



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: June 27, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney, x82308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer,
x82304
SUBJECT: Cal OES Child Advocacy Center Program (KC) Grant Award, Subaward No. KC22 01
0420

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 a Resolution approving, ratifying, and authorizing the District Attorney to execute a Grant Agreement with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) accepting the Child Advocacy Center Program grant award for the award period of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, in the amount of \$200,000.00;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney to execute any amendments to the Grant Agreement extending the term thereof through September 30, 2024, or for a supplemental grant award in the amount not to exceed \$50,000, with the concurrence of 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), 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, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

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. Funding through Cal OES supports 0.5 Victim Witness Program Advocate as well as Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM) staff to provide direct services to 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. In order to meet state deadlines and properly receive the grant funding, the District Attorney preliminarily executed the Grant Agreement pending formal authority from the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this Board Letter is to request that the Board formally authorize the District Attorney to sign the Grant Agreement with Cal OES for the KC Program grant award for the award period of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024, in the amount of \$200,000.00.

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 children complete 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 which consists of local law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, local hospitals, public health, Child Welfare Services, Rape Crisis Centers, Vandenberg Air 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 CALM's SART coordinator, expert forensic interviewers, as well as supplemental post-interview therapeutic services also provided by CALM. In addition, grant funds will cover new furnishings for the Santa Maria SART site.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Adopted Budget and the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The grant award reflects one year of program expenses for the period of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. The grant funding spans across two fiscal years. The total project cost is \$200,000 and does not require a cash match this grant period.

The \$200,000 grant funds cover \$53,762 in Salaries and Benefits for a 0.5 Victim Witness Program Advocate and \$146,238 in Operating Costs, including staffing and travel costs for CALM, travel to trainings, security upgrades for the Santa Maria SART location, and internet at each SART site.

Grant Award Schedule			
<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>	
2022 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)	4/1/2023 – 3/31/2024	\$	200,000
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$	200,000

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 John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

- 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) KC22 Grant Award
- c) Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist (x82434)