



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 7, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney (805) 568-2308
Contact Info: Megan Rheinschild, Victim Witness Program Director (805) 568-2408
SUBJECT: Department of Justice Human Trafficking Grant Award Agreement with the District Attorney's Office

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, Human Resources, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) accepting the Direct Services to Support Victims of Human Trafficking grant award totaling \$950,000 for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute any amendments to extend the term of the grant agreement through September 30, 2027, and to accept additional grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, with the concurrence of County Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller;
- c) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0009398 to increase expenditures in Fiscal Year 2023-24 in the amount of \$85,000 in District Attorney's Office General Fund for Salaries & Employee Benefits (\$25,000) and Services & Supplies (\$60,000), funded by unanticipated revenue from Intergovernmental Revenue-Federal (4/5 vote required); and
- d) 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 Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Program has been awarded a grant from the Federal Department of Justice (DOJ) under the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) FFY 2023 Direct Services to Support Victims of Human Trafficking, under Purpose Area 2: Enhancing Access to Comprehensive Services for Human Trafficking Victims. This is the renewal of an existing grant that the District Attorney's Office has been awarded since 2016. Under Purpose Area 2, awards were made to victim service organizations with a demonstrated history of serving human trafficking victims with a comprehensive range of direct services. The purpose of these awards is to enhance victims' access to the diverse services that victims of labor and sex trafficking often require to address their needs.

The total grant award for the Human Trafficking Victim Services Program is \$950,000, which will be allocated over the multi-year period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. The total project cost is \$1,266,667, which includes the federal award of \$950,000 and \$316,667 in County funds that serve as match for the program.

The grant funding will enable victim advocates to provide critical comprehensive victim services and a countywide 24/7 resource to identify and enlist appropriate services for adult and minor domestic and international trafficking victims. Funds will also support needed training and public awareness efforts (including a social media presence) that have shown to be essential in improved victim identification efforts. Furthermore, grant funding will build upon early efforts to collect, share and analyze data towards making data and evidence-based system decisions and improvements.

Background:

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. Victims include not only sexually exploited individuals, but also those forced to provide labor by means of force, fraud or coercion. California is one of the top four U.S. human trafficking destinations, and the central coast has been identified as a natural transit corridor for trafficking activity between major metropolitan areas to the south and north. As a tourist destination with conference venues, a transitory population and migrant labor, Santa Barbara County is vulnerable to trafficking activity.

In response to this alarming trend, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office established the County of Santa Barbara Human Trafficking Taskforce in 2013. Those efforts positioned our task force to successfully receive and effectively utilize federal grant funds, which significantly increased investigations of human trafficking, identification of human trafficking survivors, and an ability to offer more comprehensive victim services. This grant award has significantly improved Santa Barbara County's ability to serve victims of human trafficking, and over the last six years over 200 victims of Human Trafficking have been identified and received services.

Grant funds will continue to support the critical need for our Human Trafficking Advocate to provide quality, essential victim services. In addition, these funds will enable our Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator to continue providing dedicated and comprehensive victim services. This includes the provision of transportation services, emergency housing services, and "go bags" for human trafficking victims. Grant funds will also increase victim advocacy support with Rape Crisis Center providing 24/7

hotline and confidential support for victims. In addition, funds will be used to continue outreach efforts, especially strategic outreach to partners assisting individuals vulnerable to labor trafficking to more effectively identify perpetrators and assist survivors. We have seen that targeted outreach yields increased reports of potential trafficking.

Performance Measures:

The goals of the Human Trafficking Taskforce are to identify survivors of all types of human trafficking, investigate and prosecute sex trafficking and labor trafficking cases, and address the individualized needs of survivors through the comprehensive array of quality services. The below statistics highlight the work done during the last two grant cycles utilizing grant funding:

- From 2016-2019, there were 149 human trafficking investigations; this decreased to 112 investigations during the 2019-2022 grant period.
- From 2016-2019, there were 148 human trafficking survivors identified; this decreased to 81 during the 2019-2022 grant period

The number of investigations and identified survivors both decreased during the prior three-year grant period due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The District Attorney's goals for the new 2023-2026 grant period are to continue to investigate human trafficking and provide direct services to victims/survivors.

Quarterly progress reports will be submitted to OVC and will serve as a record for implementing the grant. Information collected will include but is not limited to the following:

1. New trafficking victims identified.
2. Number of victims who received services.
3. Demographics for victims of Sex and Labor Trafficking.
4. Types of victimizations.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Partially. Revenues and expenditures were included in the District Attorney's Office Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget with the exception of \$85,000. Budget Revision Request No. 0009398 is included to increase appropriations in District Attorney General Fund for Salaries and Employee Benefits (\$25,000) and Services and Supplies (\$60,000) funded by unanticipated revenue from Intergovernmental Revenue-Federal for the Office of Justice Programs Services for Victims of Human Trafficking Federal grant award.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	FFY 23-24	FFY 24-25	FFY 25-26
General Fund	\$ 103,385.00	\$ 105,555.00	\$ 107,727.00
State			
Federal	\$ 310,145.00	\$ 316,585.00	\$ 323,270.00
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 413,530.00	\$ 422,140.00	\$ 430,997.00
Total Funding			\$ 1,266,667.00

The total grant award for the Human Trafficking Victim Services Program is \$950,000, which will be allocated over the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. The total project cost is \$1,266,667, which includes the Federal award amount of \$950,000 and \$316,667 in County funds that serve as match for the program. The local match is already included in the District Attorney’s Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget; there is no impact to the General Fund as a result of accepting this grant award.

As this is a renewal of an existing grant, this grant award will continue to fund the following existing personnel:

- 1.0 FTE Victim-Witness Program Assistant II who will provide direct services to victims and provide outreach and education to the community.
- 0.15 FTE Victim-Witness Team/Project Leader who will provide technical assistance for law enforcement, service providers, and advocates on behalf of the task force. The Project Lead will also help implement the goals for data collection and reporting of project goals and outcomes in the appropriate database.
- 0.51 FTE Victim-Witness Program Supervisor will work jointly with the task force members to facilitate protocol development and implementation.

In addition, the grant award will fund travel, supplies, contracts, and subawards, including:

- Contract with SB ACT to create and facilitate outreach and education presentations to community members through training and education of community-based agencies, professionals and community members.
- Contract with North County Rape Crisis Center to provide 24/7 Crisis Response, Hotline services for victims and crisis response.
- Subaward with Kingdom Causes who will coordinate and collaborate with Santa Barbara District Attorney Victim Witness Program, including facilitation of the steering committee and broad coordination of the working groups to address human trafficking prevention and survivor support.
- Contract with Dr. Kathryn M. O’Brien to serve as Evaluation Consultant to ensure all aspects of data collection, management and reporting are followed to facilitate the ability to effectively and continuously examine program effectiveness in achieving goals and objectives and make data-based decisions.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts due to this being a grant renewal. The grant award will continue to fund existing grant-funded positions.

Key Contract Risks: There is minimal risk to the County. The District Attorney's Office has been awarded this grant since 2016 and funds are reimbursed after program expenses are incurred.

Special Instructions:

- a) Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:
 - i. One (1) Minute Order

Attachments:

Attachment A: Cooperative Agreement

Attachment B: Budget Revision Request No. 0009398

Authored by:

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist; (805) 568-2434