



Christina L. McMahan
Director

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center
2121 Kaen Road | Oregon City, OR 97045

June 29, 2016

Board of County Commissioner
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

**Approval of award for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance
Grant (JAG) Program FY 2016 Local Solicitation**

Purpose/ Outcomes	This grant award will be used to sustain a part-time (10 hours per week) Human Services Coordinator 2 position to recruit, screen, train, coordinate, and supervise diversion panel volunteers. This position is instrumental in the development of pilot city diversion panels, in the training and recruitment of volunteer panel members to focus on implementing restorative justice principles in the operation of the diversion panels, and the continuing support of established diversion panels.
Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact	This is a formula grant providing \$25,771 to Clackamas County. This award requires no match.
Funding Source	FY 2016 Local Solicitation through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG) provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
Duration	October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2019
Previous Board Action	None
Strategic Plan Alignment	This aligns with the County’s strategic plan to “ensure safe, healthy and secure communities” by providing an opportunity for community involvement with minor offenders; holding youth accountable for their actions; and providing youth the opportunity to give back to their communities in meaningful ways.
Contact Person	Christina L. McMahan, Director – Juvenile Department – 503-655-8342 ext 3171

BACKGROUND:

The Juvenile Department received notification of a Grant Award for the FY 2016 Local Solicitation provided through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG). This is a formula grant providing \$25,771 to Clackamas County. The Juvenile Department was awarded the FY 2010 Local Solicitation of \$46,976, the FY 2011 Local Solicitation of \$39,013, the FY 2012 Local Solicitation of \$32,236, the FY 2013 Local Solicitation of 29,661, the FY 2014 Local Solicitation of \$29,550, and the FY 2015 Solicitation of \$24,237.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the award of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$25,771.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina L. McMahan, Director
Juvenile Department

For more information on this issue or copies of attachments
contact Angela Russell, ext 7135

Since 2002, diversion panels have operated throughout the county with the oversight of Clackamas County Juvenile Department (CCJD). The concept of diversion panels was developed from an underlying assumption that community involvement with minor offenders is beneficial to all stakeholders involved. By holding youth accountable in their city by community members and providing an opportunity for the youth to give back in a meaningful way creates the opportunity to make logical cause and effect associations about actions and consequences.

CCJD is committed to philosophical principles and values of Restorative Justice. Historically, CCJD's capacity to align the diversion panels with this philosophy was hindered by the reality that the coordinators and volunteers operating the diversion panels are not under CCJD direct supervision. To address this barrier, CCJD utilized JAG funds to create a part-time (10 hours per week) Diversion Panel Coordinator position. The coordinator is responsible for 1) the recruitment, screening, training, maintenance, and recognition of volunteer diversion panel members; 2) case assignment screening; 3) oversight of service delivery; 4) panel observation and supervision; and 5) panel monitoring and evaluation. The coordinator also serves as the community liaison for diversion panels. This have proven to be an efficient model in each of the two city diversion panel pilots that were established, again through the use of JAG funds. Additionally, this model further engages the stakeholders in each city and strengthens the department's relationships with the communities it serves.

The diversion panels are facilitated by a volunteer staff. The volunteer panel facilitators are under the direct supervision of the CCJD Diversion Panel Coordinator. The facilitators are responsible for youth intake, administering the assessment tool, referrals to panels and programs

or returning youth cases to a juvenile court counselor. Facilitators provide leadership to their community's panel and are cross-trained to fill in on other panels should the need arise.

Youth referred to diversion panels are screened by the diversion panel coordinator to ensure appropriate referrals are provided to the panels. Youth identified for diversion panel services complete the Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Risk Assessment Tool. This is a risk assessment tool that has been validated and deemed a reliable tool utilized by all juvenile justice agencies in the State of Oregon. Youth having been assessed with two or more risk factors in six domains including school, peer, behavior, family, substance, and attitudes/values/beliefs will be eligible for services. Participation in the diversion panel process is voluntary for the youth. If the youth and family do not accept this option or if the youth is found to be of higher risk to reoffend, they are referred back to CCJD to be seen by a juvenile counselor at the department.

There are eleven local city diversion panels meeting regularly in Clackamas County. These eleven diversion panels average 511 referrals which have been facilitated within their local community during the last eight years. In the same time span, youth gave back an average 3910 community service hours in each city and community members averaged 1020 volunteer hours to engage youth offenders. Recidivism averaged 10% during this six year period and victims reported a 70.3% satisfaction based on surveys completed in 2012. Effective community supervision coupled with-evidence based program intervention results in reduction in recidivism. By engaging community stakeholders in the process of holding youth accountable the community is better served.

The department will utilize the new funding allocation to sustain the diversion panel coordinator position. The coordinator will coach and provide continued training of the volunteer

diversion panel members, along with the development of new diversion panels in two new communities identified by CCJD. The department has identified three project goals: 1) provide community-based coordinated intervention to at-risk affected youth; 2) reduce risk factors and increase protective factors by providing evidence-based interventions; and 3) reduce recidivism of those youth completing program services. Additionally, CCJD hopes to enhance the diversion panel program through the increase of referrals for low risk youth; further engagement and training of the law enforcement community, including the exploration of officer-initiated referrals; and strengthening the risk principle approach through the referral of low risk youth with more serious allegations.