



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:** December 3, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director John T. Savrnach, 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, 2025 through December 31, 2025, 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 District Attorney to execute a Certification of Assurance of Compliance for the 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, 2026, 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.

**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 of existing Victim/Witness Advocate and 0.46 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, 2025 through December 31, 2025. 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, 2024, through September 30, 2024), 28 victims of human trafficking were provided 576 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. Ten 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 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The anticipated funding reflects one year of program expenses for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. 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 \$127,000 in Salaries and Benefits, which includes 0.50 Victim Witness Program Advocate and 0.46 Victim Witness Program Supervisor, and \$20,000 in Operating Costs, including a 15% for de minimis overhead costs that is calculated off the total direct costs base.

| <b>Grant Award Schedule</b>                |                                  |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>              | <b><u>Grant Award Period</u></b> | <b><u>Grant Award Amount</u></b> |
| 2024 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)           | 1/1/25 - 12/31/25                | \$ 65,709                        |
| 2024 VCGF (Victims of Crime General Funds) | 1/1/25 - 12/31/25                | \$ 81,291                        |
| <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:**

Please return the following items to John DeAlba, DA Interim Business Manager:

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

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Board Resolution
- Attachment B: Grant Application Package

**Authored by:**

Brittany Short, Administrative Office Professional Senior; (805) 568-2434