



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CALIFORNIA WITNESS RELOCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
FISCAL YEAR 2022-23*

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CALIFORNIA WITNESS RELOCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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Executive Summary

The California Witness Relocation and Assistance Program (CalWRAP) is administered by the Attorney General's Office pursuant to California Penal Code section 14022. The Attorney General's Office reimburses state and local agencies for approved services provided to threatened witnesses. The program is currently funded from the State Penalty Fund, which is administered by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

This report summarizes the CalWRAP activities during the fiscal year (FY) reporting period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. During the reporting period, the CalWRAP managed the administration of three FY appropriations: (1) Chapter 43/22 (FY 2022-2023), (2) Chapter 21/21 (FY 2021-2022), and (3) Chapter 06/20 (FY 2020-2021). The program provided services for 292 cases, including 192 existing cases and 100 new cases. The program closed 173 cases, leaving 119 active cases as of June 30, 2023.

The 100 new cases provided services to 107 witnesses and 133 of their family members and friends. During their participation in the CalWRAP, the witnesses provided testimony against 168 violent offenders. Types of cases submitted and approved for CalWRAP services consisted of: 77 gang-related cases, 14 high-risk crimes cases, 4 domestic violence cases, 3 organized crime cases, and 2 human trafficking cases. Homicide and attempted homicide accounted for 85 percent of the primary charges filed against defendants. The remaining 15 percent of the primary charges filed involved assault, human trafficking, robbery, kidnapping, criminal conspiracy, threats, and felon with a firearm.

In FY 2022-2023 (Chapter 43/22), \$2,354,000 was allocated to the CalWRAP for distribution to California state and local agencies. The program distributed \$416,252 of the \$2,354,000 as of June 30, 2023, with the remaining balance available for an additional two-year period to support the 100 new cases opened during FY 2022-2023.

Utilizing all three years of appropriations, the program processed 212 claims for reimbursement during the FY 2022-2023 reporting period, totaling \$1,204,995 in authorized witness expenditures reimbursed to 23 California state and local agencies. Pursuant to Penal Code section 14027(b), local agencies are required to apply a 25 percent match for reimbursement claims.

The CalWRAP expended \$151,000 on administrative costs in FY 2022-2023, which included personnel resources and general operating expenses. The CalWRAP analyst continues to provide program training to state and local agencies throughout California, as requested. The CalWRAP is currently administered by the Division of Law Enforcement within the California Department of Justice

Case Statistics

During the FY 2022-2023 reporting period, the CalWRAP was responsible for the administration of three FY appropriations: (1) Chapter 43/22 (FY 2022-2023), (2) Chapter 21/21 (FY 2021-2022), and (3) Chapter 06/20 (FY 2020-2021). The program provided service for 292 cases, including 192 existing cases and 100 new cases. As of June 30, 2023, the program has closed 173 cases, leaving 119 cases active (see Table 1).

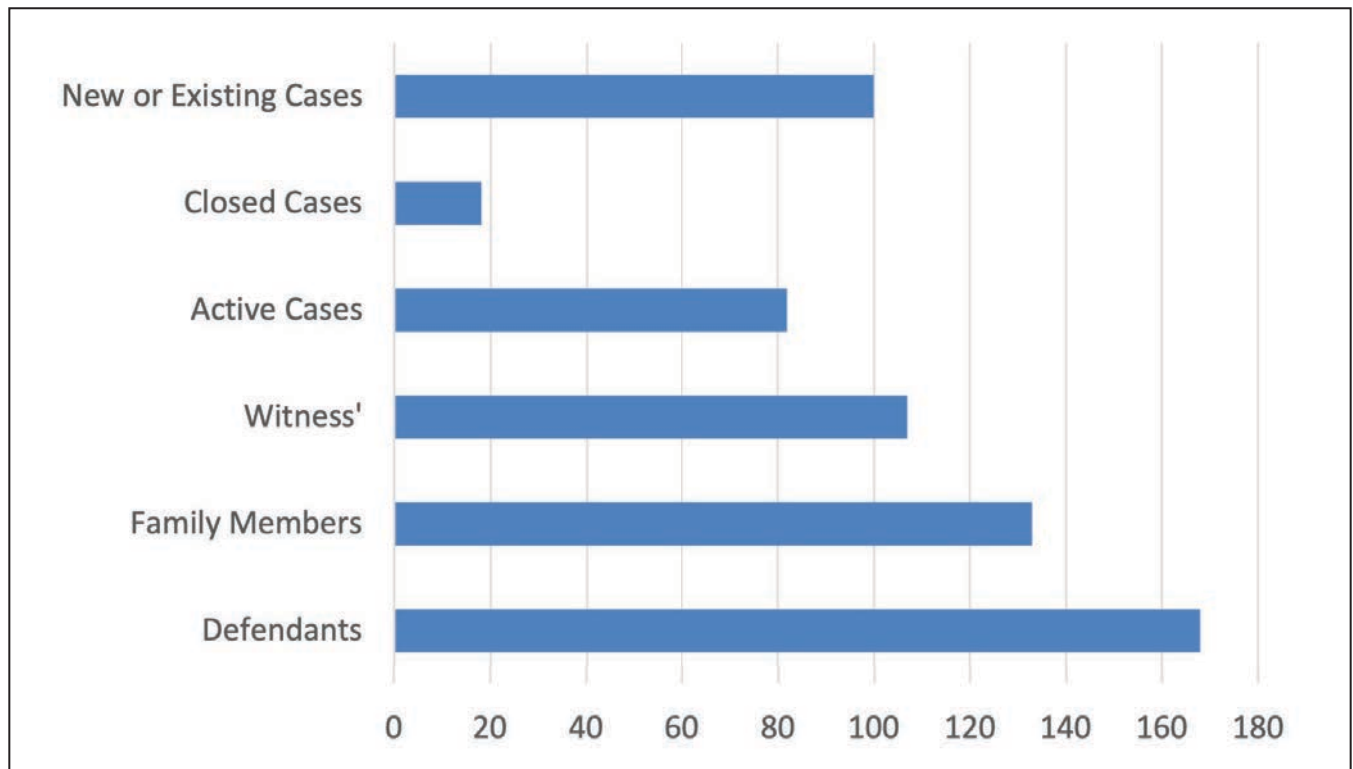
Table 1 – Case Statistics for All Chapter Funds as of June 30, 2023

Chapter Fund	New or Existing Cases	Closed Cases	Active Cases	Witnesses	Family Members	Defendants
43/22	100	18	82	107	133	168
21/21	78	41	37	86	132	149
6/20 *	114	114	0	124	161	205
Totals	292	173	119	317	426	522

* Chapter 06/20 closed on June 30, 2023

The 100 new CalWRAP cases approved during FY 2022-2023 (Chapter 43/22) provided for the relocation of 107 testifying witnesses and 133 of their family members and friends. The witnesses testified in cases filed against 168 defendants during their participation in the CalWRAP (see Chart 1).

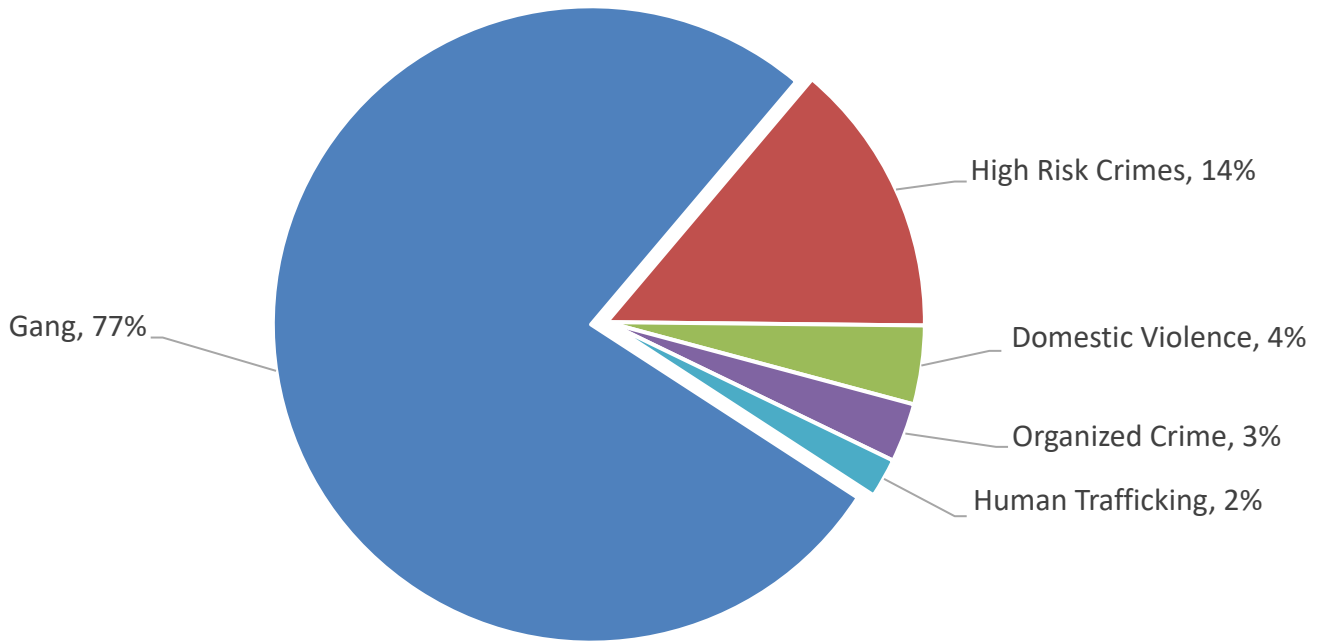
Chart 1 – New Case Activity During FY 2022-2023 (Chapter 43/22)



Cases Submitted for Funding

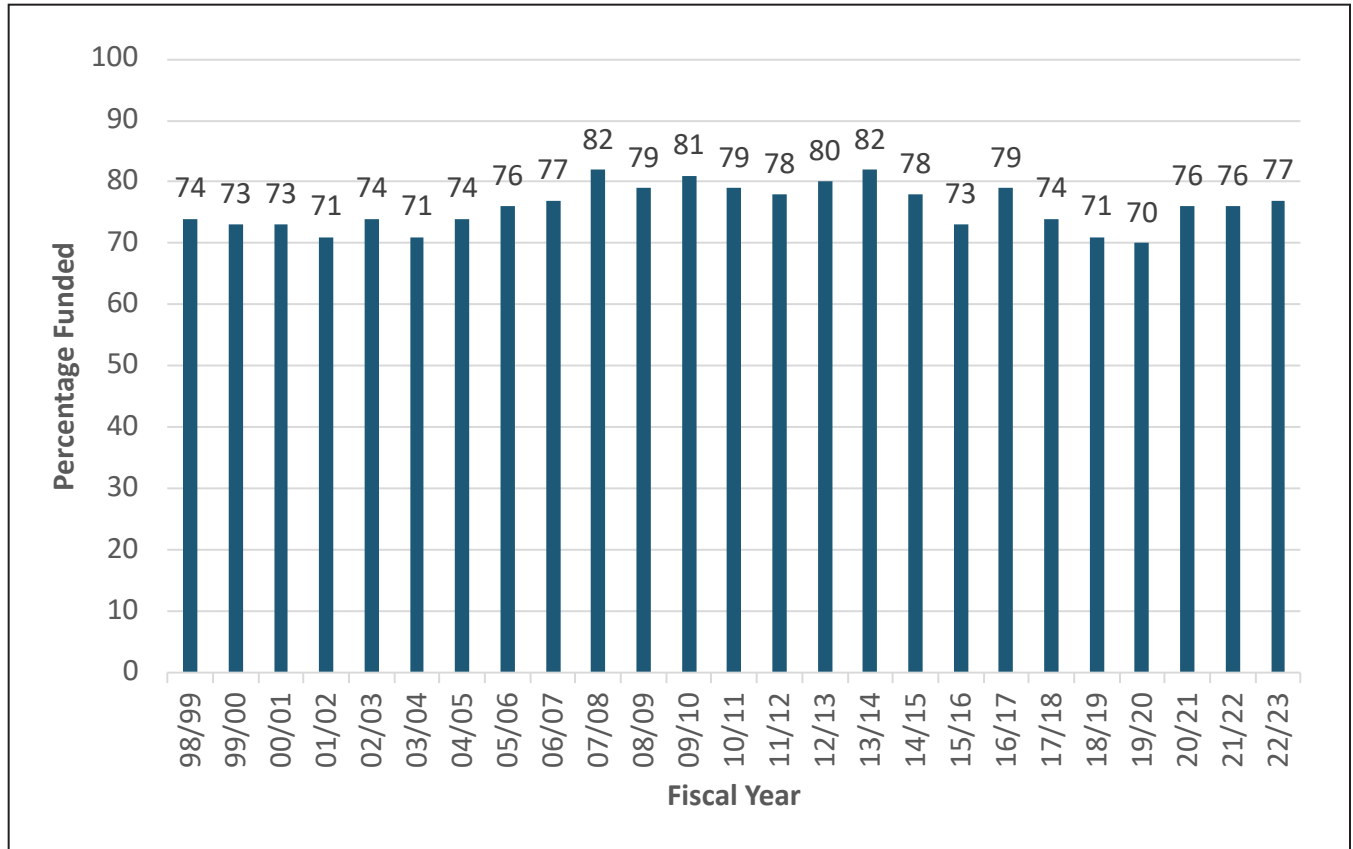
There were 100 new cases submitted and approved by the CalWRAP for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Types of cases approved consisted of: 77 gang-related cases (77 percent), 14 high-risk crimes cases (14 percent), 4 domestic violence cases (4 percent), 3 organized crime cases (3 percent), and 2 human trafficking cases (2 percent). (See Chart 2.)

Chart 2 - Types of Cases Submitted and Approved for Funding (FY 2022-2023)



Since the inception of the CalWRAP in January of 1998, the percentage of gang-related cases has averaged 76 percent. Chart 3 depicts the actual percentage of gang-related cases approved between FY 1998-1999 and FY 2022-2023.

Chart 3 — Percentage of Gang-Related Cases Funded Each Fiscal Year

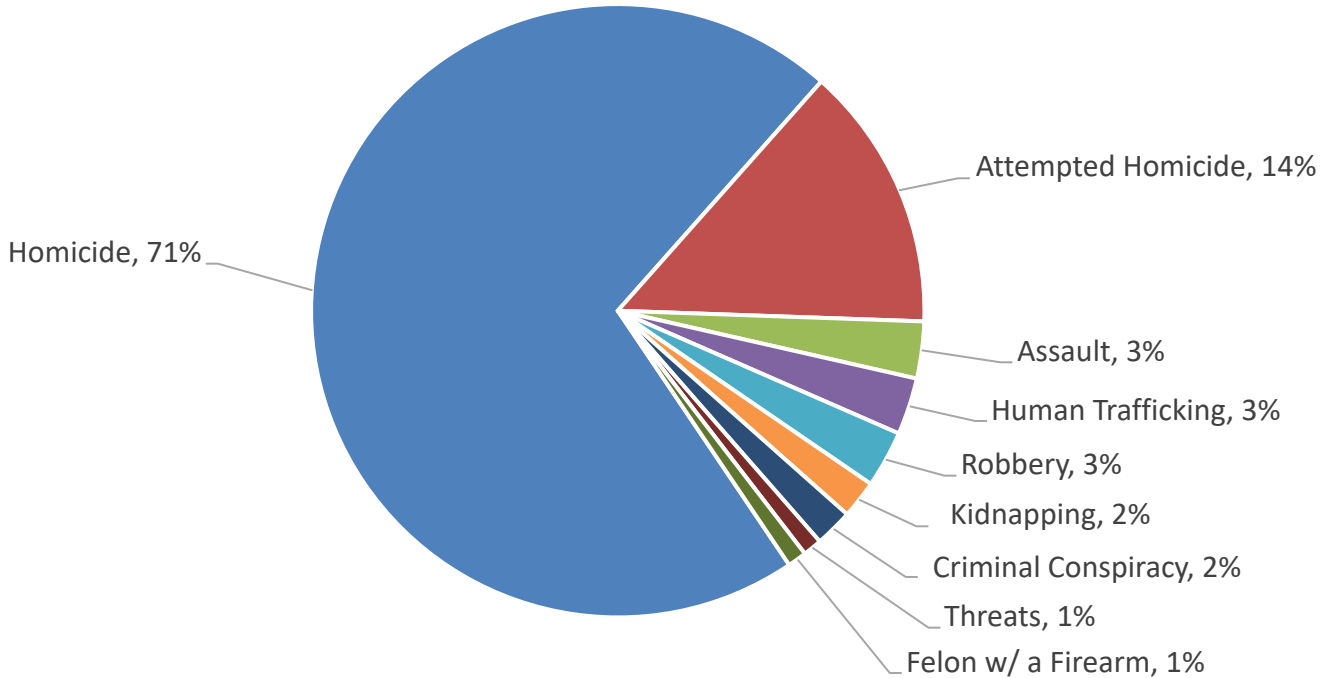


Charges Filed on Cases

During the FY 2022-2023 reporting period, homicide and attempted homicide accounted for 85 percent of the primary charges filed on the 100 approved cases. The remaining primary charges filed included: assault (3 percent), human trafficking (3 percent), robbery (3 percent), kidnapping (2 percent), criminal conspiracy (2 percent), threats (1 percent), and felon with a firearm (1 percent).

Chart 4 is a visual representation of the types of primary charges filed on the approved cases.

Chart 4 – Types of Charges Filed on Cases (FY 2022-2023)



State and Local Assistance

The CalWRAP’s local assistance appropriation (funds available to state and local agencies to support witness relocation cases) for Chapter 43/22 (FY 2022-2023) was \$2,354,000. As of June 30, 2023, the program distributed \$416,252 and the remaining balance of \$1,937,748 is available for agencies to support the cases they opened during FY 2022-2023 for a period of two additional years.

Table 2 illustrates the status of the Chapter 43/22 (FY 2022-2023) fund, and the two prior FY funds, Chapters 21/21 (FY 2021-2022) and 06/20 (FY 2020-2021), which were also administered by the program during this reporting period. The Chapter 06/20 fund closed on June 30, 2023.

Table 2 – Chapter Fund Balances

Chapter Fund	Beginning Funds	Expended Funds	Remaining Balance
43/22 (FY 22-23)*	\$2,354,000.00	\$416,252.11	\$1,937,747.89
21/21 (FY 21-22)*	\$2,354,000.00	\$613,031.39	\$1,740,968.61
6/20 (FY 20-21)†	\$2,354,000.00	\$1,400,386.98	\$953,613.02

* Although there is an available balance, funds have been encumbered for future continued support for existing cases attributed to this FY.

† Chapter 06/20 closed on June 30, 2023.

Reimbursements to Agencies

In FY 2022-2023, the CalWRAP staff processed 212 reimbursement claims totaling \$1,204,995 submitted by 23 state and local agencies. The approved reimbursement claims reflect a monthly average of \$100,416 utilized for witness or sworn law enforcement expenses.

Table 3 shows the total expenses approved for each active chapter fund during FY 2022-2023 and the total number of reimbursement claims processed for each year’s appropriation. Reimbursements support various services for relocated witnesses and their family members and friends, such as temporary lodging, relocation expenses, storage of personal belongings, rent, meals, utilities, and incidentals. The program also reimburses expenses incurred for psychological counseling, medical care, new identities, vocational or occupational training, and travel costs for witnesses who must return to testify in criminal proceedings. Sworn law enforcement expenses may also be reimbursed for transporting or protecting witnesses. These expenses include travel, lodging, per diem, and required overtime.

Table 3 – Approved Reimbursement Claims by Chapter Fund (FY 2022-2023)

Chapter Fund	Amount Approved	Claims Processed
Chapter 43/22	\$416,252.11	94
Chapter 21/21	\$375,034.69	52
Chapter 06/20	\$413,708.17	66
Total	\$1,204,994.97	212

25 Percent Match

The CalWRAP is mandated to report the amount of funding sought by each agency, provided to each agency, and the 25 percent match value. There were a total of 212 approved reimbursement claims in FY 2022-2023. Table 4 reflects the 23 agencies that submitted match claims during this period.

Table 4 – Submitted Match Value by Agency (FY 2022-2023)

Agency	Total Amount Submitted	Total Amount Approved	Match Value ¹
Butte	\$12,041.80	\$10,239.28	\$920.43
Contra Costa	\$4,562.50	\$4,562.50	\$1,223.30
DOJ - Crim	\$67,235.00	\$67,235.00	\$0.00
Fresno	\$248,884.83	\$248,884.83	\$86,063.99
Glenn	\$1,362.63	\$1,021.97	\$0.00
Imperial	\$8,781.59	\$8,781.59	\$2,300.49
Kern	\$36,202.94	\$36,202.94	\$6,784.90
Kings	\$9,494.41	\$9,494.41	\$4,340.18
Los Angeles	\$72,099.58	\$72,099.58	\$42,093.75
Monterey	\$53,359.73	\$53,257.88	\$7,504.48
Orange	\$22,890.00	\$22,890.00	\$0.00
Sacramento	\$28,415.84	\$28,415.84	\$6,005.29
San Bernardino	\$15,117.40	\$15,117.40	\$20,933.22
San Diego	\$147,546.18	\$147,546.18	\$44,251.50
San Francisco	\$11,134.35	\$11,134.35	\$9,303.13
San Joaquin	\$125,389.11	\$124,340.36	\$32,547.05
San Mateo	\$71,945.00	\$71,945.00	\$21,700.02
Santa Barbara	\$13,625.00	\$13,625.00	\$1,645.35
Santa Clara	\$74,717.92	\$74,717.92	\$20,979.95
Santa Cruz	\$142,060.84	\$142,060.84	\$40,995.11
Sonoma	\$11,428.42	\$11,428.42	\$4,195.00
Stanislaus	\$10,593.68	\$10,593.68	\$2,802.92
Ventura	\$19,400.00	\$19,400.00	\$1,596,022.40
Grand Total	\$1,208,288.75	\$1,204,994.97	\$1,952,612.46

¹ Effective August 24, 2007, the California Legislature amended and codified section 14027(b) of the California Penal Code to impose a 25 percent match requirement on all new cases submitted by local agencies. Local agencies may submit a match amount more than 25 percent of the total reimbursement claim. However, if the match amount submitted is less than 25 percent of the total reimbursement claim in the first 30 days a CalWRAP case is active, the reimbursement claim may be reduced to meet the 25 percent match.

Testimonials

Following the closure of a case, the CalWRAP program staff solicits information from state and local agencies, requesting comments or suggestions concerning the program, its policies, and its procedures. The comments received from these agencies during FY 2022-2023 include many positive responses regarding the services administered by program staff, the witness services provided, and the continued need to provide these services to testifying witnesses. The following are a few of the testimonials received over the past year.

Butte County District Attorney's Office

"Our case could not be prosecuted without our relocated witness."

Monterey County District Attorney's Office

"CalWRAP services made all five life-sentence convictions possible."

Santa Cruz District Attorney's Office

"CalWRAP is an excellent and necessary program! Thank you for being willing to reimburse rehabilitation costs for the witness."

Additional Program Items of Interest

Administrative Costs

In FY 2022-2023, the CalWRAP expended \$151,000 on administrative costs, which include personnel resources and operating expenses.

The program staff consists of one full-time Associate Governmental Program Analyst.

Outreach and Training

The CalWRAP Program Analyst continuously provides training on the policies and procedures of the program for agencies, upon request.

The CalWRAP regularly contacts state and local agencies statewide that have not recently utilized the program, to provide information on funding opportunities for their current or future cases.

The California Rural Crimes Prevention Task Force (CRCPTF) invited the CalWRAP to present at their quarterly meeting in May 2023. The CalWRAP provided program information to statewide law enforcement to enhance awareness of the program, its policies and procedures, and current funding.