



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

(805) 568-2240

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

District Attorney

Department Number:

021

Agenda Date:

August 18, 2026

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:

<Insert Time>

Continued Item:

No

If Yes, date from:

<Insert Date>

Vote Required:

Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney

CONTACT: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: California Department of Insurance Life and Annuity Consumer Protection Grant
Program for Fiscal Year 2026-27

Concurrences:

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 and authorize the Chair to execute a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney, or designee, to apply for and, if awarded, execute a Grant Award Agreement with the California Department of Insurance (DOI) for the Life and Annuity Consumer Protection Program, for

the award period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, with an anticipated award of \$53,500, up to a maximum grant award amount of \$96,700;

- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute any future amendments to extend the term of the Grant Award Agreement through December 31, 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 not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under 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 District Attorney's Office seeks the Board's approval to reapply for the DOI Life and Annuity Consumer Protection Program (LACPP) grant award for an amount up to the maximum possible grant award of \$96,700 for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The LACPP is a DOI program that provides grant funds to district attorney offices throughout California for the identification, outreach, victim advocacy, enhanced investigation, and prosecution of life insurance and annuity financial abuse by insurance licensees or persons holding themselves out to be insurance licensees, or any person purporting to be engaged in the business of insurance. The District Attorney's Office has been awarded these grant funds for many years and must apply for these grant funds on an annual basis.

Discussion:

This grant will continue to provide partial funds for two existing part-time Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) who will assist in the identification, investigation, and prosecution of life and annuity financial abuse. These attorneys will act as liaisons to local law enforcement and the DOI when cases of potential life and annuity financial abuse are discovered.

At this time, the actual grant award amount is unknown as the grant funds have not yet been awarded. Historically, the amount awarded to the District Attorney's Office has been less than what was requested in the grant application. Based on prior awards, the department estimates that the LACPP grant award will be approximately \$53,500 for FY 2026-27; as a result, this is the amount that was included in the FY 2026-27 Adopted Budget. However, in keeping with prior practice, the department is requesting Board approval to apply for the maximum possible grant award amount of \$96,700.

Background:

In 2004, the State of California enacted the Life and Annuity Consumer Protection Program to curb life insurance and annuity financial abuse, particularly against senior citizens. This program is funded by an assessment on all newly issued life insurance and individual annuity policies sold to California residents. A portion of these funds are distributed to district attorneys throughout California for the prosecution of life insurance and annuity fraud cases.

Past grant funds have enabled the District Attorney's Office to combat life and annuity financial abuse. The Fiscal Year 2026-27 grant would allow the program to continue at current staffing levels.

Performance Measure:

Each District Attorney receiving annual funds pursuant to Section 10127.17 of the California Insurance Code must submit reports to the Insurance Commissioner on the local program and its accomplishments. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's LACPP has historically had a low number of cases, but these cases have been large, complex, and with multiple victims, substantial financial damages, or both. There were no cases filed in Fiscal Year 2025-26, but the Office used the funds to investigate potential cases and to fund outreach and partnership efforts with other agencies to raise awareness of fraud-related crimes.

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding from this grant reflects one year of program expenses for the grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. The total anticipated project cost is \$96,700 and does not require any local cash match. Based on prior awards, the next award is estimated at \$53,500. Accordingly, revenues and expenditures of \$53,500 are included in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Adopted Budget.

If the District Attorney's application is approved and the full grant amount of \$96,700 is awarded, then the grant funds will support the \$96,700 in Salaries and Employee Benefits as listed in the *Staffing Impacts* chart below. If the full grant amount of \$96,700 is awarded, the District Attorney's Office will return to your Board with a budget revision to appropriate the additional funds.

Funding Source	FY 2026-27	Total
General Fund		
State	\$96,700	\$96,700
Federal		
Fees		
Total	\$96,700	\$96,700

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts of receiving this grant, as budgeted grant funds will continue to fund existing staff. If additional grant funds are awarded, the District Attorneys' Office will dedicate more staff time to Life and Annuity Consumer Protection related activities as listed below.

Legal Position Title	Number of FTE	Estimated Cost
Deputy District Attorney Sr.	0.10	\$23,100
Deputy District Attorney	0.15	\$34,700
Legal Office Professional	0.05	\$5,100
Benefits		\$33,800
Total	0.30	\$96,700

Special Instructions:

Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

- a) One (1) Minute Order
- b) One (1) copy of a fully-executed Grant Delegation Resolution

Attachments:

Attachment A – FY 26-27 DOI Annuity Resolution (Signature Required)

Attachment B – FY 26-27 Annuity Application Report

Contact Information:

John DeAlba

Department Business Specialist

jodealba@countyofsb.org