

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Andrew Martin, City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Submission of Grant Application to Office of the Governor

**DATE:** February 24, 2005

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This ordinance ratifies the actions of City staff in submitting a \$126,755 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, 2005 - August 31, 2006.

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 Early Intervention for Women Living in Domestic Violence program is in its seventh year of funding. The purpose of V.A.W.A. funding for this program was to provide seed money for the establishment and development of specialized prosecution for victims. The regional V.A.W.A. funding has decreased. We are making efforts to integrate this program into the general fund. This year, we are moving one position, the Program Manager, into the general fund. The legal staff supported by these grant funds will include an Assistant City Attorney I, a Caseworker II and an Office Assistant position for the City Attorney's Office.

In the previous seven years of the program over 12,900 cases have been reviewed and over 7,238 cases have been filed. In addition, the family violence program has provided over 14,622 victims with referrals for domestic violence intervention services, case information, and follow-up services through phone calls, face-to-face contacts and letters.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

### **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 \$241,299.00 for a twelve-month budget year from September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006. Through this grant CJD will provide \$126,755.00 for the twelve-month funding period, if the award is granted. The remaining funds are representative of the minimum twenty five percent (25%) match required by the V.A.W.A. grant to be contributed by the City as in-kind match.

If the City is awarded the funds requested in this submittal, staff will have to determine the necessary adjustments to the overall program. Program costs will either have to be reduced or additional funding may need to be requested through the FY 06 Budget Process.

This ordinance approving the submission of the grant application for this project must be authorized and received by the Office of the Governor by March 1, 2005.

### **COORDINATION**

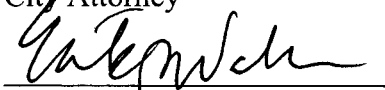
This Ordinance was coordinate with the Finance Department and the Office of Management and Budget.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS**

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



Andrew Martin  
City Attorney



J. Rolando Bono  
Interim City Manager