

Analysis
Criminal Justice Commission
Justice Reinvestment Program Report

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Request: Acknowledge receipt of a report on the Justice Reinvestment Program.

Recommendation: Acknowledge receipt of the report with the understanding that the Commission will return to the Emergency Board or Joint Committee on Ways and Means if any funding becomes available through the technical assistance program.

Analysis: HB 3194 (2013) established the Justice Reinvestment Program to provide grants to counties for programs to reduce recidivism and decrease utilization of state prison capacity. The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is responsible for administering the program and distributes grant funds with collaboration from the Justice Reinvestment Grant Review Committee. HB 5008 (2013) provided CJC with \$10 million General Fund for the grant program and directed the CJC to report on the results of the grant distribution in a budget note.

CJC reports that the entire \$10 million General Fund has been distributed to counties based on the community corrections grants baseline funding distribution formula with a minimum of \$50,000 to each county. CJC reports the following usages for the grant funds, as indicated by the counties: community based sanctions or community based services (28 counties); transitional leave (8); programs for evidence-based practice for supervision (25); reentry courts (4); specialty courts (8); and work release (1). While the counties have received the funding, most are still in the process of investing it.

Additionally, CJC is tasked with staffing the Public Safety Task Force, which has met twice thus far, and the Grant Review Committee outlined in HB 3194. The task force has organized subcommittees to further explore specific areas of implementation including measuring outcomes, policing excellence, and specialty courts. The Grant Review Committee is tasked with writing rules for the Justice Reinvestment Grant process and review applications. This committee has met four times, and is anticipated to begin the process of drafting rules.

In addition to funds received from the Legislature for staffing the Task Force, CJC has applied to the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice for technical assistance in implementation of justice reinvestment strategies. The Vera Institute of Justice has been selected to provide the technical assistance to CJC. As part of Oregon's selection to receive technical assistance, there is the possibility of seed funding being provided to assist with implementation strategies; however, funding is not guaranteed.

Finally, CJC has established four Regional Implementation Councils (RIC) representing areas in the state that encompass the Metro region (and Lane County), Northwest/Coastal region, Southwest region, and Central/Eastern region. The goal of the RICs is to collaborate with counties on the implementation of programs funded by the Justice Reinvestment Grant funds, prison usage data, and specific needs by region. The regional meetings are scheduled quarterly and staffed by CJC.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends acknowledging receipt of the report with the understanding that the Commission will return to the Emergency Board or Joint Committee on Ways and Means if any funding becomes available through the technical assistance program.