

May 21, 2024

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
AND JANICE HAHN**

**Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding - County Support for H.R. 8061**

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was passed by Congress in 1984, establishing the Crime Victims' Fund (CVF). VOCA is the largest funding source for victims' services in California and throughout the country. It is funded by fines and fees associated with federal white-collar crime.

VOCA is at the center of our response to supporting victims of crime. Funded programs serve survivors of child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and more. Additionally, community-based organizations that receive VOCA funding provide counseling, housing services, crisis response, and direct legal services, along with a range of other responses to address trauma and support their healing.

The CVF is experiencing a shortfall and the amount released from the fund to the states is projected to fall by \$600 - \$700 million. As a result, California's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) projects a decline in the funds available for victims' services programs in California by \$106 million - \$132 million beginning in July 2024. California needs \$262 million to sustain current funding levels, leaving the state in a deficit of \$130 million - \$160 million for crime victim services. If no action is taken on the part of the state or federal governments to allocate other funds to cover this shortfall, Cal OES anticipates implementing devastating across-the-board cuts

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of 30%-40% to all VOCA-funded grants awarded to providers and reducing the number of competitive grants by 50%.

Without this funding, community-based organizations across California and Los Angeles County will be forced to lay off staff, reduce their services, increase their wait times, or potentially close with those most impacted being organizations in rural areas and those that serve historically underserved communities.

In November 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor adopted a motion by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda L. Solis entitled “Five Signature Letter To Increase Funding For The Victims Of Crime Act For Federal Fiscal Year 2024.” That motion supported increasing the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024 funding levels for the VOCA’s CVF to the FFY 2023 enacted levels. The motion also directed Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to advocate for State funding related to VOCA, including signing on to coalition efforts supporting a State backfill request to ensure all survivors have access to the services they need.

Last month, Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.), joined by Reps. Nathaniel Moran (R-Texas), Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.), Stephanie Bice (R-Okla.) and Jim Costa (D-Calif.), introduced H.R. 8061, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act. H.R. 8061 would redirect a portion of the funds collected under the False Claims Act to ensure the financial stability of the CVF. H.R. 8061 is a critical lifeline to VOCA grant recipients and will allow them to sustain essential services for our communities.

I, **THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to support H.R. 8061, and similar measures, which are consistent with ongoing federal and state advocacy efforts to sustain funding for VOCA grantees and services.

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