

W.3.C.1.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: January 16, 2008
TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services
PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA TITLE: ORDER / _____ IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF A US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ARREST GRANT FOR \$400,000 AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE GRANT DOCUMENTS. (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES)(34)

I. MOTION

In the Matter of Applying for and Acceptance of a US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Arrest Grant for \$400,000 and Delegating Authority to the County Administrator to Execute Grant Documents.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

The US Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) has issued a request for applications for Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program (Arrest Grant) to protect victims of domestic violence. The Lane County Department of Health & Human Services is seeking approval of the Board of Commissioners for Lane County to apply for these grant funds.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background/Analysis

In 2003 Lane County was awarded a \$500,000 two-year OVW Arrest Grant to increase safety for victims of domestic violence through enforcement of Release Agreements, monitoring of domestic violence defendants and intensive supervision of offenders.

In 2006, Lane County submitted another grant application that was funded and continues that project's Pretrial Monitoring Program in a modified form designed to improve the project by working even more closely with the Sherman Defendant Offender Management Center (DOMC) at the Jail.

The new grant application will extend the work currently in place.

This project has five components:

- A State of Oregon DOMC Release Officer interviews all domestic violence defendants for potential release from jail. The goal is to ensure defendants who are released have conditions and a signed agreement designed to increase victim protection and reduce defendant failure to appear for court.
- Defendants released pre-trial with monitoring as a condition, are monitored by Lane County Parole and Probation Officers (PO's). PO's conduct unannounced home visits to the defendant to verify that he is not living with the victim and is at the address he provided to Pretrial Services. Also, by going to the victim and/or defendant's home, if children are present the PO serves as another set of eyes to watch for abuse. State Pretrial Services Staff collect and provide data on the defendant to the DOMC and Parole & Probation.
- Victims are referred to Womenspace for safety planning, advocacy, and services.
- When defendants or victims request waivers of "no contact" agreements, the PO and Womenspace Advocates provide information to the victim, defendant, and judge, if requested.
- Staff from Womenspace and the District Attorney's Office will continue to train staff of the Sherman Center/DOMC, public safety agencies, and other first responders to recognize and intervene appropriately in domestic violence.

The project is expected to fund:

Probation Officer
State DOMC Release Officer
State Court Operations Specialist
Safety Planning for Victims by Womenspace
Training by Womenspace and the District Attorney's Office
Grant Administration, Reporting, and Evaluation
Travel for training required by the funder

A competitive selection process was completed and identified Womenspace as the sole qualified provider for victim assistance services as well as training for first responders to incidences of domestic violence. If the grant is received, a contract will be developed with that agency in an amount not to exceed \$28,000 for a two-year period. This contract amount falls within the delegated authority of the county administrator to execute. Therefore, no board action is required to implement it.

At the time of this writing the grant application had not been completed. A completed copy of the application will be available in the office of the Management Services Supervisor for review by January 14, 2008.

The information required by the Board of County Commissioners prior to approval of grant applications and receipt of grant funds is provided below.

1. What is the Match Requirement, if any, and how is that to be covered for the duration of the grant?

This grant does not contain a match requirement.

2. Will the grant require expenditures for Material and Services or capital not fully paid for by the grant?

No. All expenditures needed for the implementation of the grant are included in the grant application budget.

3. Will the grant funds be fully expended before county funds need to be spent?

There are no county funds in the budget for this project.

4. How will the administrative work of the grant be covered if the grant funds don't cover it?

Grant funds cover all administrative work connected with this project.

5. Have grant stakeholders been informed of the grant sunseting policy so there is no misunderstanding when the funding ends? Describe plan for service if funding does not continue.

Stakeholders have been informed of the grant funding duration. This funding is available for two years.

The plan for continuation of funding at the end of the two year grant includes applying for another OVW grant, if the same pool of funding is available. If not, other grant sources will be sought for continuation. If no grant funding is available, these services would be discontinued.

During the time of this grant, evaluation of the costs and success of this service delivery model will be used to plan future support for the system and to provide information to policy makers.

6. What accounting, auditing, and evaluation obligations are imposed by the grant conditions?

This grant requires quarterly financial and semi-annual progress reports to be submitted. Costs of data collection and reporting are covered by the grant.

7. How will the department cover the accounting, auditing, and evaluation obligations? How are the costs for these obligations covered, regardless of whether they are in the department submitting the grant or a support service department? Does the department acknowledge that the county will need to cover these costs and it is an appropriate cost incurred by support service departments?

Funds are budgeted in the grant application to meet all these obligations. The county will not need to spend any money on this project.

8. Are there any restrictions against applying the county full cost indirect?

No. An indirect amount has been included in the grant application budget, per the negotiated agreement with the federal government.

9. Are there unique or unusual conditions that trigger additional county work effort, or liability, i.e., maintenance of effort requirements or supplanting prohibitions or indemnity obligations?

The grant requires a letter signed by the County Administer certifying to conditions related to domestic violence arrest policies. This is similar to the Certification of Eligibility that was needed for a current grant, Family Violence Response Initiative. The District Attorney's Office has reviewed this requirement and determined that Lane County meets the required conditions.

10. Grants involving technology issues require Information Services department review and approval prior to submission to the Board to ensure compatibility with existing county systems and development tools.

This grant does not have technology issues that will have an impact on existing county systems.

11. Information services department sign-off is required for all agenda items requesting funding for new or enhanced computer applications/systems that will interface with existing county systems/infrastructure.

This item does not apply to this grant application.

12. If this is a grant funded computer/software application project . . .

This is not a grant funded computer/software applications project.

B. Alternatives/Options

1. To accept the motion, adopt the Order and approve the grant application.
2. Not to accept the motion, reject the Order and application as currently drafted and provide Health & Human Services Department staff with direction for revisions to the application.
3. Not to accept the motion, reject the Order and not apply for the funds.

C. Recommendation

To approve number one above. This project provides critical services for victims of crime in Lane County.

D. Timing

January 23, 2008 – Grant application due
September 30, 2008 – Sign award documents
October 1, 2008 – Project continuation (if funded)

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Upon action by the Board,

V. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER:) IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF A
) US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE
) AGAINST WOMEN ARREST GRANT FOR \$400,000 AND
) DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
) TO EXECUTE GRANT DOCUMENTS. (DEPARTMENT OF
) HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES)(34)

WHEREAS, Lane County regards services to victims of domestic violence as a high priority; and,

WHEREAS, the US Department of Justice has issued a request for applications for funding from the Office on Violence Against Women to encourage arrest policies and enforcement of protection orders for victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the grant, if received, will provide funding for five components: the Sherman Defendant Offender Management Center; Lane County Parole and Probation; Womenspace; the Oregon Circuit Court; Lane Council of Governments; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners supports efforts to assess risk prior to release of defendants pretrial and provide appropriate conditions of release including supervision to increase defendant accountability and victim safety; and,

WHEREAS, Lane Manual 21.137 sets forth policy regarding grant applications and requires Board approval of the preliminary application and acceptance of any grant award greater than \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, the total funding to be awarded through this grant is \$400,000 and exceeds the signatory authority of the County Administrator;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Board of County Commissioners authorize submission of an arrest grant application to the federal Office of Violence Against Women in the amount of \$400,000 for the period October 1, 2008 through September 31, 2010 and accept any resulting grant award; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Board of County Commissioners authorize the county administrator to execute the grant documents.

DATED this 16th day of January, 2008.

Chair
Lane County Board Of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 1/4/08 lane county
Heidlaw
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL