

W. 10.B.2

Memorandum Date: February 23, 2005
Order Date: March 9, 2005

TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Children and Families
PRESENTED BY: Alicia Hays, Department Director
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING TO THE U.S
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN FOR A TWENTY-FOUR MONTH
GRANT FOR UP TO \$350,000 TO FUND SUPERVISED
VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN
EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

I. PROPOSED MOTION

MOVE APPROVAL OF THE ORDER IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING TO THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FOR A TWENTY-FOUR MONTH GRANT FOR UP TO \$350,000 FUND SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

A community collaborative in Lane County is developing a grant proposal requesting funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). OVW Program Eligibility criteria state that grants under the Supervised Visitation Program may be awarded to states, Indian tribal governments, and units of local government.

III. DISCUSSION

This OVW funding opportunity is intended to provide an opportunity for communities to support supervised visitation and safe exchange between parents in cases involving domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. Studies have shown that risk of violence may be greater for victims of domestic violence and their children after separation. The Oregon Domestic Violence Needs Assessment (1998) reports that 4 of 7 Oregon regions, including Lane County, identified supervised parenting time as one of the "top three services not available but needed" for children who have witnessed domestic violence.

The proposed project will enhance current levels of service by increasing hours of visitation services. In addition, this project will develop services to address the needs of Lane County's Latino community. Through partnerships being established within the Domestic Violence Council and the Latino Outreach Committee, the project will support cultural competency assessments of the current services. Program activities will include exploring and creating service partnerships with Lane County Circuit Court, Parole & Probation, and Municipal Court of Cottage Grove. In addition, referral agreements and protocols will be established with key partner agencies.

A required activity of this grant is the establishment of a Consultation Committee. Department of Children & Families (DCF) staff will take the lead in convening and facilitating this group. Membership will include (but is not limited to) representation from domestic violence advocacy, batterer intervention programs, parole and probation, courts, the Latino Outreach Committee, child advocacy and child welfare, mental health services, substance abuse services, and Kids First Safe Alternatives Center (KF).

If funded, the Department of Children and Families will contract with Kids First, the existing supervised visitation and safe exchange center, to support enhanced services as described above. The grant budget will include funding for DCF staff to carry out grant administration duties, including preparation and submission of quarterly fiscal reports and semi-annual program reports, contract management, and facilitation of the required Consultation Committee. Applicants are required to allocate \$20,000 to support travel costs associated with technical assistance activities organized by OVW. Additional budget items include funds for local trainers and consultants, meeting support, copying costs, and dues to the Lane County Domestic Violence Council.

A. Background

In Lane County, we have a long history of coordinating and cooperating to develop a better system to serve battered women. In 1993, the Lane County Domestic Violence Council (DVC) was formed, involving Womenspace, the District Attorney's Office (DA), hospitals, social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, DA Victims' Services Program (VSP), shelter programs, treatment providers, and courts. The DVC creates opportunities to identify and address issues facing women seeking assistance or justice. For instance, in 1994, the DVC adopted Criminal Justice Guidelines for police, courts, DA, and jail; these guidelines were developed jointly by the DA, Chiefs of local police agencies, Womenspace, VSP, rural social service providers, and community leaders. Also, in 1995, the DVC adopted Civil Justice Guidelines for courts, mediators, and private domestic relations attorneys; these were developed by Womenspace,

VSP, Legal Aid, and survivors, to aid in the effective handling of civil legal matters involving domestic violence. In operation since July of 2000, Kids First Alternatives Center (formerly called the Supervised Parenting Time Project), grew out of the collaborative efforts of a multi-disciplinary group of Lane County professionals. The DVC's Children & Family Violence Council launched the planning and organizing for this program, and functioned as the advisory committee for Kids First.

Our coordinated response to domestic violence has been enhanced by two previous federal grants. In 1996, Womenspace was awarded a multi-year grant through the Centers for Disease Control to enable Womenspace, Sexual Assault Support Services, DA, VSP, the Circuit Court, and other community agencies, to partner together to address intimate partner violence through extensive coordination of referral systems and policy decisions. In 2001, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) was selected as one of six sites nationally to receive funding for the "Interagency Initiative on Collaborations to Address Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment", bringing together the courts, child protective service providers, domestic violence advocacy agencies, and parole & probation to improve the response for families involved with multiple systems.

The partners who have been meeting in these various coordination and collaboration efforts agree on the need for supervised visitation and safe exchange services, as a strategy for reducing domestic violence and child maltreatment. As a result, increasing availability of safe parenting time centers and exchange sites for children and parents at risk of sexual or domestic violence or stalking is listed as a strategy within our community's Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families. The Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program is an opportunity for our community to continue to address, in a coordinated, collaborative manner, gaps in our response to domestic violence and child maltreatment.

The proposed project will enhance current levels of service by increasing hours of visitation services. In addition, this project will develop services to address the needs of Lane County's Latino community. Through partnerships being established within the Domestic Violence Council and the Latino Outreach Committee, the project will support cultural competency assessments of the current services.

At the time of this writing, staff are in the process of completing the grant application and therefore it is not attached to the Board Order. The grant application will be available for review, in the Board of County Commissioners' Office, by 5pm on March 8, 2005.

B. Analysis

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

This grant application does not require a match.

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

No, all expenditures will be fully paid for by the grant.

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 application.

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

As the lead department on this grant, the Department of Children and Families will be responsible for contract administration and staffing the required consulting committee. Thus, funds will be budgeted to cover administrative and personnel costs. Other responsibilities of the fiscal agent include facilitating the negotiation and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding to be created by all partners during the grant application process.

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

All stakeholders understand that the grant period is twenty-four months. The stakeholders understand that this is a competitive, discretionary program, and there is no guarantee of continuation funding from OVW. The stakeholders creating the grant application understand this application must include a plan describing their commitment and capacity to continue the project.

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

This grant requires quarterly submission of fiscal reports, and semi-annual progress reports. Additionally, grantees are required to collect certain data to comply with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA). As the lead department on this grant, DCF will be responsible for assuring this obligation is met; the data collection obligation will be a key

requirement in contractual work plans.

7. How will the department cover the accounting, auditing, and evaluation obligations? How are the costs for these obligations covered, regardless 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?

Accounting, auditing and evaluation costs will be covered by the grant funds. DCF will fulfill accounting and auditing activities. As noted above, GPRA requirements will be included in contractual work plans.

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

The grant application budget will include the negotiated federal indirect rate for the Lane County Department of Children and Families. Indirect has been calculated on the direct costs of the grant, rather than just the personnel expense. This will allow the grant to provide for an appropriate level of indirect to cover that assigned by FTE within the department during the grant period, and extra to be placed in a reserve account designated to cover this specific grant's indirect cost expense when it occurs one and two years outside of the grant period. Should the reserve be inadequate, DCF will absorb the excess with other funding that allows for community mobilization and resource development.

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 certification signed by the CEO of the applying entity certifying to conditions related to domestic violence arrest policies. This is similar to the Certification of Eligibility required by two current grants, the Family Violence Response Initiative (DCF) and the Pretrial Monitoring Program for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence (HHS/P&P). Lane County has complied with this regulation for both of these grants.

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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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

N/A

C. Alternatives/Options

1. Adopt the Order to authorize the County Administrator to sign the grant application and, should the grant be awarded, further order the County Administrator to accept the award and execute all related requirements.
2. Amend the Order.
3. Do not adopt the Order.

D. Recommendation

Option 1: Adopt the Order

E. Timing

The grant application is due for electronic submission in Washington, DC, on March 10th, 2005, with hard copy sent via overnight delivery postmarked that date. Therefore, we request that the Board act immediately to allow the application to be submitted.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval by the BCC, the application will be processed for signature, then electronically submitted and mailed to Washington DC.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER No.

**ORDER IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING TO THE U.S
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN FOR A TWENTY-FOUR MONTH
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EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women is requesting proposals for the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program,

WHEREAS, Lane County Department of Children and Families is working with existing groups and services supporting victims of domestic violence and supervised visitation/safe exchange centers to develop a competitive proposal,

WHEREAS, supervised visitation and safe exchange services is identified as a prioritized strategy in Lane County's Comprehensive Plan,

WHEREAS, committed staff in many agencies and organizations in Lane County have established a long history of cooperation and collaboration to develop a better system to serve battered women and their children, and the collaborative partners are poised to take advantage of the opportunities this grant would provide,

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Board of County Commissioners authorizes the County Administrator to sign the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program grant application, and that it be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women for consideration.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED THAT should the grant be awarded, the County Administrator be authorized to accept the award and execute all award related requirements.

APPROVED this 9th day of March, 2005

Anna Morrison, Chair
BOARD OF LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ORDER IN THE MATTER OF APPLYING TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FOR A TWENTY-FOUR MONTH GRANT FOR UP TO \$350,000 TO FUND SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 3/1/05 Lane County
[Signature]
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL