



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

Department Name: District Attorney
Department No.: 021
For Agenda Of: August 22, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director John T. Savrnock, District Attorney, (805) 568-2308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, (805) 568-2304
SUBJECT: Cal OES Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Unemployment Insurance Anti-Fraud Program (PG) Grant Application Authorization

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Certification of Assurance of Compliance for the California Office of Emergency Services Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Unemployment Insurance Anti-Fraud Program (PG) grant application to be submitted during Fiscal Year 2023-2024;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute a Certification of Assurance of Compliance for the California Office of Emergency Services Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Unemployment Insurance Anti-Fraud Program (PG) grant application to be submitted during Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and
- c) Determine that the above 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:

All California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) grant applications require applicants to submit a signed Certification of Assurance of Compliance (COAOC) with the application packet. This document serves as written proof from the governing board that the department official executing the grant application documents is authorized to do so. As part of the application process for each Cal OES grant, the District Attorney's Office must submit a COAOC that has been signed by the District Attorney or his or her designee, as well as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Before the COAOC can be signed, the District Attorney's Office must request authorization from the Board for the District Attorney and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the COAOC. This is the sole requested action before your Board at this time.

If the grant application is approved by Cal OES and the grant is awarded, then the District Attorney's Office will return to the Board for authorization to accept the grant award prior to the acceptance of any grant funds or execution of any grant agreement. The District Attorney's Office will also continue to bring any new grant applications and awards to the Board of Supervisors for authorization.

Background:

Cal OES has released a non-competitive Request for Application (RFA) for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Unemployment Insurance Anti-Fraud Program (PG). The purpose of the PG Program is to provide funding to district attorneys for the investigation and prosecution of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud crimes, which spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic emergencies. District attorneys are encouraged to work with county and/or municipal law enforcement agencies on investigatory work related to PUA/UI fraud crimes, and then successfully prosecute these cases. Fraud involving PUA / UI or COVID-19 pandemic-related insurance programs administered by the Federal or State government violates various federal and State laws.

Unfortunately, the District Attorney's Office was notified of the RFA deadline after the July 11th Board of Supervisors meeting docketing deadline and had to submit an incomplete RFA packet before the application deadline. Although this was not ideal, it ensured our Office remained eligible for this funding. In the future, the District Attorney's Office will endeavor to bring requests for signed Certificates of Assurances before the Board of Supervisors in advance of the RFA deadline.

The District Attorney's Office plans to utilize these grant funds to assign a dedicated DA Investigator to work with local law enforcement agencies and the local Employment Development Department (EDD) Investigator assigned to Santa Barbara County. These partnerships will enable the District Attorney's Office to assume responsibility for most of the EDD theft cases that are reported to local law enforcement and also ensure thorough investigations and the filing of criminal charges when necessary.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None. There is no cost to apply for Cal OES grants and there is no match required for this grant.

Fiscal Analysis:

Grant Award Schedule			
<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>	
2022 PAND (State General Fund)	7/1/23 – 3/31/2025	\$	194,625
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$	194,625

Fiscal Narrative:

The proposed grant budget totals \$194,625 for the period of July 1, 2023 through March 31, 2025. This includes \$98,000 in Salaries and Employee Benefits for 1.0 FTE Extra-Help District Attorney Investigator, \$40,257 for 0.23 FTE Deputy District Attorney, and \$38,475 for 0.26 FTE Legal Office Professional Sr., as well as \$17,693 in operating costs.

Key Contract Risks:

There is minimal risk to the County because there is no cost to apply for Cal OES grants.

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 the fully-executed Cal OES Certification of Assurance of Compliance

Attachments:

Attachment A: Cal OES Certification of Assurance of Compliance

Authored by:

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist (805) 568-2434