minutes)

Ask open-ended questions first

- What are your top public safety or budget priorities this year?
- What is your position on the VOCA funding gap?
- Are there concerns we should be aware of as we discuss these proposals?

5 Local Impact Story (2-3 minutes)

Our center serves [#] survivors and [#] children annually and partners with law enforcement, courts, healthcare, and community organizations.

- Impact story [1-2 sentence] e.g high lethality or child impact

What makes Family Justice Centers effective is coordination. Survivors can access safety planning, legal help, counseling, housing support, and children's services in one place.

Outcomes:

- Reduced repeat violence
- Improved survivor safety and stability
- Better outcomes for children and families
- Reduced strain on emergency systems

6 Policy Priorities (5-7 minutes)

- Share the [Policy Priorities handout](#).

Policy Priority 1: Address the VOCA Funding Crisis (\$50M FY26-27)

Ask

Support the Senate and Assembly budget plan recommendation of \$50 million for VOCA stabilization funding in the final state budget

- The Governor's May Revision proposes \$25 million, but \$50 million is needed to sustain service capacity statewide
- California is already experiencing federal VOCA-related cuts, delays, and cancellations, increasing pressure on local providers
- The prior \$100M investment expires June 30, 2026
- Nearly 1 million survivors impacted annually

Impact if Not Funded Near-Term

- Reduced shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and crisis response
- Longer wait times and reduced access
- Staff layoffs, program and service cuts
- Loss of coordinated service infrastructure that mitigates further violence

Close

- \$50 million represents flat funding despite increasing service needs across California. Without it, delayed support will put lives and safety at risk.

MEETING FLOW

Policy Priority 2: Survivor Safety Protections

SB 1056 (Grayson)

Issue

Prevent re-traumatization in criminal cases involving sexually explicit material

Status

Passed unanimously out of the Senate and is now in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

Ask

Support final passage in the Assembly

- Protects survivor privacy and dignity
- Limits dissemination of sensitive evidence
- Establishes trauma-informed safeguards in criminal proceedings

Close

Survivors deserve privacy, dignity, and protection from ongoing digital harm.

AB 1657 (Rogers)

Issue

Ensure emergency restraining order access is not delayed by advance notice requirements.

Ask

Support final passage in the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate floor

- Prevents dangerous advance notice requirements
- Ensures consistent statewide emergency protection standards
- Strengthens safety during highest-risk period

Close

The period between filing and protection is one of the most dangerous for survivors.

Policy Priority 3: Support & Sustain California's Family Justice Centers

Issue

Family Justice Centers are a proven community-based model that prevents violence through coordinated, co-located services.

Since 2002, California's Family Justice Center network has grown from a single center to 26 centers and 4 emerging centers, but funding has not kept pace with increasing service needs.

Current Reality

- Rising demand and high-lethality cases
- Declining federal and philanthropic funding
- System strain across existing centers

Ask

Establish stable, statewide funding for Family Justice Centers such as an ongoing annual appropriation for the Family Justice Center Program to reduce reliance on discretionary and one-time funding sources.

Impact

- Ensures stable access to Family Justice Center services
- Strengthens coordinated responses to violence
- Breaks cycles of violence and strengthens families
- Reduces long-term public safety and social service costs

Close

Family Justice Centers are on the front lines of preventing violence and strengthening public safety—and require sustained funding to continue this critical work.

MEETING FLOW

CLOSING THE MEETING

Can we count on your support for the following priorities?

- \$50M VOCA stabilization funding
- SB1056 and AB1657
- Sustaining Family Justice Centers statewide

Follow-up questions

- Is there anything else we should be aware of?
- What concerns or priorities should we keep in mind?

Offer engagement

- Is there anything else we can provide?
- We would welcome the opportunity to host you for a tour of a Family Justice Center in your district

Leave materials and exchange contacts

AFTER THE MEETING

- **Take a photo** with the legislator, staff member, or with your team in front of the legislator's office
- **Complete the Legislative Meeting Form** and drop it off at our "Happy Half-Hour" debrief
- **Debrief** with your team
- **Send thank-you emails**
- **Follow up with invitations** to visit your Family Justice Center
- **Share highlights on social media** and tag the legislator



CFJN

California Family
Justice Network