



**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: January 27, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Cal OES Victim/Witness Program Grant Award; Subaward VW25 03 2801

Signed by:
John Savrnoch
CC46EFE994F649A...

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney or his designee to submit an application, and if awarded, execute the Grant Subaward Agreement, which includes the Grant Subaward Assurances, Program Standard Assurance Addendum, Standard Certification of Compliance, and Application Signatures Form to accept anticipated funding with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Victim/Witness (VW) Program for the award period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, in the amount of \$740,145, subject to the approval and concurrence of Risk Management, Auditor Controller, and County Counsel;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute any future amendments to extend the term of the Grant Award Agreement through March 31, 2027, or to increase the grant award in an amount not to exceed an additional \$100,000, with the concurrence of Risk Management, 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) 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 purpose of this Board Letter is to formally request that the Board authorize the District Attorney or their designee to submit an application to Cal OES for the VW grant award for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. This Board Letter also requests that the Board authorize the District Attorney to accept the grant award of up to \$740,145 and execute the Grant Agreement, should the grant be awarded.

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 if awarded. Although the grant award period has already begun, the District Attorney has received an extension to submit the VW25 application so that the Office can submit a fully-executed Resolution with the grant application.

Discussion:

The Cal OES Victim Witness Program provides outreach and support to victims of crime. Grant funding will support a total of 4.55 existing FTEs. This is comprised of 0.10 FTE of an existing Victim Witness Program Manager, 0.25 FTE of an existing Victim Witness Program Supervisor, 3.90 FTE existing Victim Witness Program Advocates, and 0.30 FTE of an existing Victim Witness Program Mass Victimization Advocate. This is a renewal of the VW grant award, which the District Attorney has been awarded annually for several years.

These staff provide mandatory and optional services to victims in accordance with the Cal OES program guidelines and the Penal Code governing VW Assistance Programs. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's VW Assistance Program provides comprehensive services, advocacy, and support to victims and witnesses of crime, enabling them to effectively participate in the criminal justice system and restore their physical, financial, and psychological well-being.

Background:

Since 1978, the District Attorney has received funding through Cal OES to provide comprehensive services to crime victims in Santa Barbara County. Since that time, the District Attorney's VW Assistance Program has evolved to become a countywide program offering comprehensive mandatory and optional services to all victims of crime. In addition to the staff partially funded by the Cal Oes VW grant, volunteer staff from local universities and trade schools are utilized to contact victims of property crimes, DUI with injury offenses, and misdemeanor batteries to provide case status/disposition, restitution assistance, referral counseling, victim compensation, and property return assistance. As time permits and victims' needs warrant, Victim Advocates provide field visits and/or transportation assistance to and from the VW Program offices.

Referrals to the VW Program come from various health and human services and law enforcement agencies. Upon receipt of a referral, advocates conduct an assessment to determine the extent of optional services necessary. Volunteers provide a range of services including orientation to the criminal justice system, case status, victim of crime claim assistance, property return, and restitution assistance. This allows Program staff to focus on serious misdemeanor and felony cases. For sexual assault cases, Victim Witness Advocates respond during business hours to Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) sites where sexual assault medical exams and forensic interviews are conducted to provide crisis intervention and support services to children and their families. The SART team is comprised of the District Attorney's Office, members of local law enforcement, County Health nurses,

rape crisis advocates, Child Abuse Listening and Mediation child interview specialists, and Child Welfare Services social workers.

The VW Program is overseen by the District Attorney’s Victim-Witness Assistance Program Director. Two VW Program Supervisors oversee Victim Advocates in North and South County, in addition to providing direct services to victims of crime. The Victim Advocates have a minimum of three years of experience with criminal justice or social services systems in interviewing, counseling, and providing referrals. The grant also continues to partially fund a Mass Victimization Advocate, who has been specially trained to respond to mass casualty events. This individual is responsible for implementing a Crisis Response Plan and therefore handles a reduced caseload.

Performance Measures:

During Fiscal Year 2024-2025, a total of 4,053 victims were provided services. Units of service provided include victims’ rights notification, crisis counseling, court case information, resource and referral counseling, court support, restitution, and victim compensation assistance. Of these 4,053 victims, 2,151 were identified as new victims who received services for the first time.

In the current grant period, quarterly progress reports will 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; and
3. Types of victimizations.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted: Yes. Revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding reflects one year of program expenses for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. The grant funding spans across two fiscal years. The total project cost is \$740,145 and does not require a local cash match. If the District Attorney’s grant application is approved and the full grant amount is awarded, the \$740,145 in grant funds will fund \$640,550 in Salaries and Employee Benefits, which includes 0.10 FTE Victim Witness Program Manager, 0.25 FTE Victim Witness Supervisor, 3.90 VW Advocates, and 0.30 Mass Victimization Advocate. Also included is \$99,595 in operating costs, which includes a 15% indirect cost rate de minimis for overhead costs.

Funding Source	FY 25-26	Total
General Fund		
State	\$ 359,392	\$ 359,392
Federal	380,753	\$ 380,753
Fees		
[Other Source]		
Total	\$ 740,145	\$ 740,145

VW Grant Award Schedule		
Funding Sources	Grant Award Period	Grant Award Amount
2025 VCGF (Victims of Crime General Funds)	10/1/25 – 9/30/26	\$ 295,541
2024 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)	10/1/25 – 9/30/26	\$ 380,753
2024 VWA0 (Victim Witness Assistance)	10/1/25 – 9/30/26	\$ 63,851
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$ 740,145

Staffing Impacts:

None. Grant funds will continue to partially fund the existing staff listed below.

Legal Position Title	Number of FTE	Estimated Cost
Victim Witness Program Manager	0.10	\$ 27,400
Victim Witness Program Supervisor	0.25	38,050
Victim Witness Program Advocates	3.90	514,800
Victim Witness Program Mass Victimization Advocate	0.30	60,300
Total	4.55	\$ 640,550

Special Instructions:

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

- a) One (1) Minute Order
- b) One (1) copy of a fully-executed Grant Award Resolution

Attachments:

Attachment A – Board Resolution

Attachment B – Grant Application

Contact Information:

John DeAlba
 Department Business Specialist
 jodealba@countyofsb.org