



# City of Austin

## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 25-1935, **Agenda Item #:** 49.

9/25/2025

### Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of an application to, and the acceptance of grant funding from, the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to implement the Austin Police Department's Legal Advocacy for Crime Victims Project. Funding: \$120,841.85 is available from the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program. A twenty percent City match is required and available in the Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department.

### Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$120,841.85 is available from the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Formula Grant Program for the project period of October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026. A 20 percent City match is required and available in Austin Police Department's (APD) Operating Budget and will be met by accounting for the salaries of existing VOCA-scoped personnel.

### For More Information:

Robin J. Henderson, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

### Additional Backup Information:

The Office of the City Manager reviewed this grant for alignment as directed by Resolution No. 20200611-096 and recommends approval.

This action will provide the resolution required by the Criminal Justice Division to complete the award process related to \$120,841.85 in grant funding for this program. The project period is October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026. A 20 percent City match is required and available in APD's Operating Budget and will be met by accounting for the salaries of existing VOCA-scoped personnel.

This is the first year of this program. VOCA funding will allow the City to hire two full-time legal advocates to assist violent crime victims to recover more quickly and completely from the effects of victimization while staying engaged in the prosecution of their case through disposition. Legal advocate objectives are to provide advocacy, courtroom accompaniment, transportation, translation/interpretation, notification regarding key proceeding dates, and assistance with impact statements and property recovery. In this initial year of programming, APD anticipates that it will take two months to activate the grant, hire the legal advocates and provide initial training. The target measures account for ten months of direct services, with each advocate assisting an estimated 200 violent crime victims.

The grantor requires a resolution approved by the governing body that includes items 1-4 below:

1. Authorization by the governing body for the submission of the application to the Office of the Governor that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for,

accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, the applicant must update the resolution should the official change during the grant period.); and

4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to the Office of the Governor.