



**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. Savrnock, District Attorney
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Cal OES Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach Program Grant

Signed by:
John Savrnock
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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) Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach Program Grant for the award period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, up to a maximum grant subaward amount of \$196,906, 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 UV 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, or designee, to accept the grant award up to an amount of \$196,906 and execute the Grant Agreement, should the grant be awarded.

Discussion:

The UV Program provides outreach to victims of violent crime within the unserved and underserved communities of the Spanish and indigenous language-speaking agriculture workforce in the Santa Maria area. Funding through Cal OES supports 1.27 FTE Victim-Witness Program Advocates who provide mandatory and optional services to victims in accordance with Cal OES program guidelines and the Penal Code governing Victim-Witness Assistance Programs. This is a renewal of the UV grant award, which the District Attorney has been awarded annually for several years.

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:

Under the UV Program, Victim Advocates provide the following services to victims of crime who are part of the unserved and underserved Spanish and indigenous language-speaking agriculture workforce in Santa Maria:

- **Crisis Intervention:** Advocates respond to victims of crime who are seeking short term emotional and physical care in the aftermath of crime.
- **Referrals:** Advocates provide referrals to licensed therapists who provide trauma-informed counseling. In addition, advocates can connect victims to other community services such as medical providers, mental health providers, County social services and child protective services, domestic violence agencies, child abuse centers, and rape crisis centers, all of which provide a myriad of services to victims as the need indicates.
- **Criminal Justice System Support and Advocacy:** Advocates provide basic information regarding the criminal justice system, define legal terms, and offer assistance to victims of crime who may not have reported the crime or be known to law enforcement. Victims are often unfamiliar with the laws of the United States and distrustful of law enforcement. Because of this, Advocates provide intensive orientation to the criminal justice system and explanation of victims' rights under the California Constitution (Marsy's Law).
- **Crime Victim Compensation and Emergency Assistance:** Advocates arrange for emergency financial assistance for victims such as emergency relocation, funeral burial expenses, food, transportation, and clothing.

In addition to advocate training, these advocates have completed cultural competency training on working with the Mixtec-speaking population. The UV program coordinates outreach to the target community via a contract with Emerald Wave Media to provide Spanish and Mixteco radio spots about the UV program on AM and FM radio stations. In addition, the radio stations air monthly 30-minute live talk shows highlighting the UV program.

Performance Measures:

For the period of January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 of the current grant period, a total of 394 victims were provided services. 2,364 units of service provided include victims’ rights notification, crisis counseling, court case information, resource and referral counseling, court support, restitution, and victim compensation assistance. Of these 394 victims, 238 were identified as new victims who received services for the first time.

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 2025-26 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding from this non-competitive grant reflects one year of program expenses for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The total project cost is \$196,906 and does not require any local cash match. If the District Attorney’s application is approved and the full grant amount is awarded, the \$196,906 in grant funds will fund \$171,223 in Salaries and Employee Benefits, which funds 1.27 FTE Victim-Witness Advocates. Also included is \$25,683 in operating costs, including 15% for de minimis overhead costs that is calculated off the total direct costs base.

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Total
General Fund			
State	\$ 43,024	\$ 43,024	\$ 86,048
Federal	\$ 55,429	\$ 55,429	\$ 110,858
Fees			
Total	\$ 98,453	\$ 98,453	\$ 196,906

UV Grant Award Schedule		
Funding Sources	Grant Award Period	Grant Award Amount
2025 VOCA (Victims of Crime General Funds)	1/1/26 – 12/31/26	\$ 110,858
2025 VCGF (Victims of Crime General Funds)	1/1/26 – 12/31/26	\$ 86,048
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$ 196,906

Staffing Impacts:

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

Legal Position Title	Number of FTE	Estimated Cost
Victim-Witness Advocate	1.27	171,223
Total	1.27	\$ 171,223

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