



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 7/22/2014

Agenda Placement: 7A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nikki Lundeen for Gary Lieberstein - District Attorney
District Attorney

REPORT BY: Nikki Lundeen, STAFF SERVICES MANAGER - 253-4215

SUBJECT: Application and Acceptance of Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant

RECOMMENDATION

District Attorney requests approval of and authorization for the Chairman to sign a Certification of Assurance of Compliance that authorizes the District Attorney to sign a Victim/Witness Assistance Program grant award with the California Office of Emergency Services for a maximum of \$163,929 for the term July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval of the recommended action will continue the Victim/Witness Assistance Program for the term July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, with a maximum amount of \$163,929. This grant provides funding for the Victim Services Program Manager and one full time Victim Advocate to provide services to crime victims.

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:	This item is discretionary in that there is no mandate for the District Attorney's Office to be the provider of victim and witness services. However, the county is required to identify a provider of such services. This grant provides funding for

about .7 FTE of the Victim Services Program Manager and for a 1.0 FTE Victim Advocate to aid victims through the legal system and obtain services from available agencies. The Fiscal Year 2014-2015 funding level of \$163,929 represents an increase of \$6,396 over the prior year funding amount of \$157,533.

Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	Appropriations have been included in the District Attorney's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 and appropriations for future fiscal years 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 mandated victim and witness services. Additionally, the County would need to identify another department or non-profit to serve as the victim and witness services provider within the County.
Additional Information:	There is not a local match requirement for this grant funding.

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

California Penal Code Sections 13835-13835.10 mandates that every county in the State of California be provided funding for comprehensive services for victims and witnesses. Funding is designed to help victims and witnesses of all types of crime by maintaining local centers that provide all comprehensive assistance, including all legislatively mandated services. Victim/Witness Assistance Centers (VWACs) arose in 1983 in an effort by the Legislature to reduce the trauma and insensitive treatment that victims and witnesses experienced in the criminal justice system. Today, State and Federally funded VWACs operate in each of the 58 counties and in the City of Los Angeles and play a vital role in California's criminal justice system; 48 are housed in District Attorney's Offices, six in Probation Departments, three in Community-based organizations, one in Sheriff Department and one in Social Services Department. Napa County moved victim services from a non-profit agency to the District Attorney's Office in Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Each program is required to provide fourteen mandatory services including: crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource and referral assistance, direct counseling, victim of crime claims, property return, orientation to the criminal justice system, court escort, presentations and training to local criminal justice agencies, public presentations and publicity, case status and case dispositions, notification to family and friends, employer notification and intervention and assistance with restitution. The Victim/Witness program contacts 100% of victims of crime in Napa County and provides mandated services to an average of 760 victims (both misdemeanor/felony level) each fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2014-2015 the County's funding level will be \$163,929 (an increase of \$6,396 over the previous fiscal year funding level of \$157,533). Today's recommended action will authorize the District Attorney's Office to continue as the designated provider of victim and witness services and authorize the District Attorney to apply for and accept the Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant Award.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Liz Habkirk