



RICARDO LARA
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

July 17, 2023

The Honorable John T. Savrnoch
District Attorney
Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Grant Award for Life and Annuity Consumer Protection Program
Fiscal Year 2023-2024**

Dear District Attorney Savrnoch:

I am very pleased to share that, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, a total of \$400,000 is available through the California Department of Insurance's Life and Annuity Consumer Protection Program (LACPP) to be distributed to four District Attorney Offices representing four counties, of which **Santa Barbara** County has been awarded **\$53,550**. This grant award is to be used for the investigation and prosecution of fraud and abuse related to the sale of life and annuity insurance products.

Each proposal for grant funding was thoroughly reviewed, with careful consideration given to the applicant's plan to achieve the goals and objectives set by me earlier this year.

It is my continuing intent that these funds be used effectively to pursue and investigate life and annuity insurance fraud across California. My Department, through LACPP, is dedicated to protecting consumers, the majority of whom are seniors, from abuse involving the sale of individual life and annuity products.

As you know, this Program is a highly competitive annual grant program. Based on the information submitted by your county, I am concerned that **Santa Barbara** is not meeting all my goals and objectives for the program with regard to the Outreach component. Should you apply for grant funds again in FY 2024-25, it is imperative that you include your FY 2023-24 Outreach activities to ensure that your county continues to be eligible for consideration of grant funds.

Please feel free to contact Richard Ramirez, CDI Program Supervisor, at (323) 278-5134 should you have any questions regarding your award. The Local Assistance Unit will reach out to you regarding your budget.

Thank you for submitting your application for grant funding and, moreover, congratulations on your award. I look forward to working together with you in our continuing pursuit against life and annuity insurance fraud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Lara".

RICARDO LARA
Insurance Commissioner

cc: Brian Cota, Supervising Deputy District Attorney

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