



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

September 9, 2022

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To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Acceptance of a Grant from the New York State Office of Victim Services for the Victim and Witness Assistance Program for the District Attorney's Office

Honorable Legislators:

This matter is being referred to Your Honorable Body at the request of District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

I recommend that Your Honorable Body accept a grant from the New York State Office of Victim Services in the amount of \$779,568 for the Victim and Witness Assistance Program in the District Attorney's Office for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025.

The Victim and Witness Assistance Grant Program funds a portion of the salary of three (3) existing full-time Crime Victim Specialist positions, two (2) existing full-time Victim Witness Advocate positions and one (1) new full-time Bilingual Clerk in the District Attorney's Office. In addition, the funding covers the costs of five (5) cell phones and grant-mandated travel for training. Crime Victim Specialists and Victim Witness Advocates provide support services to felony and misdemeanor crime victims who find the judicial process a bewildering and often traumatic experience. Advocates orient victims and witnesses to procedures, assist in arranging court appearances, and help victims obtain victim compensation, among other services. This will be the forty-second year the County has received this grant. This grant is for a three-year period and represents an increase of \$281,351 from the last three-year award.

The specific legislative actions required are:


1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to accept a \$779,568 grant from, and to execute a contract and any amendments thereto with, the New York State Office of Victim Services for the Victim and Witness Assistance Grant Program in the District Attorney's Office for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025.
2. Amend the 2022 operating budget of the District Attorney's Office by appropriating the sum of \$259,856 into general fund 9300, funds center 2501010000, DA Central Administration.

3. Authorize the County Executive to appropriate any subsequent years of the grant award in accordance with the grant terms, to reappropriate any encumbered balances during the grant period according to the grantor requirements, and to make any necessary funding modifications within the grant guidelines to meet contractual commitments.
4. Should funding of this program be modified or terminated for any reason, the County Executive is hereby authorized to terminate or modify the program and, where applicable, to terminate or abolish some or all positions funded under such program. Any termination or abolishment of positions shall be in accordance with New York State Civil Service Law and, when applicable, the terms of any labor agreement affecting such positions.

This is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(26) ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

This grant is 100% funded by the New York State Office of Victim Services. No additional net County support is required in the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

AJB:db