

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date / / **Held Until** / /
Agenda Item No: _____ **Agenda Item No:** _____

Department: District Attorney

() **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:

Karen Martin

Phone:

(707) 565-2319

Board Date:

8/04/09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: District Attorney Victim Assistance Center

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to renew an agreement between the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board and the Sonoma County District Attorney Victim Assistance Center for Victim Claims Services for FY 09/10, FY 10/11 and FY 11/12

Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to renew an agreement between the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board and the Sonoma County District Attorney Victim Assistance Center for the Revolving Fund Agreement for FY 09/10 and FY 10/11

Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to apply for and accept a Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant from the California Emergency Management Agency for the 2009/10 Fiscal Year

Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to apply for and accept a FY 2009-10 Recovery Act - VOCA Stimulus Grant from the California Emergency Management Agency for the 2009/10 Fiscal Year

Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to apply for and accept a FY 2009-10 Recovery Act – VAWA Stimulus Grant from the California Emergency Management Agency for the 2009/10 Fiscal Year

Resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$12,231 in unanticipated revenue from a FY 2009-10 Recovery Act – VAWA Stimulus Grant from the California Emergency Management Agency for the 2009/10 Fiscal Year

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

Estimated Cost \$ 947,706

Amount Budgeted \$ 935,472

Other Avail Approp. \$
(Explain below)

Additional Requested: \$ 12,231

Explanation (if required):

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Unanticipated Revenue \$ 12,231
(Source:) CalEMA FY 09-10
Recovery Act – VAWA Stimulus

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Prior Board Action(s): Agreements with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for Victim Claims Services have been approved annually since 1986; Agreements with OES have been approved annually since the inception of this program in 1986.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: Funding will not be received, and the Victim Assistance Center will not be able to provide services to victims of crimes and their families.

Background:

In Fiscal Year 1986/1987 the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (now the California Emergency Management Agency; CalEMA) and the California State Board of Control (now the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board; VCGCB) selected Sonoma County as one of 15 counties from throughout the State to be funded for a Victim Assistance Center. Services to be provided include comprehensive mandatory and optional services to crime victims and witnesses, and claims processing services for victims of crime. These programs have since expanded, and now all 58 counties in California receive funding from CalEMA for a Victim Assistance Center. Twenty-two of these counties, including Sonoma, also receive funding from VCGCB for claims processing.

For fiscal year 2009/10, the District Attorney Victim Assistance Center will be funded from three separate sources: the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB), the State of California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), and the Sonoma County General Fund.

The total cost of operating the Victim Assistance Center for fiscal year 09/10 is projected to be \$947,706.

Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board Contracts

The Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB) provides funding for the claims processing unit of the Victim Assistance Center, and will provide \$380,849 each of the next three fiscal years. For fiscal year 09/10, this amount will cover the full cost for 1.0 FTE Victim Claims Supervisor, 2.0 FTE Victim Claims Specialist and a .50 Program Manager, and will also provide funding for a portion of the operating expenses for the activities covered under this contract. Staff assigned to this program determine the eligibility of claims filed by, or on behalf of, victims of crimes and others affected by the crime, and evaluates the financial impact from the crime. Financial assistance is available through the VCGCB to help victims of certain crimes, and their family members, when they have no other means of paying for crime-related losses. To be eligible for assistance, a person must be a victim of a qualifying crime involving physical injury, threat of physical injury, or in certain crimes, presumed injury. Applicants must also meet other eligibility requirements, including residency, cooperation with law enforcement, and they must not have had any involvement or participation in the crime.

Attachments: Resolutions

On File With Clerk: Two contracts with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board; three grant applications with CalEMA

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background: (Continued)

The second contract from VCGCB, the Revolving Fund Contract, provides funds for funeral and burial expenses, and for relocation expenses. These expenses are paid from a trust fund on an emergency basis, which the Victim Assistance Center manages. VCGCB advances the Victim Assistance Center the funds, and the VAC then uses these funds to pay qualifying claims.

The California Emergency Management Agency

The California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) will provide a total of \$300,940 for fiscal year 09/10. The majority of the funds (\$265,987) are provided from the Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant, with a smaller amount (\$22,719) provided by the FY 2009-10 Recovery Act – VOCA Stimulus Grant. The funds from these two grants will cover the cost for a .50 Program Manager, and for 2.0 Victim Witness Advocates.

An additional amount (\$12,231) was awarded through the FY 2009-10 Recovery Act - VAWA Stimulus grant. This grant is required to be used to provide direct services to victims, and thus will be used to pay for 642 hours of an extra-help Victim Witness Advocate position to augment the program.

We have recently received assurance from CalEMA that none of these funds are at risk; the VOCA/VAWA Recovery Act funds have been received by CalEMA, and they will authority to spend them as soon as the California State Budget is signed. The Victim/Witness Assistance Program funds were included in the 09/10 Budget signed by the Governor in February 2009 and are not in the IOU category at this time.

Staff funded from these grants provide comprehensive mandatory and optional services to crime victims and witnesses for all types of crimes, whether or not the suspect has been identified. Objectives under these grants include:

- Providing advocacy for the majority of crime victims who go through the criminal justice system, in both adult and juvenile cases, as soon as possible after the crime occurs.
- Contacting and offering services to victims where prosecution is not being pursued, but where the victims still qualify for service.
- Collaborating with law enforcement, community based organizations, and other victim service organizations to provide the most comprehensive response to meet the needs of crime victims in Sonoma County.
- Providing community outreach and training to law enforcement, community based organizations, and the community at large on the services available to crime victims through the Sonoma County Victim Assistance Center.

Program costs not covered by either the VCGCB contract or the CalEMA grants is approximately \$260,617 for fiscal year 09/10. The adopted budget for FY 09/10 includes this amount.

Neither the VCGCB Contracts, nor the CalEMA Victim/Witness Assistance Program Grant require matching funds. The FY 2009-10 Recovery Act – VOCA Stimulus Grant and the VAWA Stimulus Grant do require matching funds; these are covered by the funding from the Victim /Witness Assistance Program Grant

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Approve the resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$12,231 in unanticipated revenue from a FY 2009-10 Recovery Act – VAWA Stimulus Grant from the California Emergency Management Agency for the 2009/10 Fiscal Year