



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 12/15/2020

File #: 20-1563

To: Board of Supervisors

From: District Attorney

Agenda Section: Consent

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of Grant Funding Made Available by the California Department of Insurance through the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program and Supplemental Budget Approval (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the attached resolution which authorizes the Humboldt County District Attorney, or a designee thereof, to execute any and all documents necessary to secure, accept and reapply for grant funding made available by the California Department of Insurance through the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program;
2. Approve the attached supplemental budget in Fund 1100, Budget Unit 205, District Attorney (4/5 vote required); and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to return a certified copy of the attached resolution to the District Attorney's Office for further processing and submission to the California Department of Insurance.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

California Department of Insurance

DISCUSSION:

The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office has partnered with both the Del Norte and Trinity County District Attorney's Offices for the purpose of developing and operating a regional Insurance Fraud Unit. The regional Insurance Fraud Unit is responsible for investigating and prosecuting workers' compensation fraud, and providing community outreach regarding identification and reporting of insurance fraud in all three regional areas.

On July 22, 2020, the California Department of Insurance awarded the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office grant funding through the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program in the amount of \$240,231 to allow for the continued operation of the regional Insurance Fraud Unit during fiscal year 2020-21. The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office was subsequently awarded additional Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program funding in the amount of \$2,583 on November 12, 2020.

This is the tenth year the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office has participated in the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program. The grant funding made available thereunder will be used locally to fund a 1.0 full time equivalent (FTE) District Attorney Investigator position and a 0.5 FTE Deputy District Attorney position that will be assigned to the regional Insurance Fraud Unit.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Humboldt County District Attorney, or a designee thereof, to accept, execute any and all documents necessary to secure, accept and reapply the grant funding made available by the California Department of Insurance through the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

As noted above, acceptance of the grant funding made available by the California Department of Insurance through the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program will allow the Humboldt District Attorney's Office to be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$242,814 for services performed in accordance with the scope of work described in the grant agreement for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

The originally anticipated grant amount of \$206,000 was included in the approved fiscal year 2020-2021 budget for budget unit 1100-205. As a result, acceptance of the original grant award and additional grant funding for a total of \$242,814 will create a supplemental budget of \$36,814. This additional funding will be used to supplement overtime, minor investigation equipment, investigative software, outreach, office supplies, travel expenses for inter-jurisdictional investigations as well as enhance staff development and training costs.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

The recommended actions support the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Framework by creating opportunities to enforce laws and regulations to protect residents, providing community-appropriate levels of service, securing outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County needs and building inter-jurisdictional and regional cooperation.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

California Department of Insurance

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board may choose not to adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Humboldt County District Attorney, or a designee thereof, to execute any and all documents necessary to secure, accept and reapply for the grant funding made available by the California Department of Insurance through the Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud Program. However, this alternative is not recommended since it does not allow for the continued operation of the regional Insurance Fraud Unit.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Grant Award Letter
2. Supplemental Budget

3. Resolution

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: C-26

Meeting of: December 16, 2019

Staff Report # 19-1758