



Agenda Date: 5/8/2007
Agenda Placement: 6C

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Carol Strobel for Gary Lieberstein - District Attorney
District Attorney
REPORT BY: Carol Strobel, Administrative Services Officer, 253-4215
SUBJECT: Renewal of Vertical Prosecution Grant

RECOMMENDATION

District Attorney requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a Vertical Prosecution Block Grant Program award for a maximum of \$125,041 for the term July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vertical Prosecution Block Grant Program funds a portion of two attorney's salaries to provide case consistency and minimize trauma to Statutory Rape and Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse victims. Funding in FY 2007/2008 will be \$125,041 to help offset the General Fund cost of these positions. This funding amount is a \$60,136 increase from FY 2006/2007.

FISCAL 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:	The Vertical Prosecution Block Grant provides the District Attorney's Office with \$125,041 to fund 70% of an Attorney IV's salary and 56% of an Attorney III's salary. Though not requiring a county match, this funding will continue to offset the General Fund contribution to these two positions that prosecute perpetrators and minimize trauma to victims.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes

Future fiscal impact:	This funding is from an ongoing federal block grant. If funding is no longer available, the District Attorney will review staffing and workload issues with the goal of continuing to prosecute as required by law.
Consequences if not approved:	If this item is not approved, the District Attorney's Office will not receive funding for the Vertical Prosecution program. Prosecuting crimes is a mandated function of the District Attorney's Office and without this grant additional County Funds would be needed.
Additional Information:	Funding for FY 2007/2008 is \$125,041, an increase of \$60,136 from FY 2006/2007.

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 California State Budget Act of FY 2003/2004 combined five Vertical Prosecution Block Programs administered through the Office of Emergency Services into one Vertical Block Program with five designated components. The Napa County District Attorney's Office was awarded funds for two of these components: Statutory Rape and Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse. These funds help offset the General Fund cost of two attorney positions dedicated to the prosecution of these cases.

During the first half of FY 2006/2007, 28 new Statutory Rape cases were referred to the Vertical Prosecution program. This is in comparison to the first half of FY 2005/2006 when 26 new cases were referred. The attorney who handles the Statutory Rape cases for the Vertical Prosecution program also handles all Child Abuse cases.

In the first half of FY 2006/2007, 24 new cases were referred to the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse attorney. This is in comparison to the first half of FY 2005/2006, when 31 new cases were referred to the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse attorney. The Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse unit has developed and implemented a countywide protocol for the reporting and investigating of elder abuse cases. An education and outreach program has also been developed and has been presented to law enforcement agencies throughout the county as well as the general public.

Under Vertical Prosecution, all victims are referred to proper victim services and all stages of the case are handled by one attorney which minimizes the victim's trauma. Prior to the implementation of the Vertical Prosecution program, three or more Deputy District Attorneys could be involved in the case necessitating multiple interviews that increased the victim's anxiety and trauma levels. As a result of the Vertical Prosecution program, two very valuable prosecution programs are subsidized by State and Federal funding.

The Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse unit of Napa County is regarded by the Office of Emergency Services as a model for the State. Both the informational brochure on financial elder abuse and the countywide protocol are being replicated around the State.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan