



PRESIDENT
RAYMOND A. TIERNEY
SUFFOLK COUNTY

For immediate release:
Contact: 518.598.8968

**DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK CALLS FOR FUNDING FOR CHILD
ADVOCACY CENTERS AND VICTIM SERVICES**

August 25 – After cuts to funds to Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Victim Services programs all over the state, the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY), in a letter to Governor Kathy Hochul, asked the state to fill gaps in federal funding and dedicate money in the state budget to maintain critical victim services.

The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program funds the state’s network of CACs and other victim services programs. Recent award letters notified many program service providers that their awards were considerably reduced and, in some cases, completely defunded.

“Layoffs of staff or elimination of programs and services for victims of crime will be inevitable unless funding is restored,” said Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond Tierney, President, District Attorneys Association of the State of New York.

District Attorneys’ offices and other law enforcement rely on victim advocates to provide expert, trauma-informed care to interview victims and to help victims cope with the trauma and experience of horrific situations. They also help victims and their families connect to appropriate services.

“These losses are particularly troubling given the vital role that CACs, victim advocates and social workers play in the successful investigation and prosecution of cases involving child and adult sexual abuse, physical abuse, severe neglect, domestic violence, and many other sensitive crimes,” said President Tierney. “Without victim

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advocates, prosecutors cannot successfully investigate and prosecute crime or seek justice for victims.”

Theresa Roth, Executive Director of the New York State Children’s Alliance, Inc., said: “When a child has experienced abuse, they should never be the one to pay the price for an unstable funding system. We owe it to every child to make sure the support they need to feel safe and begin to heal is there when they need it.”

The cuts will completely eliminate funding for six centers, while other CACs will experience a significant decrease in funding that may result in elimination of some services.

DAASNY’s full letter is attached.

DAASNY was formed in 1909 as an organization for prosecutors in the State of New York, to provide for the exchange of information and views with respect to the conduct of their offices, the New York State criminal justice system, and the criminal law and its operation. DAASNY encourages and fosters communication, cooperation, training, and consultation among and on behalf of the district attorneys and their staffs for matters concerning the prosecution of crime in New York State and the improvement of the legal system. It is DAASNY’s collegial approach and the fostering of communication between offices both large and small, upstate and downstate, with a particular emphasis on ethical issues facing prosecutors, that helps to ensure greater fairness, transparency, and accuracy in the criminal justice system.

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August 24, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

As President of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY), I write to you with concerns about significant disinvestments in the state's network of Child Advocacy Centers (CACs), as well as extensive cuts overall to existing victim services programs funded by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grant Program. I hope that we can identify possible solutions to restoring funds to those essential victim service programs.

According to the New York State Children's Alliance, recent cuts to VOCA awards have resulted in the devastating loss of over \$6.9 million for CACs statewide and the unprecedented defunding of six centers that serve ten counties. Because of those cuts, many CACs report having to make serious reductions in staffing and programs and report the potential closure of numerous satellite offices in rural and underserved communities, closures that could threaten children's and families' access to critical services.

Additionally, there have been substantial cuts to VOCA grants that fund existing domestic violence centers, rape crisis programs, and other victim services programs all over the state. Some of those programs are administered by district attorney's offices and employ crime victim advocates and social workers that provide critical and meaningful services to victims of crime. Those grants also cover non-personnel costs, such as emergency victim assistance funds to victims of crime, medical expenses, and therapy. In some counties awards were reduced and, in some counties, awards were completely rescinded for

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* PAST PRESIDENT OF DAASNY

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existing programs. Layoffs of staff or elimination of programs and services for victims of crime will be inevitable unless funding is restored.

Those losses are particularly troubling given the vital role that CACs, victim advocates and social workers play in the successful investigation and prosecution of cases involving child and adult sexual abuse, physical abuse, severe neglect, domestic violence, and many other sensitive crimes. District attorneys regularly depend on CACs and victim advocates to provide the expert, trauma-informed care needed to facilitate victim disclosures, improve cooperation with law enforcement, and ultimately reduce the chances of inappropriate recantation. Without properly funded CACs and other victim services programs, many district attorney's offices, which are already over-encumbered and understaffed, would be unable to absorb the responsibility of providing those services, and access to justice and healing for victims would suffer as a result. Without victim advocates, prosecutors cannot successfully investigate and prosecute crime. Victim advocates help victims deal with the trauma and background of horrific situations and allow prosecutors to focus on prosecution. Prosecutors cannot do their jobs effectively without the assistance of advocates at all stages of investigation and prosecution.

That is why we call on you to immediately increase the amount of state funds available to CACs and other victim services programs, to ensure that there are no gaps in the administration of those core victim services.

We understand that there were a record number of awards sought by applicants this cycle. That reality clearly indicates an underlying and growing disparity between victims' needs and the resources the state currently makes available. Accordingly, we also call on you to take the necessary steps to create a long-term statewide strategic plan for victim services, to guarantee that New Yorkers in every community can have access to a CAC, rape crisis, domestic violence, and civil legal service programs.

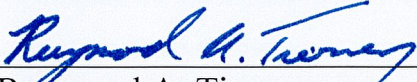
New York State's prosecutors want to work with you and the Legislature to come up with solutions and better mechanisms for funding those important programs, which provide meaningful services to crime victims and are also integral to the prosecution of crimes and

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to holding those accountable who take advantage of our state's most vulnerable victims.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Tierney
Suffolk County District Attorney
DAASNY President