



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
District Attorney



Date: September 24, 2014
Board Meeting Date: November 4, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Stephen M. Wagstaffe

Subject: Grant Award Agreements with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution:

- A) Ratifying the District Attorney's grant application and executed agreement with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; and
- B) Authorizing the District Attorney to submit annual grant applications and execute similar agreements with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY2015-2016 and FY2016-2017.

BACKGROUND:

The County has received funding for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program since 1974 from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Cal OES requires the County Board of Supervisors to approve the application and executed agreement for grant funds for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program. The District Attorney has already submitted an application and executed an agreement for the grant funds for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The District Attorney seeks Board ratification of the FY2014-2015 application and grant agreement. Because the Cal OES requires a new application and executed agreement each year, for the sake of efficiency, the District Attorney seeks Board approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant award agreement for FY2015-2016 and FY2016-2017.

DISCUSSION:

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program was established in 1974. The Program, administered at the local level by the Office of the District Attorney, provides

comprehensive services to diminish the adverse effects of crime on victims and their families. Services include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource and referral assistance, claims assistance and court/escort support. During FY2013-14 the Victim/Witness Assistance Program received approximately 1,788 victim referrals from law enforcement agencies and provided services to 2,542 new victims. The Program assisted 541 domestic violence victims, 467 victims of assault and/or battery, and 317 victims of sexual assault, both adults and children. The Program also provides services to victims of child abuse, elder abuse, false imprisonment, kidnapping and attempted kidnapping, criminal threats, robbery and attempted robbery, hit and run, drunk driving and driving under the influence, attempted homicide as well as survivors of homicide victims. The Program works collaboratively with the Keller Center, Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse, Rape Trauma Services, Children & Family Services, and various other agencies that provide assistance to crime victims.

There are several notable trends in San Mateo County that continue to impact crime victim services in our community, such as the lack of affordable community based counseling agencies as well as a lack of an adequate number of shelter beds designated for crime victims.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of the Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision of 2025 of a Healthy Community by providing comprehensive assistance to victims of crime residing in San Mateo County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The funding requested from Cal OES for fiscal year 2014-15 is \$ 391,136. The funds have been included in the District Attorney's Office FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget. Funds will be included in future budgets. There is no Net County Cost associated with accepting this grant funding.