

Background:

The Vertical Prosecution Program grant was first awarded to the District Attorney in 1996. Continuation grants have been awarded by the State of California each year since then.

The DA attorneys assigned to these programs are members of the Special Victims Unit (SVU), which handles cases involving adult sexual assault, child physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, and statutory rape. For the Vertical Prosecution Program, we have received funding for two separate components- Statutory Rape and Child Abuse. The attorneys assigned to the grant, along with the assigned DA Investigator, will review, investigate and prosecute all cases involving incidents of unlawful sexual intercourse with minors referred by law enforcement and other appropriate reporting agencies, and all child physical and sexual abuse cases. The vertical prosecution concept allows for continuous contact with victims to support them and alleviate their fears of involvement in the Criminal Justice system. Through the development of instructional materials and outreach to child care groups, the program also provides early identification of these cases through improved reporting protocols.

The total grant amount for fiscal year 08/09 was \$230,182. Due to a change in staffing, the District Attorney did not submit a board item at that time for approval to apply for and accept this grant. Subsequently an amendment was made to the grant award, to include funding for the 09/10 fiscal year. Thus, the District Attorney is requesting authorization at this time to apply for and accept the Vertical Prosecution Program grant for both the 08/09 and the 09/10 fiscal years.

For fiscal year 09/10 the grant amount is \$274,126, and the District Attorney anticipates that \$195,042 of the awarded amount will be claimed. The reason for the difference between the awarded amounts and the claimed amounts is that in fiscal year 06/07, the grant covered 100% of a second Deputy District Attorney position. Subsequently, the grant amount declined, and funding was no longer available to cover the full costs of the second attorney position. In order to meet the budget target for the FY 07/08, among other reductions, the department reduced one attorney position associated with this grant, along with the grant funds. The District Attorney continues to fund .50 Deputy District Attorney, and .50 DA Investigator with the grant funds.

There are no matching funds required for this grant.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Authorize the District Attorney to apply for and accept a grant from the California Emergency Management Agency for the Sonoma County Vertical Prosecution Program for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 fiscal years

Attachments: Resolution

On File With Clerk: FY 08-09 Vertical Prosecution Program Grant Application and FY 08/09 and 09/10 Grant Amendment

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: