

Employment & Human Services

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For Immediate Release

Contra Costa County Awarded Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Grant

MARTINEZ, Calif. – Contra Costa County’s Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative and numerous partner agencies has been awarded a federal grant for \$200,000 to reduce homicides related to domestic violence.

The grant is part of the new federal Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative, created by the U.S. Justice Department’s Office on Violence Against Women, to help state and local jurisdictions reduce domestic violence homicides by effectively identifying potential victims and monitoring high-risk offenders.

“Domestic Violence has a devastating impact on our community. This grant is an opportunity to build on the strong partnerships we have established and prevent homicides. We know that addressing and reducing domestic violence will ultimately reduce violence overall in our community,” said Federal Glover, Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

With a long history of collaboration to address domestic violence issues, Contra Costa County has assembled a collaboration including law enforcement, domestic violence and sexual assault agencies, legal services, child and family services, and health services.

“Domestic violence is a critical public health issue,” said Dr. William Walker, Director of Contra Costa Health Services, the county health department. “While we’ve seen the devastation of injury and death through our work with the County’s domestic violence death review team, we know violence can be prevented. We are committed to working together to prevent incidents of injury and death as a result of domestic violence, and we are strong supporters of the efforts of the county’s Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative.”

As a part of the new initiative, Contra Costa County will identify assessment tools that can be used to reliably recognize women who may be in fatally abusive relationships. Attempted strangulation, threats with weapons, sexual assault and obsessively jealous and controlling behavior are among the markers of particularly lethal abusers. Once at-risk victims are identified, law enforcement, prosecutors, medical staff, courts and service providers can take action to protect them and their families.

Kathy Gallagher, Director

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Read the Department of Justice news release for additional information about the announcement of the domestic violence grant program, [Vice President Biden and Attorney General Holder Announce Grants to Help Reduce Domestic Violence Homicides](#).

Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence is an initiative of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and is a public-private partnership designed to reduce domestic violence, family violence, elder abuse and human trafficking in Contra Costa County. Authorized by the California Legislature as the first Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence County, the initiative is aligning policies, practices and protocols, coordinating services, and creating a climate where violence and abuse are not tolerated. Zero Tolerance functions on the principle that no one entity can do it alone; placing emphasis on public systems and private providers working, advocating and taking concerted action together.

For information about the Contra Costa County Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative, please visit our website, www.contracostazt.org.

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