

W. S. D. I.

Memorandum Date: January 24, 2007
Order Date: February 7, 2007

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Children & Families

PRESENTED BY: Alicia Hays, Department Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL AND, IF AWARDED, ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000 OVER THREE YEARS FOR SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN BY AND BETWEEN PARENTS IN CASES INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I. MOTION

Move to approve submittal and, if awarded, acceptance of a grant to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women in the amount of \$400,000 over two years for Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange of Children by and Between Parents in Cases Involving Domestic Violence

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Oregon Domestic Violence Needs Assessment (1998) identified supervised parenting time as one of the "top three services not available but needed" for children who have witnessed domestic violence. These services are not currently available in Lane County. 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) Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange grant program. The Safe Havens grant program is an opportunity for our community to address gaps in our response to domestic violence and child maltreatment.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

The Board approved submission of a similar application to this grant program in FY 2006 (BO 06-1-18-3). Our application was not awarded at that time. The grant program released in FY 2007 is substantially different and appears to better fit our proposal and the needs of our community.

B. Policy Issues

This grant application is in line with the County's policies and procedures as well as the purpose and objectives of the Department of Children & Families (DCF). If awarded, the department will administer the grant and provide assistance to the grant partners. The majority of the funds will pass through to local providers with no significant change in the scope of work for the department.

C. Board Goals

Increased access to supervised visitation and monitored exchange are activities listed in the Comprehensive Community Plan for Services to Children, Youth and Families (High Level Outcome #2: Reduce Domestic Violence) approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 23, 2004 (BO 04-6-23-11) found at <http://www.co.lane.or.us/CCF/documents/ComprehensiveCommunityStrategicPlan2004finaljun04.pdf>.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

If funded, DCF will conduct a competitive bid process to select a contractor(s) to provide supervised visitation & safe exchange services. The grant budget will include funding for DCF staff to carry out grant administration duties, including the bid process, preparation & submission of required fiscal and program reports, contract management, and facilitation of the required Consultation Committee.

E. Analysis

This OVW funding opportunity is intended to support community collaborations to develop 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; contact during court-ordered supervised visitation or safe exchange increases that risk. 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.

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.

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 Grant Program is an opportunity for our community to address, in a coordinated, collaborative manner, gaps in our response to domestic violence and child maltreatment.

Administrative Policies and procedures questions for Grant Applications:

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

This grant 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?

All administrative expenses will be covered by grant funds. The Department of

Children and Families will be responsible for contract administration and staffing the required Consultation Committee.

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.

The grant development team and community partners agreeing to participate on the required consulting committee understand that the grant period is two years; further, partners understand that this is a competitive, discretionary program and there is no guarantee of continuation funding from OVW. The stakeholders creating the application understand this application must include a plan for sustaining services beyond the life of the federal funding.

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

This grant requires semi-annual progress reports and quarterly financial reports; 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 auditing/accounting 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 budget to be submitted includes indirect charged at the negotiated rate. Should the budgeted amount be inadequate, DCF will absorb the excess with Oregon Commission on Children & Families 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?

This grant requires a letter of nonsupplanting, signed by the CEO of the applying

entity. New grantees under the development projects are also required to submit a letter certifying that the project will be developed to meet the statutory and minimum requirements of the grant program. These statutory requirements will be included in the competitive bid process and contractual work plans. None of these requirements are unique and exist with other federal grant agreements currently administered by DCF.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the submittal of the Safe Haven's grant application and, if awarded, accept the grant award and authorize the County Administrator to sign all grant application and award related documents.
2. Decline to submit the grant proposal at this time. The Office of Violence against Women eligibility criteria state that grants under the Safe Havens program may only be awarded to states, Indian tribal governments, and units of local government. The community partners working on this effort have no other potential local government partner. Should the Board decline to approve the submission of this grant application, the local community will not have an opportunity to benefit from these federal funds.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend Option 1: Adopt the Order to authorize the County Administrator to sign the grant application and all related grant award documents.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW UP

The Board must take action at its meeting February 7th in order to meet the deadline for electronic submission in Washington, DC, on February 13th, 2007, with hard copy sent via overnight delivery postmarked that date. Upon Board approval the grant will be submitted.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER No. ORDER IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL AND, IF AWARDED, ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000 OVER THREE YEARS FOR SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE OF CHILDREN BY AND BETWEEN PARENTS IN CASES INVOLVING 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; and

WHEREAS, Lane County through the Department of Children and Families is working with agencies, groups, and services supporting victims of domestic violence and their children to develop a competitive proposal; and

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

WHEREAS, the grant application amount is beyond the Count Administrator's delegated authority, and

WHEREAS, if the proposal is approved and funding awarded, the revenue agreement will be beyond the County Administrator's delegated authority;

NOW IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Board of County Commissioners approve the submission of the grant to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women for the Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program and delegate the County Administrator to sign the application; and, it is further

ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners delegate authority to the County Administrator to accept the award and sign a revenue agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women in the amount of \$400,000 over a period of three years.

APPROVED this _____ day of February, 2007

Faye Stewart, Chair
BOARD OF LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 1/29/07 lane county
[Signature]
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL