



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/11/2020

Agenda Placement: 6A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Nikki Lundeen for Allison Haley - District Attorney
District Attorney
REPORT BY: Nikki Lundeen, Staff Services Manager - 253-4215
SUBJECT: Application and Acceptance of Funding for Child Advocacy Center Program

RECOMMENDATION

District Attorney requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a Certification of Assurance of Compliance document that authorizes the District Attorney to apply for and sign grant subawards with the California Office of Emergency Services for a maximum of \$212,000 for the term April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 for the Child Advocacy Center Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval of the recommended action will allow the District Attorney to apply for and sign grant subaward documents, including amendments, extensions, and modifications, thereof, for the Child Advocacy Center Program in Napa County, called The Courage Center. The subaward program is administered by the California Office of Emergency Services to provide Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding for Child Advocacy Centers who work with child abuse victims to reduce trauma to children and their families using a multidisciplinary team approach.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	District Attorney
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This item is discretionary in that there is no mandate for the District

Attorney's Office to provide a Child Advocacy Center. However, the county has been operating The Courage Center, a Child Advocacy Center, together with its multi-disciplinary team partners to reduce the trauma to victims of child abuse and their families. The grant program provides funding for the County's multidisciplinary team partners to operate the Child Advocacy Center during the grant term, with no net increase in County General Funds.

Is the general fund affected?

No

Future fiscal impact:

Appropriations are included in the District Attorney's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and appropriations for the following fiscal year will be budgeted accordingly.

Consequences if not approved:

If this item is not approved, the District Attorney will not be able to obtain funding from the State of California for provision of services to victims of child abuse. Additionally, the County would need to identify another department or non-profit to act as the lead agency for these funds being made available to operate The Courage Center.

County Strategic Plan pillar addressed:

This program improves access to integrated, efficient services in a child-friendly setting, where a multi-disciplinary team comprised of government agencies and non-profit service providers work together to reduce the trauma to victims of child abuse and their families.

Additional Information:

The grant Subaward provides \$200,000 in federal Victims of Crime Act funds and requires a local match of \$12,000 with funds already appropriated in the District Attorney's annual budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Courage Center was opened in November, 2008, in a rented portion of Aldea Children and Family Services' building on First Street in downtown Napa, establishing a state-of-the-art, child friendly forensic interview and medical examination center, through a partnership between multidisciplinary partners representing law enforcement, victim advocates, forensic interviewers, government and non-profit service providers, and the District Attorney. Aldea Children and Family Services is the nonprofit 501(c)(3) umbrella organization for the Courage Center, in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, who acts as the lead financial and administrative agency for the Center's operations. The Courage Center has been an accredited Child Advocacy Center by the National Children's Alliance since 2010.

The multidisciplinary team partners all provide the necessary staffing and resources to operate The Courage Center, and conduct child forensic interviews and exams. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds allow the partnering agencies to provide a more comprehensive operating model to ensure accreditation standards are maintained and that the most vulnerable victims are receiving services based on current best practices. Prior to receipt of the grant subaward, the Courage Center served about 50 children and families annually and operated as an on-demand service model. With the new funding for the program, a full-time dedicated director was hired by

Aldea Children and Family Services to coordinate cases and oversee services provided through the Courage Center, and over the past year, 187 children and families were served (100 children and 87 supporting non-offending caregivers).

Today's recommended action will authorize the Chair to sign the Certificate of Assurance of Compliance (COAOC) documents, which authorizes the District Attorney to apply and sign the grant subaward, including extensions, modifications or amendments thereof. The Child Advocacy Center Program provides \$200,000 of VOCA funds for the annual operation of the Courage Center, with no net increase to the County General fund.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Susan Kuss