



**District Attorney  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
AGENDA ITEM**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

ALLEN ISHIDA  
District One  
PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two  
PHILLIP A. COX  
District Three  
J. STEVEN WORTHLEY  
District Four  
MIKE ENNIS  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** March 17, 2009 - REVISED

|  |     |                                     |    |                                     |     |                                     |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Public Hearing Required  | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk   | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Notice Required  | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advertised Published Notice  | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Meet & Confer Required   | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Electronic file(s) has been sent   | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached   | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Personnel Resolution attached  | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Resolution, Ordinance or Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s) | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

CONTACT PERSON: William Yoshimoto      PHONE: (559) 733-6411

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of grant funding from First 5 Tulare County for Equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room.

**REQUEST(S):**  
That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the acceptance of grant funding from First 5 Tulare County in the amount of \$3,850 for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.
2. Approve the Grant Award Agreement with First 5 Tulare County in the amount of \$3,850 to purchase equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room for the period of March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010.
3. Authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement, retroactive to March 1, 2009.
4. Find that the Board had authority to enter into the proposed agreement as of March 1, 2009 and that it was in the County's best interest to enter into the agreement on that date.

**SUMMARY:**  
The District Attorney's Office has been selected for funding by First 5 Tulare County for equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room. This interview room is used for children who are victims and/or witnesses of crimes. The Tulare County District Attorney's Office will use these funds to replace outdated and malfunctioning audio and visual equipment for the Interview Room.

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of grant funding from First 5 Tulare County for Equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room.

**DATE:** March 17, 2009

The C.A.R.T. was established to accomplish the following goals:

- Coordinate services provided by participating agencies.
- Reduce the trauma to child victims by limiting the number of interviews and interviewers.
- Improve the quality of investigations and increase both the number of prosecutions and the number of convictions for child abuse.
- Provide support, therapy and crisis intervention for child victims and their families.

The C.A.R.T. concept provides for specially equipped soft interview rooms, and Child Interview Specialists trained to conduct comprehensive multi-disciplinary interviews which will meet the needs of law enforcement, the District Attorney, Victim/Witness, and Child Protective Services, while at the same time promoting the search for truth and protecting the rights of the accused.

The C.A.R.T. Interview Room will be available for use in all cases involving potential physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or emotional maltreatment of children aged fourteen or under. Cases in which a child may only be a possible witness to any crime or event, such as domestic violence or homicide, will be eligible for and interview at the request of any team member.

Currently, the C.A.R.T. Interview Room, operated by the District Attorney's Office and located in the City of Visalia, is the only one of its kind in Tulare County.

Two of the three contracts with original signatures are to be returned to the District Attorney's Office.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

There will be no net County cost.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The County's five-year Strategic Business Plan and Management System include Safety and Security initiatives to provide for the safety and security of the public. The authorization to accept grant funding from First 5 of Tulare County helps to fulfill this initiative improving services to children five years of age and younger who are victims or witnesses to crimes.

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of grant funding from First 5 Tulare County for Equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room.

**DATE:** March 17, 2009

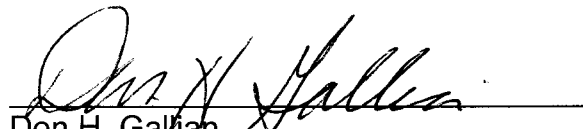
**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Board could choose not to adopt the Resolution. This alternative is not recommended because the Board has consistently supported developing countywide responses to all types of crime and support for victims. In addition, without grant funding, the Department will not be able to implement the proposal.

**INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:**

County Counsel approved the contract as to form. Auditor's Office to process budget adjustments.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

  
Don H. Gallian  
Assistant District Attorney

Cc: Auditor/Controller  
County Counsel  
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s):  
Attachment 1: Notice of Grant Award and Agreement  
Attachment 2: Grant Application  
Attachment 3: Grant Management Statement

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF )  
GRANT FUNDING FROM FIRST 5 )  
TULARE COUNTY FOR EQUIPMENT )  
FOR THE CHILD ABUSE RESPONSE )  
TEAM (C.A.R.T.) INTERVIEW ROOM. )

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGREEMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, SECONDED BY  
SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

1. Authorized the acceptance of grant funding from First 5 Tulare County in the amount of \$3,850 for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.
2. Approved the Grant Award Agreement with First 5 Tulare County in the amount of \$3,850 to purchase equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room for the period of March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010.
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4. Found that the Board had authority to enter into the proposed agreement as of March 1, 2009 and that it was in the County's best interest to enter into the agreement on that date.

## Tulare County Administrative Office Grant Management Statement

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Department:</b> District Attorney  |   |
| <b>Grant Project Title and Description:</b>   |   |
| The District Attorney's Office has been selected for funding by First 5 Tulare County for equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room. The Tulare County District Attorney's Office will replace outdated and malfunctioning audio and visual equipment for the Interview Room, which is dedicated to serve children who are victims and/or witnesses of crime. |   |
| <b>Funding Agency:</b>  | <b>Program:</b> (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)                 |
| First 5 Tulare County   | Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room.                |
| <b>Grant Acceptance Deadline:</b>   |   |
|   |   |
| <b>Total Amount of Grant Funding:</b>   | \$3,850   |
| <b>County Match:</b>  | 0   |
| <b>Grant Period:</b>  | March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010                             |
| <b>Begin Date:</b>  | March 1, 2009 (est.)  |
| <b>End Date:</b>  | February 28, 2010 (est.)  |
| <b>Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:</b>  | 0   |
| <b>Full Time:</b>   | 0   |
| <b>Part Time:</b>   | 0   |
| <b>Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires</b>   |   |
| Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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   |   |
| b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)   |   |
| c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.   |   |
| <b>Impact of additional personnel on existing space:</b>  |   |
|   |   |
| <b>Other requirements not mentioned above:</b>  |   |
|   |   |
| <b>Department Head Signature:</b>   | <i>Dave Miller</i>  |
| <b>Date:</b>  | 3/5/09  |



Commissioners

John Davis, Chair  
Phil Cox, Chair-Elect  
Steve Bargeon  
Maureen Bianco  
Ray Bullick  
Ray Chavez  
Christine Nelson, M.D.

January 26, 2009

Barbara J. Greaver, Supervising District Attorney  
County of Tulare District Attorney  
221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 224  
Visalia, CA 93291-4593

Dear Ms. Greaver:

On behalf of First 5 Tulare County, I am pleased to inform you that your Special Project Grant request has been funded in the amount of \$3,850.00 for a portion of the cost of replacement audio visual equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team Interview Room.

The funds are to be used in accordance with your grant application and the conditions outlined in the enclosed grant commitment. Three copies of the grant commitment are included. Please have them approved by the Board of Supervisors and signed. Return one signed original to me. Payment for this grant will be in the form of one check in the amount of \$3,850.00 issued after return of the signed grant commitment.

I will send details about project reporting when I receive your signed agreement. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions. My telephone number is (559)622-8650 and my e-mail address is [jh@first5tc.org](mailto:jh@first5tc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Hogan".

Janet Hogan, Executive Director

Enclosures





## SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT COMMITMENT TERMS and CONDITIONS

First 5 Tulare County is a public agency supported through Proposition 10, the California Children and Families Act of 1998, codified in Health and Safety Code Section 130100 et seq.

First 5 Tulare County's mission is to enhance the early development of Tulare County's children by providing direct services, funding partner organizations, and participating in an integrated system of care serving children prenatal through age five and their families.

- A. PURPOSE OF GRANT. The grant is to fund a portion of the cost of replacement audio video equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team Interview Room.
- B. AMOUNT AND TERM OF GRANT. The amount of the award is \$3,850.00 and the term is March 1, 2009, through February 28, 2010.
- C. CONDITIONS OF GRANT.
  1. GRANTEE CERTIFICATION. Grantee certifies that all funds shall be expended only for the purposes expressed in the California Children and Families Act, and shall be used only to supplement existing levels of service and not to fund existing levels of service. Grantee further agrees and guarantees that no funds provided by First 5 Tulare County shall be used to supplant state or local general fund money for any purpose. Any act of omission or commission causing failure to fully comply with these requirements shall be cause for immediate termination of the grant.
  2. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS. Grantee shall expend the funds only as described in the Purpose of Special Project Grant Award. Any funds not expended consistent with the terms of the grant must be returned to First 5 Tulare County within thirty (30) days following the grant project's termination date. Grantee will not use any of its grant award dollars for purposes other than those stated in the Purpose of Special Project Grant Award and in Health and Safety Code Section 130100 et seq., also known as Proposition 10 and more particularly as follows:
    - a. To carry on propaganda or otherwise to attempt to influence legislation;

- b. To influence the outcome of or participate in any public election or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive; or
  - c. For purposes other than those stated in the Purpose of Special Project Grant.
3. RETURN OF FUNDS. Grantee shall return to First 5 Tulare County any unexpended funds granted if First 5 Tulare County, in its sole discretion, determines the Grantee has not performed in accordance with this Commitment.
4. FUNDS, RECORDS, AUDIT, SITE VISITS. Funds provided by First 5 Tulare County shall be accounted for separately in the Grantee's books and records. A systematic accounting record shall be kept by the Grantee of the receipt and disbursement of funds. The Grantee shall retain original substantiating documents related to grant expenditures and make these records available for First 5 Tulare County's review upon request. Grantee shall be responsible for maintaining adequate financial records of this grant program. First 5 Tulare County, or its designated representative, reserves the right, upon written notice, to audit Grantee's books and records relating to the expenditure of any funds provided by First 5 Tulare County.
5. NO FURTHER OBLIGATIONS BY FIRST 5 TULARE COUNTY. This grant is made with the understanding that First 5 Tulare County has no obligation to provide other or additional support or grants to the Grantee.
6. PUBLIC REPORTING. Grantee agrees to disseminate to interested public, or using established channels of communication, pertinent information relating to the results, findings, or methods developed through this grant.
7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. All copyrights and all other intellectual property produced as a result of this award shall be produced for the "public domain." As such, First 5 Tulare County, Grantee, or any other party shall have a nonexclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, and royalty-free license to reproduce, publish, copy, alter, or otherwise use the intellectual property so produced.
8. LICENSING AND CREDENTIALS. Grantee hereby agrees to maintain, in full force and effect, all required governmental or professional licenses and credentials for itself, its facilities, its employees, and all other persons engaged in work in conjunction with this award.
9. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES. Grantee agrees to provide immediate written notice to First 5 Tulare County if significant changes or events occur during the term of this award which could potentially




impact the progress or outcome of the grant, including, without limitation, changes in Grantee's management personnel or losses of funding.

10. ACTIVITY REPORTING. Grantee shall provide First 5 Tulare County with a summary report of activities conducted under this grant. This written report (Special Project Grant Final Report Form) is due one month after the project is completed.
  
11. ATTRIBUTION: Grantee shall provide public recognition for First 5 Tulare County and Proposition 10 funding in all materials produced for the purpose of public education and outreach regarding the Special Project Grant. Materials shall include, but not be limited to brochures, flyers, television, radio, print ads, public service announcements, presentations, telephone hold messages, and outdoor ads. In order to assist in the public recognition of the Commission and Proposition 10 funding, Grantee agrees to the following:
  - a. All materials will include the language "Sponsored by First 5 Tulare County. Funded by Proposition 10."
  - b. Where appropriate, Grantee will use the Commission logo in public education and outreach materials. All questions regarding the appropriateness of use will be directed to the Commission.
  - c. The cost for any materials not meeting the above provisions shall not be reimbursed under this agreement.

Accepted on behalf of the County of Tulare by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phillip A. Cox  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Hogan, Executive Director  
First 5 Tulare County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

1/26/09

**COVER SHEET**

**Project Name:**

Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.)  
Interview Room Equipment Replacement

**Organization Mailing Address:**

County of Tulare, District Attorney's Office  
221 South Mooney Blvd., Room 224  
Visalia CA 93291

**Agreement Signature:**

Phil Cline  
District Attorney, County of Tulare  
(559) 733-6411  
[pcline@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:pcline@co.tulare.ca.us)

**Contact Person:**

Barbara Greaver  
Supervising Attorney, Special Projects  
(559) 624-1054  
[bgreaver@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:bgreaver@co.tulare.ca.us)



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Barbara Greaver, Supervising Attorney, Special Projects

12/18/08

Date

## NARRATIVE

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

#### Overall Project

The Tulare County District Attorney's Office is requesting funds to replace outdated and malfunctioning audio and visual equipment for the Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) Interview Room. Types of cases include children who are victims and/or witnesses to physical abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, homicide, rape, and neglect.

The Child Abuse Response Team (C.A.R.T.) was established to accomplish the following goals:

- Coordinate services provided by participating agencies.
- Reduce the trauma to child victims by limiting the number of interviews and interviewers.
- Improve the quality of investigations and increase both the number of prosecutions and the number of convictions for child abuse.
- Provide support, therapy and crisis intervention for child victims and their families.

The C.A.R.T. concept provides for specially equipped soft interview rooms, and Child Interview Specialists trained to conduct comprehensive multi-disciplinary interviews which will meet the needs of law enforcement, the District Attorney, Victim/Witness, and Child Protective Services, while at the same time promoting the search for truth and protecting the rights of the accused.

The Tulare County Child Abuse Response Team is a joint operation of the following Tulare County agencies:

|                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tulare County District Attorney | Tulare County Sheriff's Department    |
| Visalia Police Department       | Exeter Police Department              |
| Porterville Police Department   | Dinuba Police Department              |
| Lindsay Police Department       | Woodlake Police Department            |
| Tulare Police Department        | Farmersville Police Department        |
| Child Protective Services       | Rape Crisis/Family Services           |
| Victims' Services               | County Counsel                        |
| Probation                       | C.A.S.A.                              |
| Kaweah Delta District Hospital  | Tulare District Hospital              |
| Sierra View Hospital            | Child Protection Coordinating Council |

The C.A.R.T. Interview Room will be available for use in all cases involving potential physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or emotional maltreatment of children aged fourteen or under. This Program targets the following situations: in home or familial abuse, out-of-home care giver abuse (day care, group home or foster care abuse), stranger abuse, sibling witnesses to any abuse, homes with

domestic violence. No potentially abused child will be refused an interview by C.A.R.T. Cases in which a child may only be a possible witness to any crime or event will be eligible for and interview at the request of any team member.

The cornerstone of the C.A.R.T. concept is the multi-disciplinary forensic child interview. This reduces the trauma to the child victim by limiting the number of interviews and interviewers. Special Child Interview Rooms are available for these interviews. The rooms are designed so that the interview of the child can be observed unobtrusively by necessary third parties. Observers will be in an adjoining room watching through a one way mirror. All interviews will be video and audio taped. The team members will be able to give real-time input to the interviewer through the use of an earpiece and microphone. The recorded interviews allow for the preservation of evidence, which may be used in the preliminary hearing so the child does not have to testify in person.

The C.A.R.T. interviews have made it possible for a coordinated response to child abuse cases. This coordinated response places the needs of the child first within the system. When a C.A.R.T. interview takes place, the team assembled includes representatives from the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, and Child Protective Services (CPS). The District Attorney's Office staff will include a Deputy District Attorney, a Victim Services worker, and a Counselor. Immediate connections are made with counselors and victim workers. Counseling for children and family members is being urged by our victim worker and Rape Crisis. Preparation of children for court appearances with regard to their emotional needs and developmental stages has greatly improved. The innovative Tulare County Kids' Court program has successfully bridged many gaps in helping children cope and understand the "process." An invitation and follow-up for Kids' Court happens immediately following the interview.

Currently, the C.A.R.T. Interview Room operated by the District Attorney's Office is the only one of its kind in Tulare County. The Interview Room is located in the City of Visalia.

The District Attorney's Office Victim Services staff are present to discuss the interview process with the child's parent or guardian, as well as work with the families to obtain reimbursement for medical and mental health services, as appropriate. Other services are provided, either directly or through referrals.

### **Problems to be Addressed**

The current equipment in the C.A.R.T. Interview Room is outdated and in some cases in need of total replacement. The tape recorder makes such a loud screeching noise that team members have expressed concern about the noise coming out on the recording and drowning out the child's interview. The tape recorder is an audio cassette recorder. It requires to be shut down between interviews to cool down or the buttons will not always work. The C.A.R.T. interviewers have also received

complaints about receiving audio and video cassette tapes instead of DVDs and CD Rom discs which would allow the audio to be emailed or the video and audio viewed over most computers.

We will address the aging audio cassette recorder and improve the audio recording quality by switching over to digital recording and adding another microphone. Additional audio quality could be achieved by researching an air vent which would reduce the amount of noise coming from the air conditioning system.

We will address the aging VCRs that are malfunctioning at times. By replacing the VCRs with the CaseCracker Interview Management System the audio and video could be recorded onto DVDs at a very low cost. The DVDs would ease the issues of storage and life expectancy of the VHS tapes. A DVD/CD duplicator can also speed up the process of making copies of video taped interviews.

Finally we will address the aging camcorder. Currently the camcorder is mounted on a stationary camera mount in the observation room. The video is shot through the one way mirror. If a person in the observation room is wearing a white or light color shirt their reflection is picked up in the one way mirror and can be seen on the video of the interview. By replacing this camera with cameras inside the interview room, one fixed mounted in the corner of the room to capture an overview and another mobile miniature dome camera with tilt and zoom capabilities, we would be able to zoom into the child's face to capture the child's reaction to interviewer's questions.

### **Use of Funding**

This project will be funded through diverse funding sources. As approximately 35% of the children interviewed are projected to be five years of age and younger, we are requesting the same percentage of funding, \$3,850, for the project from First 5 Tulare County. Approximately \$3,000 of the total project cost will come from donations from local businesses and community/service groups. The District Attorney's Office will contribute the remaining \$4,150, for a total cost of \$11,000.

Funds will be used to replace existing equipment in the C.A.R.T. Interview Room. The equipment needed includes a Cardinal Peak CaseCracker Interview Management System. This system provides a crystal-clear record, using DVD and audio, of exactly what was said during the interview. It allows team members to instantly seek any point in the interview after the fact, to aid in reviewing only the most relevant information from long interviews. A back up is stored in a database. Offsite team members may discreetly prompt the interviewer while the interview is ongoing. A master DVD is generated in real time during the interview and the audio can easily be burned to a CD for easy transcription. Many playback modes are supported; fast forward, rewind, slow motion and frame-by-frame advance. Users may annotate sessions on a frame-by-frame basis and then conduct a search based on their annotations.

In addition to the Interview Management System, we will need to install a clock color camera; a color camera smoke detector; a color pin hole camera; four power/video cables; an LCD monitor, a DVD duplicator, and a microphone.

Finally, we need some new furniture for the C.A.R.T. room. Putting the children at ease is essential so that the interview can be as comfortable as possible for these victims of abuse. To that end, we are requesting a child size sofa and soft armchair as well as a small, low coffee table and a small bookcase to hold stuffed animals, paper, pens and crayons.

**Number of Children to Benefit from the Project**

C.A.R.T. will continue to be available for use in all cases involving potential physical or sexual abuse, neglect, or emotional maltreatment of children aged fourteen or under. In addition to the children interviewed, their siblings will also benefit from the project.

**In 2009, at least 400 children will be interviewed, and approximately 140 (35%) will be five years of age and under.** Of the children interviewed over the past eighteen months, approximately one-third have been five years old and younger.

The tables below show the age, ethnicity, and gender of these children. The referring law enforcement agency, in most cases, indicates the geographic location. These breakdowns are anticipated to be representative of the population served in 2009, as well as future years.

Age of Children Interviewed: Jan 2007 through June 2008 (18 months):

|                         | <b>5 Years and Under</b> | <b>5 Years and Over</b> | <b>Totals</b> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Jan. – Dec. 2007</b> | 99 (33%)                 | 200 (67%)               | <b>299</b>    |
| <b>Jan. – June 2008</b> | 58 (32%)                 | 122 (68%)               | <b>180</b>    |
| <b>Totals</b>           | <b>157 (33%)</b>         | <b>322 (67%)</b>        | <b>479</b>    |

Ethnicity of Children Interviewed: Jan 2007 through June 2008 (18 months):

| <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> |
|-------------|---------------|
| 166         | 313           |

Ethnicity of Children Interviewed: Jan 2007 through June 2008 (18 months):

| White | Hispanic | Asian | Black | American Indian | Other & Unknown |
|-------|----------|-------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 133   | 317      | 2     | 18    | 3               | 6               |

Referrals by Investigating/Referring Agency:

| Law Enforcement Agency        | # of Referrals Jan – Dec 2007 | # of Referrals Jan – June 2008 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| District Attorney             | 5                             | 0                              |
| Dinuba Police Dept.           | 3                             | 10                             |
| Exeter Police Dept.           | 9                             | 1                              |
| Federal                       | 3                             | 0                              |
| Farmersville Police Dept.     | 13                            | 8                              |
| Lindsay Police Dept.          | 8                             | 0                              |
| Porterville Police Dept.      | 25                            | 21                             |
| Tulare County Sheriff's Dept. | 90                            | 68                             |
| Tulare Police Dept.           | 47                            | 16                             |
| Visalia Police Dept.          | 91                            | 49                             |
| Woodlake Police Dept.         | 5                             | 7                              |
| <b>Totals</b>                 | <b>299</b>                    | <b>180</b>                     |

Estimate for 2009: Children Interviewed by Age (12 months):

| 5 Years and Under | 5 Years and Over | Total |
|-------------------|------------------|-------|
| 140 (35%)         | 260 (65%)        | 400   |

## **ALIGNMENT WITH FIRST 5 TUALRE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN:**

### **Results, Objectives, and Indicators Affected by the Project**

The request to update and replace outdated equipment for the C.A.R.T. interview room ties into several objectives and indicators for First 5 Tulare County Strategic Plan. It will enable the interviewers and law enforcement to get the information at the initial interview with clear, distinct audio and visual quality and will reduce the possibility that the child victim be interviewed additional times. This will reduce the further trauma to the child and assist them in the process of returning to a healthy emotional state. The updated equipment will also allow for enhanced quality of material to be used in court proceedings and increase cross-professional training and information sharing between different agencies.

This project will move our community toward several of the primary results that First 5 supports. The established objectives support the achievement of these primary results, and will be tracked to demonstrate that the project is accomplishing the desired outcomes. The C.A.R.T. program addresses the following First 5 objectives, but adequate equipment is necessary to achieve these objectives:

#### Children are Physically Healthy

- Increase the percentage of children living in safe and healthy environments.

#### Children are Emotionally Healthy

- Increase the percentage of children with access to early screening, identification, and intervention services for developmental delay, and mental/behavioral health issues.

#### Children Receive Early Screening and Intervention for Special Needs

- Increase the percentage of children with access to early screening, identification, and intervention services for developmental delay, mental/behavioral health issues, substance abuse, violence and neglect, physical disabilities, and chronic medical conditions.

#### Children's Homes are Free from Violence

- Reduce the number of children who are abused and neglected
- Reduce the number of children who are exposed to other forms of violence in their homes

#### Families Can Easily Access Services

- Increase the availability of culturally and linguistically competent services
- Increase program integration to create an effective system of care.

The C.A.R.T. program directly addresses two of the primary strategies established by First 5: 1) Mental health and special needs early screening and services, and 2) Advocacy on the behalf of young children and their families.



## **EVALUATION:**

### **Evidence that the Project has Achieved its Purpose**

The C.A.R.T. program helps ensure that children will be physically and mentally healthy, and improves the lives of children and their families.

The Tulare County District Attorney's Office will gather, analyze, and report information about the services provided through the C.A.R.T. equipment upgrades, as well as the effectiveness of those services. Statistics and other information will be compared to the established measureable objectives in order to monitor project progress and evaluate success.

As required, we will participate in the First 5 evaluation process by developing and implementing an evaluation plan. Evaluation will include both process measures (i.e., what is being done) and outcome measures (i.e., changes brought about by our efforts).

The table below shows the following: project specific measureable objectives; relevant First 5 objectives and indicators; project impact and outcomes; data sources and methodology; and evaluation measures.

**Objectives, Outcomes, and Evaluation**

| Project Specific Objectives   | First 5 Objectives & Indicators  | Impact & Outcomes  | Data Source & Methodology   | Evaluation Measures   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Objective 1:</b><br/>At least 400 children will be interviewed by C.A.R.T. staff in calendar year 2009. Of these, approximately 140 (35%) will be five years of age and under.</p>              | <p>Increase the percentage of children with access to screening, identification, and intervention services for mental/behavioral health issues, substance abuse, violence, and neglect.<br/><br/>As services will be provided in Spanish, it will increase the availability of culturally and linguistically competent services.</p> | <p>The number of child interviews conducted will increase with the implementation of more effective and efficient equipment.</p>   | <p>Data pertaining to the children interviewed will be entered into the Damion system. This will include gender, age, ethnicity, referring agency, date of interview, and other information. These statistics will be compiled in reports from the Damion system.</p> | <p>The data collected in and reported by the Damion system will be compared to the measureable objectives to evaluate project progress and success.</p> |
| <p><b>Objective 2:</b><br/>Increase the number of C.A.R.T. interviews that result in prosecuted cases. (Not previously tracked, so baseline will be established in 2009).</p>                         | <p>Reduce the number of children who are abused and neglected, as well as exposed to violence in their homes.<br/><br/>Increase the percentage of children living in safe and healthy environments.</p>  | <p>Improved quality of investigations, and increased number of prosecutions and convictions for child abuse.</p>   | <p>C.A.R.T. staff will follow up with Prosecution Staff to determine case status, included filing, prosecution, etc. This information will be compiled and reported.</p>  | <p>The data will be compiled and compared to the measureable objectives to evaluate project progress and success.</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Objective 3:</b><br/>The new C.A.R.T. interview room equipment will increase effectiveness and efficiency of the interview process, as well as working with local law enforcement agencies.</p> | <p>Increase program integration to create an effective system of care.<br/><br/>Reduce the number of children who are abused and neglected, as well as exposed to violence in their homes.</p>   | <p>Improved coordination with local law enforcement and other agencies, as they are able to more easily use interviews recorded onto DVDs.<br/><br/>Reduced trauma to child victims by limiting the number of interviews and interviewers.</p> | <p>Feedback from local law enforcement agencies, as well as District Attorney's Office staff. May be collected through interviews and/or questionnaires.</p>  | <p>Feedback will be used to determine increased effectiveness and efficiency of C.A.R.T. interviews with the new equipment.</p>                         |



## Budget Narrative

### County of Tulare, District Attorney's Office Child Abuse Response Team, Interview Room Equipment Replacement 2009

#### Expenses

I. **Personnel:**

No personnel expenses are included in this project.

II. **Operating Expenses:**

No ongoing operating or administrative expenses are included in this project.

III. **Program Expenses:**

Estimated costs for minor equipment and supplies associated with the project were obtained by researching options and prices online and through vendor quotes. Estimated costs include tax and shipping.

DVD Duplicator: DVDs require less storage, have a greater life expectancy, and are more compatible with the equipment used by our partner agencies. A duplicator will allow us to efficiently make copies of DVDs. \$800

Cameras: Multiple cameras will allow us to capture the interview from all angles, no matter where the child is in the room. One camera will be fixed mounted in the corner of the room to capture an overview. A mobile miniature dome camera with tilt and zoom capabilities will allow us to zoom into the child's face to capture the child's reaction to interviewer's questions. Total \$520.

Other Minor Equipment and Supplies: The LCD monitor is a necessary component of the system in order to view the interview and DVDs. The microphone will be used to capture sound during the interview. Power and video cables are necessary to connect the system components. Total \$780.

Furniture: Putting the children at ease is essential so that the interview can be as comfortable as possible for these victims of abuse. We are requesting a child size sofa and soft armchair as well as a small, low coffee table and a small bookcase to hold stuffed animals, paper, pens and crayons. Furniture total \$1,200.

#### IV. **Capital Expenditures:**

Interview Management System: Several interview management systems were researched and quotes were obtained from vendors. The Cardinal Peak CaseCracker Interview Management System was determined to be the most effective and efficient for the price of \$7,700. This system provides a crystal-clear record, using DVD and audio, of exactly what was said during the interview. It allows team members to instantly seek any point in the interview after the fact, to aid in reviewing only the most relevant information from long interviews. A back up is stored in a database. Offsite team members may discreetly prompt the interviewer while the interview is ongoing. A master DVD is generated in real time during the interview and the audio can easily be burned to a CD for easy transcription. Many playback modes are supported; fast forward, rewind, slow motion and frame-by-frame advance. Users may annotate sessions on a frame-by-frame basis and then conduct a search based on their annotations.

#### V. **Indirect Costs:**

No indirect costs are included in this project.

#### **Revenues**

Cash Donations: We have already received \$2,500 in cash donations; The WalMart Distribution Center donated \$2,000 and the Visalia Host Lions donated \$500.

Other Donations: The WalMart Distribution Center has donated an LCD TV/Monitor valued at \$500.

First 5 Grant Funding: As approximately 35% of the children interviewed are projected to be five years of age and younger, we are requesting the same percentage of funding, \$3,850, for the project from First 5 Tulare County.

District Attorney's Office: The District Attorney's Office will contribute the remaining \$4,150 to the project.



Please Submit to:  
 First 5 Tulare County  
 3435 S. Demaree, Suite A  
 Visalia, CA 93277

Budget Request

|   |   |                |       |
|---|---|----------------|-------|
| Provider Name: County of Tulare, District Attorney's Office | Program Name: Child Abuse Response Team, Interview Room Equipment Replacement |                |       |
| Provider Sign: <i>Brian J. Thomas</i>                       | Cont #  | Cont. Term To: | From: |

| Budget Categories Requested                       | Funding Requested | Matching Funds Committed | Total Project Funding (Columns 2+3) |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1   | 2                 | 3                        | 4                                   |
| Personnel (list each position)                    |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| None  |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Benefits  |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
|   |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| <b>Sub-Total Personnel and Benefits</b>           | \$0               | \$0                      | \$0                                 |
| Administrative Expense                            |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Rent and Utilities                                |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Office Supplies and Materials                     |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Telephone and Communication                       |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Postage and Mailing                               |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Printing/Copying                                  |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Equipment Lease                                   |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Others (list all)                                 |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| None  |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| <b>Sub-Total Administrative Expense</b>           | \$0               | \$0                      | \$0                                 |
| Program Expense                                   |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Travel  |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Training/Conference                               |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Consultants                                       |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Subcontractors                                    |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Program Materials and Supplies                    |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Evaluation  |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| Other list all                                    |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| One lock color camera @ \$240                     | \$100             | \$140                    | \$240                               |
| One color camera smoke detector @ \$140           | \$60              | \$80                     | \$140                               |
| One color pin hole camera @ \$140                 | \$60              | \$80                     | \$140                               |
| Four power/video cables @ \$40 = \$160            | \$80              | \$80                     | \$160                               |
| One LCD monitor @ \$500                           | \$0               | \$500                    | \$500                               |
| One DVD Duplicator @ \$800                        | \$325             | \$475                    | \$800                               |
| One microphone @ \$120                            | \$50              | \$70                     | \$120                               |
| One child size sofa @ \$500                       | \$200             | \$300                    | \$500                               |
| One armchair @\$300                               | \$120             | \$180                    | \$300                               |
| One coffee table @ \$200                          | \$80              | \$120                    | \$200                               |
| One bookcase @ \$200                              | \$80              | \$120                    | \$200                               |
| <b>Sub-Total Program Expense</b>                  | \$1,155           | \$2,145                  | \$3,300                             |
| Capital Expense (list all)                        |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| CaseCracker Interview Management System @ \$7,700 | \$2,695           | \$5,005                  | \$7,700                             |
|   |                   |                          | \$0                                 |
| <b>Sub-Total Capital Expense</b>                  | \$2,695           | \$5,005                  | \$7,700                             |
| Indirect Expense                                  |                   |                          | \$0                                 |

|                      |         |         |          |
|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| <b>Report Totals</b> | \$3,850 | \$7,150 | \$11,000 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|----------|

|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Program Officer Approval: | Date: |
| Finance Manager Approval: | Date: |

