



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

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 9
AGENDA DATE: Thu 01/27/2005
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SUBJECT: Approve a resolution authorizing the application for \$422,989 in renewal grant funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act for the Austin Police Department to employ ten full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Counselors for a "Comprehensive Victim Services Program".

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division for the grant period July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006. A match of \$225,362 is required, and is available in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Approved Operating Budget for the Austin Police Department, Victim Services Program. Additional matching funds are contingent on future budgets.

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: Rick Coy, Assistant Chief/974-5521

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: December 4, 2003 grant application.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

This action approves a resolution authorizing the City to apply for \$422,989 in grant renewal funding from the State of Texas, Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for the Austin Police Department. A cash match of \$225,362 includes the benefits of the grant-funded counselors. The grant funds a total of 10 FTEs to provide services for approximately 6,000 victims of crime. This application combines two VOCA grant programs, the Comprehensive Victim Services Program and the Outreach to Female Victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking. The goal of the grant program is to increase the number of primary and secondary crime victims receiving counseling and referral services during the initial stages of crisis, in following-up with adult crime victims, and in working with children witnessing or experiencing family, school and/or community violence. The grant period runs from July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

The APD Victim Services Program positively impacts the quality of life for the citizens of Austin by assisting victims/survivors and their families who have experienced crime. These services will help them recover more quickly and completely from the effects of victimization. The ten (10) grant-funded FTE Victim Counselors provide on-scene crisis stabilization (Crisis Team) and investigative support and follow-up (Centralized Investigations and Family Violence) services.

On-scene crisis response (Crisis Team) provides counselors on the street, seven days a week, 24-hours a day, to provide immediate, on-the-scene crisis intervention for victims, witnesses, and emergency responders. Victim Service Counselors are also assigned to the Centralized Investigations Bureau (CIB) and the Family Violence Unit. Working in conjunction with unit detectives, Victim Services provides counseling and advocacy to victims and witnesses of major crimes against persons during the investigative process. These counselors respond to the needs of those affected by family violence.



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homicide, robbery, child abuse, sex crimes, DWI and traffic fatalities, missing persons, elder abuse, and aggravated assaults.

These counselors provide crisis counseling, justice support and advocacy, personal advocacy, forensic interviews, death notifications, jail release notifications, community debriefings, information and referrals, and assistance filing crime victim's compensation for victims.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 050127-

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 \$422,989 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act for the Austin Police Department for ten full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Counselors for a “Comprehensive Victim Services Program”; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the proposed application for State grant renewal funds for said project, in the amount of \$422,989 from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act for the Austin Police Department for ten full-time equivalent (FTE) Victim Counselors for a “Comprehensive Victim Services Program”; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to provide for the applicable matching funds as required by the Victims of Crime Act grant application; and

WHEREAS, the City Council designates the Assistant City Manager for public safety 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 grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division in the amount of \$422,989.

ADOPTED: January 27, **2005**

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk