



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
District Attorney



Date: November 22, 2013
Board Meeting Date: January 7, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Stephen M. Wagstaffe, District Attorney
Subject: Application for Renewal of the Victim/Witness Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the District Attorney's submission of a grant application for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY2013-14, for funds administered through the California Office of Emergency Services in the amount of \$358,613; and execution of the Grant Award agreement.

BACKGROUND:

In 1974, the County submitted a grant proposal to the California Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP), requesting funds to operate a Victim/Witness Program. The Victim/Witness Program offers comprehensive assistance to victims and witnesses of violent crime. The County has received funding for the program and the Board has authorized the submission of a grant application every year since 1974. The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) now administers the grant application.

DISCUSSION:

A yearly grant application is required to receive state and federal funds through the state agency designated to administer these grants. Four advocates, one administrative secretary and a manager, who has responsibility for all victim services, staff the Victim/Witness Grant. Two additional advocates staff an Unserved/Underserved Victim Advocacy & Outreach Grant to serve victims residing in the southern part of the county. Volunteers and/or student interns are utilized to further ensure that all mandatory services are met. The Victim Services Program, which is inclusive of services provided under the Victim/ Witness Grant and the Unserved/Underserved Grant, received slightly over 3,000 victim referrals from law enforcement agencies in FY 2012-13, and provided services to over 3,500 new victims. Services provided include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource and referral assistance, claims assistance and court/escort support. The Victim Services Program assisted over 800 Domestic Violence victims, over 700 victims of Assault and/or Battery, and over 450 victims of Sexual Assault both

adults & children. The Program works collaboratively with the Keller Center, Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), Rape Trauma Services (RTS), Children & Family Services, and various other agencies that provide assistance to crime victims.

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

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision of 2025 of a Safe Community by providing comprehensive assistance to victims of violent crimes residing in San Mateo County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The state and federal funding awarded for FY 2013-14 is \$358,613. The total expected cost of the program is \$669,442, resulting in a projected Net County Cost of \$310,829. Funds have been included in the FY 2013-14 Adopted Budget to cover these additional costs.