



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Probation Department
Department No.: 022
Agenda Date: January 27, 2026
Placement: Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors 
FROM: Department Director: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer
Contact: Spencer Cross, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
SUBJECT: Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Grant Application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-2027 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Intensive Supervision Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to submit a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant application for the FFY 2026-2027 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Intensive Supervision Program for a projected grant amount of \$220,756 for the period covering October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027; and
- b) Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms that do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to authorize the Chief Probation Officer to submit an Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant application, for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-2027 DUI Intensive Supervision Program, for a projected grant amount of \$220,756 for the period covering October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. If awarded, this grant would provide funding for a Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) to provide intensive case management and supervision to high-risk DUI Intensive Supervision Program clients in the Santa Maria region, with the goals of ensuring compliance with court-ordered

terms and conditions of probation and reducing recidivism. If the application is accepted, the Probation Department will return to the Board with an agreement to accept the grant award.

Discussion:

The OTS offers grant funding to local and State public agencies for programs that assist with the enforcement of traffic laws, educate the public in traffic safety, and provide innovative, evidence-based education and enforcement-based programs designed to improve the safety of everyone on California roads. The OTS grant funds probation officers to provide community supervision of individuals convicted of DUI of alcohol and other controlled substances, who are at high risk of reoffending as well as resources such as drug and alcohol monitoring devices and testing equipment. The OTS works with probation departments statewide to establish multidisciplinary efforts to reduce repeat DUI offenses, which is in addition to funding traditional law enforcement sobriety checkpoints and other traffic-related DUI reduction efforts.

Through this grant, if awarded, the Santa Barbara County Probation Department's grant objectives will emphasize intensive supervision of high-risk DUI Intensive Supervision Program clients to ensure compliance with court-ordered terms and conditions of probation and to prevent re-arrest on new DUI charges. Grant objectives may include enhanced compliance monitoring and enforcement that utilize random home/field contacts, group reporting events, person and property searches, use of Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM), alcohol/drug testing, DUI treatment verification and monitoring, providing bench warrant information to local law enforcement agencies every month and attempts to serve bench warrants for the high risk DUI Intensive Supervision Program clients.

The Probation Department has received this grant funding since 2006. If awarded this grant cycle, Probation will utilize the OTS grant funding to continue to focus on providing risk and needs assessments specific to the high-risk DUI Intensive Supervision Program clients in the Santa Maria region who are assigned to a dedicated OTS-funded DUI caseload. The DPO to be funded through the anticipated grant award will provide intensive case management and supervision to the DUI caseload through field and office visits, unannounced searches, random alcohol/drug testing, and participation with local law enforcement in DUI prevention efforts.

If awarded the grant, the Department will continue to utilize the Northpointe Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) an evidence-based risk/needs assessment, which includes the Risk of Violence and Recidivism (ROVAR) and Inventory of Needs (ION). The Impaired Driving Assessment (IDA) will be used further to identify a client's most significant risk factors and needs. The assessments mentioned above allow the DPO managing the OTS-funded DUI caseload to work collaboratively with clients to create treatment plan goals to improve behaviors and effect positive change. The overall goal of this grant is to improve client outcomes and reduce recidivism.

Background:

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department has received OTS Grant funding since June 2006. The federal funding through OTS is apportioned to California under the National Highway Safety Act and the Safe, Accountable, and Flexible Efficiency Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

The 2023 OTS ranking data, which originates from the California Highway Patrol Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, the California Department of Transportation, California Department of Justice, and the Department of Finance records, ranks the city of Santa Maria as 14t out of 62 similarly sized cities in the number of alcohol-involved collisions that resulted in death and injured victims.

This is a noticeable improvement from 2022 rating of 5th out 61 similarly sized cities. It is noted that the above data from 2023 is the most recently published information.

Performance Measures:

The application requires the Probation Department to set objectives that will become part of the agreement, if the grant is awarded. The application reflects the same objectives as those included in the FFY 2025-2026 grant agreement.

For FFY 2026-2027, some of the objectives in the application include: conducting 350 unannounced field contacts, which may include searching persons or property; completing 500 office contacts with clients; conducting 500 alcohol/drug tests; tracking the number of clients referred to community resources, such as mental health, inpatient and outpatient treatment, alcohol awareness classes, rehabilitation and recovery; and participating in four warrant service operations targeting DUI clients. These efforts are intended to enhance the department's performance and ensure the effectiveness of the OTS Grant.

In the last completed FFY, between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025, Probation's OTS grant-related efforts resulted in 399 unannounced field contacts with a search, 561 office contacts, 770 alcohol/drug tests, 29 clients were referred to community resources, such as mental health, inpatient and outpatient treatment, alcohol awareness classes, rehabilitation, and recovery. Four warrant service operations were completed. During the current grant, FFY 2025-2026, the Probation Department conducts monthly reviews of all grant objectives to focus on quality assurance and program fidelity. The Supervising Deputy Probation Officer overseeing the OTS grant receives and reviews monthly performance reports from the grant-funded DPO to ensure objectives are being met.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FFY 2026-2027	Total
General Fund		
State		
Federal	\$220,756.00	\$220,756.00
Fees		
Total	\$220,756.00	\$220,756.00

The anticipated grant funding award is for a one-year period commencing October 1, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2027, with a projected award of \$220,756 and no required match. If awarded, this grant will fund one DPO, associated travel expenses, preliminary alcohol screening (PAS) device/supplies, and testing supplies. There is no expected increase to the Probation Department's General Fund contribution and no expected impact on facilities associated with this grant. The DPO position is currently funded in the Department's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget, and if the grant is awarded, the position and the funding will be included in the FY 2026-27 proposed budget. The department will return to the Board and provide the confirmed funding amount.

Staffing Impacts:

None; the grant funding will continue to support an existing DPO position within Probation's budget.

Special Instructions:

Please email a copy of the minute order to Probation Fiscal at probationfiscal@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Grant Application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026-2027 Driving Under the Influence Intensive Supervision Program

Contact Information:

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