

# Application Report



## Applicant Organization:

Solano

**Project Name:** 22-23 AUTO Solano County  
**Application ID:** App-22-114  
**Funding Announcement:** FY 22-23 Automobile Insurance Fraud Program  
**Requested Amount:** \$175,288.00

**Project Summary:** Solano County Automobile Insurance Fraud Grant Application FY 2022-23

**Authorized Certifying Official:** Matt Olsen MKOlsen@solanocounty.com 707-784-3340

**Project Director/Manager:** Matt Olsen MKOlsen@solanocounty.com 707-784-3340

**Case Statistics / Data Reporter:** Gina Chen GChen@solanocounty.com 707-784-3436

**Compliance/Fiscal Officer:** Jason Aguirre jlaguirre@solanocounty.com 707-784-3267

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**Section Name:** Overview Questions

**Sub Section Name:** General Information

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**1. Applicant Question:** Multi-County Grant

**Is this a multi-county grant application request? If Yes, select the additional counties.**

**Applicant Response:**

No

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**2. Applicant Question:** Estimated Carryover

**Enter the estimated carryover funds from the previous fiscal year. If none, enter "0".**

**Applicant Response:**

\$37,000.00

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**3. Applicant Question:** Contact Updates

**Have you updated the Contacts and Users for your Program? Did you verify the Contact Record for your County's District Attorney?**

- **Contacts** are those, such as your elected District Attorney, who need to be identified but do not need access to GMS.
- **Users** are those individuals who will be entering information/uploading into GMS for the application. **Confidential Users** have access to everything in all your grant applications. **Standard Users** do not have access to the Confidential Sections where Investigation Activity is reported. Typical Standard Users are budget

personnel.

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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**4. Applicant Question:** Program Contacts

**Identify the individuals who will serve as the Program Contacts. These individuals shall be entered as a User or Contact in GMS.**

*On the final submission page, you will link these individuals' contact records to the application.*

**Project Director/Manager** is the individual ultimately responsible for the program. This person must be a Confidential User.

**Case Statistics/Data Reporter** is the individual responsible for entering the statistics into the DAR (District Attorney Program Report). This person should be a Confidential User.

**Compliance/Fiscal Officer** is the individual responsible for all fiscal matters relating to the program. This must be someone other than the Project Director/Manager. This person is usually a Standard User.

**Applicant Response:**

Program Contacts	Name
Project Director / Manager	Matthew Olsen
Case Statistics / Data Reporter	Irene Chew
Compliance / Fiscal Officer	Jason Aguirre

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**5. Applicant Question:** Statistical Reporting Requirements

**Do you acknowledge the County is responsible for separately submitting a Program Report using the CDI website, DA Portal?**

*To access the DAR webpage on the CDI website: right click on the following link to open a new tab, or copy the URL into your browser.*

<http://www.insurance.ca.gov/0300-fraud/0100-fraud-division-overview/10-anti-fraud-prog/dareporting.cfm>

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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**6. Applicant Question:** Required Documents Upload

**Have you reviewed the Application Upload List and properly named and uploaded the documents into your Document Library?**

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To view/download the Application Upload List: go the Announcement, click View, and at the top of the page select Attachments. Items must be uploaded into the Document Library before you can attach them to the upcoming questions.

**Applicant Response:**

Yes

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**Sub Section Name:** BOS Resolution

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**1. Applicant Question:** BOS Resolution

**Have you uploaded a Board of Supervisors (BOS) Resolution to the Document Library and attached it to this question?**

*A BOS Resolution for the new grant period must be uploaded to GMS to receive funding for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. If the resolution cannot be submitted with the application, it must be uploaded no later than January 2, 2023. There is a sample with instructions located in the Announcement Attachments, 3b.*

**Applicant Response:**

No

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**2. Applicant Question:** Delegated Authority Designation

**Choose from the selection who will be the person submitting this application, signing the Grant Award Agreement (GAA) in GMS, and approving any amendments thereof.**

*The person selected must be a Confidential User, who will attest their authority and link their contact record on the submission page of this application. A sample Designated Authority Letter is located in the Announcement Attachments, 3a. CDI encourages the contact named as Project Director/Manger be the designated authority, should that be your selection.*

**Applicant Response:**

Designated Person named in Attached Letter

**Attachment:**

[22-23 Auto Solano County Designated Authority Letter.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**Section Name:** County Plan

**Sub Section Name:** Qualifications and Successes

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**1. Applicant Question:** Successes

**What areas of your automobile insurance insurance fraud program were successful and why?**

*Detail your program's successes for ONLY the 20-21 and 21-22 Fiscal Years. It is not necessary to list every case. If a case is being reported in more than one insurance fraud grant program, clearly identify the component(s) that apply to this program. If you are including any task force cases in your caseload, name the task force and your county personnel's specific involvement/role in the case(s). Information regarding investigations should be given a reference number and details provided only in the Confidential Section, question 1.*

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### **Applicant Response:**

Solano County's Auto Insurance Fraud program is successful because the unit continues to be staffed with highly experienced and dedicated prosecutors who are enthusiastic about prosecuting fraud cases. In April of 2020, Lead Deputy District Attorney Matthew Olsen was appointed to supervise the Financial Crimes Division, which oversees the Auto Insurance Fraud Unit. Mr. Olsen has over 17 years' experience as a prosecutor and brings with him a lengthy background in consumer protection and complex litigation to the Unit.

On April 3, 2017, Deputy District Attorney Irene Chew joined the unit. She has been with the Solano County District Attorney's Office since 2000. Since joining the unit, Ms Chew has handled 46 auto insurance fraud cases, including a successful jury trial that she handled, resulting in the defendant being sentenced to state prison.

On April 11, 2018, District Attorney Investigator Steven Begley joined the unit. Investigator Begley brought with him over 40 years of law enforcement experience, including 20 years with the Solano County Sheriff's Office and 20 years with the California Department of Insurance, Fraud Division. He previously worked for three years as a Team Manager for Liberty Mutual, Special Investigations Unit. Throughout his career, Investigator Begley arrested approximately 200 individuals for insurance fraud on both the state and federal level, and has testified as an expert witness regarding auto insurance fraud in Sonoma County Superior Court. He also served as a past president of the Northern California Fraud Investigators Association (AFA). Within the current reporting period, Solano County District Attorney Investigators have reviewed 191 suspected fraud claims. After review, 9 suspected fraud claims have resulted in active investigations being opened and/or submitted for prosecution, as well as 11 cases carried over from the prior fiscal year.

On October 28, 2021, Investigator Begley retired, and the position remained vacant until his replacement was found. Investigator Kelly Dixon joined the Unit on January 18, 2022. Investigator Dixon has 31 years of law enforcement experience, 28 of which he obtained with the California Highway Patrol. He spent 11 years as a CHP Investigator, specializing in vehicle theft related crimes. He is a P.O.S.T. certified Vehicle Theft and Computer Crimes Investigator, has worked on a number of federal, state, and local task forces, and has supervised and managed statewide investigative units. After retiring from the CHP as a lieutenant, Investigator Dixon worked for the Rio Vista Police Department as their Criminal Investigator before coming to work for the District Attorney's Office in 2020. Over the course of his career, he has attended approximately 1700 hours of specialized law enforcement training.

### **CASE UPDATES FROM 2021-2022**

The Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit is currently prosecuting a standard applicant auto insurance fraud case involving a Defendant who reported that her car had a flat tire in the 3AM hour, leading her to pull over all the way off the side of the freeway. While waiting in another friend's car that arrived and parked just in front of her car, her son, who also arrived in that friend's car, entered her car to "turn off stuff." She reported that another car rear ended her car with her son inside shortly after he entered it while she was at the scene in her friend's car. However, on a later date, she stated that she and the friend had driven off prior to the collision and when they were on the opposite side of the freeway heading back to return to the car, she saw the police arrive and didn't know of the accident until then. The driver of the car that could not stop in time to avoid a collision when the driver came upon the Defendant's stopped car in the slow lane, reported that the son was the only occupant and was located in the driver's seat, with no one else in the area. The son is an excluded driver of the Defendant's insurance policy and was arrested for DUI charges, although the Defendant is adamant that he was not driving. She is charged with violating Penal Code §550(a)(1), two counts of §550(b)(1), and two counts of §550(b)(3). Her case is headed next to court in September 2022.

Another standard applicant auto insurance fraud case involved a Defendant who reported her motorcycle stolen to the local police department and her insurance company. She did not have comprehensive coverage and her claim was denied. Later, her motorcycle was recovered by the police with extensive damage and returned to her. An hour and half later, she added comprehensive coverage to her policy. The next day, she filed a vandalism report, with some of the reported damage being similar to the damage that was noted when it was returned stolen. Investigation of Facebook posts

throughout the stolen and recovered period, including ongoing updates, detailed damage similar to what she had described in her vandalism claim. Defendant was charged with violating Penal Code §550(a)(1), and three counts of §550(b)(1), and two counts of §550(b)(3). Her case is headed next to court in July 2022.

### **NOTABLE SUCCESSES FROM 2020-2021**

One standard applicant auto insurance fraud case that was charged and resolved in FY 2020-2021 involved an owner of a 2009 Dodge Charger, where he claimed that it was vandalized while parked in front of his house. The alleged vandalism resulted in scratches all around the car, including the driver's side door lock that was broken and the key lock mechanism missing. He had made a prior claim for the same damage on the driver's side door lock in 2015 and also tried in 2017 when both times he claimed his car was vandalized with scratches in various parts of his car all around. At one point, he admitted that the door was never fixed in 2015 or 2017 and that he tried to claim it multiple times for the same damage. He was charged with violating two counts of Penal Code §550(a)(1), two counts of §550(a)(2), and two counts of §550(b)(1). He ended up pleading to two counts of §550(b)(1) as §17 misdemeanors as he had no prior convictions and while the potential loss estimated was around three thousand dollars, the claim was never paid. Defendant was sentenced to a year of court probation and given 100 hours of community service work and fined \$3,000.00 that the People requested to be designated to the California Department of Insurance Automobile Insurance Fraud Fund, on top of the \$755.24 investigative costs that were ordered to be paid to the insurance company. Both the investigative costs and the CDI Fraud Fund Fine have been paid in full.

A medium applicant auto insurance fraud case that was resolved in FY 2020-2021 involved a co-Defendant case where Defendant 1 was an excluded driver on Defendant 2's policy. Defendant 2 was driving Defendant 1's car when he rear ended a car that had stopped ahead of him for a crossing guard. The victim he rear ended called her insurance to report him as the driver. Another witness standing at the school also observed a male driver in the Defendant's car. Defendant 2 initially reports she loaned the car to Defendant 1, but when she is notified that he is an excluded driver, she says she will look into it and stops the report. Defendant 1 later calls back and claims she is the driver and Defendant 2 was not even in the car at the time. Defendant 1 claims that the victim pulled out in front of her, causing Defendant 1 to hit her car. Both Defendant 1 and 2 were charged with violating Penal Code §550(a)(1), and numerous other counts of §550(a)(4), and §550(b)(1). Having no prior record, both each ultimately pled to one count of Penal Code §550(b)(1) as a reduced §17 misdemeanor. Both paid restitution of \$11,000.39, as well as a \$1,500 fine each to the California Department of Insurance Automobile Insurance Fraud Fund as requested by the People. Both were also ordered to do 100 hours of community service hours. As to this date, all terms have been completed.

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## **2. Applicant Question:** Task Forces and Agencies

**List the governmental agencies and task forces you have worked with to develop potential automobile insurance insurance fraud cases.**

### **Applicant Response:**

1. California Department of Insurance
2. Anti-Fraud Alliance
3. Local Law Enforcement
4. Bureau of Automotive Repair
5. National Insurance Crime Bureau
6. California Highway Patrol

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**3. Applicant Question:** Unfunded Contributions

**Specify any unfunded contributions and support (i.e., financial, equipment, personnel, and technology) your county provided in Fiscal Year 21-22 to the automobile insurance insurance fraud program.**

**Applicant Response:**

In April 2020, Lead Deputy District Attorney Matthew Olsen was appointed to supervise the Financial Crimes Division, which oversees the Auto Insurance Fraud Unit. Mr. Olsen replaced former unit supervisor Deputy District Attorney Janice Williams, who has subsequently gone on to become a Superior Court Judge. Senior Staff Analyst Jason Aguirre and Accountant Gina Chen are directly employed by the department of the District Attorney and provide assistance and support in the administration of the grant. Additionally, legal secretary Rebecca Ulloa-Villagrana serves as support staff to the Deputy District Attorney and District Attorney Investigator assigned to the Auto Insurance Fraud Unit. All the aforementioned positions are currently funded outside the grant program.

Solano County also continues to equip our District Attorney Investigator and Deputy District Attorney with all the hardware that is necessary for their continued success in the Auto Insurance Fraud program. County vehicles are provided as needed in support of ongoing investigations and/or supplemental activities, such as trainings and meetings with neighboring jurisdictions or allied agencies. All members of the Unit are provided a computer at county expense with access to network printers. Internet access via the county network is provided, and each authorized employee must sign and follow the accompanying County Security Protocol. All staff have access to the JustWare case management database wherein all cases are entered with events, dispositions, sentencing criteria, witness information, etc., which are updated as they occur. The Solano County District Attorney's Office also continues to provide photocopy, telephone, central duplicating, and paging services which are all directly related to the daily needs of the unit. When needed, other District Attorney Investigators will assist the Unit with in-field interviews and arrests. Lastly, transcription services and foreign language interpretation services are provided at county expense as needed to assist in an Auto Insurance Fraud Unit investigation.

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**4. Applicant Question:** Personnel Continuity

**Detail and explain the turnover or continuity of personnel assigned to your automobile insurance insurance fraud program. Include any rotational policies your county may have.**

**Applicant Response:**

In April 2020, Lead Deputy District Attorney Matthew Olsen was appointed to supervise the Financial Crimes Division, which oversees the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit. Mr. Olsen has spent over 17 years as a criminal prosecutor with Solano County. Mr. Olsen has extensive experience in multiple areas of practice which include complex civil enforcement litigation, criminal felony prosecutions and grand jury investigations. Mr. Olsen replaced Deputy District Attorney Janice Williams, who previously served in the supervisor position since April 2017 and has gone on to become a Superior Court Judge. Ms. Williams had been successful in reaching out and establishing cohesive working relationships with members of the CDI regional office - Golden Gate Division, AFA, BAR and NICB. Mr. Olsen has continued these efforts. He has a prior established relationship with BAR through his work in the consumer protection field. Mr. Olsen has also established and reinforced close working relationships between Solano County and the aforementioned agencies/departments through his case work in the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit, which is the other CDI grant-funded unit he supervises.

Deputy District Attorney Irene Chew joined the Auto Insurance Fraud Unit in April 2017. She has been with the Solano County District Attorney's Office since August 2000, handling various caseloads including general felonies, prison crimes, post-release community supervision, welfare fraud and workers' compensation fraud. Since joining the Unit, Ms. Chew has successfully handled 46 auto insurance fraud cases, including the successful prosecution of a jury trial that resulted in the defendant being sentenced to state prison.

On April 11, 2018, District Attorney Investigator Steven Begley joined the unit. He brought over 40 years of law enforcement experience, including 20 years with the Solano County Sheriff's Office and 20 years with the California Department of Insurance, Fraud Division. He had also worked three years as a Team Manager for Liberty Mutual, Special Investigations Unit. Mr. Begley arrested over 200 individuals for insurance fraud on both the state and federal level and testified as an expert witness regarding auto insurance fraud in Sonoma County Superior Court. He also served as a past president of the Northern California Fraud Investigators Association (AFA).

On October 28, 2021, Investigator Begley retired, and the position remained vacant until his replacement was found. Investigator Kelly Dixon joined the Unit on January 18, 2022. Investigator Dixon has 31 years of law enforcement experience, 28 of which he obtained with the California Highway Patrol. He spent 11 years as a CHP Investigator, specializing in vehicle theft related crimes. He is a P.O.S.T. certified Vehicle Theft and Computer Crimes Investigator, has worked on a number of federal, state, and local task forces, and has supervised and managed statewide investigative units. After retiring from the CHP as a lieutenant, Investigator Dixon worked for the Rio Vista Police Department as their Criminal Investigator before coming to work for the District Attorney's Office in 2020. Over the course of his career, he has attended approximately 1700 hours of specialized law enforcement training.

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**5. Applicant Question:** Frozen Assets Distribution

**Were any frozen assets distributed in the current reporting period?**

*If yes, please describe. Assets may have been frozen in previous years.*

**Applicant Response:**

No

**Applicant Comment:**

None

**Sub Section Name:** Staffing

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**1. Applicant Question:** Staffing List

**Complete the chart and list the individuals billed to the program, including prosecutor(s), investigator(s), and support staff. Include any vacant positions to be filled.**

*For each, list the percentage of time devoted to the program and the start and end dates the individual is billed to the program.*

**Applicant Response:**

Name	Role	Start Date	End Date (leave blank if N/A)	% Time
Irene Chew	Prosecutor	04/03/2017		40
Steve Begley	Investigator	04/11/2018	10/28/2021	100
Kelly Dixon	Investigator	01/18/2022		100

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**2. Applicant Question:** FTE and Position Count

**Complete the FTE and Position Chart, summarizing the positions listed in the previous question.**

*The chart should match what you will be entering in the budget. The budget entry will roll over into Post Award.*

**Applicant Response:**

Salary by Position	# of Positions	FTE (1.00 = 2080 hours/year)
Supervising Attorneys		
Attorneys	1	.40
Supervising Investigators		
Investigators (Sworn)	1	1.00
Investigators (Non-Sworn)		
Investigative Assistants		
Forensic Accountant/Auditor		
Support Staff Supervisor		
Paralegal/Analyst/Legal Assistant/etc.		
Clerical Staff		
Student Assistants		
Over Time: Investigators		
Over Time: Other Staff		
Salary by Position, other		
	<b>Total: 2.00</b>	<b>Total: 1.40</b>

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**3. Applicant Question:** Organizational Chart

**Upload and attach to this question an Organizational Chart; label it "22-23 AUTO (county name) Org Chart".**

*The organizational chart should outline:*

- *Personnel assigned to the program. Identify their position, title, and placement in the lines of authority to the elected district attorney.*
- *The placement of the program staff and their program responsibility.*

**Applicant Response:**

[22-23 Auto Solano County Org Chart 063022.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**Sub Section Name:** Problem Statement & Program Strategy

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**1. Applicant Question:** Problem Statement

**Describe the types and magnitude of automobile insurance fraud (e.g., applicant, medical/legal provider, staged collisions, insider fraud, fraud ring, capping, and economic vehicle theft) relative to the extent of the problem specific to your county.**

*Use local data or other evidence to support your description.*

**Applicant Response:**

Central Solano County is located 35 miles from Sacramento and approximately 32 miles northeast of San Francisco and Oakland. Interstate 80 bisects Solano County North and South. Interstate 680, Highway 12, and Interstate 505 also connect Solano with Contra Costa, Napa, and Yolo counties. Solano County houses a military base (Travis Air Force Base) and three state prisons (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, CSP- Solano, California Medical Facility and Delta Conservation Camp) all of which attract populations of semi-transient people, including families of prison inmates and service personnel. The County is centrally located for those working in the outlying counties and is home to many commuters to the Bay Area and Sacramento Metropolitan locales.

According to data provided by the US Census Bureau updated 7/1/2021, Solano County has approximately 451,716 residents, which is an increase from the data provided in July 2019 (447,643 residents). The monthly labor force data from December 2021 indicates that Solano County has a civilian labor force of 203,100, an unemployment rate of 5.2%, and a median per capita income of \$84,638. Per the Solano Economic Development Corporation, the key to Solano County's successful economy is the competitiveness to attract and retain businesses providing jobs for Solano County residents and affordable housing when compared to prices in the Bay Area.

The Solano County District Attorney's Office recognizes that auto insurance fraud is a substantial problem in the region. A significant portion of auto insurance fraud cases in Solano County involve false and fraudulent claims filed by applicants.

A fraudulent scheme commonly encountered within Solano County is what is colloquially known as the "crash and buy". These cases involve drivers who fail to carry the mandatory insurance coverage when involved in a collision resulting in vehicle damage and/or injuries. The drivers then purchase an insurance policy after-the-fact and file a claim with a false date of loss, post-dating the loss to a date after the insurance policy inception. The drivers file a false claim with the expectation that the insurance company will pay for the damages and/or health care when, in fact, they did not have insurance coverage at the time of the collision.

Another common fraud scheme involves an applicant filing multiple claims for the same damage. This situation occurs when an insurance claim is paid due to damage from a legitimate accident or collision. The applicant receives payment from the claim, but chooses not to repair the vehicle. The applicant then cancels the existing policy and purchases a new policy from a different insurance company. The applicant subsequently files a false and fraudulent claim for a new "collision" and lists the same unrepaired damage from the first claim. The applicant expects the second insurance company to pay on the false claim for the same damages paid out by the first insurance company.

Other types of auto insurance fraud committed in Solano County include staged vehicle collisions, arsons committed by policyholders for financial gain, and auto body shops that fraudulently bill insurance companies for new replacement parts that are not used for the covered repairs and/or billing for work that was not performed per the written estimate. Solano County has also experienced cases involving false documents, such as altered medical bills and false auto repair bills.

Solano County recognizes the negative impact automobile insurance fraud has on the local and statewide economy as a whole. We are also aware that fraudulent behavior continues to exist within our community and increases the cost of insurance for all consumers. Solano County would like to expand our efforts in combating automobile insurance fraud cases while continuing to balance the workable insurance fraud cases within our other divisions.

## 2. Applicant Question: Problem Resolution Plan

**Explain how your county plans to resolve the problem described in your problem statement. Include improvements in your program.**

*Information regarding investigations should be given a reference number and details provided only in the Confidential Section, question 2, and marked "Problem Resolution".*

### Applicant Response:

The Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit will continue to work with our regional CDI, BAR, and local police agencies to coordinate investigations throughout the fiscal year. Although Investigator Begley's years of experience in both law enforcement and in the insurance industry will be missed, Investigator Dixon is also highly qualified and brings with him a tremendous amount of requisite experience and background. By harnessing this breadth of experience, the unit expects to be able to investigate a larger number of viable cases, as well as more complex cases. Between Investigator Begley and Investigator Dixon, Solano County investigators reviewed 191 suspected fraud claims during FY 2021-22. After review, 9 suspected fraud claims have resulted in active investigations being opened and/or submitted for prosecution, as well as 11 cases carried over from the prior fiscal year. The District Attorney's Office will also continue to contribute the unfunded resources detailed above in support of the Unit's efforts.

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## 3. Applicant Question: Plans to Meet IC Goals

**What are your plans to meet the announced goals of the Insurance Commissioner?**

If these goals are not realistic for your county, please state why they are not, and what goals you can achieve. Include your strategic plan to accomplish these goals. *Copies of the Goals can be found in the Announcement Attachments, 4g.*

### Applicant Response:

Maintaining **Public Safety** is a goal that the Solano County District Attorney's Office shares alongside the Commissioner. Protecting the public means that Solano County must take a strong stand against traffic collisions that have been fraudulently staged upon our roadways. Additionally, we remain committed to a high level of enforcement against vendors who provide faulty vehicle repairs. Such unscrupulous vendors can result in dangerous and unsafe vehicles being driven on our roadways and being used as the instrumentation in insurance scams. As a result of these ongoing efforts, the Solano County District Attorney's Office had previously employed a very experienced part-time investigator to make it possible to investigate more complex cases. We do not anticipate that the changeover in investigators will be anything but positive due to the equally experienced replacement we were fortunate enough to obtain. The case targets continue to include multiple-defendant cases, staged collisions, fraud rings, illegitimate auto body shops, and joint undercover operations with Golden Gate Branch of CDI.

Solano County is cognizant of the significant amount of fraud committed by the **Medical-Legal Providers** within the County and the State as a whole. In an effort to expand our capacity to effectively investigate these types of cases, the Solano County District Attorney's Office employs a highly experienced part-time investigator who works jointly with the Golden Gate Branch of CDI. It is our intent to continue to efficiently deploy these resources in order to combat the proliferation of fraud within the county.

Lead DDA Matthew Olsen has spent his time in the unit interacting with and cultivating close working relationships with the California Department of Insurance, AFA, BAR, NICB and local law enforcement. Mr. Olsen and the rest of the unit intend to continue the work started by their predecessors in an ongoing effort to meet the goal of **Performance and Continuity within the Program**. DDA Olsen has several pre-existing relationships with certain allied agencies and has already established solid working relationships with members of the CDI regional office - Golden Gate Division, AFA, BAR and NICB.

Deputy District Attorney Irene Chew continues to meet, on a regular basis, with the California Department of Insurance investigators to go over cases investigated. Additionally, she regularly attends various meetings held by the California Department of Insurance, AFA, BAR, NICB and local law enforcement to solidify continuing working relationships with them.

The Solano County District Attorney's Office Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit was fortunate enough to have the services of Investigator Steven Begley since April 2018. Although he will certainly be missed, we are looking forward to taking advantage of the significant experience Investigator Kelly Dixon now brings to the position.

**Outreach** continues to be a major component of deterrence and had undoubtedly suffered some significant setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the 2020 shutdown, Solano County's Community Prosecution Team participated in approximately 25 large scale events each year in efforts to educate the public on victim's rights and crime prevention. Members of Solano County's Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit would consistently attend these events in conjunction with the Community Prosecution Team to educate the public on the wide array of negative impacts fraud has on the community. The unit is proud to announce an immediate return to in-person events during FY 2022-2023 and has already attended several events beginning in May 2022, which include the Dixon Mayfair, Vacaville Fiesta Days, the Travis AFB Air Show and the Vallejo Filipino Cultural Festival. The unit remains committed to broadening the public's awareness and encouraging the reporting of automobile insurance fraud. The unit believes these efforts will serve to benefit the public and likely result in the generation of more local cases that are well-suited for successful prosecution.

The unit has also continued their advertising campaign that originally began in FY 2018-2019. Print ads have once again been featured on city buses in the City of Fairfield and the City of Vacaville, and this campaign continued into the early part of 2022. Furthermore, the unit has produced and deployed multiple video ads, which are currently running at all three local DMV field offices in Solano County. These ads are anticipated to continue to run through FY 22-23, assuming the funding is secured. The unit continues to maintain a dedicated email address for complaints to be sent directly to our investigator. The unit has also worked to develop updated publications for distribution at upcoming community outreach events in anticipation of the return to in-person gatherings.

In terms of meeting the goal of a **Balanced Caseload**, the unit intends to continue our focus on prosecuting the most prevalent schemes we encounter. While those tend to be "crash and buy" cases and duplicate claims for the same damage, the Unit is still cognizant of the ever-changing landscape in Automobile Insurance Fraud. Therefore, the Unit is committed to adapting as needed. The Unit is committed to expanding its capacity to take on more complex cases such as multiple-defendant cases, staged collisions, fraud rings, illegitimate auto body shops, and joint undercover operations with the Golden Gate Branch of the California Department of Insurance and BAR.

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#### **4. Applicant Question:** Multi-Year Goals

**What specific goals do you have that require more than a single year to accomplish?**

**Applicant Response:**

The retirement of Investigator Begley was significant, as he had begun conducting trainings for the traffic units of local police agencies in Solano County. Investigator Dixon has the requisite experience and background to pick up where Investigator Begley left off, however we do anticipate it will involve a reasonable adjustment period.

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#### **5. Applicant Question:** Restitution and Fines

**Describe the county's efforts and the district attorney's plan to obtain restitution and fines imposed by the court to the Automobile Fraud Account.**

**Applicant Response:**

The collection of restitution remains an important priority and consideration when negotiating dispositions of Automobile Insurance Fraud cases. The Unit's current policy is to incorporate this consideration into all plea agreements, when appropriate. Once cases have resolved, either by trial or plea, the Unit continues to monitor the collection of restitution, investigative costs and fines deemed payable to the Automobile Fraud Account. In cases of delinquent payment, the unit files the appropriate paperwork to violate the defendant's probation grant.

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**6. Applicant Question:** Restitution Numbers

**Provide the amount of restitution ordered and collected for the past five fiscal years.**

If this information is not available, provide an explanation.

**Applicant Response:**

Fiscal Year	Restitution Ordered	Restitution Collected
2021-22	\$10,891.00	\$10,687.00
2020-21	\$16,640.00	\$15,790.00
2019-20	\$17,988.00	\$16,750.00
2018-19	\$9,736.00	\$5,357.00
2017-18	\$18,804.00	\$18,804.00
	<b>Total: \$74,059.00</b>	<b>Total: \$67,388.00</b>

**Applicant Comment:**

The entire amount ordered during FY 2018-19 was the result of one case in which the defendant was sentenced to State Prison. Therefore, the remaining balance will be collected through CDCR.

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**7. Applicant Question:** Utilization Plan

**Your budget provides the amount of funds requested for Fiscal Year 22-23.**

**Provide a brief narrative description of your utilization plan for the Fiscal Year 22-23 requested funds.**

*If an increase is being requested, please provide a justification. Any information regarding investigations should be given a reference number and details provided only in the Confidential Section, question 2, and marked "Utilization Plan."*

**Applicant Response:**

The current funding request does not exceed the amount requested in FY 2021-22 (\$179,104). However, any increased funding received will be appropriated for personnel costs. DDA Irene Chew was promoted to Attorney Grade IV, as reflected in the funding request for the previous fiscal year (FY 2021-22). The currently submitted personnel budget continues to reflect this change. Although the unit lost an investigator to retirement during FY 2021-22, his replacement was found shortly thereafter, and the Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit is still committed to expanding our capacity to work viable cases. Therefore, any increased funding received will be prioritized towards personnel costs, thereby allowing us to expand our overall investigations and prosecutions in auto insurance fraud cases.

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**Sub Section Name:** Training and Outreach

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**1. Applicant Question:** Training Received

List the **insurance fraud** training received by each county staff member in the automobile fraud unit during Fiscal Year 21-22.

**Applicant Response:**

Name	Training Date	Provider	Location	Topic	Hours Credit
Irene Chew	04/13/2022	Anti-Fraud Alliance Annual Conference	Monterey, CA	Insurance Fraud	11
Irene Chew	10/19/2021	CDAA Fraud Symposium	Carlsbad, CA	WC/Auto Fraud	9
Irene Chew	03/22/2022	GGWCF Consortium	Virtual	WC Fraud in Cannabis Business	1
Irene Chew	03/15/2022	CDI	Virtual	Grant Workshop	3.5
Irene Chew	03/08/2022	AFA	Virtual	Metadata & Open Source Investigations	2
Irene Chew	02/16/2022	GGWCF Consortium	Virtual	Premium & Medical Provider Fraud	4
Irene Chew	01/25/2022	GGWCF Consortium	Virtual	Forged Documents	1
Irene Chew	12/16/2021	AFA	Virtual	COVID-19 & Telemedicine	2
Irene Chew	09/22/2021	GGWCF Consortium	Virtual	Wage Theft & Human Trafficking	1
Irene Chew	09/14/2021	AFA	Virtual	Forged Documents	2
Irene Chew	07/14/2021	GGWCF Consortium	Virtual	Seize & Freeze Laws	1
Irene Chew	06/14/2022	AFA	Virtual	CDI SIU Compliance Program Presentation	2
Kelly Dixon	04/14/2022	Anti-Fraud Alliance Annual Conference	Monterey, CA	Insurance Fraud	11
Steve Begley	09/14/2021	AFA	Virtual	Forged Documents	2
Kelly Dixon	03/08/2022	AFA	Virtual	Metadata & Open Source Investigations	2

**2. Applicant Question:** Training and Outreach Provided

**Upload and attach the Training and Outreach Provided form in Excel; label it "22-23 AUTO (county name) Training and Outreach Provided"**

If, in the form, you listed any "Other, Specify" provide a brief explanation here; other additional comments are optional. The blank form is located in the Announcement Attachments, 1a.

**Applicant Response:**

Label attachment "22-23 AUTO (County) Training and Outreach"

**Attachment:**

[22-23 Auto Solano County Training and Outreach Provided.xlsx](#) - EXCEL DOCUMENT

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**3. Applicant Question:** Future Training and Outreach

**Describe what kind of training/outreach you plan to provide in Fiscal Year 22-23.**

**Applicant Response:**

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease, the Solano County District Attorney's Office Automobile Insurance Fraud Unit has already begun to return to in-person outreach at seasonal local events. We also hope to engage our new investigator in expanding our efforts to include regular trainings for the traffic units of local police agencies. The Unit intends to make these trainings available on a continuous basis, as they may be successful in helping identify new potential case referrals from previously unknown sources. The Unit also continues its efforts at redesigning new trifold brochures to distribute to police agencies, as well as developing new brochures for the general public.

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**Sub Section Name:** Joint Plan

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**1. Applicant Question:** Joint Plan

**Upload your AUTO Joint Plan and label it "22-23 AUTO (county name) Joint Plan".**

*Each County is required to develop a Joint Plan with their CDI Regional Office, to be signed and dated by the Regional Office Captain and the Prosecutor in Charge of the Grant Program. Additional information is in the Announcement Attachments, 3c, and also copied into the attached instructions to this question.*

**Applicant Response:**

Confirm signed and dated by all parties.

**Attachment:**

[22-23 Auto Solano County Joint Plan.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**Section Name:** Investigation Case Reporting

**Sub Section Name:** Investigation Case Information Relating to Questions

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**1. Applicant Question:** County Plan Investigation Information

**Regarding the County Plan, Qualifications and Successes, Question One: include here any investigation case information.** *The reference number/citation used in the question narrative response should be repeated here. If no investigation information was referenced, mark the N/A response. Task Force cases should specifically name the task force and your county personnel's specific involvement/role in the case.*

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**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**2. Applicant Question:** Program Strategy Investigation Information

**Regarding the Problem Statement & Program Strategy: Include here any investigation case information.**

*Be sure you include the reference number/citation used in the question narrative response again here. If no investigation information was referenced, mark the N/A response. Task Force cases should specifically name the task force and your county personnel's specific involvement/role in the case.*

**Applicant Response:**

Not Applicable

**Applicant Comment:**

Not Applicable

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**Sub Section Name:** Reporting on All Investigations

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**1. Applicant Question:** Investigation Case Activity

**Upload, mark Confidential, and attach the completed 22-23 AUTO (county name) Investigation Case Activity.**

*This document requires information regarding each investigation case that was reported in FORM 7, DAR, Section III C (Investigations). Two of the three reporting components are case counts only. The total of the case counts in Part 1 and Part 2, along with the number of case entries in Part 3, should equal your total investigation case count reported in the DAR Section III. **Do NOT substitute descriptions in Part 3 in lieu of case counts for Part 1 and Part 2.** Further details are provided in the instructions attached to this question. The blank form is located in the Announcement Attachments, 1bii.*

**Applicant Response:**

[22-23 Auto Solano Confidential Investigation Case Activity.pdf](#) - PDF FILE

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**Sub Section Name:** New Investigation Information for Cases in Court

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**1. Applicant Question:** Cases in Court Investigation Case Activity

**Do you have NEW Investigation Information for cases that started the year in prosecution that you want to include? This section is optional.**

*If you do have cases to report, download Announcement Attachment 1c, label it "**22-23 AUTO (county name) Cases in Court Investigation Case Activity**" **upload and mark confidential**, then attach to this question.*

*Other than current status, no prosecution case information should be included.*

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**Applicant Response:**

No

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