



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** District Attorney

**Subject:** 2025-26 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program Grant Application

**Meeting Date:** January 14, 2025

**Formal Title:** Authorize grant application in the amount of \$200,000 to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the 2025-26 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program, and take related actions

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Authorize the District Attorney as the Authorized Agent to apply for the 2025-26 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Grant Program in the amount of \$200,000 from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES); and
2. Authorize the District Attorney to act as the Authorized Agent who has authority to enter this grant subaward for the 2025-26 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Grant Program, to sign and execute grant subaward documents, including amendments, extensions, and modifications.

### **Executive Summary**

The District Attorney's Office, which currently provides operational and administrative leadership to the County-wide Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center (MDIC), is requesting the Board's approval to apply for grant funding from the Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program. The total grant award is \$200,000 with performance period beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026.

### **Discussion**

In 2017, a countywide MDIC opened to ensure an organized, effective team response to cases of child sexual and physical abuse by providing a neutral, family-friendly facility for conducting forensic interviews. Cal OES has continued to award grant funding under this program since 2018-19 to the MDIC to enhance services currently provided to child abuse victims to reduce trauma to those children and their families by using a multidisciplinary team approach. Cal OES recently released a grant application for 2025-26 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program. It requires an annual re-application for federal and State monies to fund the District Attorney's 2025-26 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program.

This grant program will provide critical funding for a dedicated 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Services Representative (Advocate) and 0.5 FTE DA Inspector to ensure an increased focus on child sexual assault interviews and provide consistency of training and experience with the necessary specialized interview recording equipment. In addition, this funding will help provide necessary advocacy services for victims, and training to support the continued development and strengthening of the MDIC.

### **Financial Impact**

This program is supported with federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program Funds. The total program cost is \$200,000. It provides funding to maintain a staffing level at 0.5 FTE DA Inspector and a dedicated 1.0 FTE Victim Services Representative (Advocate). Grant award funding will be recognized in GL Key

272100, Object 40786. Related personnel costs have already been included in the District Attorney's 2024-25 Proposed Budget.

**Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

**Submitted By:**

Jeffrey S. Rosell

**Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

**Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.