



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 10, 2025

DATE: May 13, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Victoria Jakubowski, Fiscal Compliance Officer, District Attorney
775-325-6710, vjakubowski@da.washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Christopher Hicks

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a renewed Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$220,387; \$55,097 required in-kind match], from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) to provide funding to retain a full-time Victim Witness Advocate and two temporary Victim Witness Advocates (via Marathon Staffing) retroactive from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards, and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.

The District Attorney's Office has received funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant through the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Service (DCFS). This grant provides direct victim services for the people in Washoe County. Additionally, this grant will fund the continuation of the following positions who provide victim services:

- Two (2) Temporary Victim Witness Advocate (via Marathon Staffing)
- One (1) Victim Witness Advocate; Position #70010249

Award is retroactive to July 1, 2024. Staffing issues with grantor and department delayed BCC submission.

County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 16, 2024, the Board accepted a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$232,186; no match required], from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Service (DCFS) to provide funding to retain a full-time Victim Witness Advocate and two temporary Victim Witness Advocate, retroactive from July 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024.

On May 23, 2023, The Board accepted a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$383,004; no match required], from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Service (DCFS) to provide funding to retain a full-time Victim Witness Advocate and one temporary Victim Witness Advocate, a full-time Forensic Interviewer, a full-time Human Services Support Specialist II; provide for direct victim services; retroactive from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

On September 28, 2021, the Board accepted a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$359,836; \$89,959 required match], from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Service (DCFS) to provide funding to retain a full-time Victim Witness Advocate and two temporary Victim Witness Advocates, two intermittent hourly Forensic Interviewer a full-time Forensic Interviewer, a full-time Human Services Support Specialist II; provide for direct victim services and supplies; retroactive from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

The Board has accepted various VOCA grants on behalf of the District Attorney's Office since 2003.

BACKGROUND

Since its inception in 1998, the Victim Witness Assistance Center (VWAC) has focused on providing crucial support to victims and witnesses in Washoe County. By offering services such as safety planning, advocacy, and emergency aid, VWAC strives to empower survivors and facilitate their access to essential help. With a trauma-informed methodology, VWAC guides survivors through the complex obstacles they face, assisting them in reconstructing their lives and healing from the long-term consequences of domestic violence and various forms of abuse. VWAC is devoted to establishing an inclusive and supportive environment, guaranteeing that all survivors receive the advocacy services they need.

In 2014, the WCDA's office identified a critical need for a secure and supportive environment where children who have been abused or neglected could find comfort and have their voices acknowledged. They recognized that these children should not have to recount their traumatic experiences multiple times to different officials in an inappropriate environment. This understanding led to the establishment of the CAC, an innovative initiative that unites professionals from various sectors, including law enforcement, social services, prosecution, mental health, medical care, and victim advocacy. The CAC employs a multidisciplinary strategy to assist children in recovering from abuse, investigating crimes committed against them, and ensuring that offenders are brought to justice. The creation of this child-centered environment also includes essential

elements such as cultural sensitivity, diversity, victim assistance, medical assessments, mental health support, case reviews, tracking, and more. Although it primarily serves clients from Washoe County, the CAC is committed to providing services to all those in need.

This grant is continued funding for Victim Witness Advocate position #70010249 and two temporary positions via Marathon Staffing.

Award is retroactive to July 1, 2024. Staffing issues with grantor and department delayed BCC submission.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: VOCA Victim Assistance

Scope of the Project: Retain personnel who provide direct victim services and also provide victims with emergency housing and supplies.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Enhance victim services with a focus on the victims of domestic violence, abuse, and sexual assault.

On-Going Program Support: Continue to seek General Fund, grants and donations. As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly.

Award Amount: \$220,387.00

Grant Period: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Funding Source: US Dept. of Justice – Office of Justice Programs; Victim of Crime Act

Pass Through Entity: State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Children and Family Service

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: 16.575

Grant ID Number: 16575-23-046

Match Amount and Type: \$55,097.00 in-kind

Sub-Awards and Contracts: n/a

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY25 District Attorney's Office adopted budget will be increased by \$210,777 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO-12530 VOCA FY26	431100-Federal Grants	\$ 210,777.00
IO-12530 VOCA FY26	701412-Salary Adjustment	\$ 74,400.00
IO-12530 VOCA FY26	705360-Benefit Adjustment	21,700.00
IO-12530 VOCA FY26	710110-Contracted/Temp Tvcs	114,677.00
		\$210,777.00

Match is required in the amount of \$55,097 using Cost Center 106100 personnel (Deputy District Attorney who performs a similar function).

Indirect costs are included in the grant budget [\$9,610]. No amendment is necessary for the indirect revenue.

As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly, unless additional funding is secured.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a renewed Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$220,387; \$55,097 required in-kind match], from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) to provide funding to retain a full-time Victim Witness Advocate and two temporary Victim Witness Advocates (via Marathon Staffing) retroactive from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "move to accept a renewed Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$220,387; \$55,097 required in-kind match], from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) to provide funding to retain a full-time Victim Witness Advocate and two temporary Victim Witness Advocates (via Marathon Staffing) retroactive from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement."