



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: December 12, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director John T. Savrnich, District Attorney, (805) 568-2308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, (805) 568-2304

SUBJECT: Cal OES County Victim Services Program (XC) Grant Award

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to submit an application, and if awarded, execute the Grant Award Agreement and accept anticipated funding with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) County Victim Services Program for the award period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, up to a maximum grant award amount of \$233,304, subject to the approval and concurrence of Risk Management, Auditor Controller, and County Counsel;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair and the District Attorney to execute a Certification of Assurance of Compliance for the District Attorney's grant application for the Cal OES County Victim Services Program;
- c) Approve and authorize the District Attorney to execute any amendments to the Grant Agreement extending the term thereof through June 30, 2025, or for a supplemental grant award in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, with the concurrence of County Counsel, Risk Management and Auditor-Controller; and
- d) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), since 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, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

The purpose of this Board Letter is to request that the Board formally authorize the District Attorney to submit an application to Cal OES for the XC grant award for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. This Board Letter also requests that the Board authorize the District Attorney to accept the grant award up to an amount of \$233,304 and execute the Grant Agreement, should the grant be awarded.

The County Victim Services (XC) Program provides outreach to victims early on in the criminal justice process and solicits information regarding the victims' losses for restitution determination prior to arraignment. In the past, funding through Cal OES has supported 1.76 FTE Victim-Witness Advocates.

Background:

In 2016, Cal OES developed the County Victim Services (XC) grant program. The XC program is designed to provide funding to each of California's 58 counties and the City of Los Angeles to help fill self-identified victim services gaps and/or needs. The District Attorney's Office identified that unmet needs existed specifically for unserved victims of crime in Northern Santa Barbara County. Based on this unmet need, the District Attorney's Office submitted a grant application to Cal OES for the XC program, and was awarded funding. Since July 1, 2016, the District Attorney's XC program has focused on providing services to a population of victims not currently aware of or receiving services. This will continue to be the primary focus of the XC program.

The grant award has fully funded one full-time Victim Advocate position to serve Northern Santa Barbara County since its inception. The Victim Advocates enable early access to critical services for victims of violent crime in Northern Santa Barbara County. The ability to receive real-time information immediately following an initial report has allowed this Victim Advocate to improve cross-referrals, and provide services when victims need them the most. This includes immediate crisis intervention, orientation to the criminal justice process, case/investigative status, resource/referral counseling, and emergency financial and victim compensation services.

Performance Measures:

The District Attorney has been awarded the XC grant annually for several years. For the period of January 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 of the current grant period, a total of 1,773 victims were provided services. Services provided include victims' rights notification, crisis counseling, court case information, resource and referral counseling, court support, restitution, and victim compensation assistance. Of these 1,773 victims, 1,207 were identified as new victims who received services for the first time.

Should the XC grant be re-awarded, 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 victims.
2. Number of new victims.

3. Types of victimizations.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Anticipated revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adopted Budget

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding from this non-competitive grant reflects one year of program expenses for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The total project cost is \$233,304 and does not require local cash match. If the District Attorney’s application is approved and the full grant amount is awarded, the \$233,304 in grant funds will fund \$208,384 in Salaries and Employee Benefits for 1.76 FTE Victim-Witness Advocates. Also included is \$24,920 in Operating Costs and 10% de minimis calculated off the total direct costs base.

Grant Award Schedule			
<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>	
2022 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)	1/1/24 – 12/31/2024	\$	233,304
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$	233,304

Key Contract Risks:

There is minimal risk to the County. Funds are reimbursed after program expenses are incurred. The District Attorney’s Office has been awarded this grant for several years.

Staffing Impacts:

None. Grant funds will partially fund two existing VW advocates (1.76 FTE)

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall post the Notice of Exemption upon Board approval. Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist

- a) One (1) Minute Order;
- b) One (1) copy of the fully-executed Certification of Assurance of Compliance;
- c) One (1) copy of the fully-executed Grant Award Resolution; and
- d) One (1) copy of the approved Notice of Exemption.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Board Resolution
- Attachment B: Certification of Assurance of Compliance
- Attachment C: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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