

C A L I F O R N I A

CaIVCB

VICTIM COMPENSATION BOARD

News & Updates

March 2024



Reminders

- CalIVCB is closed on Monday, April 1 (Cesar Chavez Day Observed).
- The **monthly advocate webinar** is scheduled from 1 - 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 16. The topic is Relocation and Required Documentation.
- Is there someone in your office who needs to be added to our distribution list? Is your email changing from .org to .gov (or something else?) Let us know! Email infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov to keep us informed.
- Are you signed up for **Morning Coffee**? Receive a brief daily email with news articles of interest to CalIVCB.
- If you are a Cares2 user and have not submitted your Confidentiality Agreement acknowledging the completion of Information Security and Privacy Training, it is past due and your account may be deactivated. Submit your form to infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov immediately to avoid a disruption in your access to Cares2.

Tell Us How CalIVCB Has Helped

CalIVCB is halfway through the first year of a three-year outreach campaign to raise awareness in underserved communities.

CalIVCB is conducting a survey to learn how our services have helped make a direct impact on the lives of violent crime victims and their families. We're interested in hearing how CalIVCB has helped those



you've assisted.

We would appreciate it if you could take a few moments to fill out this [anonymous survey](#) and share the link with those who've used our program. We will use this information to inform an upcoming media and outreach campaign. For any questions, please contact CalVCB's marketing contractor Civilian at hannah@civilian.com.

VOCA Grant Funding

As you may have heard, the cap for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding for the 2024-25 fiscal year is projected to be reduced to \$1.2 billion, down from \$1.9 billion in the 2023-24 fiscal year.



As a result, Victim Assistance grants, which are distributed by the Office of Emergency Services in California, are also expected to be reduced.

These grants are distributed to local victim services organizations such as domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers. Advocates are urging the Legislature to include a General Fund backfill in the budget in the range of \$200 million in order to make up for this funding shortfall.

Victim Compensation grants, which help fund CalVCB, are not currently affected by this funding reduction. Compensation grants are awarded to states using a set formula of 75 percent of certified victim payments made from state funds. This distribution will not be changed by the lowering of the overall funding cap.

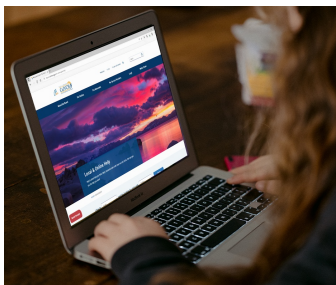
The VOCA Fix Act of 2021 was intended to reverse the decline in the balance of the Crime Victims Fund, but it is too early to assess the long-term impact of the legislation. We will continue to closely monitor the status of the Crime Victims Fund and any changes in VOCA grant funding.

Federal VOCA Regulations

On February 5, 2024, the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) proposed changes to VOCA Victim Compensation Program Guidelines. The guidelines had not been amended since they were established in 2001. The full public notice can be read [here](#):

[Federal Register: Subject: Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\) Victim Compensation Grant Program](#)

CalVCB is reviewing the proposed changes for potential impact on our program. Public comments on the regulatory changes can be submitted to OVC through April 5, 2024.



Stakeholder Survey

In 2024, the CalVCB executive team is taking the important step of developing a four-year strategic plan that will guide the organization from 2025 through 2028. Soon we will be reaching out to our local government and community partners to complete a short survey that will help the executive team determine which goals to prioritize in the strategic plan.

Your feedback and insights are invaluable to us as we continue to grow and improve upon our ability to provide financial support to victims of violent crime.

Material Request Form

Running low on CalVCB materials?

Our publications are available to [download](#). Several are available to order using our [Material Request Form](#).



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 21 - 27, 2024.

CalVCB created a [social media toolkit](#) we encourage you to share on your platforms.

CalVCB would like to be involved in your remembrances and events. Additionally, we can issue your county or organization a proclamation acknowledging the work you do for victims. Email infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov with your request.

Online Resources Verification

CalVCB is doing a verification of all [local and online resources](#) available to assist victims.

Recently, many of you received an email asking you to check your organization's information. If you already have - thank you. If you haven't, please take a minute to double check your website, street address, and phone number.

If you need to make a correction, email publicaffairs@victims.ca.gov.

Year-to-Year Applications Submitted by County

County	Nov. 2022	Nov. 2023	Percentage Change	Dec. 2022	Dec. 2023	Percentage Change
Alameda	186	250	up 34%	271	249	down 8%
Alpine	0	0	even	0	0	even
Amador	3	12	up 300%	4	4	even
Butte	26	36	up 38%	37	50	up 35%
Calaveras	3	13	up 333%	1	1	even
Colusa	2	5	up 150%	1	8	up 700%
Contra	66	38	down 42%	35	36	up 3%

Costa						
Del Norte	3	3	even	1	2	up 100%
El Dorado	32	17	down 47%	26	17	down 35%
Fresno	63	44	down 30%	68	47	down 31%
Glenn	20	20	even	2	7	up 250%
Humboldt	8	8	even	8	18	up 125%
Imperial	5	7	up 40%	2	5	up 150%
Inyo	0	0	even	1	1	even
Kern	27	20	down 26%	23	29	up 26%
Kings	21	36	up 71%	27	24	down 11%
Lake	10	4	down 60%	5	12	up 140%
Lassen	0	7	up 700%	0	2	up 200%
Los Angeles	991	788	down 20%	754	896	up 19%
Madera	2	11	up 450%	13	13	even
Marin	18	8	down 56%	9	7	down 22%
Mariposa	1	2	up 100%	2	2	even
Mendocino	3	9	up 200%	2	2	even
Merced	66	7	down 89%	23	15	down 35%
Modoc	3	0	down 100%	0	0	even
Mono	0	0	even	0	0	even
Monterey	30	18	down 40%	46	33	down 28%
Napa	14	17	up 21%	15	3	down 80%
Nevada	5	5	even	7	6	down 14%

Orange	114	91	down 20%	77	63	down 18%
Placer	32	32	even	29	26	down 10%
Plumas	2	1	down 50%	0	5	up 500%
Riverside	116	103	down 11%	109	82	down 25%
Sacramento	91	117	up 29%	88	85	down 3%
San Benito	11	21	up 91%	24	18	down 25%
San Bernardino	86	257	up 199%	178	233	up 31%
San Diego	149	155	up 4%	151	125	down 17%
San Francisco	95	97	up 2%	71	86	up 21%
San Joaquin	146	173	up 18%	198	179	down 10%
San Luis Obispo	10	37	up 270%	30	19	down 37%
San Mateo	39	17	down 56%	24	4	down 83%
Santa Barbara	18	40	up 122%	35	41	up 17%

Santa Clara	108	149	up 38%	172	108	down 37%
Santa Cruz	21	23	up 10%	18	31	up 72%
Shasta	51	45	down 12%	59	71	up 20%
Sierra	1	0	down 100%	0	1	up 100%
Siskiyou	8	3	down 63%	1	2	up 100%
Solano	33	28	down 15%	25	30	up 20%
Sonoma	56	73	up 30%	57	31	down 46%
Stanislaus	24	39	up 63%	33	31	down 6%
Sutter	9	8	down 11%	15	9	down 40%
Tehama	4	23	up 475%	6	8	up 33%
Trinity	7	5	down 29%	5	3	down 40%
Tulare	38	18	down 53%	26	17	down 35%
Tuolumne	3	1	down 67%	3	4	up 33%
Ventura	29	25	down 14%	32	23	down 28%
Yolo	38	13	down 66%	24	39	up 63%
Yuba	48	63	up 31%	49	56	up 14%
Non-CA County	4	8	up 100%	10	27	up 170%

Did You Know?

In accordance with Government Code section 13953, an application for compensation shall be filed within seven years of the date of the crime, seven years after the victim attains 21 years of age, or seven years of the time the victim or derivative victim knew, or in the exercise of ordinary diligence could have discovered, that an injury or death had been sustained as a direct result of the crime, whichever is later.



CalVCB has discretion to accept a late application whenever good cause exists. Good cause for accepting a late application exists when circumstances hindered the victim from filing an application within the statutory filing period.

CalVCB may consider the following reason as good cause:

1. Whether the victim or derivative victim incurs emotional harm or a pecuniary loss while testifying during the prosecution or in the punishment of the person accused or convicted of the crime.
2. Whether the victim or derivative victim incurs emotional harm or a pecuniary loss when the person convicted of the crime is scheduled for a parole hearing or released from incarceration.

Other factors CalVCB may consider, but are not limited to:

- Physical, emotional, psychological or developmental condition (e.g. victim's age, cultural or linguistic barriers, disabilities, PTSD, etc.)
- Interpersonal crimes with unique dynamics and trauma (e.g. sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, child abuse or serious bodily injury)
- New loss occurred - The application is filed when the applicant discovers that he/she has incurred a pecuniary loss as a direct result of the crime (e.g., the victim did not file an application because he/she had no expenses when the crime occurred, but he/she now has bills that need to be paid.)
- Delayed reporting of the qualifying crime to law enforcement or other reporting

agency is reasonably excused when one of the following factors exists:

- The claimant's age
- Documented physical or mental disability during the time period specified for filing an application and applicant did not have a conservator
- Cultural or linguistic barriers
- Emotional harm or a pecuniary loss incurred by the victim or derivative victim while preparing to testify
- Emotional harm or a pecuniary loss incurred by the victim or derivative victim during the apprehension, prosecution or punishment of the offender(s)

Please let us know if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for future editions. Email us at infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov.

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Website

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News

California Victim Compensation Board
800-777-9229
P.O. Box 3036
Sacramento, CA 95812

California Victim Compensation Board | PO BOX 48, Sacramento, CA 95812-0048

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