

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

District Attorney's Office
Inter-Office Communication

Date: January 6, 2016

To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

From: District Attorney's Office

Subject: Creation of 1.0 FTE Position of Victim/Witness Advocate in the District Attorney's Office

We are requesting the creation of 1.0 FTE position of victim/witness advocate in the district attorney's office, job code 84170, pay range 16A, to implement a supplemental Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant award.

In the December 2015 cycle, the County Board, pursuant to section 56.06(1) of the county general ordinances, gave the district attorney's office permission to apply for supplemental VOCA funding of \$83,760 (\$67,005 federal funds + \$16,755 local match) from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and to accept the supplemental VOCA grant if awarded. Legistar File No. 15-736.

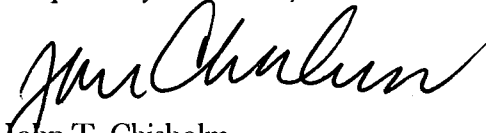
The district attorney's office has a longstanding VOCA program that provides funding for some training expenses and the salaries and fringe benefits of 5.0 FTE employees - 3.0 FTE sensitive crime victim advocates in the sensitive crimes unit and 2.0 FTE victim/witness advocates in the crisis response unit. VOCA funds 80 percent of project expenses with a 20 percent local match requirement. In mid-October 2015, the Wisconsin Department of Justice announced a round of supplemental VOCA funding to provide up to \$100,000 in supplemental VOCA funding to existing VOCA grant recipients to enhance services to crime victims.

The district attorney's 2015 and 2016 budgets include funding for equipment, but no personnel, for the district attorney's portion of the Family Justice Center, scheduled to open this month within the new Sojourner Family Peace Center at 6th and Walnut Streets in Milwaukee. District attorney victim/witness advocates, Sojourner victim advocates, Children's Hospital, the Milwaukee Police Department, Jewish Family Services, Wraparound Milwaukee, and other service providers will be located at the Family Justice Center to provide collaborative, one-stop services to victims of domestic violence and child abuse and their families.

On January 5, 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Justice notified us of the award of the supplemental VOCA grant, which will provide funding of approximately \$79,110 for the salary and fringe benefits of a new victim/witness advocate, located at the Family Justice Center, and approximately \$4,650 in computer equipment, consisting of a tablet and printer for the new victim/witness advocate and an additional laptop for the district attorney's crisis response unit.

Creation of this victim/witness advocate position will have no tax levy effect because the district attorney' office will absorb the local match expenses within its 2016 budget. No appropriation of funds is required, but the district attorney's office will submit a fund transfer to provide 2016 budgetary authority for the supplemental VOCA grant expenditures and revenue from the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Respectfully Submitted,



John T. Chisholm
District Attorney