

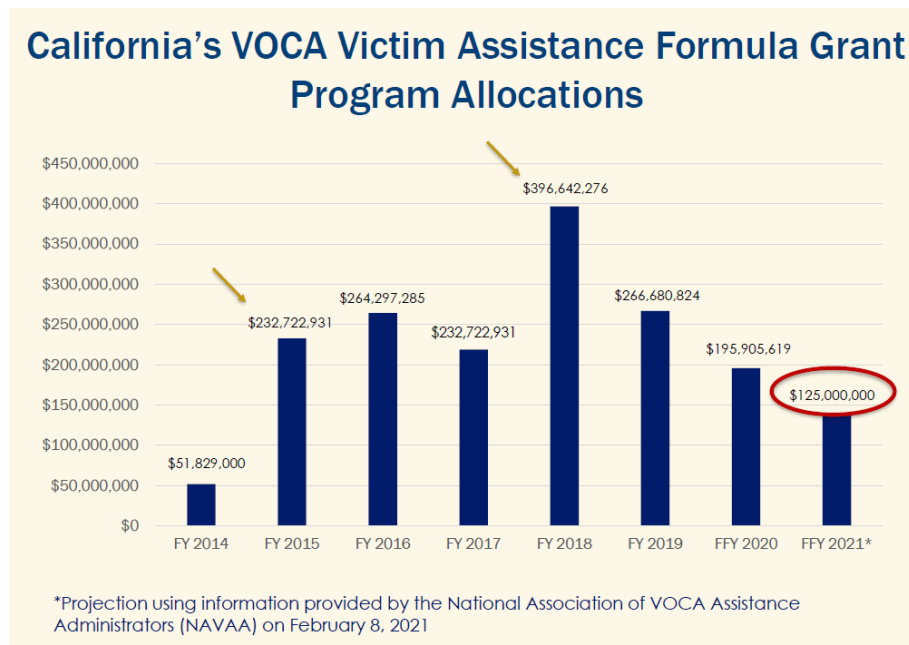
Crime Survivor Services - 2021 California State Budget Request

The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) fund, the largest funding source for victims services in California, has declined annually since 2018. The current Federal Fiscal Year VOCA State Assistance Grant award to California is \$250 million less than it was in FY 2018. Current projections are that Cal OES would need to cut all VOCA-supported programs by 25% beginning in FY 22-23 if funding doesn't increase. This is an untenable situation at a time when demand for victim services is rising. The impact will be catastrophic to many organizations providing essential, life-saving services to victims of crime.

Without immediate intervention, cuts are inevitable to:

- domestic violence services
- rape crisis centers
- child abuse programs and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
- legal assistance for crime survivors
- housing and homelessness responses for crime survivors
- programs dedicated to traditionally unserved and underserved communities
- human trafficking services
- other critically needed victim of crime services

To prevent these cuts, we request a state investment of \$315 million in one-time funding with a 3-year spending timeline.



VOCA funds are combined with other state and federal funds to support a number of crime victim services. VOCA is also the **sole** funding source currently supporting a range of innovative grant programs in California, including:

- Children's advocacy centers, which ensure that abused children receive the specific services needed for healing and justice, minimizes re-traumatization to hurt children, improves investigations into allegations of child abuse, and decrease investigational costs.

- Domestic violence housing first, an incredibly successful innovative approach providing flexible financial assistance and rapid rehousing services to aid survivors in establishing permanent, stable housing.
- Unserved/Underserved victim advocacy and outreach to increase access to culturally appropriate victim services for unserved/underserved victims of crime.

50% of all VOCA funding received California serves domestic and sexual violence survivors. Recent research is confirming that domestic violence and sexual abuse increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the associated stay at home orders. Globally more than 3 in 5 (63%) domestic violence organizations said that demand for services escalated.¹

This state budget request will prevent reductions to critical victim services, providing a bridge period until federal funding stabilizes. We will continue to advocate for the federal changes needed for long term stability, but it's absolutely essential that the State intervene to protect victim services in California.

For More Information, Contact:

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¹ 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/>.