

# 2020205000—DA-Victim Assistance Center

## Law & Justice

Tori Verber Salazar, District Attorney

General Fund	2017-2018 Actual	2018-2019 Adjusted	2019-2020 Requested	2019-2020 Recommended	Increase/ (Decrease)
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Salaries & Benefits	\$724,410	\$852,205	\$882,561	\$882,561	\$30,356
Services & Supplies	25,997	33,688	21,606	21,606	(12,082)
Centrally-Budgeted Expenses	6,841	8,566	64,125	64,125	55,559
Total Expenditures	\$757,248	\$894,459	\$968,292	\$968,292	\$73,833
Expenditure Reimbursements	0	(41,498)	(186,158)	(186,158)	(144,660)
Total Appropriations	\$757,248	\$852,961	\$782,134	\$782,134	(\$70,827)
<b>Earned Revenues By Source</b>					
Aid From Other Governments	\$816,220	\$782,134	\$782,134	\$782,134	\$0
Total Revenues	\$816,220	\$782,134	\$782,134	\$782,134	\$0
<b>Net County Cost</b>	(\$58,972)	\$70,827	\$0	\$0	(\$70,827)
Allocated Positions	9.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0

### Purpose

The Victim Assistance Center provides claims verification services for the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB). The Center provides local verification of claims to ensure timely issuance of payments to victims in San Joaquin County. This discretionary program operates through a Joint Powers Agreement with the CalVCB. The agreement includes processing claims for seven counties in addition to San Joaquin County. The program provides payment for expenses; such as, funeral/burial, counseling, relocation, medical/dental, loss of wages, and home/vehicle modifications.

### Major Budget Changes

#### Salaries & Employee Benefits

- \$30,356 Salary and benefits adjustments.

#### Services & Supplies

- (\$12,090) Decrease in labor costs.

#### Centrally-Budgeted Expenses

- \$56,657 Addition of Countywide Cost Allocation Plan charges.

#### Expenditure Reimbursements

- \$144,660 Increase in reimbursement from District Attorney's main budget.

### Program Discussion

The 2019-2020 recommended Victim Assistance Center budget totals \$968,292, which is an increase of \$73,833 from the 2018-2019 adjusted budget. The change primarily reflects salary and benefits adjustments and the addition of Countywide Cost Allocation Plan charges, offset by a decrease in labor costs. Staffing consists of a Victim Claims Supervisor, eight Victim Claims Specialists, and a Senior Office Assistant. The budget also provides funding for shared cost of the Program Manager position allocated to the Victim/Witness Program budget.

The three-year agreement with the CalVCB ends June 30, 2021. The Department intends to apply for the grant renewal prior to the end of this term.

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The Victim Assistance Center also services Amador, Calaveras, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne counties. As of May 1, 2018, the CalVCB temporarily took over the work for the additional seven counties to assist with the backlog. This is currently still in place. More advocates were hired throughout all eight counties during 2018-2019, impacting the number of applications submitted on behalf of victims. CalVCB will revisit this plan in the future to determine if the action is still needed.

In 2018-2019, the District Attorney received one-time supplemental funding of \$70,827 to fund an additional Victim Claims Specialist position for one year to assist in processing an increase in applications and bills. The Department's

current eligibility aging list is at 0%, which indicates that all of the eligibility determination workload has been processed within 90 days old. The law states that applications shall be approved or denied within an average of 90 calendar days and no later than 180 days of acceptance by the Center. The Department has requested that CalVCB fund the position beginning in 2019-2020. The County's No Back-Fill Policy requires that departments seek replacement funding from non-County sources or to eliminate or phase-out programs when grant funding is reduced eliminated. If the Department does not receive funding for the position from the CalVCB in June, program expenditures will be reduced and the position will be moved to a vacant position or terminated.

### Workload Data

	-----Actual-----			Est./Act. 2018-2019	Projected 2019-2020
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018		
<i>Applications Processed</i>	3,284	3,672	4,344	3,580	3,580
<i>Bills Processed</i>	6,684	5,491	5,225	3,909	3,909
<i>Benefits Secured for San Joaquin County Victims</i>	\$1,173,255	\$1,429,763	\$1,407,074	\$1,530,430	\$1,530,430