



Napa County

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Legislation Text

File #: 22-452, Version: 1

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Allison Haley - District Attorney
REPORT BY: Sophie Johnson - Staff Services Manager
SUBJECT: Application and Acceptance of Funding for Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System Program

RECOMMENDATION

District Attorney requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a Certificate of Assurance for Compliance document that authorizes the District Attorney to apply for and sign grant Subaward documents with the California Office of Emergency Services for the electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report system (ES) program in the anticipated amount of \$200,000 for the one (1) year term of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval of the recommended action will allow the District Attorney to apply for and sign grant subaward documents, including applications, amendments, extensions, and modifications, thereof, for the electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) system program in Napa County. This subaward program is administered by the California Office of Emergency Services to provide State General Funds to improve the system of sharing information for suspected child abuse cases by establishing an electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) system that will be used by the District Attorney, local law enforcement and the Child Welfare Service.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

Discretionary Justification:	This item is discretionary, there is no mandate for the County to establish of an electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) system program in Napa County. However, there is an opportunity to receive grant funding to improve the sharing of information regarding suspected child abuse between the District Attorney, Child Welfare Services and local law enforcement agencies. The grant funding provided would result in no net increase in County General Funds.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	Appropriations for the following fiscal year will be budgeted accordingly.
Consequences if not approved:	If this item is not approved, the District Attorney, Child Welfare Services and local law enforcement agencies will not be able to obtain State funds to convert a paper/fax notification system into a streamlined electronic system reporting suspected child abuse cases in Napa County.
County Strategic Plan pillar addressed:	Healthy, Safe, and Welcoming Place to Live, Work, and Visit
Additional Information	There is no local match requirement for these funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) released a request for proposal on January 26, 2022 for the electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) system program. In 2005 this program was originally started in LA County after recognizing the grave consequences of not having an electronic system through which Child Welfare Services (CWS), local law enforcement and the District Attorney could efficiently communicate reports of suspected child abuse. Fresno, Santa Barbara and Yolo Counties have more recently received funding from Cal OES via the California Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force to establish their own electronic SCAR system.

Cal OES is currently requesting proposals from District Attorney’s offices in the amount up to \$200,000 for the one (1) year term of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 to establish an electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report system with the cooperative participation of the County Child Welfare Services department and local law enforcement agencies. The Napa County District Attorney’s office has the support of CWS and local law enforcement agencies for the implementation of this system, if this proposal is successful with Cal OES.

Today’s recommended action will authorize the Chair to sign the Certificate of Assurance of Compliance (COAOC) document, which authorizes the District Attorney to apply and sign for the grant subaward including

extensions, modifications or amendments thereof.