

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

April 8, 2025

FROM

SHANNON D. DICUS, Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator

SUBJECT

Grant Application for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2026 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Approve and authorize the submission of a grant application to the Office of National Drug Control Policy for federal assistance from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, in the amount of \$1,200,790, for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027.
2. Authorize the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator to execute and submit the grant application, and related assurances and certifications necessary, on behalf of the County, as requested by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, subject to review by County Counsel.
3. Direct the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator to transmit the grant application referenced in Recommendation No. 1 to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 30 days of execution (Presenter: Carolina Mendoza, Chief Deputy Director, 387-0640)

COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Provide for the Safety, Health and Social Service Needs of County Residents.

Pursue County Goals and Objectives by Working with Other Agencies and Stakeholders.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this item will not result in the use of Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost). The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) grant, in the amount of \$1,200,790, will provide funding in the amount of \$715,734 for the Inland Regional Narcotics Enforcement Team (IRNET), \$385,056 for the Regional Methamphetamine Task Force (RMTF) and \$100,000 for the Vehicle Interdiction Pipeline Enforcement Resource Program (VIPER). If awarded, the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator (Department) will return to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for acceptance of the grant award and may request budget adjustments, if necessary. No matching funds are required.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department is seeking grant funds from the HIDTA program. HIDTA provides federal assistance to local law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States. The purpose of the HIDTA program is to reduce drug trafficking and production by enhancing cooperation and facilitating intelligence sharing among law enforcement agencies and supporting coordinated law enforcement strategies that make the most of available resources. The HIDTA program funds 1,035 initiatives throughout the country, including:

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- Enforcement initiatives comprising multi-agency investigative, interdiction, and prosecution activities;
- Intelligence and information-sharing initiatives;
- Support for programs that provide assistance beyond the core enforcement and intelligence and information-sharing initiatives; and
- Drug use prevention and drug treatment initiatives.

Since 1997, the County has received HIDTA grant funds from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for the following three initiatives: IRNET, RMTF, and more recently, VIPER. IRNET is a joint effort between the Department, as the lead agency, and other member agencies, that is designed to target, investigate, and prosecute major drug trafficking organizations. RMTF is a joint effort between San Bernardino and Riverside counties to target major methamphetamine production/distribution and arrest persons/organizations involved in illicit sales and trafficking of methamphetamine. VIPER is a joint effort between the Sheriff's Departments of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties to target drug trafficking on the highway (the permanent initiative that replaced the prior Domestic Highway Enforcement Initiative program).

The total allocation for IRNET of \$715,734 will fund the salaries and benefits of existing positions, overtime costs, supplies, travel, service contracts, computer equipment, and other program-related expenses of the Department. Additionally, the grant will provide overtime reimbursement to the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control, Montclair Police Department, Ontario Police Department, Redlands Police Department, Rialto Police Department, San Bernardino Police Department, Upland Police Department, and Riverside County Sheriff's Department. The \$385,056 allocated for RMTF will fund the Department's overtime and partial salary (excluding benefits), supplies, service contracts, and other operating expenses of this program. The \$100,000 allocated for VIPER will fund the Department's overtime, supplies, service contracts, and other operating expenses related to this program.

The HIDTA grant application requires the approval of certifications that are binding upon the County, as well as an up-front agreement to be bound by the conditions that will accompany the federal grant funds. Consequently, County Policy 05-13 requires Board approval to submit this grant application or any related amendments. The funding will cover the project performance period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027.

Approval of Recommendation No. 2 will authorize the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator to sign the grant application and related assurances in compliance with ONDCP's policy. If the County's application is approved, the Department will return to the Board to accept the grant award.

PROCUREMENT

Not applicable.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Grace B. Parsons, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on March 17, 2025; Finance (Erika Rodarte, Administrative Analyst, 387-4919) on March 19, 2025; and County Finance and Administration (Valerie Clay, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on March 19, 2025.

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Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County

APPROVED (CONSENT CALENDAR)

Moved: Joe Baca, Jr. Seconded: Curt Hagman
Ayes: Col. Paul Cook (Ret.), Jesse Armendarez, Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Joe Baca, Jr.

Lynna Monell, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY 
DATED: April 8, 2025



cc: Sheriff - Dicus w/application for sign
File - Sheriff/Coroner w/application
CCM 04/11/2025