



Legislation Text

File #: 19-1307, **Version:** 1

District Attorney recommending the Board:

- 1) Accept a grant from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the Victim Witness Assistance Program in the amount of \$483,527 for the period of October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020, based on the received Letter of Intent;
- 2) Approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Certification of Assurance of Compliance; and
- 3) Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement and required documents, including any extensions or amendments thereof which would not increase net county cost.

FUNDING: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Victims of Crime Act Fund.

DISCUSSION / BACKGROUND

The District Attorney's Office has operated the Victim Witness Assistance Program since 1980. The program serves as a resource to crime victims. The advocates funded under this grant are required to provide the following services: crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource referral and assistance, direct counseling and therapy, claim assistance, property return, orientation to the criminal justice system, court escort, presentations and training for criminal justice agencies, public presentations and publicity, case status/disposition, notification of family and friends, employer notification/intervention, and restitution.

Cal OES grant program funding typically runs for a 3-year cycle with annual renewals. The District Attorney's Office is currently beginning of the third year of a 3-year grant cycle for this program. During the first year, a Request for Proposal (RFP) is submitted. In the subsequent two years, a Request for Application (RFA) is submitted based on the funding amount Cal OES has advised each agency is eligible to apply for. For FY 19/20, the District Attorney's Office was advised funding may be requested up to \$483,527.

Cal OES has reviewed the RFA submitted on August 16, 2019 and requested the signed Grant Subaward Face Sheet and Certification of Assurance of Compliance be submitted so they may proceed with issuing the final notice of approval. For the purpose of this Board item, Cal OES has provided a letter of intent to fund the program.

The County is eligible to receive project funding up to \$483,527 in Victim/Witness Assistance Program Funding for Federal FY 2019/20. The County will continue to fund three FTE Victim Witness Program Specialist positions, one FTE Victim Witness Program Specialist dedicated to the MVA position, as well as 60% of the FTE Program Coordinator position with this grant funding. The County has also budgeted for an Extra-Help Sr. Office Assistant under this grant for the Federal FY 2019/20.

Similar to the prior grant period award, the FY 2019/20 project award includes \$100,000 to support a Mass Victimization Advocate (MVA) position. The funding for the MVA is to be dedicated to further the objectives of supporting response readiness to mass victimization/terrorism incidents, which includes, but is not limited to, duties such as developing a comprehensive crisis response plan and victim

assistance crisis response protocols, implementing mutual-aid memorandums of understanding with neighboring counties and within crisis response regions, conducting outreach, participating in community meetings and maintaining a modified victim witness caseload. The District Attorney's Office has received communication from Cal OES that the funding for the Mass Victimization Advocate is guaranteed for possibly the next one or two grant years.

As set forth in the Request for Application (RFA), the District Attorney is required to obtain written authorization from the Board of Supervisors that the official executing the agreement is authorized to do so. The District Attorney recommends the Board approve the submission of the grant application and authorize the Chair to sign the Certification of Assurance of Compliance (Rev. 5/2019) for the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) Fund. The Certification of Assurance of Compliance includes details regarding Federal Grand Funds, Equal Employment Opportunity Program, Drug Free Workplace Compliance, California Environmental Quality Act, Lobbying, Debarment and Suspension requirements, Proof of Authority from the Governing Board, Civil Rights Compliance, and the special conditions of Subaward.

ALTERNATIVES

Should the Board decline to apply for the grant, the County would be ineligible to participate in the program.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION

Legistar 18-1666, January 8, 2019 - Board accepted Federal FY 18/19 CalOES Victim Witness Assistance Program (VW) in the amount of \$481,190 for the period of October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019

Legistar 12-0616, January 9, 2018 - Board accepted Fenderal FY 17/18 CalOES Victim Witness Assistance Program (VW) for the period of October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

N/A

CAO RECOMMENDATION / COMMENTS

Approve as recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no change to Net County Cost. The total project award of \$483,527 carries with it a match burden of \$90,526. The grant proposal submitted identified using a portion of the salary and benefits for the Program Coordinator and the Program Specialist, equipment rental for a MVA training event, a facility lease, and partial Victim Witness travel-related costs as the cash match. All funding was included in the Recommended Budget and no budget amendment is necessary.

CLERK OF THE BOARD FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

Clerk of the Board to:

Obtain the Board Chair's signature on two Certification of Assurance of Compliance Victim of Crime Acts forms and return one certified copy to the Chief Administrative Office, Central Fiscal Unit, Attention: Justene Grewal

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPONENT

Public Safety

CONTACT

Vern Pierson, District Attorney