



MEMORANDUM

To: Galveston County Commissioners' Court
From: Betsy Thomas, Grants Administrator
Court Date: February 3, 2024
RE: District Attorney's Office
Victim Assistance Coordinator Program Grant Application

BACKGROUND

The Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division provides grant funds to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process.

SUMMARY

Galveston County has provided services to victims of violent crimes since 2012. With the assistance of grants funds from the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the County has provided staff and volunteers to assist approximately 1,800 victims a year through court and criminal proceedings.

The Galveston County Victims' Advocates and volunteers reach out to victims and offer crisis counseling, assistance with protective orders, filing for Victims Compensation and the development of safety plans. Victims' Advocates also accompany victims and their families to court and offer support through a very difficult process.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

VOCA Grant Request	\$133,891.85
County Match (20%)	<u>\$33,862.40</u>
TOTAL	\$167,754.25

RECOMMENDATIONS

Professional Services requests the Court to consider approval to submit the FY 2026 Victims Of Crime Act grant application to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division and authorize the County Judge to sign the supporting resolution.

ATTACHMENTS FOR WET SIGNATURE

- FY 2026 VOCA Program Supporting Resolution