

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT District Attorney	(2) MEETING DATE 6/5/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Cindy Marie Absey 781-5821	
(4) SUBJECT Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) to receive \$180,950 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2012-2013.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION Request to authorize the District Attorney, to sign, on the Board's behalf, a renewal grant agreement with the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) to receive \$180,950 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2012-2013.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) State and Federal Grants	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$180,950.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$180,950.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A		(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(14) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>Sept. 6, 2011 and Annual</u>	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: District Attorney / Cindy Marie Absey
781-5821

DATE: 6/5/2012

SUBJECT: Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) to receive \$180,950 for the continuing administration of Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2012-2013.

RECOMMENDATION

Request to authorize the District Attorney, to sign, on the Board's behalf, a renewal grant agreement with the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) to receive \$180, 950 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2012-2013.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of victim/witness assistance programs is to reduce the trauma and insensitive treatment that victims and witnesses may experience following a crime by providing crisis and support services to all types of victims. Victim/Witness assistance program activities and services are mandated by and outlined in Penal Code Section §13835.5. Since 1984, our County Board of Supervisors has recognized the District Attorney's Office as the County agency designated to provide comprehensive crime victim and witness services to all types of crime victims through its Victim/Witness Division and has contracted with the State for this purpose through annual grants for Victim/Witness Assistance Programs. This grant award at \$180,950 is \$10,716 less than last year's allocation of \$191,666 due to the reduced level of the Federal Victims of Crime Act grant to the State. No County match is required as the match is met by State funds allocated to the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Program. This grant funds the salary and partial benefits of a Senior Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator (Victim/Witness Assistant Director) and 2.00 FTE Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator II salaries.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Counsel has approved the agreement for form and legal effect. Operational agreements (OA) with local law enforcement and victim service partners that participate with the Program are required by the grant and are currently in place.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Under the terms of this grant, \$180,950 is available for FY 2012-2013, a slightly reduced level of funding from the prior year level of \$191,666. There is no County match required. The District Attorney's Office included expenses and revenue for this Program in its budget request for FY 2012-2013.

RESULTS

This CalEMA grant will enable the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Division to achieve its County department

goals, including:

- 1) To reduce the effects of crime on victims, family members, and the community.

Personnel (victim/witness assistance coordinators) are funded to contact victims and assess their needs and offer services designed to help victims navigate the criminal justice system and help them recover from the effects of crime. During FY 2011-2012 (as of May 7), 2856 new victims of crime were contacted and assisted with a wide range of services, compared to 3544 during FY 2010-2011. Due to a number of staff with extended medical leaves this year, we may not match the number of new victims served this year, but it appears we will be close. (These figures do not include victims served by the Victim/Witness Assistance Underserved Victim (UV) grant with CalEMA, which targets elder and dependent adult victims of crime.) During FY 2011-2012 (as of May 7), Victim/Witness staff contacted 85% of victims in crimes against persons cases charged by the District Attorney within an average of an 8 day target for outreach. This compares to 84% of victims contacted within that same target last year and 77% the year before that.

- 2) To increase the criminal justice efficiency response to crime victims and witnesses:

Personnel (victim/witness assistance coordinators) confirm the victims' and witnesses' receipt of mailed subpoenas, thereby helping to ensure their cooperation with the criminal justice system and reducing expenses by saving law enforcement the time and expense required to personally serve subpoenas. We estimate continued savings of over \$400,000 per year during FY 2011-2012 by confirming subpoenas that otherwise would require personal service by the Sheriff's Civil Division. For the first half of FY 2011-2012, 95% of civilian witnesses who received mailed subpoenas were contacted by Victim/Witness staff and receipt of their subpoenas was confirmed. This was an increase over the prior two years, but in any case, 100% is not achievable due to the unavailability of correct addresses for all witnesses.