



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
Agenda Date: January 27, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Cal OES Child Advocacy Center Program Grant Program

Signed by:
John Savrnoch
CC48FE9894F649A

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney or his designee to submit an application, and if awarded, execute the Grant Subaward Agreement, which includes the Grant Subaward Assurances, Program Standard Assurance Addendum, Standard Certification of Compliance, and Application Signatures Form to accept anticipated funding with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program for the award period of April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, up to a maximum grant subaward amount of \$200,000, subject to the approval and concurrence of Risk Management, Auditor-Controller, and County Counsel;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute any future amendments to extend the term of the Grant Award Agreement through September 30, 2027, or to increase the grant award in an amount not to exceed an additional \$50,000, with the concurrence of Risk Management, County Counsel, and Auditor-Controller; and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) because they consist of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to authorize grant application, and acceptance if awarded, for Tthe Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program, which provides victims of child abuse with an age-appropriate forensic interview in a family-friendly location, and ongoing victim services for the child and family unit. Past funding through the Cal OES KC Program has supported 0.08 FTE Victim Witness Program Advocate, 1.0 FTE Victim Witness Supervisor (SART Program Coordinator), as well as Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM) staff to provide direct services to victims.

Discussion:

The purpose of the Cal OES KC Program is to fund affiliate, developing, and accredited Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in California who provide services to child abuse victims to reduce trauma to children and their families by using a multidisciplinary team approach. CACs are child-friendly facilities in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and victim advocacy professionals work together to protect the emotional needs of child victims.

Per the Cal OES Grant Agreement, the District Attorney is required to maintain written documentation on file showing authorization by the Board of Supervisors for the District Attorney to sign the Grant Agreement if awarded.

Background:

In Santa Barbara County, over 200 cases of suspected child sexual abuse or assault are referred to the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Program for a forensic interview and services per year. For each suspected case, law enforcement, often with the cooperation of Child Welfare Services, requests the services of a specially trained child forensic interviewer to interview the affected child(ren). These interviews are currently provided by CALM under a contract with the District Attorney's Office, as part of the SART Program. Once a child completes the child forensic interview, additional follow-up therapeutic services are warranted to help the child cope with the potential effects of their experiences.

SART is a collaborative partnership that consists of local law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, local hospitals, public health, Child Welfare Services, Rape Crisis Centers, Vandenberg Space Force Base personnel, federal prison system personnel, and local non-profit providers including CALM. The SART Program is responsible for coordination and provision of child forensic interviews and sexual assault forensic exams. Interviews are conducted at three SART sites throughout the County. Each of the three sites in Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria have been donated by Cottage Hospital, Lompoc District Hospital, and Dignity Health/Marian Regional Medical Center, respectively. The sites are designed to be child-friendly to minimize further trauma in the interview process. Grant funds from Cal OES cover the services of the District Attorney's SART Coordinator, CALM expert forensic interviewers, and supplemental post-interview therapeutic services also provided by CALM. In addition, grant funds will cover services and supplies for the Santa Maria/Lompoc SART sites.

Performance Measures:

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded the KC grant annually since 2018. During the first nine months of the current grant period, from April 1, 2025, through December 31 2025, 132 forensic interviews were completed with child victims, and 48 of those victims received therapeutic

intervention. In the next grant period, quarterly progress reports will continue to be submitted to Cal OES and will serve as a record for implementing the grant award. Statistics for progress reports must be collected monthly, even if there is no new information to report. Information collected will include but is not limited to the following:

1. Number of child victims who had a forensic interview.
2. Number of child victims who received therapeutic intervention.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding from this non-competitive grant reflects one year of program expenses for the period of April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. The total project cost is \$200,000 and does not require any local cash match. If the District Attorney’s application is approved and the full grant amount is awarded, the \$200,000 in grant funds will fund \$164,000 in Salaries and Employee Benefits for a 0.08 FTE Victim Witness Program Advocate and 1.0 FTE Victim Witness Supervisor (SART Program Coordinator), and \$36,000 in operating costs, including staffing and travel costs for CALM, travel to trainings, and internet at each SART site.

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Total
General Fund			
State	\$ 21,900	\$ 65,500	\$ 87,400
Federal	\$ 28,100	\$ 84,500	\$ 112,600
Fees			
Total	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000

KC Grant Award Schedule		
Funding Sources	Grant Award Period	Grant Award Amount
2025 VOCA (Victims of Crime General Funds)	4/1/26 – 03/31/27	\$ 112,600
2025 VCGF (Victims of Crime General Funds)	4/1/26 – 03/31/27	\$ 87,400
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$ 200,000

Staffing Impacts:

None. Grant funds will continue to partially fund the existing staff listed below.

Legal Position Title	Number of FTE	Estimated Cost
Victim Witness Supervisor	1.00	152,600
Victim-Witness Advocate	0.08	11,400
Total	1.08	\$ 164,000

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Special Instructions:

Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

- a) One (1) Minute Order; and
- b) One (1) copy of a fully-executed Grant Award Resolution

Attachments:

Attachment A – Board Resolution

Attachment B – Grant Application

Contact Information:

John DeAlba
Department Business Specialist
jodealba@countyofsb.org