



CALAVERAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA SUBMITTAL

Short Name/Subject XC Grant Extension	Board Meeting Date September 12, 2017	Agenda Number 6
Dept: District Attorney Contact: Barbara Yook Phone: 209/754-6330	Supervisorial District Number	Consent Agenda
Published Notice Required? No Public Hearing Required? No		Estimated Time: 0 Minutes
Type of Document? Action Item PowerPoint Presentation Included? No Budget Transfer Included (Must be signed by Auditor)? No Complete Agreement Required? No Position Allocation Change? No		

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Extension of the CalOES XC Grant in the amount of \$124,692. Acceptance of this funding requires an additional County match of \$31,173. Acceptance of this funding also extends the grant period another year and half to December 31, 2019.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

On September 27, 2016, the Board of Supervisors accepted the CalOES “XC” grant in the amount of \$171,661., with a required County match of \$42,915. With the “XC” grant, the District Attorney established the “XC Victim Services Program” to provide services to two underserved populations of victims as identified by the Victim Services Steering Committee: 1) Victim Next of Kin in homicide cases (VNOK) and 2) Children in High Exposure/Risk cases (CHER). This is a 2 year grant, with a program end date of June 30, 2018.

On July 12, 2017, the District Attorney’s Office was informed that CalOES was making additional “XC” grant funds available to Calaveras County. The available additional funding is \$124,692. Acceptance of this funding requires an additional County match of \$31,173. Acceptance of this funding also extends the grant period another year and half to December 31, 2019.

The “Victim Services XC Program” currently funds one FTE Victim Advocate II, assigned specifically to serve VNOKs and CHERs from the initial report of the crime and throughout the criminal justice system. This includes responding to a crime scene at the request of law enforcement to establish a connection with the VNOK/CHER as soon as possible. The Advocate is dedicated solely to these populations to provide proactive services, including keeping the victim apprised of developments in the case, assisting in the return of personal property taken as evidence, preparing the victim for information that may appear in the media and helping them deal with impacts of social media, educating them on the criminal justice process, making referrals for counseling, providing necessary transportation to appointments related to the case, and assisting with completing tasks required of the victim through the investigation and prosecution. The Advocate also serves as the single point of contact between the VNOK/CHER for investigators and prosecutors providing consistency and a foundation for

trust. The Advocate is also working on developing the best practices protocols for dealing with these populations, and programs for outreach/education for youth.

While the grant term began on July 1, 2016, the program was not staffed until May 15, 2017. In the last three months, the "XC" Victim Advocate has handled over 50 cases, assisting over 20 family members of homicide victims and over 30 CHERs. The Advocate has re-established the protocol for assisting child sexual assault victims through the evidentiary interview process. The Advocate has worked closely with Probation, CPS, and the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) on identifying and offering services to CHERs. Being fluent in Spanish, the Advocate has been of great service to these inter-agency partners in the shared goal of protecting kids.

The Advocate's current case load and plans for education/outreach, require the assistance of an additional Advocate to avoid having to scale back on program goals. Adding this second Advocate was requested with FY 17/18 final budget. Goals for education/outreach to further the delivery of program services and to promote prevention efforts, including establishing partnerships with schools, medical clinics, and other County and community partners, will require more than the 10 months left in the grant. Another goal of the program, to establish a mobile victim services unit, cannot be accomplished by one staff person in the short time remaining in the grant. With additional funding and extension of the grant term, the "XC" program will be able to continue to provide the high level of services VNOKs and CHERs deserve, and to pursue the important goals as set forth above.

FINANCING:

The XC Program will receive an additional \$124,692 in grant funding. The required County match of \$31,173 would be from general funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could choose not to accept the additional grant funding and the District Attorney's "XC Victim Services Program" for VNOKs and CHERs will terminate on June 30, 2018.

APPROVED BY:


Barbara Yook, District Attorney 8/29/2017


Diane Beverud, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 8/29/2017


Tim Lutz, County Administrative Officer 8/29/2017


David Sirias, Assistant County Counsel 8/30/2017