



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 31

**Agenda Date:** September 29, 2022

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Police Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** William McManus, Chief of Police

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of funds for the 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County.

**SUMMARY:**

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of funds for the 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program, a City/County project addressing child sexual abuse/assault not to exceed \$359,806 and authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County regarding the distribution of grant funds and designating Bexar County as the grant fiscal agent; establishing a personnel complement and appropriating a budget; the grant period will be from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Justice Assistance Grants were first awarded in 2005. Provisions of the grant require the City and Bexar County to submit a joint application. The grant funds are used to support a joint City/County project for addressing child sexual abuse/assault.

The funds for the 2022 JAG grant will be used to continue supporting the joint City/County project called Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program. The purpose of the project is to conduct joint investigations with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Bexar County Housing and Human Services Department, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital, and ChildSafe.

The City's portion of the grant will be used to continue to fund two Detective Investigator positions. These Detective Investigators will investigate sexual abuse/assault cases involving children. Tasked with the investigation of more than 28 different offenses, a large portion of the Special Victims Unit's caseload involves children as victims.

The County will utilize the FY2022 JAG grant to continue to fund positions that are currently funded by the existing JAG programs that include problem solving courts, jail diversion, and victim advocacy. The majority of the funds will go to fund various positions (Adult & Juvenile Probation Officers, Prosecutors, Court Case Managers, etc.) in the Bexar County Drug Courts, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, and the Juvenile and Adult Probation Offices.

The total joint grant amount for the City and Bexar County is \$899,516 (\$35,261 more than FY2021). The grant funds are to be split with \$539,710 for the County and \$359,806.00 (\$14,104 more than FY2021) for the City.

The City's portion of the grant will be used to continue to fund two (2) Detective Investigator positions. These Detective Investigators will investigate sexual abuse/assault cases involving children.

Bexar County, acting as the Fiscal Agent for this grant, was responsible for submitting the grant application and all certifications, the administration of the funds, including distributing the funds, monitoring the award, submitting reports including performance measures and program assessment data.

## **ISSUE:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of funds for the 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program, a City/County project addressing child sexual abuse/assault not to exceed \$359,806. This ordinance also authorizes an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County regarding the distribution of grant funds and designating Bexar County as the grant fiscal agent.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

This grant provides the City with the opportunity to augment its efforts to address child sexual abuse/assault. There are no other similar grants available to the City.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total joint grant amount for the City and Bexar County is \$899,516. Of this amount the City's portion is \$359,806 and the County portion is \$539,710. This ordinance authorizes the appropriation of the City's portion of the grant.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the acceptance of funds for the 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and recommends authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County related to this grant.