




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: August 19, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney 
Contact: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Accept \$20,000 Grant from Direct Relief International to support the District Attorney's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute a grant agreement with Direct Relief International, a 501(c)(3) organization, to support the Sexual Assault Response Team for the period of July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 in the amount of \$20,000;
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 0010716 to increase appropriations of \$20,000 in the District Attorney General Fund for Services and Supplies funded by unanticipated grant revenue from Direct Relief International (4/5 vote required); 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 requests the Board's approval to execute a grant agreement with Direct Relief International for the period of July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025 in the amount of \$20,000. This grant will facilitate essential upgrades to equipment used in the investigation of sexual assault cases in Santa Barbara County. This is a one-time grant award of \$20,000 that must be expended by September 30, 2025.

In addition to the urgent need for this equipment, the three-month grant term for this grant is shorter than is typical of most grants. In order to purchase the equipment and complete the required reporting by the upcoming September 30, 2025 deadline, the District Attorney's Office preliminarily executed the Grant Agreement pending formal authorization from the Board of Supervisors.

Discussion:

This grant funding will be used to upgrade medical, lighting, and photography equipment necessary for conducting forensic medical exams. Clear documentation of injuries is essential for a thorough criminal investigation, and providing trauma-informed care to all patients is equally important. The new equipment will make documenting medical findings easier and less stressful for patients, streamline the process for nurses, and produce clearer images for the investigative and prosecuting teams. Generally, forensic medical exams can take up to four hours to complete. Any technological or equipment issues faced by examiners can delay the process and make an already lengthy and invasive exam more challenging.

Background:

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative partnership initiated in 1986 which consists of local law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, local hospitals, County of Santa Barbara Health Department, Child Welfare Services, Rape Crisis Centers, Vandenberg Space Force Base personnel, Federal prison system personnel, and local non-profit providers including Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM). The SART program is responsible for coordination and provision of child forensic interviews and forensic medical exams.

Interviews and exams 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 Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Lompoc District Hospital, and Dignity Health/Marian Regional Medical Center, respectively. These sites are specifically designed to be victim-centered and child-friendly to minimize further trauma during the interview and forensic exam process.

The District Attorney's Office has maintained administrative oversight of the SART program since 2008. The District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program Director maintains programmatic oversight of the SART Program and has extensive experience managing grant programs related to victim services.

Performance Measure:

The program goal listed in the Grant Agreement is to install upgraded lighting, photography devices, and medical equipment at all three SART sites. Ultimately, this furthers the primary goal of the SART Program, which is to facilitate the recovery of adult and child sexual assault victims and their families.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No; recommended approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0010716 attached.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	Total
General Fund		
State		
Federal		
Fees		
Direct Relief International	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total	\$20,000	\$20,000

Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

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

- a) One (1) Minute Order

Attachments:

Attachment A – Grant Agreement

Attachment B – Budget Revision Request No. 0010716

Contact Information:

John DeAlba

Department Business Specialist

jodealba@countyofsb.org