



**Grant
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 13
AGENDA DATE: Thu 01/29/2004
PAGE: 1 of 3**

SUBJECT: Approve a resolution authorizing application and acceptance of \$80,000 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act for the renewal of Austin Police Department project entitled "Assistance to Female Victims of Domestic Violence."

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act for the grant period September 1, 2004 – August 31, 2005. An in-kind match of \$36,883 is required and will be met by continuing the existing salary funding and additional personnel costs of the two grant funded FTE's. The amount will be proposed in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Operating Budget for the Austin Police Department (APD), Victim Services Program.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING Police
DEPARTMENT:**

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Rick Coy**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: Grant acceptance on 1/9/2003

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

This action authorizes the City to apply for and accept \$80,000 in seventh year grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for the Austin Police Department to provide "Assistance to Female Victims of Domestic Violence." The grant period will run from September 1, 2004 – August 31, 2005.

An in-kind match of \$36,883 is required and will be met by continuing the existing salary funding and additional personnel costs for the grant funded FTEs to be proposed in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Operating Budget for the Austin Police Department (APD), Victim Services Program. APD Victim Services has two VAWA grants, each funding two counselors, because there is a \$80,000 cap on the dollar amount for VAWA grants submitted to the State. Funding for the continued operation of this program is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

The grant funds two full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Counselors to provide counseling, service referrals, and assistance to more than 1,000 victims through the Austin/Travis County Family Violence Protection Team. The counselors work in coordination with other Team members to reduce victim trauma. The Team is a collaboration of agencies including Family Violence Detectives and Victim Services Counselors in the Austin Police Department, the Travis County Sheriff's Office, the Travis County District Attorney's Office, the Women's Advocacy Project, Texas Rural Legal Aid, the Travis County Attorney's Office, and SafePlace.



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The goal of the Family Violence Protection Team is to provide comprehensive services at a single location in order to reduce the burden of service coordination often experienced by the victims of family violence.

This grant addresses the Department goal of reducing crime, fear of crime, and improving the quality of life of Austin's residents. It also addresses the following APD Program Objective: *The purpose of the Victim Services program is to respond to the psychological and emotional needs of victims/families, neighbors and community members experiencing crime and/or trauma so that they can recover more quickly and completely from the effects of victimization.*

Program effectiveness of this grant will be measured as follows:

Measure	Current Data (12/02 - 11/03)	Target Level (12/03 - 11/04)
Number of training sessions held by grant-funded counselors	23	10
Number of primary and secondary victims receiving crisis intervention services from the counselors	1,003	1,100
Number of follow-up contacts made with the families receiving crisis intervention services from the counselors	1,211	1,200
The percentage of victims responding positively to an APD Victim Services customer service survey who were served by Family Violence Protection Team counselors	95%	95%

The expansion in the number of APD Victim Service Counselors in the Family Violence Protection Team from 4 to 9 counselors will ensure that victims of domestic violence will receive more timely and frequent



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contacts. Individual counselor caseloads will be smaller, allowing counselors to spend more time with each victim and have numerous follow-up contacts.

RESOLUTION NO. 04

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Austin, to authorize the application for and acceptance of \$80,000 in grant renewal funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act for the renewal of Austin Police Department project entitled "Assistance to Female Victims of Domestic Violence;" and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the proposed application for and acceptance of State grant renewal funds for said project, in the amount of \$80,000 from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Violence Against Women Act for the renewal of Austin Police Department project entitled "Assistance to Female Victims of Domestic Violence"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council agrees to provide the applicable in-kind match for the said project as required by the Violence Against Women Act Fund grant application; and

WHEREAS, the City Council designates the Assistant City Manager, Laura Huffinan, as the authorized official who has the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate this grant; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has agreed that in the event of loss or misuse of the *Criminal Justice Division* funds, the City Council assures that the funds will be returned to the Criminal Justice Division in full; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council approves the application for and acceptance of grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division in the amount of \$80,000.

ADOPTED: _____, 2004

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk