

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Andrew Martin, City Attorney

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES: File

SUBJECT: Ordinance ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor

DATE: December 18, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

This ordinance ratifies the actions of City staff in submitting a \$185,222 grant application requesting funding for continuation of the Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence project to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, under the Violence Against Women Act (V.A.W.A.) for the period September 1, 2004 - August 31, 2005.

Staff recommends approval of this Ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of the V.A.W.A. program is to pursue a coordinated and integrated approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violence against women, including a partnership between law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim advocates, and service providers. The Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence program has expanded the domestic violence court at Municipal Court enabling more class C domestic violence cases to be evaluated and prosecuted. Consequently, more domestic violence victims receive swift intervention and thereby prevent escalation of the domestic violence into more dangerous crime.

Through implementation of this program, the San Antonio City Attorney's Office has expanded its abilities to serve more victims through its domestic violence court located at San Antonio's Municipal Court, 401 S. Frio. The legal staff supported by the grant funds will include an Assistant City Attorney II, a Program Manager, a Caseworker II and an Office Assistant position for the City Attorney's Office.

In the first six years of the program, over 9,725 cases have been reviewed and over 6,111 cases have been filed. In addition, the family violence program has provided over 13,128 victims with referrals for domestic violence intervention services, case information, and follow-up services through phone calls, face-to-face contacts and letters.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This grant follows the long-standing practice of seeking Federal and State funds to promote and ensure the health and well-being of the citizens of the City.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The estimated annual cost of the Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence program is \$246,963.00 for a twelve-month budget year from September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2005. Through this grant, CJD will provide \$185,222.00 for the twelve-month funding period, if the award is granted. The remaining funds are representative of the minimum 25% match required by the V.A.W.A. grant to be contributed by the City as in-kind match.

This ordinance approving the submission of the grant application for this project must be authorized and received by the Office of the Governor by January 9, 2004.

COORDINATION

Other departments coordinating with this application are Finance, and Office of Management and Budget.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS

This ordinance does not request funding for any contractual services requiring disclosure under the City Code of Ethics.



ANDREW MARTIN
City Attorney

APPROVED:


TERRY M. BRECHTEL
City Manager