Application Report

Applicant Name: Santa Barbara

Application: FY 26-27 Santa Barbara District Attorney - AUTO

App ID: App-26-0459

Funding Announcement: FY 26-27 Automobile Insurance Fraud Program

Requested Amount: $253,000.00

Project Summary: 26-27 Santa Barbara District Attorney - AUTO

Authorized Certifying Official:	Anne Nudson	anudson@countyofsb.org	805-346-7535
Project Director/Manager:	Anne Nudson	anudson@countyofsb.org	805-346-7535
Case Statistics / Data Reporter:	Anne Nudson	anudson@countyofsb.org	805-346-7535
Compliance/Fiscal Officer:	Caressa Stevenson	castevenson@countyofsb.org	805-450-8230

APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Section Name: Overview Questions

Sub-Section Name: General Information

1. APPLICANT QUESTION: MULTI-COUNTY GRANT

Is this a multi-county grant application request? If Yes, select the additional counties.

Applicant Response:

No

2. APPLICANT QUESTION: FY 2024-25 AUDITED UNEXPENDED FUNDS

Excluding interest, what was the amount of your FY 2024-25 Audited Unexpended Funds? If none, enter "0".

Applicant Response:

0

---

3. APPLICANT QUESTION: FY 2024-25 AUDITED UNEXPENDED FUNDS PERCENTAGE OF FY 2024-25 AWARD

Your FY 2024-25 Audited Unexpended Funds are what percentage of your FY 2024-25 total award? If none, enter "0".

Total Award excludes interest earned and incoming carryover. To calculate percentage, divide your audited unexpended funds by your total award. Round to the nearest whole number.

Example:

FY 2024-25 Total Award: $100,000

FY 2024-25 Audited Unexpended Funds: $23,750

FY 2024-25 Audited Unexpended Funds Percentage: 24%

Applicant Response:

0

---

4. APPLICANT QUESTION: INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROLS AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCEDURES

What internal quality controls and budget monitoring procedures will be used by the county to ensure grant funds are spent appropriately?

Applicant Response:

Key Personnel for all finance related matters include the CFO, Business Manager, Cost Analyst, Department Business Specialist and the Financial Office Professional.

The Cost Analyst is responsible for tracking the grant expenditures and reimbursements on the accounting records. The Business Manager and CFO are responsible for reviewing the budget for necessary modifications. The department follows the Auditor-Controller's policies regarding internal controls to ensure assets (cash and equipment) are protected. The Business Manager and CFO review the grant reconciliations on a monthly basis and prior to submission.

All grant reconciliation is based on actual expenditures incurred. Reconciliation is prepared after the billing period has closed. A report is run which indicates the expenditures that posted to the County's Workday Financial System during the billing period. If services are performed during a given period, the department ensures that those services are paid for during that same period. Unallowable costs are noted on the grant reconciliation spreadsheet. Unallowable costs are not directly coded to the grant project. All unallowable costs are captured under the 10% administrative cost allocation. This 10% administrative cost methodology is used because the office's approved ICRP rate is not approved by a federal cognizant agency.

The Department Business Specialist is responsible for procuring goods and services for the performance of the grant. The allowable goods and services are included in the approved program budget and are purchased in accordance with proper procurement policy. The Department Business Specialist is responsible for obtaining quotes for procurement. A quote is obtained for the goods and/or services. If over $3,500, a purchasing requisition is prepared and submitted to the County Purchasing Division. The vendor is vetted through the County Purchasing Division to ensure they are not a disqualified/debarred vendor. If required, a request for non-competitive bid is prepared and submitted to the County Purchasing Division. The County has maintained documentation to support all procurements conducted using grant funds.

Checks are prepared on a daily basis by the Auditor-Controller's Office. The department processes invoices upon receipt. The Financial Office Professional processes the invoice, which is then reviewed and approved by the Department Business Specialist, the Cost Analyst and the Business Manager. Certain invoices also require CFO approval. The claim is then reviewed by the Auditor-Controller's office. Payment is only processed with proper supporting documentation.

Deposit journals are entered by the Financial Office Professional or the Department Business Specialist into Workday. Each journal is then reviewed by the Cost Analyst and the Business Manager to ensure accuracy.

5. APPLICANT QUESTION: CONTACT UPDATES

Has your county's Admin User updated the Contacts and Users for your Program?

- ***Contacts*** *are those, such as your elected District Attorney, who need to be identified but do not need access to GMS.*
- ***Users*** *are those individuals who will be entering information/uploading into GMS for the application.* ***Confidential Users*** *have access to everything in all your grant applications.* ***Standard Users*** *do not have access to the Confidential Sections where Investigation Activity is reported. Typical Standard Users are budget personnel.*

Applicant Response:

Yes

6. APPLICANT QUESTION: PROGRAM CONTACTS

Identify the individuals who will serve as the Program Contacts and your Elected District Attorney. Your Program Contacts must be entered as a User and your Elected District Attorney may be a Contact or User in GMS. Contact your county's Admin User if an individual needs to be added or updated.

On the final submission page, you will link your Program Contacts to the application.

Project Director/Manager *is the individual ultimately responsible for the program. This person must be a Confidential User.*

Case Statistics/Data Reporter *is the individual responsible for entering the statistics into the DAR (District Attorney Program Report). This person should be a Confidential User.*

Compliance/Fiscal Officer *is the individual responsible for all fiscal matters relating to the program. This person is usually a Standard User.*

Elected District Attorney *is your county's elected official. This person must be entered as a Contact or a User.*

Applicant Response:

Program Contacts	Name
Project Director / Manager	Brian Cota
Case Statistics / Data Reporter	Anne Nudson
Compliance / Fiscal Officer	Caressa Stevenson
Elected District Attorney	John Savrnoch

7. APPLICANT QUESTION: STATISTICAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Do you acknowledge the County is responsible for separately submitting a Program Report using the CDI website, DA Portal?

To access the DAR webpage on the CDI website: right click on the following link to open a new tab, or copy the URL into your browser.

http://www.insurance.ca.gov/0300-fraud/0100-fraud-division-overview/10-anti-fraud-prog/dareporting.cfm

As a reminder, Vertical Prosecutions should not be counted as an Investigation, a Joint Investigation, or an Assist in the DAR.

Applicant Response:

Yes

---

8. APPLICANT QUESTION: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS UPLOAD

Have you reviewed the Application Upload List and properly named and uploaded the documents into your Document Library?

To view/download the Application Upload List: go the Announcement, click View, and at the top of the page select Attachments. The Application Upload List is 4d. Items must be uploaded into the Document Library before you can attach them to the upcoming questions.

Applicant Response:

Yes

Sub-Section Name: BOS Resolution

---

9. APPLICANT QUESTION: BOS RESOLUTION

Have you uploaded a Board of Supervisors (BOS) Resolution to the Document Library and attached it to this question?

A BOS Resolution for the new grant period must be uploaded to GMS to receive funding for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year. If the resolution cannot be submitted with the application, it must be emailed to LAU@insurance.ca.gov no later than December 31, 2026. There is a sample with instructions located in the Announcement Attachments, 3b.

Applicant Response:

No

---

10. APPLICANT QUESTION: DELEGATED AUTHORITY DESIGNATION

Choose from the selection who will be the person submitting this application, signing the Grant Award Agreement (GAA), and approving any amendments thereof.

The person selected must be a Confidential User, who will attest their authority and link their contact record on the submission page of this application. Must be a direct email address; No generic/group email address allowed. A sample Delegated Authority Designation Letter is located in the Announcement Attachments, 3a. CDI encourages the contact named as Project Director/Manger be the designated authority.

Applicant Response:

Designated Person named in Attached Letter

Documents:

26 -27 Santa Barbara Designated Authority Letter.Pdf

Section Name: County Plan

Sub-Section Name: Qualifications and Successes

11. APPLICANT QUESTION: SUCCESSES

What areas of your automobile insurance fraud program were successful and why?

Detail your program's successes for ONLY the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Fiscal Years. It is not necessary to list every case. If a case is being reported in more than one insurance fraud grant program, clearly identify the component(s) that apply to this program. If you are including any task force cases in your caseload, name the task force and your county personnel's specific involvement/role in the case(s). Confidential information regarding investigations should be given a reference number and details provided only in the Confidential Section, question 1 (County Plan Confidential Investigation Details).

Applicant Response:

Fiscal Year 25-26 has seen lower numbers from previous years in case prosecutions, in large part driven by fewer case submissions. 8 cases were received this year, with 3 filing under investigation or pending review and 5 cases were rejected. This marks a decrease in overall case submissions and the cases that were submitted were usually very minor damage with no loss to the insurance companies.

We are pleased that in Fiscal Year 25-26, we have added an attorney in North County to serve that part of our county and grow expertise in the area of insurance fraud to our Santa Maria and Lompoc offices. In the coming year, we want to work more on our relationships with NICB to continue to seek out cases that have high value fraud, continue to expand our expertise, and work with our partners to continue to develop relationships and prosecute cases.

---

12. APPLICANT QUESTION: TASK FORCES AND AGENCIES

List the governmental agencies and task forces you have worked with to develop potential automobile insurance fraud cases.

Applicant Response:

Previously, and in the current year, we have worked with the Santa Barbara Police Department and Sheriff's Departments, as well as the California Highway Patrol Auto Theft Unit. The Santa Maria Valley Auto Theft Task Force, a multi-agency team comprised of members from the Santa Maria Police Department, the Highway Patrol, and the Guadalupe Police Department, have referred cases to the District Attorney's Office and the Department of Insurance in the past, though this year the Task Force has not been active.

The Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office receives cases from the California Department of Insurance and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). We work closely with the Department of Insurance during investigations, both in the initial phases of a case, as well as during ongoing investigations. We have an excellent relationship with Special Agent assigned to our office from the NICB, again partnering closely through all stages of a case in order to secure evidence, as well as restitution for the victims.

---

13. APPLICANT QUESTION: PERSONNEL CONTINUITY

Explain what your county is doing to achieve and preserve automobile fraud institutional knowledge in your grant program. Also detail and explain the turnover or continuity of personnel assigned to your automobile insurance fraud program. Include any rotational policies your county may have.

Applicant Response:

Senior Deputy District Attorney Anne Nudson (grant funded) and Deputy District Attorney Ari Johnson (non-grant funded) were assigned to the unit in the middle of the FY 25-26. While both are new to the unit, DDA Johnson worked insurance fraud in her previous county and brings that knowledge to the assignment. This new addition of labor also creates one attorney based in the north county and one attorney based in the south county to better serve the community and expand knowledge and relationships in both parts of the county. The unit is supervised by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Brian Cota, who has been on the grant since 2019. Legal Office Professional, Ms. Glenna Conover was assigned to serve as support staff for the grant. Currently, there is no full-time investigator budgeted in the grant, though we regularly use non grant funded investigation staff to work up the auto fraud cases. These investigators have multiyear fraud experience and are critical to our successful prosecutions.

The Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office recognizes that personnel continuity in this field is critical. It allows for knowledge and expertise to grow in this complex area of law. It also fosters strong relationships with law enforcement and stakeholder partners. As a result, it is the intention of the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office to maximize program personnel continuity in this program.

---

14. APPLICANT QUESTION: FROZEN ASSETS DISTRIBUTION

Were any frozen assets distributed in FY 2025-26?

If yes, please describe. Assets may have been frozen in previous years.

Applicant Response:

No

Sub-Section Name: Staffing

15. APPLICANT QUESTION: STAFFING LIST

Complete the chart and list the individuals working the program. Include prosecutor(s), investigator(s), support staff, and any vacant positions to be filled.

All staff listed in your application budget must be included in the chart in addition to unfunded staff that work on the grant.

For each person, list the percentage of time dedicated to the program and the start and end dates the individual is in the program. The entry in the "% Time" field must be a whole number, i.e., an employee who dedicates 80% of their time to the program but is only billed 20% to the program, would be entered as "80" in the "% Time Dedicated to the Program" column.

Applicant Response:

Name	Role	Start Date	End Date (leave blank if N/A)	% Time Dedicated to the Program
Anne Nudson	Deputy District Attorney	11/01/2025		0.40
Brian Cota	Supervising Deputy District Attorney	02/01/2019		0.25
Glenna Conover	Legal Office Professional	04/01/2023		0.20

16. APPLICANT QUESTION: FTE AND POSITION COUNT

The staff and FTE included in the chart below MUST MATCH the staff and FTE listed in your application budget. Do not include unfunded personnel.

The “# of Positions” field represents people and must be entered in whole numbers. The “FTE” field must be entered as a decimal and represents the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for all budgeted personnel in that position.

E.g. Two Attorneys who are billed to the program at 80% each would be entered as “2” in the # of Positions field and “1.60” in the FTE field.

Reminder: This chart MUST match your application budget.

Applicant Response:

Salary by Position	# of Positions (whole numbers)	FTE (1.00 = 2080 hours/year)
Supervising Attorneys	1.00	0.25
Attorneys	1.00	0.40
Supervising Investigators		
Investigators (Sworn)		
Investigators (Non-Sworn)		
Investigative Assistants		
Forensic Accountant/Auditor		
Support Staff Supervisor		

Paralegal/Analyst/Legal Assistant/etc.		
Clerical Staff	1.00	0.20
Student Assistants		
Over Time: Investigators		
Over Time: Other Staff		
Salary by Position, other		
	Total: 3.00	Total: 0.85

17. APPLICANT QUESTION: ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Upload and attach to this question an Organizational Chart; label it "26-27 AUTO (county name) Org Chart".

The organizational chart should outline:

- *All personnel assigned to the program, including unfunded staff. Identify their name, position, title, and placement in the lines of authority to the elected district attorney.*
- *The placement of the program staff and their program responsibility.*

Counties are required to email LAU a new copy of the organizational chart if it changes during the year.

Applicant Response:

26-27 Santa Barbara Org Chart.Pdf

Sub-Section Name: Problem Statement & Program Strategy

18. APPLICANT QUESTION: PROBLEM STATEMENT

Describe the types and magnitude of automobile insurance fraud (e.g., applicant, medical/legal provider, staged collisions, insider fraud, fraud ring, capping, and economic car theft) relative to the extent of the problem specific to your county.

Use local data or other evidence to support your description.

Applicant Response:

The so-called "Crash and Buy" type of claim remains the prevalent form of insurance fraud in Santa Barbara County. An uninsured driver suffers a loss, promptly purchases or renews an insurance policy, waits a few days, and submits a claim. These claims have a high rate of discovery, primarily due to the fact that the insurance industry in general will "red flag" a claim that's made within 30 days of the inception of coverage. Once these claims are scrutinized, evidence is usually discovered that shows that the loss occurred prior to the purchase of the policy. In some cases, claimants are sufficiently intimidated by the warning that "insurance fraud is a felony" that they immediately confess. This type of fraud is widespread and, unfortunately, viewed by many people as acceptable conduct. We have heard a variety of rationalizations by individuals prosecuted for this type of offense, and they are strikingly similar to those made by people who are caught cheating on their income taxes. We have also started seeing a rise in the use of FLOCK cameras to capture video and photographic evidence that the damage to the car was present prior to purchasing the insurance. Most of the cases that are referred to our office are Crash and Buy cases.

A second type of fraud that appears to occur often in the area, is the false reporting of vehicle thefts. The type of claim we have seen most often is where the driver loses control of his/her vehicle and strikes one or more stationary objects such as parked cars, utility poles, etc. The driver will flee the scene and tell the police that the vehicle was stolen. They will then contact their insurer and relate the same story. However, we have also seen instances of vehicles being reported stolen and then being recovered at their storage location by police using their LoJack tracking system and through utilization of the FLOCK system. Throughout the year our office has worked with partner agencies, including the Santa Maria Sheriff's Department, to assist in investigations and provide coordination and insight on several cases involving false reporting of vehicle thefts. Those investigations are ongoing.

Other forms of economic auto theft and insurance fraud can occur when a vehicle is reported stolen by the defendant, when the vehicle is in fact taken by either the defendant, or a second individual, to either be used or sold elsewhere. The Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office works with the Department of Insurance investigating three such cases. Santa Barbara County has not received any investigations from partner agencies involving suspected medical insurance fraud stemming from a car accident, staged accidents, or capping this year.

19. APPLICANT QUESTION: PROBLEM RESOLUTION PLAN

Explain how your county plans to resolve the problem described in your problem statement. Include improvements in your program.

Information regarding investigations should be given a reference number and details provided only in the Confidential Section, question 1 (County Plan Confidential Investigation Details).

Specify how the district attorney will address the automobile insurance fraud problem, defined in the Problem Statement, through the use of program funds. The discussion should include the steps that will be taken to address the problem, as well as the estimated time

frame(s) to achieve program objectives and activities.

The response should describe:

- The manner in which the district attorney will develop his or her caseload;
- The sources for referrals of cases; and
- A description of how the district attorney will coordinate various sectors involved, including insurers, medical and legal providers, CDI, public agencies such as California Highway Patrol, Bureau of Automotive Repairs, U.S. Customs, and local law enforcement agencies.

Applicant Response:

Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office is reliant upon case submissions to get a clear picture of Auto Insurance Fraud Crimes in our county. Though we've received a steady stream of cases and input from our partnerships with the California Department of Insurance investigative teams and from the NICB, the biggest issue in identifying and prosecuting auto insurance fraud, is that local law enforcement agencies would benefit from additional training and knowledge regarding this category of offenses. Given our limited budget for self-initiated investigations, we believe that
the best strategy for addressing this issue lies in closer coordination with local law enforcement agencies, the California Department of Insurance investigative divisions, and industry organizations like the NICB. Close coordination with these agencies has set clear filing expectations, clarified additional investigative avenues that need exploring, and ultimately streamlined the filing process. The result has been positive outcomes in both filing rate and achieving results in court.

20. APPLICANT QUESTION: PLANS TO MEET IC GOALS

What are your plans to meet the announced goals of the Insurance Commissioner?

If these goals are not realistic for your county, please state why they are not, and what goals you can achieve. Include your strategic plan to accomplish these goals. *Copies of the Goals can be found in the Announcement Attachments, 4f.*

Applicant Response:

Public Safety:
Public safety sits at the heart of everything the District Attorney's Office does, and we will continue to make it the highest priority in the coming year. Auto insurance Fraud results in real financial harms, not only to the carriers, but to all California's who pay higher rates as a result of these costs. These costs often fall on the most disadvantaged communities, and as a result they represent a particularly pernicious harm. Beyond the financial harm, staged accidents or other frauds related to returning dangerous vehicles to the roadways can present real and tangible physical dangers to the public. The Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office is committed to protecting our community by preventing these kinds of harms
through aggressive investigation and prosecution.

Medical-Legal Fraud:
Medical Legal Fraud is a problem that afflicts many fields of insurance fraud, from Workers' Compensation Fraud to Auto Insurance Fraud. Detecting this kind of insurance fraud

requires familiarity and cooperation with the various stakeholders, particularly the insurance companies, in order to identify suspicious patterns of behavior. Our strategy for identifying and combating this form of fraud begins with educating local law enforcement officers on identifying staged accidents. We believe that once officers are made aware of what to look for while conducting routine traffic collision reports, we will see an increase in the number of referrals for both staged collision-related auto and medical insurance fraud. To that end, it is our goal this year tonincrease our outreach to local law enforcement and provided training to patrol officers in order to provide the tools to identify the signs of auto insurance fraud schemes.

Outreach:
The District Attorney's Office continues to develop relationships with insurance carriers, investigative agencies, and law enforcement in the hopes of broadening awareness of auto insurance fraud in the community. In FY 23-24 our office provided training to the entire Santa Barbara Patrol division, raising awareness of white collar crimes, with a section dedicated solely to auto insurance fraud. This year we intend to duplicate the training with the Santa Maria police department. We also have discussed partnering in training with NICB to provide materials and resources to local law enforcement agencies. This year we also plan to expand our partnerships in the county to include the Department of Motor Vehicles Investigative unit in order to build better networks of communication necessary to identifying auto insurance related fraud. We also pioneered efforts to engage in online outreach in FY 24-25, partnering with a local podcast channel to provide updates on fraud and scams affecting our community. We continued our partnership with the podcast in this last fiscal year and used it to educate the public about all types of fraud in the county. We also plan to use our social media platform in the coming year to post educational content regarding fraud on our social media pages.

Performance and Continuity:
This is Santa Barbara's ninth year participating in the grant program. As institutional knowledge expands and relationships continue to grow among our office and the various stakeholders, the District Attorney's Office intends to build upon its successes in prior years. While the assigned attorneys have changed this year, our supervision and support staff has remained the same throughout the last year and will be remaining the same for the foreseeable future. This continuity of knowledge and experience has allowed for relatively quick investigation and resolution of criminal matters.

Balanced Caseload:
Though the majority of the cases submitted to the District Attorney's Office are claimant fraud, outreach and education efforts will continue throughout the year to increase awareness and identification of a variety of types of auto insurance related fraud. It is the goal of the District Attorney's Office to identify all forms of fraud that are occurring within the community.

21. APPLICANT QUESTION: MULTI-YEAR GOALS

What specific goals do you have that require more than a single year to accomplish?

Applicant Response:

Our current multi-year goal is to increase awareness of Auto Insurance Fraud related crimes throughout the county. It is our hope that educating law enforcement about the nature of this crime, the different methods and techniques criminals use to perpetuate it, and what signs to look for while on patrol or investigating a collision, that this will increase not only the number of cases submitted, but also the variety. We continue to strengthen our partnerships with industry and fellow law enforcement agencies thanks to the continuity of staffing. We intend to continue this for the years to come in order to reap the benefits that these relationships provide in terms of investigating and prosecuting cases.

We also hope to expand our partnerships. Currently, our relationship with the California Department of Insurance and the National Insurance Crime Bureau are what drives the majority of our cases. This coming year we intend to reach out to the DMV investigative division to build a new partnership, which we anticipate will facilitate in identifying new sources of fraud in our county.

22. APPLICANT QUESTION: RESTITUTION AND FINES

Describe the county's efforts and the District Attorney's plan to obtain restitution and fines imposed by the court to the Automobile Fraud Account.

Applicant Response:

Our policy is to seek restitution prior to a plea and as part of the sentencing process. The current approach has resulted in considerable success in acquiring all of the restitution requested by insurance company victims and assuring damaged parties get the compensation they request. Court fines are handled through Probation and the courts and is therefore outside of the District Attorney's Office to control.

This year represented a departure in that insurance carriers reported no losses in the cases that were submitted to our office, with the crimes having been caught so early in the process that there were either no damages, or none reported to our office. Our office secured convictions, and left restitution to be determined if the carriers later report losses to our office, but at the time of the plea and sentencing no damages where sought.

23. APPLICANT QUESTION: RESTITUTION NUMBERS

Provide the amount of restitution ordered and collected for the past five fiscal years.

If this information is not available, provide an explanation.

The restitution numbers for FY 2025-26 should match the numbers entered in your RFA DAR part 1.

The restitution numbers for FYs 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 should match the numbers entered in your Year-End DAR part 1.

Applicant Response:

Fiscal Year	Restitution Ordered	Restitution Collected
2025-26	$0.00	$0.00

2024-25	$0.00	$0.00
2023-24	$6,766.27	$5,266.27
2022-23	$178.00	$178.00
2021-22	$0.00	$0.00
	Total: $6,944.27	Total: $5,444.27

24. APPLICANT QUESTION: UTILIZATION PLAN RELATED TO UNEXPENDED FUNDS

If you had any unexpended funds from FY 2024-25 (Overview Questions 2 & 3), address the below question(s). If you did not have any unexpended funds from FY 2024-25, mark N/A.

1) You must address if you are on track to expend all of your Total Funding for FY 2025-26. This includes your FY 2025-26 Awards and Approved Carryover.

2) If you are not on track to expend your Total Funding and you are not asking for a corresponding reduction in your grant request, please explain.

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

25. APPLICANT QUESTION: UTILIZATION PLAN

Your budget provides the amount of funds requested for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Provide a brief narrative description of your utilization plan for the Fiscal Year 2026-27 requested funds.

If an increase is being requested, please provide a justification. Any information regarding investigations should be given a reference number and details provided only in the Confidential Section, question 1 (County Plan Confidential Investigation Details).

Applicant Response:

Our budget is almost entirely dedicated to salaries and employee benefits. We intend to allocate those funds in order to provide a dedicated prosecutor to the position, training for the District Attorney, and to fund outreach to local law enforcement agencies. The budget also includes funding for the annual audit of the grant. If cases require additional resources, such as the hiring of an expert, the funds will come from our general budget.

Sub-Section Name: Training and Outreach

26. APPLICANT QUESTION: TRAINING RECEIVED

List the insurance fraud training received by each county staff member in the automobile fraud unit during Fiscal Year 2025-26.

If it is a multiple day training/conference (e.g. CDAA, AFA, etc.), only one entry is required; enter the first day for the "Training Date" field.

For the "Hours Credit" field, enter the combined total hours of credit for all attendees.

Applicant Response:

Number of Personnel	Training Date	Provider	Location	Topic	Hours Credit (combined total)
1	10/13/2025	CDAA	Costa Mesa	CDAA Fraud Symposium	18.75

27. APPLICANT QUESTION: TRAINING AND OUTREACH PROVIDED

Upload and attach the Training and Outreach Provided form in Excel; label it "26-27 AUTO (county name) Training and Outreach Provided"

Do not include training *received*; **only list automobile insurance fraud training and outreach provided during FY 2025-26** as outlined in the outreach definition below.

- For the number of Attendees / Contacts list only ***numbers***; no other characters. Estimate the number as best you can. The data provided on this Excel sheet is compiled and presented to the Insurance Commissioner as Outreach is a focus of the Commissioner's Goals & Objectives.

- For the purposes of the insurance fraud grant programs, “outreach” is defined as: Any activity undertaken by a grant awardee to inform and educate the public on the nature and consequences of insurance fraud and the training and sharing of best practices with industry stakeholders and allied law enforcement agencies. The results will be crime prevention, the generation of quality referrals from the public, business community, insurance industry, and law enforcement, and improved strategies for the investigation and prosecution of insurance fraud.
- *If, in the form, you listed any "Other, Specify" provide a brief explanation here; other additional comments are optional. The blank form is located in the Announcement Attachments, 1a.*

Applicant Response:

Label attachment “26-27 AUTO (county) Training and Outreach"

Documents:

26-27 AUTO Santa Barbara Training And Outreach.Xlsx

---

28. APPLICANT QUESTION: FUTURE TRAINING AND OUTREACH

Describe what kind of training/outreach you plan to provide in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Applicant Response:

In previous years we have had success providing training to local law enforcement, particularly educating them in so called "paper crimes" like auto insurance fraud. As a result, our office has been contacted by officers who are engaging in investigations related to auto insurance fraud crimes. These communications provide individual education in order to facilitate ongoing investigations, and as such are not easily categorized as "trainings," yet serve an important role in training officers on what to look for when investigating these crimes. This year we intend to partner with the NICB and CDI to continue to engage in direct education and outreach to law enforcement. It is our belief that the first step to increasing identification and investigation of auto insurance fraud in Santa Barbara County is raising awareness of these crimes among law enforcement.

Sub-Section Name: Joint Plan

---

29. APPLICANT QUESTION: JOINT PLAN

Upload your AUTO Joint Plan and label it “26-27 AUTO (county name) Joint Plan”.

Each County is required to develop a Joint Plan with their CDI Regional Office. Please note, the joint plan you upload is a tentative agreement pending execution of a Grant Award Agreement (GAA) signed by the authorized parties. Additional information is in the Announcement Attachments, 3c, and also copied into the attached instructions to this question.

Applicant Response:

Confirm Joint Plan agreed upon by both parties

Documents:

26-27 AUTO Santa Barbara Joint Plan.Docx

Section Name: Investigation Case Reporting

Sub-Section Name: Investigation Case Information Relating to Questions

30. APPLICANT QUESTION: COUNTY PLAN CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATION DETAILS

If you discussed any confidential cases throughout the County Plan section and provided a reference number, please include additional confidential details on an attachment uploaded here.

The reference number/citation used in the County Plan narrative responses should be repeated in your document upload. Task Force cases should specifically name the task force and your county personnel's specific involvement / role in the case.

*Upload your own attachment and label it **"26-27 AUTO (county name) County Plan Confidential Investigation Details" upload and mark confidential, then attach to this question. If no investigation information was referenced, mark the N/A response.***

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

Sub-Section Name: Reporting on All Investigations

31. APPLICANT QUESTION: INVESTIGATION CASE ACTIVITY REPORT (ICAR)

Download Announcement Attachment 1bii, label it "25-26 AUTO (county name) ICAR" upload and mark confidential, then attach to this question.

This document requires information regarding each investigation case that was reported in the DAR, Section III C (Investigations). Two of the three reporting components ask for case counts only. The total of the case counts in Part 1 and Part 2, along with the number of case entries in Part 3, should equal your total investigation case count reported in the DAR section III (Investigations). The blank form is located in the Announcement Attachments, 1bii.

Reminders:
1. The total of the case counts in the ICAR Parts 1, 2, and 3, should equal your total investigation case count reported in the DAR Section III.
2. Vertical Prosecutions should not be counted as an Investigation or a Joint Investigation.

Click the "SHOW INSTRUCTIONS" link above to view directions on how to properly complete the report.

Applicant Response:

26-27 AUTO Santa Barbara Investigation Case Activity Report ICAR.Docx

Sub-Section Name: New Investigation Information for Cases in Court

32. APPLICANT QUESTION: CASES IN COURT - INVESTIGATION CASE ACTIVITY

Do you have NEW Investigation Information for cases that started the year in prosecution that you want to include? This report is optional.

If you do have cases to report, download Announcement Attachment 1c, label it ***"25-26 AUTO (county name) Cases in Court Investigation Case Activity" upload and mark confidential, then attach to this question.*** *Provide only investigation information for case(s) that started the fiscal year in prosecution, but required additional investigation during the reporting period.* ***Other than current status, no prosecution case information should be included.***

Applicant Response:

Not Applicable

Section Name: Acknowledgment

33. APPLICANT QUESTION: ACKNOWLEDGMENT

For purposes of the grant application process and Grant Award Agreement (GAA), the term "application" refers to the grant application and its Funding Announcement Attachments including, but not limited to, the Budget Instructions, Grant Requirements, and Fact Sheets.

Applicant Response:

I acknowledge

BUDGET

Budget Year: 1

Budget Category	Direct	Total
Salary By Position	$129,700.00	$129,700.00
Supervising Attorneys	$49,000.00	$49,000.00
Attorneys	$63,600.00	$63,600.00
Supervising Investigators		
Investigators (Sworn)		
Investigators (Non-Sworn)		
Investigative Assistants		
Forensic Accountant/Auditor		
Support Staff Supervisor		
Paralegal/Analyst/Legal Assistant/etc.		
Clerical Staff	$17,100.00	$17,100.00

Student Assistants		
Over Time: Investigators		
Over Time: Other Staff		
Salary By Position - other		
Benefits	$106,000.00	$106,000.00
▾ Operating Expenses, General	$17,300.00	$17,300.00
Grant Indirect Costs - 10% method; plan must be on file and made available to CDI upon request (choose only 1 indirect cost method)	$12,970.00	$12,970.00
Grant Indirect Costs - 5% method; plan must be on file and made available to CDI upon request (choose only 1 indirect cost method)		
Audit	$3,250.00	$3,250.00
Forensic Accounting Services		
Transcription Services, Interpreter Services, Records Requests		
Expert Consultant Fees	$1,080.00	$1,080.00
Witness Fees/Litigation Fees		
Undercover Operation Expenses		

Office Supplies		
Office Space/Facility Fees		
IT Services		
Communications (phone, etc.)		
Membership Dues/Publications		
Operating Expenses, General - other		
Operating Expenses, Detailed	$0.00	$0.00
Outreach (identify details in narrative)		
Insurance (i.e., General Liability, etc.; identify in narrative)		
Motor Pool/Fleet Services (cannot include reserve fund for future purchases; identify number of vehicles)		
Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance (identify number of vehicles in narrative)		
Vehicle Mileage (not to exceed federal standard mileage rate; not allowed for grant purchased or motor pool/fleet vehicles; identify number of vehicles in narrative)		
Vehicle Parking (identify number of vehicles in narrative)		
Software Renewal (identify in narrative)		

Software Purchase (identify and provide justification in narrative)		
Minor Equipment as defined in instructions (Identify equipment and purchase price of each item in narrative)		
Equipment Lease/Maintenance (identify in narrative)		
Operating Expenses, Detailed - other		
▾ Operating Expenses, Travel and Training	$0.00	$0.00
Travel - In CA (Include costs such as hotel, airfare, and rental car associated with investigation and/or training. In narrative identify purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Travel - Out of CA (Include costs such as hotel, airfare, and rental car for out of state travel associated with investigation and/or training. In narrative identify state, purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Training - In CA (Include registration fees. In narrative identify purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Training - Out of CA (Include registration fees. In narrative identify state, purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Operating Expenses, Travel and Training - other		
▾ Equipment	$0.00	$0.00
Computers (provide justification and % billed to each program in narrative)		

Printers/Scanners (provide justification and % billed to each program in narrative)		
Vehicles (provide justification and % billed to each program in narrative)		
Vehicle Code 3 Equipment (provide number and % billed to each program in narrative)		
Equipment - other		
Total	$253,000.00	$253,000.00

Budget Justification

Category Name	Category Calculations		Category Narrative
▾ Salary By Position			
Supervising Attorneys	No. of Positions: 1 Total FTE: 0.25	Total Cost: $49,000.00 Total Requested Amount (Direct): $49,000.00	
Attorneys	No. of Positions: 1 Total FTE: 0.4	Total Cost: $63,600.00 Total Requested Amount (Direct): $63,600.00	
Supervising Investigators			

Investigators (Sworn)	
Investigators (Non-Sworn)	
Investigative Assistants	
Forensic Accountant/Auditor	
Support Staff Supervisor	
Paralegal/Analyst/Legal Assistant/etc.	
Clerical Staff	No. of Positions: 1 Total FTE: 0.2 Total Cost: $17,100.00 Total Requested Amount (Direct): $17,100.00
Student Assistants	
Over Time: Investigators	
Over Time: Other Staff	
Salary By Position - other	

Benefits		
Operating Expenses, General		
Grant Indirect Costs - 10% method; plan must be on file and made available to CDI upon request (choose only 1 indirect cost method)		
Grant Indirect Costs - 5% method; plan must be on file and made available to CDI upon request (choose only 1 indirect cost method)		
Audit		
Forensic Accounting Services		
Transcription Services, Interpreter Services, Records Requests		
Expert Consultant Fees		
Witness Fees/Litigation Fees		
Undercover Operation Expenses		
Office Supplies		
Office Space/Facility Fees		
IT Services		
Communications (phone, etc.)		
Membership Dues/Publications		
Operating Expenses, General - other		
Operating Expenses, Detailed		
Outreach (identify details in narrative)		

Insurance (i.e., General Liability, etc.; identify in narrative)		
Motor Pool/Fleet Services (cannot include reserve fund for future purchases; identify number of vehicles)		
Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance (identify number of vehicles in narrative)		
Vehicle Mileage (not to exceed federal standard mileage rate; not allowed for grant purchased or motor pool/fleet vehicles; identify number of vehicles in narrative)		
Vehicle Parking (identify number of vehicles in narrative)		
Software Renewal (identify in narrative)		
Software Purchase (identify and provide justification in narrative)		
Minor Equipment as defined in instructions (Identify equipment and purchase price of each item in narrative)		
Equipment Lease/Maintenance (identify in narrative)		
Operating Expenses, Detailed - other		
▾ Operating Expenses, Travel and Training		

Travel - In CA (Include costs such as hotel, airfare, and rental car associated with investigation and/or training. In narrative identify purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Travel - Out of CA (Include costs such as hotel, airfare, and rental car for out of state travel associated with investigation and/or training. In narrative identify state, purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Training - In CA (Include registration fees. In narrative identify purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Training - Out of CA (Include registration fees. In narrative identify state, purpose, number of staff, and % billed to the program and other source of funding if less than 100%)		
Operating Expenses, Travel and Training - other		
▾ Equipment		
Computers (provide justification and % billed to each program in narrative)		
Printers/Scanners (provide justification and % billed to each program in narrative)		
Vehicles (provide justification and % billed to each program in narrative)		

Vehicle Code 3 Equipment (provide number and % billed to each program in narrative)		
Equipment - other		