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County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office (VCMEO) Submission of an Application, Acceptance of Award and Execution of Grant Agreement for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program Grant in the Amount of \$50,655; Authorization for the VCMEO Medical Examiner or Designee to Sign Future Amendments to the Grant Agreement, Subject to Specific Limitations.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That your Board ratify the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office (VCMEO) submission of an application, acceptance of award and execution of grant agreement (Exhibit 1) for the CalOES Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program grant in the amount of \$50,655, effective April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.
2. That your Board authorize the VCMEO Medical Examiner or designee to sign future amendments within the term of the grant agreement to make corrections, clarifications, and technical changes provided that the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreement and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to review and approval of County Counsel.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

	FY 2024-25
Revenues	\$50,655
Costs	\$50,655
Net County Cost	0

Funding Source(s): The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Funding Match Required: None

REASON FOR RATIFICATION

Prior to accepting this award, we did not think Board approval was required, due to the estimated amount of the award. Since that time, when working to add this position to our agency, we learned that your Board's approval is required.

DISCUSSION

The Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office provides medicolegal death investigation in a jurisdiction comprised of approximately 850,000 lives. The VCMEO is seeking grant funding to further raise the standard of medicolegal death investigation within the county.

Through CalOES and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program has provided a grant opportunity to further the DOJ's mission by providing states and units of local government with tools needed to meet objectives of improving quality and timeliness of services and training and employing personnel to eliminate backlogs and offer an avenue into the field of forensics and death investigation. This program seeks to improve forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services operated by county government.

The VCMEO will use the funds to help support the cost of a medical examiner forensic intern who will work alongside forensic pathologists, forensic pathology technicians, medicolegal death investigators and Administration gaining a well-rounded experience. In recent years, the office has been experiencing an opioid epidemic. The VCMEO has had record breaking numbers in overall investigations, examinations, and overdose deaths. The new intern will help bolster our front line to help combat and support the crisis' we face today. With only approximately 800 forensic pathologists nationwide, forensic internships may help gain interest for individuals that may not have the opportunity to experience the medical examiner/coroner world up close.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Strategic Priority:

- Diverse and Innovative Workforce Dedicated to Service Excellence

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Christopher Young, M.D. at (805) 641-4400.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Young M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHRISTOPHER R. YOUNG, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

Exhibit - Grant Subaward Application Approval