



Agenda Date: 7/12/2005
Agenda Placement: 9B

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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

RECOMMENDATION

District Attorney requests approval of and authorization to sign a grant award for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services in the amount of \$101,972, with no County match required, to continue funding for vertical prosecution of Statutory Rape and Elder and Dependant Adult Abuse cases.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

These ongoing grants address the vertical prosecution of Statutory Rape and Elder and Dependant Adult cases to minimize the trauma of the victims of these crimes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Funding is appropriated in the District Attorney's recommended FY 05-06 budget.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	The Statutory Rape and Elder and Dependant Adult Abuse vertical grants fund 53% of the salary and benefits of a Deputy District Attorney III (total cost \$84,216; grant funds \$44,642) and 37% of an Attorney IV (total cost \$155,891; grant funds \$57,330) to prosecute perpetrators and minimize the trauma of the victims of these crimes. While not requiring a County match, these grants offset the general fund contribution to these two positions.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes

Future fiscal impact: This funding is from an on-going federal block grant. If funding is not available the District Attorney will review staffing and workload issues, with the goal of continuing to provide prosecution as required by law. This is a noncompetitive grant with no match required on the County. The District Attorney and staff from the County Executive Office will review the general fund contribution to this grant as part of the ongoing dialogue requested by the Board of Supervisors in connection with all grant funding in this budget unit.

Consequences if not approved: Because the prosecution of these crimes is a mandated function of the District Attorney's Office, the General Fund would have to support the activity.

Additional Information: None

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 2003-2004 combined five Vertical Prosecution Block Programs administered through the Office of Emergency Services in one Vertical Block Program with five designated components. Napa County District Attorney's Office was awarded grants for two of these components: Statutory Rape Vertical Prosecution and Elder and Dependant Adult Abuse Vertical Prosecution which helps offset the general fund cost of two attorney positions dedicated to the prosecution of these cases.

The first half of FY 2004/2005, 22 new cases were accepted by the Statutory Rape Attorney. This is in comparison to the first half of FY 2003/2004 when 13 new cases were accepted. In addition to Statutory Rape the attorney handles the entire Child Abuse case load.

The first half of FY 2004/2005, 9 new cases were filed by the Elder and Dependant Adult Abuse attorney. This is in comparison to the first half of FY 2003/2004, when in the first year of the program, 18 new cases were filed by the Elder and Dependant Adult Abuse attorney. The Elder and Dependant Adult Abuse unit developed and implemented a Countywide Protocol for the reporting and investigating of elder abuse cases and an education and outreach program that is being presented to the public throughout the county and to each law enforcement agency.

With Vertical Prosecution all victims are referred to the proper victim services and all cases are handled by one prosecutor from first appearance until sentencing, minimizing the trauma for these victims.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Policy Issue

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi