



**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. Savnoch, District Attorney
 Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Cal OES Human Trafficking Advocacy Program (HA) Grant Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Signed by:
John Savnoch
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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) Human Trafficking Advocacy Program for the award period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, up to a maximum grant award amount of \$147,000, 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 June 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:

The purpose of this Board Letter is to request that the Board formally authorize the District Attorney or their designee to submit an application to Cal OES for the HA grant award for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. This Board Letter also requests that the Board authorize the District Attorney to accept the grant award up to an amount of \$147,000 and execute the Grant Agreement, should the grant be awarded.

Discussion:

The Human Trafficking Advocacy (HA) Program provides outreach to human trafficking victims, as well as those at risk of being trafficked. In the past, funding through the Cal OES has supported 0.50 FTE of an existing Victim-Witness Advocate and 0.41 FTE of an existing Victim-Witness Supervisor. This is a renewal of the HA grant award, which the District Attorney has been awarded since 2016.

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:

The HA program is part of the District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program, which is charged with implementing the provisions of Penal Code 13835 to provide optional and mandatory services to victims of crime in Santa Barbara County. The HA Victim-Witness Advocate provides these mandated services with a focus on human trafficking victims, including victims of both forced labor and sex trafficking. In addition, the HA Victim-Witness Advocate attends juvenile court proceedings and collaborates with Juvenile Probation, Behavioral Wellness, District Attorney, and Public Defender staff to advocate for and provide services to suspected victims of trafficking.

In 2013, a local task force consisting of various County departments, local law enforcement, and non-profit agencies was created to educate the community and stakeholders to recognize, identify, and respond to trafficked victims. The Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force also provides a venue for information sharing and networking on resources available from each of the respective agencies. Under the direction of the District Attorney, the Victim-Witness Program Director and a Victim-Witness Supervisor continue to facilitate the Task Force, coordinating and delivering training, and providing an avenue for services and outreach on the subject.

In collaboration with the County Department of Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Probation, the HA Program has developed screening tools for CWS and Probation to use to help identify at-risk youth. Children identified as victims are referred to the HA Victim-Witness Advocate for critical services.

Performance Measures:

During the first nine months of the current grant period (January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025), 18 victims of human trafficking were provided 315 units of services including crisis intervention, resource-referral counseling, case-criminal justice information, court support, and emergency financial assistance. Of these victims, 17 were female. 7 victims were minors under the age of 18 identified through law enforcement, juvenile justice and social service partners.

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 adult victims identified
2. Units of service provided
3. Number of child victims identified

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

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

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding reflects one year of program expenses for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The total project cost is \$147,000 and does not require local cash match. If the District Attorney's application is approved and the full grant amount is awarded, the \$147,000 in grant funds will fund \$126,000 in Salaries and Benefits, which includes 0.50 FTE Victim-Witness Advocate and 0.41 FTE Victim-Witness Program Supervisor, and \$21,000 in operating costs, which includes a 15% indirect cost rate for de minimis for overhead costs.

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Total
General Fund			
State	\$32,120	\$32,119	\$64,239
Federal	\$41,381	\$41,380	\$82,761
Fees			
Total	\$73,501	\$73,499	\$147,000

HA Grant Award Schedule		
Funding Sources	Grant Award Period	Grant Award Amount
2025 VOCA (Victims of Crime General Funds)	1/1/26 – 12/31/26	\$ 82,761
2025 VCGF (Victims of Crime General Funds)	1/1/26 – 12/31/26	\$ 64,239
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		<i>\$ 147,000</i>

Staffing Impacts:

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

Legal Position Title	Number of FTE	Estimated Annual Cost
Victim-Witness Program Supervisor	0.41	\$61,000
Victim-Witness Advocate	0.50	\$65,000
Total	0.91	\$126,000

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