



Legislation Text

File #: 14-0795, Version: 2

Affirm the District Attorney's acceptance of a California Office of Emergency Services grant for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program in the amount of \$299,722 for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; and Approve an Appropriation Transfer Request recognizing unanticipated grant revenue of \$26,052 in the District Attorney's FY2014/15 budget to fund the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (4/5 vote required)

Published Notice Required? Yes No
Public Hearing Required? Yes No

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:

The District Attorney (DA) recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Affirm the District Attorney's acceptance of a California Office of Emergency Services grant for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program in the amount of \$299,722 for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; and
2. Approve an Appropriation Transfer Request (ATR) recognizing unanticipated grant revenue of \$26,052 in the District Attorney's FY2014/15 budget to fund the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (4/5 vote required).

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Solano County District Attorney's Office has been awarded a \$299,722 grant from the California Office of Emergency Services, for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program. The grant award is for the period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This grant award represents the 33rd year the District Attorney's Office has received funding under this program. In anticipation of the ongoing award the District Attorney included \$273,670 in the FY2014/15 Recommended Budget. The actual award received included additional unanticipated grant revenue of \$26,052 which the District Attorney recommends appropriating in the Victim/Witness Assistance Program to fund an 0.5 FTE Extra-Help Victim/Witness Assistant.

The grant will fund the salaries and benefits for Victim/Witness staff in the District Attorney's Office. This staff assists victims of crime during the investigation of their case and the prosecution of the offender. This could include crime-related crisis counseling as well as explaining the rights as a victim or witness and provide information about the process of the criminal justice system. In previous years this grant has funded the salaries and benefits of 3.0 FTE Victim/Witness Assistants; however in the current year the award was increased to allow the Department to fund an additional 0.5 FTE Extra-Help Victim/Witness Assistant position at no cost to the County General Fund. The DA recommends the Board of Supervisors authorize the acceptance of this grant and approve the ATR to recognize the unanticipated revenue to fund the 0.5 FTE Extra-Help Victim/Witness Assistant.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There will be no financial impact to the County General Fund associated with approval of this item. The DA previously included the grant funding for the salary and benefits of 3.0 FTE Victim/Witness Assistants in the FY2014/15 Adopted Budget. The grant provided for additional funding of \$26,052 for a 0.5 FTE Extra-Help

Victim/Witness Assistant, the DA is recommending approval of an ATR to recognize the additional funding. The total grant amount received, \$299,722, is allocated for the following costs:

- \$273,670 Salary and benefits 3.0 FTE Victim/Witness Assistants
- \$26,052 0.5 FTE Extra-Help Victim/Witness Assistant

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board can choose not to approve the ATR. This will prevent Solano County from receiving the funding from the California Office of Emergency Services, for the Victim/Witness Assistance Program and may affect its potential to receive future awards from these agencies.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The County Administrator's Office has reviewed and concurs with the departmental recommendation.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION