



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: January 29, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney, x2308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, x2303
SUBJECT: FY 19-20 Santa Maria Community Development Block Grant Application

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office to apply for grant funding from the City of Santa Maria Community Development Block Grant program for Fiscal Year 2019-2020;
- b) Direct staff to return to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of acceptance, should the grant be awarded;
- c) Determine that the above action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), because it consists 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
- d) Determine that the above actions are exempt from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 1508.4, under a categorical exclusion, because these actions do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in implementation of these regulations.

Summary Text:

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program, established in 1974 and administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides metropolitan cities and urban counties with funds to assist in achieving their goals of neighborhood revitalization, economic development, improved community facilities, prevention and elimination of slums, and assistance to low and moderate-income persons. An appropriation amount is determined by a statutory formula which uses measurements of need. The City of Santa Maria has been participating as an entitlement city under this program since its inception and receives a yearly grant. Funds are distributed to local organizations and agencies via a grant application process. The deadline for application for FY 19-20 funds was December 5, 2018, however, the City of Santa Maria gave the District Attorney's office an extended deadline of January 31, 2019 in order to obtain Board of Supervisors approval. Approval of the recommended action will authorize the District Attorney to submit a grant application in the amount of \$12,500, to be used to pay expert forensic interviewers for services to Santa Maria residents, under the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) program.

Background:

The Santa Barbara County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) serves child, adolescent and developmentally disabled adult victims and witnesses of all types of abuse by providing forensic interviews and forensic medical examinations by trained professionals. SART is a successful collaborative model that is comprised of 20 public and private agencies located throughout Santa Barbara County. In Santa Maria, partners include: Santa Maria Police Department, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department, North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center, Marian Medical Center, Santa Maria Division of District Attorney's Office, Victim Witness Assistance Program, Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM), Child Welfare Services, Department of Justice Crime Lab, and Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. Each partner agencies bears the cost of providing their services to clients served by SART. For example, Rape Crisis Center provides advocates for adult abuse cases, Victim Witness Assistance Program provides victim advocates, and Child Welfare Services and law enforcement investigate allegations of abuse. Funds from the City of Santa Maria CDBG would be utilized to reimburse contracted expert forensic interviewers for their interviewing services and ongoing training. The target populations for this grant application are City of Santa Maria residents who are victims/witnesses of child abuse, and who require the skills of an expert forensic interviewer to gain information about their trauma.

To qualify for CDBG funding, applicants must meet one of the three national objectives:

- Benefit to low and moderate income persons as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD);
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
- Meet a community development need having a particular urgency where existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and no other funding sources are available.

CDBG funding will be used to provide forensic interviews of suspected child abuse victims, a presumed low-income benefit category by HUD. Research has shown that poverty, lack of healthcare and exposure to high density housing and dangerous neighborhoods increases likelihood of crime, including child abuse and neglect. There are no income guidelines or requirements for program participants. SART does not charge a fee for any of the services provided to victims/witnesses of abuse, including forensic interviews and forensic medical examinations. An estimated 80 persons will be served in during FY 19-20 with CDBG funding.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

If awarded, this grant will provide \$12,500 in additional funds for the SART program.

Key Contract Risks:

There is minimal risk to the County. Funds are reimbursed after program expenses are incurred.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order to Nicole Acosta.

Attachments:

- A. City of Santa Maria CDBG Notice of Funding Availability FY 19-20
- B. Draft Santa Maria CDBG Application FY 19-20

Authored by:

Danielle Spahn, Team Project Leader (Extra-Help)