



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:19-7217

Agenda Item Number: 11.

Agenda Date: 10/17/2019

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City wide

SUBJECT:

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of funds, upon award, for the 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County.

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of funds, upon award, for the 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program, a City/County project addressing child sexual abuse/assault not to exceed \$306,527.00, and authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County regarding the distribution of grant funds and designating Bexar County as the grant fiscal agent; establishing a personnel complement and appropriating a budget. The grant period ends on September 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Justice Assistance Grants were first awarded in 2005. Provisions of the grant require the City and Bexar County to submit a joint application. The grant funds are used to support a joint City/County project for addressing child sexual abuse/assault.

The funds for the 2019 JAG grant will be used to continue supporting the joint City/County project called Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program. The purpose of the project is to conduct joint investigations with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Bexar County Housing and Human Services Department, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital, and ChildSafe.

The City's portion of the grant will be used to continue to fund two (2) Detective Investigator positions. These Detective Investigators will investigate sexual abuse/assault cases involving children. Tasked with the investigation of more than 28 different offenses, a large portion of the Special Victims Unit's caseload involves

children as victims.

The County will utilize the FY2019 JAG grant to continue funding grant-funded positions that are currently funded by the existing JAG programs that include problem solving courts, jail diversion, and victim advocacy. The majority of the funds will go to fund various positions (Adult & Juvenile Probation Officers, Prosecutors, Court Case Managers, etc.) in the Bexar County Drug Courts, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, and the Juvenile and Adult Probation Offices.

The grant is for a period ending September 30, 2022. The total joint grant amount for the City and Bexar County is \$766,317.00. The grant funds are to be split with \$459,790.00.00 for the County and \$306,527.00 for the City. The proposed split of funds is consistent with past agreements between the City and County.

The City's portion of the grant will be used to continue to fund two (2) Detective Investigator positions. These Detective Investigators will investigate sexual abuse/assault cases involving children.

Additionally, the Department of Justice has new requirements regarding certain certifications/commitments as they relate to sanctuary cities. The DOJ is requiring that a local government entity that receives funds from the FY 2019 JAG award must:

1. Permit personnel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to access any correctional or detention facility in order to meet with an alien (or an individual believed to be an alien) and inquire as to his or her right to be or remain in the United States and;
2. Provide at least 48 hours' advance notice to DHS regarding the scheduled release date and time of an alien in the jurisdiction's custody when DHS requests such notice in order to take custody of the alien pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Bexar County, acting as the Fiscal Agent for this grant, was responsible for submitting the grant application and all certifications, the administration of the funds, including distributing the funds, monitoring the award, submitting reports including performance measures and program assessment data.

ISSUE:

The proposed ordinance continues the City Council's policy of seeking intergovernmental financial assistance for City crime prevention and enforcement programs addressing sexual abuse/assault of children.

ALTERNATIVES:

This grant provides the City with the opportunity to augment its efforts to address child sexual abuse/assault. There are no other similar grants available to the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds for the 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program, a City/County project addressing child sexual abuse/assault not to exceed \$306,527.00, and authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County. There is no cash or in-kind match required as part of this Grant. This ordinance also authorizes a personnel complement of 2 detective-investigators.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the acceptance of the grant funds and the execution of an Interlocal Agreement to continue funding two (2) Police Detective Investigator positions to conduct child sexual abuse/assault investigations.