EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-12-26

WHEREAS California is committed to preventing all forms of violence, to reducing disparities that increase exposure to violence, and to addressing the disparate harms that follow; and

WHEREAS California is equally committed to ensuring that victims and survivors of violence, and the families and communities affected by it, receive timely, coordinated, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive support; and

WHEREAS in 2025, California achieved its lowest homicide rate on record, driven by a decline in firearm homicide, and California's 2025 violent crime rate declined 10.2 percent; and

WHEREAS California has made significant investments in recent years in public safety, community-based violence intervention, victim and survivor services, behavioral healthcare, suicide prevention, education, housing, workforce development, child welfare, justice systems, positive youth development, reentry, and public health programs that operate along the continuum from prevention and intervention through crisis response, victim and survivor services, healing, and reentry; and

WHEREAS California's progress was supported by historic state, local, and federal investments that built capacity to prevent violence, intervene with people at elevated risk of violent injury or death, strengthen protective-order implementation, support victims and survivors, and improve public safety, but now hundreds of federal grants nationwide supporting public safety, violence prevention and intervention, victim and survivor services, and crime prevention have been canceled or are at risk of cancellation, creating funding uncertainty for California communities and service providers seeking to sustain recent gains; and

WHEREAS community violence, domestic violence/interpersonal violence, youth violence, suicide, and other forms of violence share important risk and protective factors, while also requiring strategies tailored to the distinct causes and needs associated with each form of violence; and access to a firearm makes each of these forms of violence more likely to be lethal; and

WHEREAS violence is often preceded or compounded by identifiable risk factors—including prior exposure to violence and trauma, community disinvestment and economic hardship, racism and structural inequality, unaddressed behavioral health needs, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), harmful social norms, housing insecurity, unsafe firearm storage practices, and social isolation and disengagement—creating multiple interception points along that continuum for strategies designed to reduce risk and create safe environments; and

WHEREAS in communities experiencing high rates of shootings and homicides, a small proportion of the population often carries a disproportionate share of risk factors, and effective interventions reach that population with specificity and intensity, while broader prevention strategies address the conditions and root causes that produce risk across communities over time; and

WHEREAS California has recently completed substantial analytic work on firearm violence prevention, including the California Department of Justice Office of Gun Violence Prevention's two-part Strategic Plan required by Assembly Bill 1252 (2024, Wicks), published in April and July 2026; the California

Department of Public Health's California Public Health Roadmap for Firearm Violence Prevention, published in August 2025; and a 2025 report by the Commission for Behavioral Health, Stopping the Hurt: Preventing the Harms of Firearm Violence via Public Behavioral Health, which examines the intersection of behavioral health and firearm violence; and

WHEREAS this completed work should be built upon, and an important remaining task is to inventory state-supported assets, address administrative and financing barriers within existing authority, and establish durable coordination; and

WHEREAS state and local public health agencies, tribal governments, victim and survivor service providers, behavioral health and health care systems, schools, social services agencies, workforce and housing programs, courts, state and local law enforcement agencies, probation departments, corrections agencies, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations each play an important role in preventing violence and supporting people and communities affected by it; and

WHEREAS individuals at elevated risk of violence or recovering from violent victimization may interact with multiple public systems, but fragmented eligibility requirements, referral pathways, service planning, funding structures, and information practices can impede access to effective and timely assistance; and

WHEREAS state agencies, tribal governments, and community partners have identified opportunities to improve coordination, align investments, strengthen referral pathways, share appropriate information, and make more effective use of existing programs and resources; and

WHEREAS a clearer statewide understanding of California's violence prevention and victim support investments, programs, data, services, workforce development efforts, funding gaps, and other unmet needs will support cross-system partnerships to improve coordination, result in more effective policy, budget, and administrative action, and position the next administration to sustain and build on California's progress; and

WHEREAS nothing in this Order is intended to duplicate, delay, or substitute for legislative action to establish coordination structures for violence prevention and victim support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of California, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The following agencies, offices, departments, and boards are directed to participate in this effort: the California Health and Human Services Agency, including the California Department of Health Care Services, the California Department of Social Services, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, and the California Department of Public Health, including its Violence Prevention Initiative and Office of Suicide Prevention; the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services; the Board of State and Community Corrections; the California Victim Compensation Board; the California Department of Corrections and

Rehabilitation; the California Department of Veterans Affairs; the California Civil Rights Department; and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

2. The California Department of Justice, including its Office of Gun Violence Prevention, Bureau of Firearms, Office of Community Awareness, Response and Engagement (CARE), and Victim Services Unit, is requested to participate in this effort consistent with its constitutional and statutory authorities. The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training is also requested to participate. The Commission for Behavioral Health is encouraged to contribute relevant data, research, expertise, and information concerning behavioral health prevention and intervention, consistent with its statutory responsibilities. The Judicial Council of California is requested to participate with respect to the issuance of firearm-prohibiting orders in criminal and civil matters, ensuring due process and access to justice, and addressing firearm relinquishment compliance.

3. Each of the participating agencies, offices, departments, and boards is directed to provide the Governor's Office, by December 7, 2026, with an inventory of the programs, funding streams, and data under its authority that can be used to address community violence, domestic violence/interpersonal violence, youth violence, and suicide along the continuum from prevention and intervention through crisis response, victim and survivor services, healing, and reentry. The inventory, to the extent practicable, shall:

    a. Identify the populations, geographic areas, relevant risk and protective factors, and forms of violence addressed by each program or resource, and identify where each program operates along that continuum;

    b. Distinguish programs whose stated purpose includes reducing violence, violent victimization, or violent injury, and that measure violence-related outcomes, from programs that address underlying risk and protective factors without targeting or monitoring violence reduction as a measure of success;

    c. Describe relevant funding sources and any conditions or restrictions on the funds; eligible applicants and recipients; grant-cycle timing; match and indirect-cost requirements; payment terms; and the general processes through which local governments, tribal governments, and community-based organizations may access available resources;

    d. Identify state-supported efforts to recruit, train, support, and retain professionals and individuals with lived experience, including community-based workers who prevent violence, support victims and survivors, or serve individuals and communities at elevated risk; and

e. Identify whether each program collects or reports any violence-related outcome measure and, if not, whether one or more such measures could feasibly be added.

4. The participating agencies, offices, departments, and boards shall identify opportunities within existing authority to improve cross-system coordination and strengthen California's prevention of and response to community violence, domestic violence/interpersonal violence, youth violence, and suicide, including by:

    a. Strengthening referral, cross-system care coordination, and service pathways among state and local public health agencies; tribal governments; victim and survivor service providers; behavioral health and health care systems; schools; social services agencies; workforce and housing programs; courts; state and local law enforcement agencies; probation departments; corrections agencies; community-based organizations; and faith-based organizations;

    b. Aligning relevant grant programs, funding timelines, technical assistance, performance measures, and data collection practices where appropriate;

    c. Evaluating wait times and paperwork or other technical barriers to victim and survivor services and support, and identifying ways to expedite crisis help, including financial assistance to victims and survivors in the wake of violence; and

    d. Identifying administrative, regulatory, jurisdictional, funding, eligibility, contracting, or data collection and information-sharing barriers that limit effective coordination, being mindful of the importance of protecting privacy and confidentiality.

5. No later than December 18, 2026, the participating agencies, offices, departments, and boards shall provide the Governor's Office with a memorandum that:

    a. Summarizes work undertaken pursuant to this Order;

    b. Identifies the programs, funding streams, data sources, and other state-supported resources under review;

    c. Describes preliminary findings and opportunities for improved coordination;

    d. Recommends a process and blueprint for completing a statewide interagency violence prevention and victim support plan, including next steps, priorities, and coordinated activities that the participating agencies, offices, departments, and boards may advance within their current resources and authority

to sustain and align statewide violence prevention and victim support efforts; and

e. Identifies any additional entities, partners, information, or analysis needed to complete the plan.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 22nd day of October 2026.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State