



**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: February 25, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): John T. Savrnach, District Attorney
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
**SUBJECT: Cal OES Child Advocacy Center Program Grant Program, Subaward No. KC24 03
2801**

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, 2025 through March 31, 2026, 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 to execute any amendments to the Grant Subaward Agreement extending the term thereof through September 30, 2026, or for a supplemental grant subaward in the amount not to exceed \$50,000, with the concurrence of County Counsel, Auditor-Controller and Risk Management; 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), since 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 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program 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 0.22 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.

The purpose of this Board letter is to request that the Board formally authorize the District Attorney to submit an application to Cal OES for the KC grant award for the period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026. This Board Letter also requests that the Board authorize the District Attorney to accept the anticipated grant award up to an amount of \$200,000 and execute the Grant Subaward Agreement, should the grant be awarded.

Background:

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.

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 Measure:

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded the KC grant annually since 2018. During the first nine months of the current grant period, 165 forensic interviews were completed with child victims, and 52 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. Anticipated revenues and expenditures are included in the District Attorney’s Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding from this non-competitive grant reflects one year of program expenses for the period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026. 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 0.15 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.

Grant Award Schedule			
<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>	
2024 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)	4/1/2025- 3/31/2026	\$	110,600
2024 VCGF (VOCA Supplemental)	4/1/2025 – 3/31/2026	\$	89,400
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$	200,000

Staffing Impacts:

None. Grant funds will fund 1.0 FTE existing VW supervisor and 0.15 FTE VW advocate.

Position Request Summary

Legal Position Title	Number of FTE	Estimated Cost
Victim Witness Supervisor	1	\$148,000.00
Victim Witness Advocate	0.15	\$16,000.00
Total	1.15	\$164,000.00

Special Instructions:

Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Interim Business Manager:

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

Attachments:

Attachment A – KC Board Resolution

Attachment B – Grant Application Package

Authored by:

John De Alba
Interim Business Manager
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