



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JESSE WILSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jesse Wilson, District Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the District Attorney, and/or their designee(s) to apply for the Office on Violence Against Women Grant to Improve the Criminal Justice Response Program for up to \$700,000 for FY25/26, and to authorize and execute the grant agreement and subsequent documents.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: The maximum award is \$700,000 and will be distributed via reimbursement over the course of the 36-month grant period, which is anticipated to be October 1, 2025-September 30, 2027. No match is required.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is accepting applications for funding through the Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response Program (ICJR Program). Created in 1995, OVW administers grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. OVW grants support coordinated community responses that provide services to victims and hold offenders accountable.

The ICJR Program assists state, local, and Tribal governments, and courts to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law, and to seek safety and autonomy for victims.

The grant will be written to support existing community-led efforts in Nevada County to plan, develop and establish a comprehensive victim service family justice center, designed to bring together victim advocates from victim service providers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation officers, governmental victim assistants, forensic medical professionals, medical professionals, legal advocates, representatives from community-based organizations and other relevant public or private agencies or organizations into one centralized location, in order to improve safety, access to services, and confidentiality for victims and families.

There is a funding cap of \$500,000 based on Nevada County's service area. However, a significant amount of the funding request (45% or more) shall be used to support activities that address sexual assault. This addresses an OVW statutory set aside of funding and will allow the project to apply for \$200,000 additional funding above the cap. If successful in receiving an award, the project may be placed into a non-competitive pool at the end of the 36-month award period upon invitation by OVW and receive up to 24 months of additional funding.

Victim/survivors of intimate partner violence in Nevada County face several barriers to accessing services, to include geographic isolation and transportation barriers. Victim/survivors are often unaware of existing resources and once referred to various services can find it daunting to visit the multiple locations to access various services. The lack of cohesive efforts between multidisciplinary providers causes service gaps and ineffective use of limited resources.

The family justice center module promotes a coordinated, centralized service delivery system at one location that brings existing resources together in a co-located center. Professionals within the Nevada County service provider community have long-identified the need for a centralized victim-services center and have recently mobilized to implement the vision. In preparation for this project, the DA's Office has convened a multi-disciplinary working group of stakeholders representing law enforcement, prosecution, community-based victim service providers, child welfare services, and medical and therapeutic providers.

The District Attorney's Office is applying for the full award of \$500,000, in addition to the \$200,000 sexual assault statutory set aside. Funds will support a full-time limited term FJC Facilitator/Coordinator to help launch the center, provide intake and administration, and provide requisite training. Funds will be used to support development and implementation of a sexual assault nurse examiner and sexual assault forensic examiner program in Nevada County. A portion of the budget will be used to support members of an FJC network to attend required trainings.

We are requesting:

- Approval to apply for this grant, and
- Authorization for the District Attorney, or their designee(s) to sign associated documents required for this application (see attached documents)

We have attached the grant guidelines and notice of funding opportunity with budget and application templates, and "OVW Confidentiality Acknowledgement Form", "OVW Letter of Nonsupplanting", and "OVW Sample HIV Letter" for reference.

If awarded, the grant agreement will be brought to the Board for approval.

Item Initiated by: Stephanie Fischer, Administrative Analyst II

Approved by: Jesse Wilson, District Attorney