



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 8, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney, x2308
Contact Info: Kerry Bierman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, x 2304
SUBJECT: Cal OES Elder Abuse Program XE Grant Award, Fiscal Years 2016 - 2018

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a position Resolution effective November 8, 2016, adding one (1.0) Victim Witness Program Assistant II position (Class 7610; \$45,353 - \$55,367) to the District Attorney's Office, which will be fully grant-funded by the California Office of Emergency Services Elder Abuse Program XE grant;
- b) Approve BJE#0004807 to increase appropriations of \$111,873 in District Attorney's Office General Fund for Salaries and Benefits (\$96,272) and Services and Supplies (\$15,601) funded by unanticipated revenue from California Office of Emergency Services; and
- c) 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.

Summary Text:

The total elder population over the age of 60 living in Santa Barbara County has reached nearly 84,000. As of 2016, there are 27,622 elders over the age of 75 and 9,090 over the age of 85. As our population ages, elder abuse is becoming one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation; more than two million elderly Americans are victims of neglect or mistreatment every year. Statistics collected from Santa

Barbara County Adult Protective Services indicate that during 2014 – 2015, there were 1,596 reports of elder abuse and 990 reports of dependent adult abuse.

In Santa Barbara County, 40% of local senior citizens are economically insecure. This economic insecurity makes seniors more vulnerable to victimization, financial schemes and unhealthy relationships with those who may take advantage of them. Furthermore, approximately one in four elders live alone, are isolated, and are unaware of available services that could prevent or stop crimes.

Elders are a particularly vulnerable and difficult to access; as a result, creative and proactive strategies are required in order to reach them and also to ensure that crimes against victims are detected and reported. Both of these factors play a critical role in our ability to stop elder abuse and provide services that would otherwise remain unknown to elders and dependent adults. In order to enhance our ability to meet these goals, the District Attorney's Office applied for the Elder Abuse (XE) Program grant in February 2016 and was subsequently awarded \$223,746 over a two-year period. The Elder Abuse Program (XE) will be the only program in the County that is designed to provide services to elderly and dependent adults who are victims of crime within the context of the criminal justice system.

This grant award will allow the District Attorney's Office to hire one full-time bilingual Victim Witness Program Assistant, who will be dedicated to serving this population. In order to do this, the Department will need to add one full time equivalent position for this program. The Victim Advocate will extend services to all reported elder and dependent adult victims of crime. During the first year of funding, the Advocate is expected to serve a minimum of 200 victims of elder and/or dependent adult abuse.

Background:

Out of concern for the unique vulnerability of seniors, the District Attorney's Office created the Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Program. The goals of the Elder Abuse Program are to ensure the safety of our community's elders and dependent adults, and to heighten the community's awareness of these crimes.

The Program consists of an existing part-time Deputy District Attorney, and Victim Witness Program Assistant who operates throughout Santa Barbara County. The Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Unit receives specialized training in the laws specific to these crimes. The Victim Advocate will assist victims of crime with information, support, court accompaniment, and orientation to the criminal justice system. In addition, the Advocate coordinates with Adult Protective Services, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office and local law enforcement agencies, and will help victims and families cope with the effects of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Deputy District Attorney will be assigned .40 FTE and will serve as a resource to guide law enforcement and adult protective services during investigations, which will ultimately help to ensure successful prosecutions. All of the staff assigned to the XE grant will provide services to elder and dependent adults, and hold ongoing training programs.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No Revenues and expenditures are included in BJE#0004807. The amount reflected in the budget revision includes one year of program expenses.

The total grant award for the Elder Abuse (XE) Program is \$223,746, which will be allocated over a two-year period. The program budget for Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017 is \$111,873. This includes the

following: salaries and benefits for one new 1.0 FTE Victim Witness Program Assistant II and anticipated on-call overtime costs at \$148,873; a portion of an existing 0.40 Extra-Help Deputy District Attorney at \$7,803; and \$15,601 in other operating expenses for training, equipment and outreach materials.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 111,873.00	\$ 111,873.00	
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 111,873.00	\$ 111,873.00	\$ -

Key Contract Risks:

There is minimal risk to the County, as funds are reimbursed after program expenses are incurred.

Staffing Impacts:

<u>Legal Positions:</u>	<u>FTEs:</u>
Victim Witness Program Assistant II	1.00

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Position Resolution
- Attachment B: Budget Revision Request #0004807

Authored by:

Nicole Acosta, Department Business Specialist