



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: November 28, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director John T. Savrnoch, District Attorney, (805) 568-2308
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, (805) 568-2304

SUBJECT: Cal OES Human Trafficking Advocacy Program (HA) Grant Program

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 to submit an application, and if awarded, execute the Grant Award Agreement and accept anticipated funding with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Human Trafficking Advocacy Program for the award period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, up to a maximum grant award amount of \$147,000, subject to the approval and concurrence of Risk Management, Auditor Controller, and County Counsel;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair and the District Attorney to execute a Certification of Assurance of Compliance for the following District Attorney's grant application for the Cal OES Human Trafficking Advocacy Program:
- c) Approve and authorize the District Attorney to execute any amendments to the Grant Agreement extending the term thereof through June 30, 2025, or for a supplemental grant award in the amount not to exceed \$50,000, with the concurrence of County Counsel, Risk Management and Auditor-Controller; and
- d) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), since 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, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

The Human Trafficking Advocacy (HA) Program provides outreach to human trafficking victims, as well as those at risk of being trafficked. In the past, funding through the Cal OES has supported 0.50 FTE of existing Victim/Witness Advocate and 0.48 FTE of an existing Victim/Witness Supervisor.

The purpose of this Board Letter is to request that the Board formally authorize the District Attorney to submit an application to Cal OES for the HA grant award for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. This Board Letter also requests that the Board authorize the District Attorney to accept the grant award up to an amount of \$147,000 and execute the Grant Agreement, should the grant be awarded.

Background:

The HA program is part of the DA's Victim Witness Assistance Program, which is charged with implementing the provisions of Penal Code 13835, to provide optional and mandatory services to victims of crime in Santa Barbara County. The HA Victim/Witness Advocate provides these mandated services, focusing on human trafficking victims, including victims of both forced labor and sex trafficking. In addition, the HA Victim/Witness Advocate attends juvenile court proceedings and collaborates with Juvenile Probation, Behavioral Wellness, District Attorney, and Public Defender staff to advocate for and provide services to suspected victims of trafficking.

In 2013, a local task force consisting of various County departments, local law enforcement, and non-profit agencies was created to educate the community and stakeholders to recognize, identify and respond to trafficked victims. In addition, the task force provides a venue for information sharing and networking on resources available from each of the respective agencies. Under the direction of the District Attorney, the Victim Witness Project Director and Supervisor continue to facilitate the Countywide Human Trafficking Task Force, coordinating and delivering training, and providing an avenue for services and outreach on the subject. In collaboration with the County Department of Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Probation, the HA program has developed screening tools for CWS and Probation to use to help identify at-risk youth. Children identified as victims are referred to the HA Victim/Witness Advocate for services.

Performance Measures:

The District Attorney has been awarded the HA grant annually since 2016. During the first nine months of the current grant period (January 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023), 18 victims of human trafficking were provided 392 units of services, including crisis intervention, resource-referral counseling, case-criminal justice information, court support, and emergency financial assistance. Of these victims, 97% were female. Four victims were minors under the age of 18 identified through law enforcement, juvenile justice and social service partners.

In the next grant period, quarterly progress reports will continue to 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 Adult victims identified
2. Units of service provided.
3. Number of child victims identified.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Anticipated revenues and expenditures are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding reflects one year of program expenses for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The total project cost is \$147,000 and does not require local cash match. If the District Attorney's application is approved and the full grant amount is awarded, the \$147,000 in grant funds will fund \$132,886 in Salaries and Benefits, which includes 0.50 Victim Witness Program Advocate and 0.48 Victim Witness Program Supervisor. Also included is \$14,114 in Operating Costs.

| Grant Award Schedule | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| <u>Funding Sources</u> | <u>Grant Award Period</u> | <u>Grant Award Amount</u> | |
| 2022 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) | 1/1/24 – 12/31/2024 | \$ | 147,000 |
| <i>Total Grant Award</i> | | \$ | 147,000 |

Key Contract Risks: There is minimal risk to the County. Funds are reimbursed after program expenses are incurred. The District Attorney's Office has been awarded this grant for several years.

Special Instructions:

The Clerk of the Board shall post the Notice of Exemption upon Board approval. Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Department Business Specialist:

- a) One (1) Minute Order;
- b) One (1) copy of the fully-executed Certification of Assurance of Compliance;
- c) One (1) copy of the fully-executed Grant Award Resolution; and
- d) One (1) copy of the approved Notice of Exemption.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board Resolution

Attachment B: Certificate of Assurance of Compliance

Attachment C: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

John DeAlba, Department Business Specialist (805) 568-2434