



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: July 11, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director John T. Savrnock, District Attorney, x82308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer,
x82304
**SUBJECT: Cal OES Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program (VV) Grant
Application Authorization**

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) Approve and authorize the District Attorney, or designee, to execute a Certification of Assurance of Compliance for the California Office of Emergency Services Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program (VV) grant application to be submitted during Fiscal Year 2023-2024;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Certification of Assurance of Compliance for the California Office of Emergency Services Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program (VV) grant application to be submitted during Fiscal Year 2023-2024.
- c) Determine that the above 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:

All Cal OES grant applications require applicants to submit a signed Certification of Assurance of Compliance (COAOC) with the application packet. This document serves as written proof from the governing board that the department official executing the grant award documents is authorized to do so.

As part of the application process for each Cal OES grant, the District Attorney's Office must submit a COAOC that has been signed by the District Attorney or his or her designee, as well as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Before the COAOC can be signed, the District Attorney's Office must request authorization from the Board for the District Attorney and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the COAOC. This is the sole requested action before your Board at this time.

If the grant application is approved by Cal OES and the grant is awarded, then the District Attorney's Office will return to the Board for authorization to accept the grant award prior to the acceptance of any grant funds or execution of any grant agreement. The District Attorney's Office will also continue to bring any new grant applications and awards to the Board of Supervisors for authorization.

Background:

The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has released a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution (VV) Program. The Services Training Officers Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program promotes the development and implementation of effective, victim-centered law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to address violent crimes against women and the development and enhancement of victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. The application deadline is July 14, 2023.

Vertical prosecution is shown to improve conviction rates, reduce victim/survivor trauma, and provide more consistent and appropriate sentencing. According to the Cal OES VV Program guidelines, this specialized unit shall consist of one highly qualified prosecutor and one victim witness advocate. This will allow the unit to concentrate prosecutorial efforts and resources on defendants who are violent recidivists against women or those charged with crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The purpose of the Program is to improve the criminal justice system's processing of violent crimes against women through a coordinated, multi-disciplinary, prosecutorial response. These positions will require reduced caseloads to increase prosecutorial success and will add capacity to an already stretched staff of attorneys, and advocates.

The District Attorney's Office hopes to establish a violence against women vertical prosecution unit utilizing these grant funds. The Office believes that its application is competitive and intends to apply for the VV grant by the July 14, 2023 deadline.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no cost to apply for Cal OES grants. In addition, the match requested in the grant application will be fully covered with approved Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) funds in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The proposed grant budget that will be submitted with the grant application totals \$270,060 for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. This includes \$175,900 in Salaries and Employee Benefits for 1.0 FTE Deputy District Attorney, \$26,645 in operating costs, and a required match of \$67,515. The match included in the proposed budget will be fully covered with approved CCP funds in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

Key Contract Risks: There is minimal risk to the County.

Special Instructions:

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

- a) One (1) Minute Order; and
- b) One (1) copy of the fully-executed Cal OES Certification of Assurance of Compliance;

Attachments:

- a) Cal OES Certification of Assurance of Compliance

Authored by:

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist (x82434)