



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: November 19, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney, x2308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, x2304
SUBJECT: Cal OES Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program Grant Award

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the Board Resolution in Attachment A regarding the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program grant award for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019 for a total award amount of \$391,556, as follows:
 - i. Approve, ratify, and authorize the District Attorney to execute a Grant Subaward Agreement with Cal OES accepting the Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program grant award for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$223,746; and
 - ii. Approve, ratify and authorize the District Attorney to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Grant Subaward Agreement with Cal OES for the Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$167,810, for a new total award amount of \$391,556; and
- b) Determine that the above action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), because it consists 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, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text: The Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program provides outreach and support to victims of crime who are older or dependent adults. Funding through Cal OES supports 1.0 FTE Victim/Witness Program Advocate who provides mandatory and optional services to victims in accordance with the Cal OES program guidelines and the Penal Code section governing Victim-Witness Assistance Programs.

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 and amendments. Although the Cal OES grant revenue and expenditures were approved by the Board of Supervisors upon receipt of the grant award in 2016, and during the subsequent budget development processes for the award period, staff identified that formal Board authorization was still required. The purpose of this Board Letter is to request that the Board formally authorize the District Attorney to sign the original Grant Agreement with Cal OES for the XE Program in the amount of \$223,746 and the first amendment in the amount of \$167,810 for a total award of \$391,556 for the award period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019. The total project cost is \$489,446, which includes the \$391,556 grant award and a \$97,890 cash match.

Background:

In 2017, there were 44 elder abuse cases filed in Santa Barbara County. In 2018, 61 cases were filed. The Victim-Witness Assistance Program has identified the following barriers to senior citizens receiving victim services:

- Fear of the criminal justice system;
- Unaware that they are a victim;
- Unlikely to access law enforcement to report abuse. This fear may be exacerbated if the victim is non-English speaking, disabled and/or socially and culturally isolated;
- Disconnect between abuse cases reported to Adult Protective Services and those ultimately reported to law enforcement for criminal investigation; and
- Difficulty in investigating cases due to an ongoing shortage of trained personnel with the time required to overcome the complexity and dynamics of these cases including family violence dynamics, recantation, medical and psychological disabilities, language barriers and underreporting.

To address these barriers, the Elder Abuse Program, funded by this grant from Cal OES, employs 1.0 FTE Victim/Witness Program Advocate dedicated to providing outreach and coordinating services to elder and dependent victims of crime. Upon receipt of a referral or a law enforcement report, the Advocate makes phone contact with the victim and performs an assessment to determine any immediate needs (i.e., food, shelter and safety concerns). If emergency legal assistance is necessary, the Advocate works with the local Legal Aid Foundation Clinic or the Court's Legal Resource Center to assist the victim to navigate the civil restraining order process. The Advocate also works with the Courts as appropriate, to obtain Criminal Protective Orders. To assist victims with material needs such as cash, housing, food and clothing expenses, the Victim/Witness Assistance Program maintains an Emergency Fund account, replenished through an annual fundraiser. The Advocate collaborates with other local agencies and committees serving seniors, in order to ensure senior victims have access to all necessary resources, including mental health services.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 Adopted Budgets.

Fiscal Analysis:

The grant award reflects 3.5 years of program expenses for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019. The total project cost is \$489,446, which includes the \$391,556 grant award and a \$97,890 cash match. The cash match was included in the District Attorney’s Fiscal Year 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 Adopted Budgets.

Grant Award Schedule		
<u>Federal Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>
FFY 2015 VOCA	7/1/16-12/31/19	\$223,746
FFY 2016 VOCA	7/1/16-12/31/19	\$130,519
FFY 2017 VOCA	7/1/16-12/31/19	\$ 37,291
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$391,556

Key Contract Risks: There is minimal risk to the County. Funds are reimbursed after program expenses are incurred.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall post the Notice of Exemption upon Board approval. Please return the following items to Nicole Lee-Rodriguez, DA Business Manager (x82413):

- a) One (1) Minute Order;
- b) One (1) duplicate original fully-executed Grant Award Resolution;
- c) One (1) copy of the fully-executed Grant Award Resolution; and
- d) One (1) copy of the approved Notice of Exemption.

Attachments:

- a) Board Resolution
- b) Grant Award
- c) Amendment No. 1
- d) Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Danielle Spahn, Team Project Leader (EXH)