



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) 568-2306
Contact Info: Michael Soderman, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, (805) 568-2303
SUBJECT: Cal OES Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach Program Grant Award

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) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney's submittal of an application and execution of the Grant Subaward Signature Authorization and the Certification of Assurance of Compliance to accept funding with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy and Outreach (UV) Program for the award period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, up to a maximum grant subaward amount of \$196,906;
- b) Approve and authorize the District Attorney to execute any amendments to the Grant Subaward extending the term thereof through June 30, 2026, or for a supplemental grant subaward in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, with the concurrence of County Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller; and
- c) 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 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 UV Program grant for the award 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 \$196,906 and execute a Grant Agreement, should the grant be awarded.

Background:

The 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 1.35 FTE Victim-Witness Program Advocates who provide mandatory and optional services to victims in accordance with Cal OES program guidelines and the Penal Code governing Victim-Witness Assistance Programs. Under the UV Program, Victim Advocates provide the following services to victims of crime who are part of the unserved and underserved immigrant Spanish and Indigenous-speaking agriculture workforce in Santa Maria:

- **Crisis Intervention:** Advocates respond to victims of crime who are seeking short term emotional and physical care in the aftermath of crime.
- **Referrals:** Advocates provide referrals to licensed therapists who provide trauma-informed counseling. In addition, advocates can connect victims to other community services such as medical providers, mental health providers, County social services and child protective services, domestic violence agencies, child abuse centers, and rape crisis centers, all of which provide a myriad of services to victims as the need indicates.
- **Criminal Justice System Support and Advocacy:** Advocates provide basic information regarding the criminal justice system, define legal terms, and offer assistance to victims of crime who may not have reported the crime or be known to law enforcement. Immigrant victims are often unfamiliar with the laws of the United States and distrustful of law enforcement due to negative experiences in their home countries. Because of this, Advocates provide intensive orientation to the criminal justice system and explanation of victims' rights under the California Constitution (Marsy's Law).
- **Crime Victim Compensation and Emergency Assistance:** Advocates arrange for emergency financial assistance for victims such as emergency relocation, funeral burial expenses, food, transportation, and clothing.

In addition to advocate training, these advocates have completed cultural competency training on working with the Mixtec-speaking population. The UV program coordinates outreach to the target community via a contract with Emerald Wave Media to provide Spanish and Mixteco radio spots about the UV program on AM and FM radio stations. In addition, the radio stations air monthly 30-minute live talk shows highlighting the UV program.

The grant terms are set forth in the [Cal OES Subrecipient Handbook](#).

Performance Measures:

The District Attorney has been awarded the UV grant annually for several years. For the period of January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 of the current grant period, a total of 442 victims were provided services. 3,367 units of service provided include victims’ rights notification, crisis counseling, court case information, resource and referral counseling, court support, restitution, and victim compensation assistance. Of these 442 victims, 327 were identified as new victims who received services for the first time.

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 victims.
2. Number of new victims.
3. Types of victimizations.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Anticipated revenues and expenditures are included in the District Attorney’s Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

Fiscal Analysis:

The anticipated funding from this non-competitive grant reflects one year of program expenses for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. The total project cost is \$196,906 and does not require any local cash match. If the District Attorney’s application is approved and the full grant amount is awarded, the \$196,906 in grant funds will fund \$171,223 in Salaries and Employee Benefits, which funds 1.35 FTE Victim-Witness Advocates. Also included is \$25,683 in operating costs, including 15% for de minimis overhead costs that is calculated off the total direct costs base.

UV Grant Award Schedule			
<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Grant Award Period</u>	<u>Grant Award Amount</u>	
2024 VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)	1/01/25 – 12/31/2025	\$	108,889
2024 VCGF (VOCA Supplemental)	1/01/25 – 12/31/2025	\$	88,017
<i>Total Grant Award</i>		\$	196,906

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 annually for several years.

Staffing Impacts:

None. Grant funds will fund 1.35 existing VW advocates.

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