

#SMARTSOLUTIONS 2025 Policy Platform

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All Californians want and deserve to feel safe in their communities. Under the banner of #SmartSolutions, a broad coalition of organizations and advocacy groups are calling on California policymakers to adopt targeted, proven solutions to address some of California's most pressing public safety issues.

The #SmartSolutions Policy Platform is supported* by:

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition
- California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice (CAYCJ)
- Californians for Safety and Justice
- Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB)
- Chicanos Unidos
- Chispa OC
- Courage California
- Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
- Fair Chance Project
- GRACE/End Child Poverty California
- Indivisible California
- Initiate Justice
- Just Advocate, Inc.
- La Defensa
- Orange County Rapid Response Network
- Peace and Justice Law Center
- People's Budget Orange County
- Prosecutors Alliance of California
- San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project
- San Francisco Public Defender's Office
- Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
- Smart Justice California
- Steinberg Institute
- Transforming Justice OC
- UnCommon Law
- Underground Grit
- University of San Francisco School of Law, Racial Justice Clinic
- ValorUS
- Vera Institute of Justice - California
- Voices for Progress
- Western Center on Law and Poverty
- Young Women's Freedom Center



Asm. Mia Bonta (D-Alameda) speaking at the #SmartSolutions Campaign Launch on January 9, 2024

The #SmartSolutions policy platform includes legislation that will:

- **Protect and expand services for crime victims** and ensure justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons
- **Increase access to mental health and substance use treatment** through wrap around and direct services
- **Lower the cost of living** and address utility costs for some of California's most vulnerable populations
- **Make stable housing possible** for young people, people re-entering society, and people impacted by mass disasters like the LA wildfires

The #SmartSolutions policy platform offers a north star to legislators interested in championing and advancing real and proven solutions to improve community safety and wellbeing.

**The #SmartSolutions Policy Platform is not an indication of sponsorship or formal support of every measure by the co-signatory organizations. Organizations may have a neutral or support position on any of the measures in the platform. For questions regarding formal support for a measure, please contact info@smartjusticeca.org.*

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Support for Crime Survivors

- **SB 4 (Cervantes):** Enhances safety in Tribal communities by establishing a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Justice Program that streamlines collaboration between tribal victims' families, tribal governments, and federal, tribal, state, and out-of-state law enforcement agencies for active and inactive cases involving MMIP in California.
- **BUDGET ADVOCACY: Victims of Crime Act Backfill Funding – \$174 million per year for five years.** The federal government has significantly reduced California's funding under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). State funding will ensure that domestic violence and sexual assault service providers can maintain current levels of services victims depend on.
- **BUDGET ADVOCACY: Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program – \$10 million per year for three years.** California must continue to fund community-based organizations providing victims life-saving 24/7 crisis response, emergency or transitional shelter, rental assistance, counseling, case management, and legal services.

Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment

- **AB 348 (Krell):** Increases access to mental health treatment by establishing criteria for an individual with serious mental illness to be presumed eligible for wrap-around recovery services through the Behavioral Health Services Act.
- **AB 543 (González):** Removes barriers to mental health treatment for unhoused people by creating a standard of presumptive eligibility, as determined by approved Medi-Cal Providers, to provide street-level medication.
- **SB 548 (Reyes):** Ensures California can develop comprehensive solutions to end the opioid overdose crisis by studying what is driving overdoses, who is most impacted, and exploring immediate and long-term strategies the state can employ.

Cost of Living

- **AB 397 (González):** Expands the Young Child Tax Credit to become the California Child Tax Credit by expanding the definition of "qualified child" from 6-years-old to 18-years-old over the next four years, providing low income families with additional cash to meet basic needs.
- **SB 636 (Menjivar):** Protects consumers by prohibiting electrical or gas corporations from disconnecting service for a customer meeting certain criteria, including a financial hardship request.

Access to Housing

Expanding Housing Access for Vulnerable Californians

- **AB 1229 (Schultz):** Modifies existing Adult Re-Entry Grant Program to shift funding for rental subsidies to permanent housing over transitional housing, better targeting funds for people who are likely to become homeless, and moving the program to the Department of Housing Development.
- **SB 33 (Cortese):** Provides a guaranteed income for four months to high school seniors at risk of homelessness through the California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) program.

Addressing the Impacts of the LA Wildfires

- **AB 238 (Harabedian):** Requires a mortgage servicer to pause or reduce payments for up to 360 days for anyone facing financial hardship from the LA Wildfires.