



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: September 10, 2019
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
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, x2304
SUBJECT: Cal OES Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach Program Grant Award, Fiscal Year 2018-19

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

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 Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach (UV) Program grant award including any amendments or extensions thereof through March 31, 2020, not to exceed \$25,000, for the award period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 in the amount of \$175,000.00; and
- b) 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 approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

The Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach (UV) Program provides outreach to victims of violent crime within the unserved and underserved communities of the immigrant Spanish- and Indigenous-speaking agriculture workforce in the Santa Maria Area. Funding through Cal OES supports 1.7 FTE Victim/Witness Program Advocates who provide mandatory and optional services to victims in accordance with the Cal OES program guidelines and the Penal Code section governing Victim-Witness

Assistance Programs. In addition, a portion (0.05 FTE) of the Victim Witness Program Manager's time is dedicated to supervising the Victim Advocates and overseeing the program. This in-kind time serves as the required cash match for the program.

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. Although the Cal OES grant revenue and expenditures were approved during the County's budget process for the award period, staff identified that formal Board authorization was still required. The purpose of this Board Letter is to request Board authorization for the District Attorney to sign the Grant Agreement with Cal OES for the Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach (UV) Program grant award for the award period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, in the amount of \$175,000.00. 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.

Background:

Northern Santa Barbara County is primarily agricultural, and home to a large immigrant Spanish and Indigenous-speaking workforce. Indigenous immigrants are more vulnerable than other Latino immigrant populations because they speak a Native American language as their first language, and do not self-identify as Indigenous or readily admit that they do not speak Spanish fluently. National immigration policies increase fears of deportation, discouraging any voluntary contact with law enforcement. Due to these fears, as well as cultural and social isolation, many members of the immigrant community are hesitant to contact or interact with law enforcement when they become the victim of crimes, making these crimes difficult to solve.

Recognizing the need to reach out to the immigrant community, the District Attorney's Office first applied for the Underserved/Unserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach Grant in 2010. In the first seven years, program staff have forged critical relationships with key members of the Indigenous community and continue to identify opportunities for outreach and collaboration with other organizations serving this community. Victim Advocates provide referrals to victims for crisis intervention services, counseling, criminal justice system support and advocacy to the court on behalf of the victim, assisting victims to file claims with the State Victim Compensation Board, and referrals to other community resources as needed.

Program staff outreach through a contract with local radio outlet that produces and airs a bi-monthly, 30-minute talk show on local Spanish radio stations, as well as 60-second spots aired 12 times per month. These radio spots are funded by the grant, and offer resource and referral information regarding the resources available through the UV program.

In addition to outreach, during the grant period the UV program will coordinate two days of targeted trainings to school-based professionals, early childhood specialists, social service partners, law enforcement, district attorney and victim service professionals with assistance from an expert consultant.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2018-19 and 2019-20 Adopted Budgets.

Fiscal Analysis:

The grant award reflects one year of program expenses for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The grant funding spans across two fiscal years. The total project cost is \$183,750, which includes the \$175,000 grant award and an \$8,750 cash match. The cash match was included in the District Attorney’s Fiscal Year 2018-19 and 2019-20 Adopted Budgets.

UV Grant Award Schedule		
<u>Federal Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>
FFY 2017 VOCA	10/1/18 – 9/30/2019	\$ 175,000
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$ 175,000

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 Nicole Lee-Rodriguez, 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) UV Board Resolution
- b) Grant Award
- c) Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Danielle Spahn, Team Project Leader