



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: June 27, 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, x82308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer,
x82304
SUBJECT: Cal OES Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program Grant
Award, Subaward No. XE22 05 0420

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 the Board Resolution in Attachment A approving, ratifying, and authorizing the District Attorney to execute a Grant Agreement with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) accepting the Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program grant award for the award period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$118,172;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney to execute any amendments to the Grant Agreement extending the term thereof through June 30, 2024, or for a supplemental grant award in the amount not to exceed \$50,000, with the concurrence of County Counsel and Auditor-Controller; and
- c) 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 Elder and Dependent Adult Advocacy and Outreach (XE) Program provides outreach and support to victims of crime who are older or dependent adults. Funding through Cal OES supports a 0.75 FTE Victim

Advocate, as well as a 0.25 FTE Extra-Help DDA who provide mandatory and optional services to victims in accordance with the OES program guidelines and the Penal Code section governing Victim-Witness Assistance Programs.

Per the Cal OES Grant Agreement, the District Attorney is required to maintain written documentation on file showing authorization by the Board of Supervisors for the District Attorney to sign the Grant Agreement. In order to meet state deadlines and properly receive the grant funding, the District Attorney preliminarily executed the Grant Agreement pending formal authority from the Board of Supervisors. The purpose of this Board Letter is to request that the Board authorize the District Attorney to sign the Grant Agreement with Cal OES for the XE Program grant award for the award period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$118,172.

Background:

Santa Barbara County Adult Protective Services receives approximately 2,500 reports of elder and dependent abuse per year. Only a small percentage of cases referred to the District Attorney's Office meet the standard of prosecution but the Elder/Dependent adults involved in these reports, still need access to vital services. The DA's adult advocates play a critical role connecting vulnerable individuals at risk for ongoing abuse to critical supportive services. During the grant year January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, a total of 261 Victims of Elder/Dependent Abuse were provided a total of 2,931 units of service. Units of Service provided include victims' rights notification, crisis counseling, court case information, resource and referral counseling, court support, restitution, and victim compensation assistance.

The Victim-Witness Assistance Program has identified the following barriers to senior citizens receiving victim services:

- Fear of the criminal justice system;
- Unaware that they are a victim;
- Unlikely to access law enforcement to report abuse. This fear may be exacerbated if the victim is non-English speaking, disabled and/or socially and culturally isolated;
- Disconnect between abuse cases reported to Adult Protective Services and those ultimately reported to law enforcement for criminal investigation; and
- Difficulty in investigating cases due to an ongoing shortage of trained personnel with the time required to overcome the complexity and dynamics of these cases including family violence dynamics, recantation, medical and psychological disabilities, language barriers, and underreporting.

To address these barriers, the Elder Abuse Program, funded by this grant from Cal OES, employs a 0.75 FTE Program Advocate dedicated to providing outreach and coordinating services to elder and dependent victims of crime. Upon receipt of a referral or a law enforcement report, the Program Advocate makes phone contact with the victim and performs an assessment to determine any immediate needs (e.g., food, shelter, and safety concerns). If emergency legal assistance is necessary, the Advocate works with the local Legal Aid Foundation Clinic or the Court's Legal Resource Center to assist the victim to navigate the civil restraining order process. The Program Advocate also works with the Courts to obtain Criminal Protective Orders as appropriate. The Advocate collaborates with other local agencies and committees serving seniors to ensure that senior victims have access to all necessary resources, including mental health services.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Adopted Budget and 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The grant award reflects one year of program expenses for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The total project cost is \$118,172 and does not require any local cash match.

The \$118,172 grant funds include \$106,105 in Salaries and Benefits, which funds a 0.75 FTE Victim Witness Program Advocate and 0.25 FTE EXH Deputy District Attorney. Also included is \$12,067 in Operating Costs.

XE Grant Award Schedule			
<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>	
2020 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)	1/1/23 – 12/31/2023	\$	59,086
2021 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)	1/1/23 – 12/31/2023	\$	59,086
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$	118,172

Key Contract Risks: There is minimal risk to the County. Funds are reimbursed after program expenses are incurred.

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) duplicate original fully-executed Grant Award Resolution;
- c) One (1) copy of the fully-executed Grant Award Resolution; and
- d) One (1) copy of the approved Notice of Exemption.

Attachments:

- a) Board Resolution
- b) XE22 Grant Award
- c) Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist (x82434)