



STEVE COOLEY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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August 2, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT SECOND YEAR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONS STANDARDS AUTHORITY (CSA) FOR THE ABOLISH CHRONIC TRUANCY (ACT) LONG BEACH-PARAMOUNT PROGRAM (4th DISTRICT) (3-VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Adopt the enclosed Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to accept second year grant funds, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, from the State of California CSA (formerly the Board of Corrections) in the amount of \$200,000 to continue the ACT Long Beach-Paramount Program for the period of August 1, 2005 through July 31, 2006.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney, or his designee, on behalf of the County, to serve as Project Director for the ACT Long Beach-Paramount Program, and to sign and approve any revisions to the grant award agreement that do not affect the net County cost of the agreement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The District Attorney's Office (DA) has been awarded second year grant funds from the State CSA in the amount of \$200,000 to continue the ACT program in the Long Beach, Paramount, Los Nietos, and Little Lake School Districts (School Districts). The goal of the ACT Program is to prevent juvenile delinquency and future adult criminality by breaking the cycle of poor school attendance and returning truant children to the schoolroom rather than the courtroom.

A Board approved Resolution authorizing acceptance of the funding is required by the State CSA.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The focus of this program supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 5, Children and Families' Well-being, to improve the well-being of children and family in Los Angeles County in the areas of safety and survival, and social and emotional well-being. Acceptance of the grant funds supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4, Fiscal Responsibility, by securing an available revenue source at the federal level.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The grant award of \$200,000 will fully offset program costs. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 was included in the DA's 2005-06 budget for this program, however a budget adjustment is not needed as the balance will offset other grant award reductions.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant-budgeted positions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

ACT is a parental responsibility-based truancy reduction program that works with elementary schools to identify children with problem attendance, contact their parents, and provide supportive assistance to families in an effort to correct school attendance problems before juvenile court action becomes necessary.

The ACT Long Beach – Paramount Program serves 70 elementary schools. Two District Attorney Hearing Officers (HO) are each assigned responsibility for 35 elementary schools. The procedures of the ACT program are as follows: School attendance personnel will identify students with excessive absences. The HO will send letters to these students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) inviting them to attend a parent meeting. Interpreters are provided if needed. School staff and the HO explain California's mandatory school attendance laws, parent's accountability for their child's attendance and emphasize the positive benefits of improved school attendance. If attendance does not improve, individual meetings are held by the HO with the parent, child, and the school official who comprise the School Attendance Review Team (SART) to discuss the specifics of the attendance problems and any other related issues, including legal consequences if attendance does not improve.

A contract is signed by the parent, child, HO, and school official outlining the school's responsibility to provide services or referrals for services. The parent and child are reminded that it is their duty and responsibility to improve school attendance. School personnel and the HO monitor the SART contract closely to note any non-conforming unexcused absences. If attendance continues to be poor, the parent and child are referred to a much larger group called the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) consisting of probation, law enforcement, mental health, and others.

The SARB is a community-school based program that provides intensive guidance and coordinates community service delivery for students with attendance and behavior problems. The ACT program looks for at least 15 provable unexcused absences in the preceding year, with a previous school history of absenteeism before a case is brought to SARB. This meeting serves as a last chance for parent(s) to remedy their child's attendance problem and avoid prosecution. The ACT HO or a Deputy District Attorney attends this meeting, which concludes with the signing of a SARB contract. If there is no improvement after this intervention, criminal charges are prepared for filing in Superior Court.

The ACT Program has been successfully implemented in over 30 other school districts. Los Angeles, Pomona, West Covina, Norwalk-La Mirada, and Lancaster are a few of the school districts that participate.

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From August 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, 792 juveniles participated in the ACT Long Beach – Paramount Program. Twenty-eight parent meetings and 181 SART meetings were held. A pre-post outcome assessment of the program suggests that ACT students are showing a 10 day attendance improvement (19 pre-test to 9 post-test) after participating in the ACT program. Formal data collection mechanisms were tested and refined with assistance from the Program Evaluator. The tested data collection mechanisms will be implemented for the ACT program through the entire County beginning in the second grant funded year.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The ACT program does not propose attorney staff augmentation. Therefore, the District Attorney's Office is not subject to the Board motion of December 15, 1998, requiring clearance with Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender and Sheriff's Departments.

CONCLUSION:

Following Board authorization to accept the grant award for this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return two copies of the adopted Board letter and approved Resolution to Albert Ablaza, Contracts and Grants Unit, Los Angeles County District Attorney, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Mr. Ablaza at (213) 202-7683 or via e-mail at aablaza@lacountyda.org

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

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Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

1 **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
2 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
3 **RESOLUTION**

4 Authorization to Accept Grant Award Funds From
5 The State of California, Corrections Standards Authority
6 For the Abolish Chronic Truancy
7 Long Beach/Paramount Program

8 **WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles is charged with providing vital
9 services in the area of courts, law enforcement, and adult and juvenile
10 justice to a population in excess of ten million persons; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles, Office of the District Attorney,
12 is authorized, pursuant to Government Code Section 26500.5, to participate
13 in any project or program to improve the administration of justice; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the County of Los Angeles, acting through its Board of
15 Supervisors, desires continued participation for the second year in such a
16 program entitled the Abolish Chronic Truancy (ACT) – Long
17 Beach/Paramount; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the State of California, Corrections Standards Authority
19 (CSA) has awarded grant funds to the District Attorney's Office for the ACT
20 – Long Beach/Paramount Program for the period covering August 1, 2005
21 to July 31, 2006;

22 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County of Los Angeles
23 Board of Supervisors hereby approves acceptance of the grant funds in the
24 amount of \$200,000 to be used exclusively for the designated program;

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County of Los Angeles agrees not
26 to use the aforementioned grant funds to supplant local expenditures
controlled by this body;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles hereby authorizes the District Attorney or his
designee to serve as Project Director, on behalf of the County of Los

1 Angeles, to sign and approve on behalf of the Board of Supervisors the Grant
2 Award Agreement including any extensions or submission of amendments,
3 progress reports, and payment requests thereof;

4 **IT IS AGREED** that liability arising out of the performance this Grant
5 Award Agreement, including civil court actions for damages, shall be the
6 responsibility of the grant recipient and the authorizing agency. It is
7 recognized that the State of California, CSA disclaims any responsibility for
8 any such liability;

9 **I DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that a regular meeting on the Board of
10 Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles on the _____ day of
11 _____, 2005, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

12 **IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the
13 seal of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles this _____
14 day of _____, 2005.

15 County of Los Angeles

16 by _____
17 Chair, Board of Supervisors

18 VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS,
19 Executive Officer-Clerk of the
20 Board of Supervisors of the
21 County of Los Angeles

22 By _____
23 Deputy

24 APPROVED AS TO FORM
25 BY COUNTY COUNSEL:

26 RAYMOND G. FORTNER, JR.

By 

**Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office
Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding \$100,000**

Department: Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Grant Project Title and Description

The Abolish Chronic Truancy (ACT) Long Beach-Paramount program will serve 70 elementary schools with an enrollment exceeding 75,000 students in the Long Beach, Paramount, Los Nietos, and Little Lake School Districts. The goal of the ACT program is to prevent juvenile delinquency and future adult criminality by breaking the cycle of poor school attendance and returning children to the schoolroom rather than the courtroom.

Funding Agency
State of California
Corrections Standards Authority

Program (Fed. Grant # /State Bill or Code #)
BDC 327-04

Grant Acceptance Deadline

Total Amount of Grant Funding: \$200,000

County Match: \$0

Grant Period: 8/1/05-7/31/06

Begin Date: August 1, 2005

End Date: July 31, 2006

Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:

Full Time 2

PartTime

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program? Yes No

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? Yes No

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires? Yes No

If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services Yes No

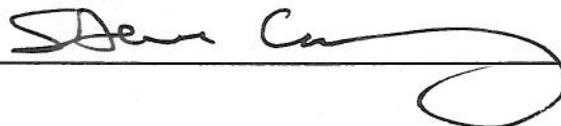
b). Identify other revenue sources Yes No

(Describe) _____

c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant. Yes No

Impact of additional personnel on existing space:

Department Head Signature



Date

7/5/05