



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

February 27, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Ratification of the District Attorney's Office's Application to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program; Adoption of a Resolution Approving the District Attorney's Acceptance of Grant Funds from OES in the Amount of \$202,545, Effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, and Authorizing Execution of the OES Grant Agreement; and Adoption of a Resolution Establishing a Fixed-term Position for the Period of February 27, 2024, through December 31, 2024; and Authorization of the Necessary Accounting Adjustments.

(Recommendation No. 5 Requires 4/5ths Vote)

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Ratify the District Attorney's Office's Application to the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for the Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program (Exhibit 1)
2. Authorize the District Attorney's acceptance of Grant Funds from OES in the Amount of \$202,545, Effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024 (Exhibit 2)

3. Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the OES grant agreement by the District Attorney or His Designee (Resolution 1)
4. Adopt a resolution establishing one fixed-term Attorney III position in unit #2103 Criminal Prosecution for the term of February 27, 2024, through December 31, 2024 (Resolution 2)

Job Code	Description	Business Unit	Dept. (Unit)	FTE	Fixed Term End Date	Annual Range (Salaried)
00219	Attorney III	DAOVC	2103	1.0	12/31/24	\$153,247.27 to \$186,283.27

5. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting adjustments for the following appropriations and revenue (4/5ths vote required):

Criminal Prosecution, Unit 2100-2103

INCREASE Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 202,545
INCREASE Salaries & Benefits	\$ 202,545

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	California Office of Emergency Services
Funding Match Required:	Yes
Impact on Other Departments:	None

Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:

	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25 (Estimated)
Revenue:	\$101,272	\$ 101,273
Costs:		
Direct:	\$168,787	\$ 101,273
Indirect:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs:	\$168,787	\$ 0
Net County Cost Including Indirect:	\$ 67,515*	\$ 0

*Absorbed within existing appropriations
or volunteers' time

Current FY Budget Projection:

Current FY 2023/2024 Budget for DAO/2103:

	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Deficit/(Savings)
Appropriations	\$45,697,950	\$60,088,081	\$53,899,241	\$6,188,840
Revenue	\$10,269,303	\$17,697,655	\$11,764,067	(\$5,933,588)
Net Cost	\$35,428,647	\$42,390,426	\$42,135,174	\$255,252

Reason For Ratification:

We were unable to obtain your Board's approval of the District Attorney's Office's application to the OES for the Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Grant Program due to short application timelines and the lengthy approval process, which did not conclude until January 2024. The application was submitted prior to the deadline and is attached as Exhibit 1. The grant subaward agreement is attached as Exhibit 2.

Strategic Plan:

This item promotes the County's Strategic Plan priorities of community safety and fiscal responsibility by utilizing external funding to provide comprehensive services to victims of crime in Ventura County.

Discussion:

Recognizing that violent crime against women has been a persistent problem in California and that vertical prosecution of crimes is a highly effective prosecution model, this year the OES established a new grant program – the Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution Program. The purpose of the grant is to improve the criminal justice system's processing of violent crimes against women through a coordinated prosecutorial response including specialized units with a highly qualified prosecutor and victim advocate.

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office applied to participate in the new grant program so we could expand our existing vertical prosecution of violent crime against women. As one of the successful applicants, our office has been offered a grant award in the amount of \$202,545, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The funding match will be absorbed within existing appropriations or through the use of volunteers' time. There is no additional cost to the General Fund for the acceptance of this grant.

The OES grant funds will enable the District Attorney's Office to assign an additional experienced Deputy District Attorney exclusively to the vertical prosecution of criminal cases involving violence against women, with an emphasis on repeat offenders. The funds will also enable our office to assign a Victim Advocate half-time to provide direct services to victims of violent crimes against women. The other half of the Victim Advocate's time will be funded through the Byrne Discretionary Grants Program for the Carmen Ramirez Family Justice Center.

We request that your Board ratify the District Attorney's Office's application to the OES; adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of the grant funds and execution of the grant agreement; adopt the attached resolution authorizing the requested fixed-term position; and authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to make the necessary accounting adjustments.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have questions regarding this item, please contact Chief Deputy District Attorney Miles Weiss at 654-2532 or Special Assistant District Attorney Chuck Hughes at 477-1635.

Sincerely,



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

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Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
February 27, 2024
Page 5

Attachments:

Resolution 1 – Authorizing Execution of the OES Grant Agreement
Resolution 2 – Establishing One Fixed-Term Position in DAO
Exhibit 1 – Grant Application
Exhibit 2 – Grant Agreement

cc: Sevet Johnson, PsyD., County Executive Officer
Jeffery S. Burgh, Auditor-Controller