



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2353, **Agenda Item #:** 61.

9/14/2023

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the acceptance of grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division to implement the Austin Police Department Victim Crisis Intervention Project.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$507,510 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Formula Grant Program for the project period of October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. A City funding match is not required.

Prior Council Action:

September 29, 2022 - City Council approved Resolution No. 20220929-041, which approved accepting granting funds to implement the VOCA Formula Grant Program, on consent on an 8-0 vote.

For More Information:

Robin Henderson, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

The City Manager's Office reviewed this grant for alignment as directed by Resolution 20200611-096 and recommends approval.

This action will provide the required resolution needed by the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) to complete the award process related to \$507,510 in grant funding. The project period is October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. A City funding match is not required.

This Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) award will allow the City to fund the salaries and benefits of up to five existing full-time positions - two Victim Counselors and three Victim Navigators. With CJD funds, the APD Victim Crisis Intervention Project provides mental health and practical intervention for victims of crime as close to the time of an incident as possible. Intervention may include crisis counseling and stabilization, justice support, personal advocacy, emergency placement in shelter, safety planning, and information and referrals to other helpful service providers. APD anticipates that funding will provide services for approximately 1,750 victims of crime during the project period. In addition, \$40,000 in state funds will cover the evaluation of APD domestic violence reporting options and evidence-based practices to improve victim safety and stabilization.

The grantor requires a resolution approved by Council that includes items one through four below.

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to the Public Safety Office (PSO) that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;

3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update the PSO should the official change during the grant period.); and
4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to PSO.