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Assembly California Legislature



SHIRLEY N. WEBER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

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May 18, 2020

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
2590 Venture Oaks Way Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Chair Penner and Members of the Board of State and Community Corrections:

We are writing to inquire about the BSCC's intentions for the \$58.6 million it will receive from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). These funds have been designated to the State of California through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to help states and **local** jurisdictions "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus."

Our request **stems** from inquiries we have received from community-based organizations that serve crime survivors and justice-involved people. Many of these organizations and the people **they** serve come from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by **the** crisis. We want to know that the BSCC has a plan not only to support California's criminal justice agencies, but also to prioritize assistance for these essential service providers. Several other states have already indicated an intent to support **nonprofit** service providers with these BJA funds.

More than ever, California relies on a network of community-based organizations that provide essential services to justice involved people, survivors, and their communities. Groups closest to and most reflective of those they serve are uniquely equipped to deliver critical services during this time, and need resources to continue their work. These community-based providers are supporting an increasing number of people returning home from jails and prisons, supporting survivors who are uniquely vulnerable right now, and working hard with few resources to adapt their services to meet the needs of our most impacted communities.

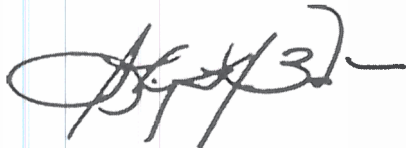
As the state distributes federal stimulus dollars like the BJA funds through the BSCC, it must not compound structural inequality by failing to prioritize our state's hardest hit communities. To "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus," the BSCC must ensure that federal resources are available to community-based, nongovernmental organizations that work with the state's most impacted and vulnerable people.

The BSCC has long shown a commitment to grantmaking that is informed by communities and organizations that its funding serves. We would like to know more about how the BSCC intends to collaborate with California's community-based violence prevention, reentry, and victim service organizations, particularly those serving communities that have been hardest hit during the pandemic.

We would appreciate it if you would contact Raymond Contreras in Assemblymember Weber's office to coordinate a time to discuss these issues no later than Monday, May 25th. Raymond can be reached at (619) 947-9525 or by email at Raymond.Contreras@Asm.Ca.Gov.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



ASSEMBLYMEMBER SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Chair of Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety



ASSEMBLYMEMBER MARK STONE
Chair of Assembly Judiciary Committee



ASSEMBLYMEMBER REGINALD JONE-SAWYER, JR.
Chair of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety