



Board Agenda Item 58

DATE: September 22, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Kirk Haynes, Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: Victim Witness Assistance Program Grant Application/Agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1. Retroactively authorize the Chief Probation Officer's previous submittal of a grant application to the State of California, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for the Victim Witness (VW) Program (\$1,633,176);**
- 2. Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute a Grant Application/Agreement for the VW Program with Cal OES, effective October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021; and**
- 3. Adopt resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute the retroactive grant Application and Agreement and any extensions or amendments thereto with Cal OES for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, subject to review and approval as to legal form by County Counsel's Office, and as to accounting form by the Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector, not to exceed \$1,633,176.**

There is no additional Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions. To meet the grant filling deadline, the Grant Application was previously submitted by the Probation Department (Department), contingent upon your Board's approval. The Application provides funding for the Fresno County James Rowland Crime Victim Assistance Center (CVAC), which the Department has operated for crime victims and witnesses in Fresno County since 1975. The recommended actions will authorize the previous submittal of the grant application and the execution of the Grant Agreement. It should be noted, once the Grant Agreement is executed by the Chairman and Cal OES, the application documents become the final agreement between the County and Cal OES. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

If the recommended actions are not approved, the Grant Application will be withdrawn, which will result in a significant reduction of services provided by the CVAC.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions, which will provide for the continued grant funding of the CVAC. The grant is a total of \$1,633,176 in grant funds. The required match has been waived by Cal OES. The Department does not charge the grant for indirect costs. Sufficient appropriations and estimated revenues are included in Probation's FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget for Org 3432.

DISCUSSION:

The Department has operated the CVAC in Fresno County since 1975. In 2019, CVAC provided services to

7,728 new victims of crime. Services include crisis intervention and counseling, emergency assistance and referrals, orientation to the criminal justice system, court and parole hearing support, assistance writing victim impact statements for the Court, criminal case status and disposition, employer and creditor intervention, assistance filing for financial help with the California Victim Compensation Program, as well as information and referrals regarding protective and restraining orders. Service locations over the years have been expanded from a single office to three separate locations. The additional locations have improved access and resulted in efficient service to victims of crime in Fresno County. Funding through Cal OES continues to make these services possible.

The Request for Application for this grant, including the allocation of funds, was provided to the Department on April 27, 2020, with a filing deadline of July 5, 2020. In order to meet the filing deadline, the application was previously submitted to Cal OES, contingent upon your Board's approval, and is being brought to your Board with the associated agreement on the first available Board date. Once the Grant Agreement is executed by the Chairman and Cal OES, it becomes the final agreement between the County and Cal OES, effective October 1, 2020.

The grant funds the following positions: one Probation Services Manager, three Senior Victim Witness Advocates, ten Victim Witness Advocates, one Program Technician, one Office Assistant, and three Student Workers.

Beginning with FY 2018-19, additional monies were awarded by Cal OES to fund an additional Victim Witness-based Mass Victimization Advocate (MVA) position, which has been dedicated to the objective of supporting response readiness in the event of mass victimization/terrorism incidents. These funds are made available in order to prepare Victim Witness centers to participate in a coordinated community response to mass victimization/terrorism incidents. As required by the grant, CVAC will continue to develop a victim assistance plan to support and enhance immediate response and recovery efforts due to mass victimization/terrorism incidents. The MVA attended Crisis Response training, and will continue to focus on mass crisis incidents due to a criminal event.

The third recommended action will adopt a resolution authorizing the Chairman to submit the previously submitted grant application and to execute any extensions or amendments to this grant, as required by Cal OES, subject to review and approval as to legal form by County Counsel's Office and as to accounting form by the Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector, and not to exceed the total of \$1,633,176.

If the grant funding is eliminated, the positions funded with this grant will be deleted, unless an alternative funding source is identified.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI # 43, October 8, 2019

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - Application/Agreement with Cal OES
On file with Clerk - Resolution (Org 3432)

CAO ANALYST:

Samantha Buck