

3B – IDENTITY THEFT – DISTRICT ATTORNEY

- 1. Program Area:** Public Protection
- 2. Agencies and Departments involved:** District Attorney
- 3. New or previously identified in earlier Strategic Financial Plans, if previously identified what has changed and why:** Previously Identified
- 4. Description of the project/program – what it is and what it will achieve:**

Identify theft is the fastest growing crime today affecting many people around the country, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Not only are millions of adults victims of identity theft but businesses are affected as well. In 2003, businesses lost \$47.6 billion, while individuals lost \$5 billion.

Various laws have been passed in California and other jurisdictions to try not only to prevent identify theft, but just as importantly to try to provide the victims with a remedy and provide tools for law enforcement agencies to prosecute the culprits. One such law is Penal Code Section 530.6, which mandates that the local police agency (where the victim resides) takes a report, provide a copy of the report to the victim, and either investigate the facts, or, if the suspected crime was committed in a different jurisdiction, refer the matter to that jurisdiction's agency.

As a result of Penal Code Section 530.6, police agencies in the County of Orange are mandated to investigate reports of identify theft. These investigations are then turned over to the Office of the District Attorney for filing. To ensure the appropriate disposition of these cases, the District Attorney requires resources to establish an Orange County Identify Theft Task Force (OCITT). OCITT will serve as the countywide coordinating body for the disposition of cases, authorize jurisdictional legislation and educate the public on identity theft prevention.
- 5. Potential Funding Sources:** The County General Fund
- 6. Cost – estimate and identify separately one-time and ongoing costs:** \$523,614 for FY 2004-05, \$9,610,890 for FYs 2005-06 through 2012-13
- 7. Community Awareness (stakeholders):** District Attorney, OC Police Agencies
- 8. Personnel – will the program/project require additional staffing? If so, estimate number of positions:** Yes, the District Attorney proposes a total of eight new positions, four in FY 2004-05 and four in FY 2005-06.
- 9. Mandated or discretionary:** Discretionary program, however, prosecution of these crimes is mandated.
- 10. Implementation period if funding were available:** FY 2004-05