



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of December 13, 2008**

DATE: December 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Federal Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept a two year U.S. Department of Justice grant (101.374900) in the amount of \$384,944 and appropriate the first year's funding (\$178, 313) to the associated County departments including \$58,824 to the Police Department (101.31202), \$56,039 to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office (101.20701), and \$63,450 to the Department of Human Services (101.56305) in FY 2009.
2. Authorize two permanent grant-funded positions (2.0 FTE) to support a federal grant awarded to the County to strengthen the provision of direct services to victims of domestic violence and their families. One position (1.0 FTE) will be used by the Police Department (101.31202) to provide crime analysis and the second position (1.0 FTE) will be used by the Commonwealth's Attorney to provide support to victims and witnesses of domestic violence (101.20701).

ISSUES: This is a request to accept federal grant funds for specified activities. No local match is required. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: Project PEACE has been awarded federal funding from the Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Order Program (GEAP). This two year award will increase victim safety and batterer accountability in Arlington County by creating 2.5 positions dedicated to addressing domestic violence within the Police Department, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and Doorways for Women and Families. Additionally, grant funds will allow the County to develop its first coordinated data system to gather critical information across organizations and provide training funds to improve direct service responses and guide systemic change.

BACKGROUND: In November 2006, community and Arlington County leaders joined forces to create the Domestic Violence Leadership Roundtable. The Roundtable spearheaded the development of the Domestic Violence Implementation Task Force, which drafted a comprehensive plan for change: the Blueprint for Partnering to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone (PEACE). GEAP funding will aid Project PEACE in meeting milestones for change identified within the implementation blueprint. The Leadership Roundtable chaired by Barbara

County Manager: _____

Staff: Jo Johnson, Child & Family Services, DHS

Favola, Vice Chair of the Arlington County Board, provides executive oversight for all Project PEACE activities.

DISCUSSION: The GEAP grant will fund a 1.0 FTE bilingual Special Victims Unit Crime Analyst Technician, a civilian police hire (\$58,824) and a 1.0 FTE bilingual Victim/Witness Specialist within the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office (\$56,039). A third part-time position for an additional Court Advocate will be hired and supervised through the Project PEACE nonprofit partner Doorways for Women and Families (\$22,125), who will receive funding from the Department of Human Services (DHS). GEAP funding has also been allocated to DHS for the development and hosting of a data management system to gather data across agencies (\$36,325). The GEAP grant also includes travel costs for database training and technical assistance (\$5,000).

All organizations impacted by GEAP funding signed a Memorandum of Understanding which states their support for the addition of these positions and the creation of a data system. These organizations include the Director of the Department of Human Services, Chief of the Arlington County Police, Commonwealth's Attorney and Executive Director of Doorways for Women and Families. This two-year grant provides considerable funding, requires no matching funds and is renewable. Neighboring jurisdictions have received GEAP funding for six or more years.

FISCAL IMPACT: No local match funds are required. All expenditures are covered by grant funds. This two year grant is renewable and surrounding counties have received funding for up to ten years.

The grant period runs from September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2010. This 24 month grant period will impact three County fiscal years. To determine costs for each fiscal year, each category of funding was broken down into a monthly cost. GEAP grant funding corresponds to:

- 10 months for FY09 (9/1/08 through 6/30/09) for \$178,313
- 12 months for FY2010 (7/1/09 through 6/30/10) for \$168,284
- 2 months for FY2011 (7/1/10 through 8/31/10) for \$38,347