



April 20, 2021

Senator Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5094  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Elena Durazo  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
State Capitol, Room 2032  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 5  
State Capitol, Room 2013  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Support – \$15 Million Ongoing Funding for Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention**

Dear Budget Leaders,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to include \$15 million in ongoing funds in the FY 21-22 budget for sexual and domestic violence prevention programs administered by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) through a competitive grant process. The state budget has previously allocated one-time funding for this purpose in the FY 18-19 and FY 19-20 budgets. Those funds will be fully expended by April 30, 2021 and without further investment, prevention efforts will cease in many parts of the state.

This pandemic has brought light to a crisis within a crisis - the stressors and dynamics related to COVID-19 have increased the rates and severity of domestic violence and sexual abuse. This does not need to be an inevitable element of our state's reality, and without an ongoing state investment in prevention, high rates of tragedy and trauma will persist.

Recent research is confirming that domestic violence and sexual abuse increased during the stay at home orders. Globally more than 3 in 5 (63%) domestic violence organizations said that demand for services escalated.<sup>1</sup> Police data across US cities indicated a 10-27% increase in domestic violence while stay-at-home orders were implemented.<sup>2</sup> As just one example from here in California, Human Options, a domestic violence resource center, reported that calls doubled primarily for legal advocacy such as visitation custody, and there was a 100% increase in requests for food and other basic needs during the first two weeks of coronavirus-related shutdowns. They also saw a 50% increase in requests for parenting classes and the personal empowerment program.<sup>3</sup>

If healthy relationship and consent skills were built into the fabric of Californians' lives, we could avoid the devastating outcomes we currently see. There is a growing evidence base of what works to truly prevent violence and abuse, and thanks to prior one-time investments organizations across California have been implementing a range of prevention efforts. However, as those one-time dollars are expended, these prevention efforts will come to a halt.

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<sup>1</sup> NO MORE Report: Covid-19's Global Impact On Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Services. March 2021. Available at <https://nomore.org/campaigns/domestic-violence-during-covid-19/nomorereport/>.

<sup>2</sup> Boserup, B., McKenney, M. and Elkbuli, A., (2020). Alarming trends in US domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. American Journal of Emergency Medicine [online]. 38(12), 2753-2755. Available from: doi: 10.1016/j.ajem.2020.04.077.

<sup>3</sup> Casteneda, Vera, "'We've never seen such a demand in our history' Domestic violence resource centers see an uptick in calls", Los Angeles Times, <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/entertainment/story/2020-08-07/weve-never-seen-such-a-demand-in-our-history-domestic-violence-resource-centers-see-an-uptick-in-calls>

### **FY 2020-21 Request**

We respectfully request \$15 million in ongoing funds dedicated to supporting community based prevention. With a per-project grant award of \$150,000 per year, this request could fund approximately 100 community-based prevention programs, truly allowing prevention to reach across California.

State spending on prevention is especially critical since the federal funding sources to address domestic and sexual violence that are administered through Cal OES are heavily focused on crisis intervention victim services. The largest federal funding source, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), expressly prohibits funds from being used for prevention efforts. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) STOP formula grant and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grants cap prevention at 5 and 25 percent, respectively. **Without state investment, we will make no meaningful progress in preventing these types of harms.**

### **Prior One-Time Funding Allocations**

In 2018, the state budget included \$10 million in one-time funding for domestic and sexual violence prevention, which was split evenly between the Family Violence Prevention grant program, and the Rape Crisis Center program. This funded fourteen organizations for domestic violence prevention through a competitive grant, and provided new funding for each Rape Crisis Center to incorporate prevention into their work.

In 2019, the state budget included \$5 million in one-time funding for domestic and sexual violence prevention. This funded 32 domestic and sexual violence programs at \$150,000 for a one-year project period, May 2020 through April 2021.

In 2020 the state budget did not include any funding for prevention. As a result, by the time the June budget passes, many funded prevention efforts will have stopped entirely or dramatically scaled back. It is critical that we re-invest in prevention and commit to ongoing funding that allows programs the ability to plan, hire staff, and focus on the long-term societal change that is so desperately needed.

### **Background information on the need for prevention**

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 3.3 million California women and men experience intimate partner violence each year.<sup>4</sup> In 2012 alone, an estimated 948,000 California residents were sexually assaulted. However, given that some victims were assaulted repeatedly during the year, the total estimated incidences of sexual assault is 1.1 million.<sup>5</sup> The costs of sexual and domestic violence are astronomical: sexual violence costs the state of California \$140 billion annually<sup>6</sup> and the lifetime economic burden of domestic violence in California is nearly \$400 billion.<sup>7</sup>

It's time for California to invest in prevention to stop future incidences of sexual violence and reduce the costs of sexual and domestic violence to victims, and our communities. Prevention works by teaching safe and healthy relationship skills to school-age youth, improving school climates and safety with peer-led programs, shifting

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<sup>4</sup> Victim estimates: Smith, S., Chen, J., Basile, K., Gilbert, L., Merrick, M., Patel, N., et al. (2017, September 25, 2017). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Retrieved October 2018 from

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/summaryreports.html>. Lifetime cost per victim estimates: Peterson, C., Kearns, M. C., McIntosh, W.L., Estefan, L. F., Nicolaidis, C., McCollister, K. E., et al. (2018). Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults. *Am J Prev Med*, 55(4), 433-444.

<sup>5</sup> "Cost and Consequences of Sexual Violence in California," 2018, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, <http://www.calcasa.org/the-cost-consequences-of-sexual-violence-in-california/>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Cora Peterson, PhD, Megan C. Kearns, PhD, Wendy LiKamWa McIntosh, MPH, Lianne Fuino Estefan, PhD, MPH, Christina Nicolaidis, MD, MPH, Kathryn E. McCollister, PhD, Amy Gordon, MS, Curtis Florence, PhD, "Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence Among U.S. Adults" [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(18\)31904-4/pdf](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(18)31904-4/pdf)

culture by engaging boys and men in gender equity, and promoting racial justice with culturally responsive solutions. Changing the conditions and norms that allow sexual and domestic violence to occur will take time. Thriving communities and healthy relationships can prevail over sexual and domestic violence if we sustain these efforts.

Using prior years' domestic and sexual violence prevention funding, programs have:

- Increased their capacity to provide healthy relationship educational workshops.
- Provided outreach and training to local correctional facilities in order to expand services to incarcerated survivors.
- Expanded empowerment self-defense and trauma-informed rape prevention education workshops.
- Implemented a nationally recognized curriculum to engage men and boys as allies in prevention and promote healthy, respectful manhood.
- Expanded outreach to focus on at-risk, homeless & runaway youth.
- Developed inclusive queer and trans youth outreach.
- Expanded their already successful youth leadership work to additional schools and college campuses.
- Implemented Athletes As Leaders, which empowers high school female student athletes to take an active role in promoting healthy relationships and ending sexual violence.
- Developed prevention curricula that is culturally sensitive to Spanish speaking populations, and provided California certification Sexual Assault Counselor trainings in Spanish.
- Engaged LGBTQIA+ youth and adults to enhance peer knowledge of healthy relationships and bystander empowerment.
- Adapted programs to reach parents and youth through online virtual spaces and provide virtual trainings.

Now is the time to prioritize prevention and build upon the existing groundwork and momentum to end sexual and domestic violence. For these reasons, we, the undersigned organizations, respectfully request that you consider this budget allocation of \$15 million.

Sincerely,

Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault  
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color  
Alliance for Community Transformations  
American Indian Movement So Cal  
Asian Women's Shelter  
Asian Youth Center  
Breastfeed LA  
California Mental Health Connections  
Casa de Esperanza  
Catalyst Domestic Violence Services  
Center for a Non Violent Community  
Center for Community Solutions  
The Coalition for Family Harmony  
Community Resource Center  
Corona-Norco United Way  
DOVES of Big Bear Valley, Inc.  
Empower Yolo, Inc.  
Family Violence Appellate Project

Family Violence Law Center  
Futures Without Violence  
Gray's Trauma Informed Care Services Corp.  
Haven Hills, Inc.  
Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus  
Interface Children & Family Services  
Lassen Family Services  
Laura's House  
License to Freedom  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Me Too Survivors' March International  
Monarch Services of Santa Cruz County  
My Sister's House  
Narika  
National Organization for Women, Hollywood Chapter  
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence  
OCA Sacramento Chapter  
The One Love Foundation  
One SAFE Place  
Peace Over Violence  
The People Concern  
PolicyLink  
Project Sanctuary  
Public Health Institute  
Rainbow Services  
Rape Counseling Services of Fresno  
SAFE Family Justice Centers  
San Diego Youth Services  
Shelter from the Storm, Inc.  
Shepherd's Door Domestic Violence Resource Center  
Sister to Sister 2, Inc. dba Serenity House  
Stand Strong  
Stopping Domestic Violence  
Strategic Prevention Solutions  
StrengthUnited  
Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence  
The One Love Foundation  
Time of Change  
Tri-Valley Haven  
Verity. Compassion. Safety. Support.  
Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center  
WEAVE Inc.  
WomenShelter of Long Beach  
Women's Center - High Desert, Inc.  
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

CC: Governor Gavin Newsom  
Members, Assembly Budget Committee

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
 Assembly Minority Leader Marie Waldron  
 Department of Finance  
 Legislative Analyst's Office

<b>2019 Domestic Violence Family Violence Prevention Program Grantees</b>		
<b>Grant Period: May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021</b>		
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>City</b>
Asian Youth Center	\$150,000	San Gabriel
Child and Family Center	\$150,000	Santa Clarita
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo	\$150,000	San Luis Obispo
Community Violence Solutions	\$150,000	Antioch
Interface Children & Family Services	\$150,000	Camarillo
Los Angeles LGBT Center	\$150,000	Los Angeles
NEWS	\$150,000	Napa
Northridge Hospital Foundation	\$150,000	Northridge
Reach the Valley	\$150,000	Riverside
San Diego Youth Services	\$150,000	San Diego
Stand Up Placer	\$150,000	Roseville
Time of Change	\$150,000	Woodland
Tri-Valley Haven for Women	\$150,000	Livermore
Volunteers of America of Los Angeles	\$150,000	Los Angeles
Women's Center - Youth & Family Services	\$150,000	Stockton
Girls Incorporated of Alameda County	\$150,000	Oakland
Project Sister Family Services	\$150,000	Pomona
Standing Together to End Sexual Assault	\$150,000	Santa Barbara
Verity	\$150,000	Santa Rosa
Coalition for Family Harmony	\$150,000	Oxnard
Corona-Norco United Way	\$150,000	Corona
El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center	\$150,000	San Bernardino
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	\$150,000	Los Angeles
Haven Hills, Inc.	\$150,000	Canoga Park
House of Ruth	\$150,000	Pomona
Jenesse Center, Inc.	\$150,000	Los Angeles
Opening Doors	\$150,000	Sacramento
Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments	\$150,000	Fremont
Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	\$150,000	Santa Cruz
WomenShelter of Long Beach	\$150,000	Long Beach
Women's and Children's Crisis Center	\$150,000	Whittier
Women's Transitional Living Center	\$150,000	Fullerton

**2018 Domestic Violence Family Violence Prevention Program Grantees**  
**Grant period: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>City</b>
Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse	\$300,000	San Mateo
Interval House	\$300,000	Seal Beach
Center for Community Solutions	\$300,000	San Diego
Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus	\$300,000	Modesto
Center for Domestic Peace	\$300,000	San Rafael
Para Los Ninos	\$300,000	Los Angeles
Stand Strong	\$300,000	San Luis Obispo
Legal Aid Society of Orange County	\$300,000	Santa Ana
Human Services Association	\$300,000	Bell Gardens
Indian Health Council, Inc.	\$300,000	Pauma Valley
Laura's House	\$300,000	Ladera Ranch
Chest of Hope	\$300,000	Tracy
Community Resource Center	\$300,000	Encinitas
Waymakers	\$1,000,000	Santa Ana
*Additionally, the 84 state-funded Rape Crisis Center programs also received \$58,000 in funding per program to address sexual violence prevention in every county in California.		