

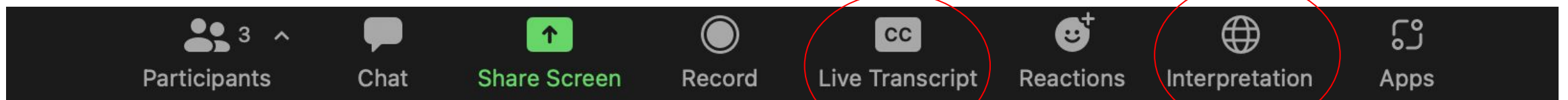
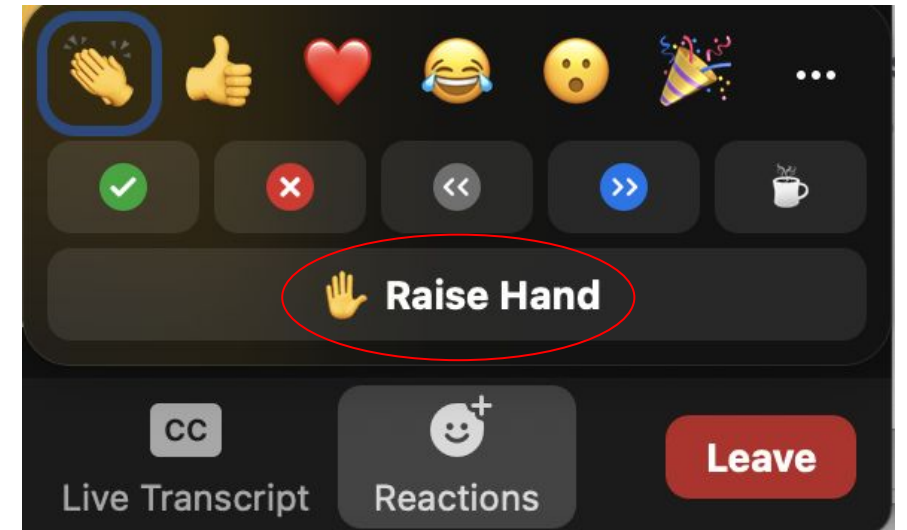


POLICY ADVOCACY DAY 2024



Zoom Use

- Use the chat box to ask questions throughout the webinar
- Message Grace or Chris for technical support
- Raise hand feature to speak
- Closed captioning is available under the “Live Transcript” button



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory and homelands of California Native Peoples. These Nations include over 120 federally recognized tribes and many other non-recognized tribes that are all very culturally diverse. We thank these Nations and we keep them in our hearts and thoughts as we are in this space today, this week, and every day.

To learn whose land you are on: <https://native-land.ca/> or Text (907) 312-5085

Introductions



Krista Colón
she/her/hers



Chris Negri
he/him/his



Grace Glaser
she/her/hers

Today's Agenda

- Focus of Policy Advocacy Day
- Preparing for Legislative Meetings
- Overview of Key Priorities & Current Status
- Talking Points
- Q&A

Focus of Policy Advocacy Day 2024

- Build support for state level action to avert VOCA cuts:
 - Support of our ongoing budget ask
 - Support of [AB 1956](#) (Reyes)
 - Support of [AB 2432](#) (Gabriel)

Logistics & What to Expect

Policy Advocacy Day: Be Prepared!

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What to Expect: Day One Agenda (April 30)

10:30 am – 11:00 am	Event Check In
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Welcome
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Talking Points & Meeting Guidance
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on Your Own
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Team Breakouts
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Walk to the Capitol
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	VOCA Rally - West Steps

What to Expect: Day Two Agenda (May 1)

8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast Available (invited legislative speaker)
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Travel Time to Swing Space
10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Legislative Meetings in the Swing Space

Participant Materials We Provide

- A webpage with all the materials, meeting schedule, and team info
- Legislator Info - Key Committees, Twitter account
- Talking Points - *this is the only item we will be printing*
- Anticipated Q & A
- Social Media Toolkit
- Restaurant Recommendations

Legislator/Staff Materials

- Everything is sent in the calendar invites - you also have access to these items [here](#).
- Fact sheets on AB 1956 (Reyes) and AB 2432 (Gabriel)
- Budget request letter
- Justification for the \$200M request amount
- Background information about our organizations

What to Expect | Logistics for Legislative Meetings

- Staff will schedule all legislative meetings.
- Partnership and VALOR staff will be available to help teams prep during Day One, will be on site at the Swing Space on Day Two, and will be joining key meetings throughout Day Two.
- Information about meetings will be sent in advance.

Preparing for Your Meetings | Planning with Your Team

- Everyone on your team should have a speaking role
- Make sure there's space for discussion of impacts from VOCA cuts on all agencies whose representatives attend
- Make the connection between how VOCA funding cuts will negatively impact the survivors you serve
- Speak to the urgency of this issue - even in a tough budget year this must be prioritized

Preparing for Your Meetings | Additional Tips

- Remember that most legislators and staff aren't DV or SA experts — you are!
- Meetings are your opportunity to educate them on these issues.
- Focus on telling the story of why these issues are important.
- Use plain language to connect - just like you would with a community member.
- Don't worry about saying every talking point - make it feel natural for you.

Preparing for Your Meetings | Additional Tips

- Make this a conversation! Pause, and let the staffer/legislator ask questions.
- Follow up later if there's anything you don't know the answer to in the moment.

Preparing for Your Meetings | Additional Tips

- Plan for 20 minutes but expect that it may vary.
- Don't be disappointed if you meet with a staffer.
- Be respectful, even if you disagree.
- Be aware that a staff or legislator may disclose past abuse - it happens, but not often.

Getting Around the Capitol Annex Swing Space

- **Address:** 1021 O Street
 - It's a mile-long walk, so consider if you'd prefer to take an Uber/Lyft
- **Security:** You'll need to take your laptop out of your bag, but can leave your shoes on and everything else in the bag
 - There's only one entrance and security point - the line can be long.
- **Elevators:** They're slow and can be crowded. Plan for the extra time.

Overview of VOCA Advocacy

Current Status

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Budget Request - Overview

- Champion: Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes
- \$200 million in continuing funding for victims' services programs
 - Includes the \$175 million projected shortfall plus \$25 million that can be used by organizations to help mitigate the effects of future shortfalls if the federal funding shortfalls persist.
- Explanation of how we arrived at \$200 million is also in the leave-behind materials
- Short-term solution to address urgent funding needs

AB 1956 (Reyes): Victims Services Funding

- AB 1956 (Reyes)
 - Requires the state to provide funds if the federal contribution to victims' services programs declines 10%+ year on year
 - Passed out of Assembly Public Safety Committee on March 12th with a unanimous vote in favor
 - 16 Assembly co-authors
 - Currently in Assembly Appropriations
- Short-term solution to address immediate funding needs

AB 2432 (Gabriel): Corporate crime, victims' services

- AB 2432 (Gabriel)
 - Creates a permanent funding source for victims' services programs, with revenues from criminal fees assessed against corporations convicted of crimes.
 - Passed Assembly Public Safety on April 9th
 - Is a long-term solution: we expect it will take time for these convictions and fees to generate revenue. **Current-year funding is still needed to support programs.**

Talking Points

Sample Points to Support Your Meetings

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Customizing Talking Points for Specific Meetings

- Remember: it's okay not to get through everything, or to say things exactly how we describe in the talking points
- You can tailor your meeting to the specific legislator's roles
- Assign one team member to facilitate your meetings

Introductions

- Everyone should introduce themselves - keep this brief.
- Ask the Legislative staffer to introduce themselves
- One person from the team provide the overview of the meeting topics

Policy Request: Maintaining the essential infrastructure that victims and survivors depend on

- **Overview:**
- The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund is the largest funding source for victims services in California and throughout the country.
- VOCA funds are not taxpayer dollars. The funding source, rather, is federal fines and fees, including, for example, white collar settlements.
- Due to issues with these funding sources, the VOCA fund is experiencing a shortfall and the amount released from the fund to the states has fallen by \$650 million relative to fiscal year 2023.
- As a result, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), which administers these funds in California, will experience a 43% reduction this year.

Policy Request: Maintaining the essential infrastructure that victims and survivors depend on

- If no action is taken on the part of the state to allocate other funds to cover that shortfall in the FY24-25 budget, Cal OES anticipates implementing devastating across-the-board cuts of at least 30% to all VOCA-funded grants awarded to providers and reducing the number of competitive grants by 50% at their next competitive cycle.
- Funding cuts have already impacted legal assistance grants
 - a. As of January 1st the number of legal assistance for victims grants has reduced from 62 to 29 grantees. Programs have had to lay off legal assistance staff and reduce services for survivors.

Policy Request: Maintaining the essential infrastructure that victims and survivors depend on

- Speak about the impacts that these cuts will have on your organization and the survivors you serve.
- Emphasize that these are cuts that don't just impact your organization but are impacting the entire victim services network in your county and across the state.
- Remind the office that this is also bigger than just domestic and sexual violence services - this also impacts services for child abuse victims, survivors of human trafficking, the Victim Witness offices in DA's offices, and more.
- Example of connecting funding to survivors - Melissa Luke

Policy Request: Maintaining the essential infrastructure that victims and survivors depend on

- These catastrophic cuts are already impacting programs and will result in hundreds of thousands of Californians not receiving lifesaving services.
- Fewer advocates will be available to answer crisis calls, wait times for counseling and other services will increase, and fewer housing options will be available for survivors.
- The impact will be particularly severe in rural areas and on organizations that serve native/indigenous Californians, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and other historically unserved/underserved communities.
- The result will be more victims of crimes experiencing homelessness, not receiving essential therapeutic and other services, and potentially remaining in situations where they are in danger.

Solutions

- At a time when demand for these services are higher than ever and programs are already strained in meeting that demand, it is the state's responsibility to ensure that the most vulnerable Californians are supported through the most difficult and traumatic moments of their lives.
- ***With over 150 organizations and more than 20 members of the legislature supporting this budget request, we kindly ask that you support this request for up to \$200 million in ongoing funding, support AB 1956, and AB 2432.***

Thank You and Wrap Up



- Thank the person for their time.
- If you didn't ask as you went along, ask now for their commitment to support:
- **\$200 million comprehensive budget ask to sustain victims' services programs**
- **AB 1956 (Reyes): Crime Victims Stabilization Act**
- **AB 2432 (Gabriel): Permanent funding for victims' services**

Follow-Up

- Fill out your Meeting Report Forms to let us know how the meeting went and if any follow-up is needed.
- Send a thank-you note via email and reiterate key points from the meeting.
 - Include any additional materials or information you promised.



Social Media

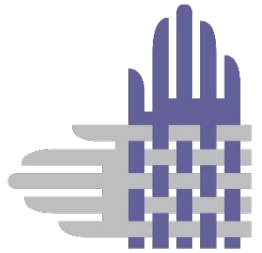
- Get ready to share your meeting highlights on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook!
- Follow & tag the Partnership & VALOR accounts:
 - Twitter: @cpedvcoalition, @valor_us_
 - Instagram: @ca_partnership, @_valorus
 - Facebook: @CAPartnershiptoEndDV , @WeAreValorUS
- Make sure to tag the legislature!
- Use the following hashtags #AdvocacyDay2024, #CALeg, #CABudget

Questions?

If you have any additional questions, please contact us:

- Krista: Krista@cpedv.org or (949) 315-1665
- Chris: Chris@cpedv.org or (951) 880-3307
- Grace: gglaser@valor.us or (619) 961-8614

Our next Prep Webinar is on Tuesday, April 16th from 1:00 - 2:00pm!



CALIFORNIA
**PARTNERSHIP TO END
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Together, We're Stronger.

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Advancing Equity. Ending Sexual Violence. [®]