

Analysis

Item 24: Criminal Justice Commission

Justice Reinvestment and Research

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,045,940 for two grant awards from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance to supplement Justice Reinvestment programs and to support the expansion of improved recidivism analysis.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means recommend the Criminal Justice Commission Federal Funds expenditure limitation be increased by \$1,045,940 in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2018 legislative session, for grant-funded Justice Reinvestment programs and for improving recidivism analysis.

Analysis: In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Pew Charitable Trusts launched the Justice Reinvestment Initiative as a way of helping states to reduce the cost of incarceration and improve public safety. Oregon is one of 27 states participating in the initiative.

On July 25, 2017, the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) was invited to apply for an additional \$875,000 in grant funds to supplement its existing BJA *Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Maximizing State Reforms* grant award. CJC has used this grant award to fund six administrative positions that support fifteen Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils (LPSCCs) in the non-metro central/eastern, northwest/coast, and southwest regions of the state. The agency applied for the additional grant funds after timely notification to the Legislature, received the grant award on September 20, 2017, and requires additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation to spend the grant funds. If approved, CJC intends to provide additional support to the fifteen LPSCCs currently receiving grant funding, specifically to continue professional staff development and to ensure local public safety system mapping.

CJC's legislatively adopted budget contains \$52,000 in ongoing formula funding from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) for its Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) program. BJS provides limited funding to local governments to develop and operate SACs to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice for both federal and local criminal justice policy development. The agency's recent grant award of \$222,940 exceeds the amount of Federal Funds expenditure limitation currently available to CJC. If approved, the additional grant funds will be used to analyze crime type specialization and recidivism trends in Oregon in greater detail. The proposed additional analysis will include the number of recidivating events within a three-year period, as well as a break down by crime type, which will provide more detail around both the frequency of recidivating events and the diversity of crimes committed.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means recommend the Criminal Justice Commission Federal Funds expenditure limitation be increased by \$1,045,940 in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2018 legislative session.

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Criminal Justice Commission
McDonald

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,045,940 for the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Maximizing Capacity Grant Program and a research project by the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC).

Recommendation: Approve the request during the 2018 Legislative Session.

Discussion: In July 2017, the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) received an invitation from the federal Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to apply for an additional \$875,000 in grant funding to continue support of the LPSCC Maximizing Capacity Grant Program. Retroactive approval to apply for the grant was given during the September 2017 meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means and the grant was awarded on September 20, 2017. The Department is requesting additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation in order to spend the grant funds.

According to the grant announcement, the *Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Maximizing State Reforms* is a continuing effort since 2010, designed as a multi-staged process in which jurisdictions increase the cost-effectiveness of their criminal justice system and reinvest savings into high-performing public safety strategies. In the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) model, a government working group analyzes the corrections population for cost drivers, develops cost-effective policy options and implements population reforms while enhancing public safety. JRI encourages states to embrace a culture of greater collaboration, data-driven decision making and increased use of evidence-based practices. As of September 2017, Oregon is one of 27 states participating in this initiative.

CJC used prior grant funding to support 15 statutorily required LPSCCs. The agency provided staff resources. This included local criminal justice policy and planning support, state and local data analysis, coordinating staff meetings and overseeing local justice reinvestment efforts on behalf of counties. The additional grant funding will support data-driven decision making practices and continue to support the LPSCCs, including establishing a sustainable training program.

On September 19, 2017, CJC was granted the ongoing formula SAC grant in the amount of \$222,940. This exceeded grant funding from years past and the amount included in the agency's legislatively adopted budget. The difference of \$170,940 is included in the agency's request to increase limitation. If CJC is granted additional limitation to make full use of this grant, it will support the *Core Capacity Building Project: Expansion of Recidivism Measures to Measure Criminal Justice System Performance*. This project is an effort by SAC to examine additional ways to measure and analyze recidivism trends in Oregon. The data will include recidivating events within a three-year period by crime type and additional detail including frequency and diversity of crimes may be used to support policy development.

Legal Reference: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 505, section 3, Oregon Laws 2017, for the Criminal Justice Commission, by \$1,045,940 for the 2017-19 biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Criminal Justice Commission

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December 4, 2017

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court St. NE
H-178 Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301-4048

Request for Increase in Federal Fund Limitation

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request:

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) respectfully requests an increase in Federal Fund expenditure limitation of \$1,045,940. This is the total of the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) recent grant award for the 2016 Supplemental Justice Reinvestment: Maximizing Capacity Grant of \$875,000, and supplemental Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant award of \$170,940 for the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) formula grant.

Agency Action:

On July 25, 2017, CJC received an invitation from U.S. DOJ to apply for supplemental grant funding to support the LPSCC Maximizing Capacity Grant Program. CJC followed the appropriate process for requesting approval to apply. On September 20, 2017, CJC was awarded the supplemental \$875,000.

As outlined in the invitation to apply, the purpose of the supplemental grant funding is to address the following:

- Continue to deepen the state's investment in and commitment to the use of data-driven decision making and research-supported practices and programs.
- Meet the individual needs of the LPSCC; including establishing and effective, sustainable LPSCC coordinator training program, support network, and staffing model that can be replicated across Oregon counties to ensure fiscally responsible and programmatically sound decision making across the state.
- To support travel and training to meet those objectives, as needed.

Michael Schmidt
Executive Director

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On September 19, 2017, CJC received the formula SAC grant in the amount of \$222,940. This grant was awarded higher than in years past and exceeded the budget limitation request of \$52,000 in the Legislatively Adopted Budget.

The grant will go to support the Core Capacity Building Project: Expansion of Recidivism Measures to Measure Criminal Justice System Performance. The funds will be used to analyze additional ways of measuring recidivism trends in Oregon. The proposed additional analysis will include the number of recidivating events within a three year period, as well as a break down by crime type. This will provide more detail around the frequency of recidivating events, as well as the diversity of crimes committed. An analysis of crime type specialization will be conducted.

These grants align with the CJC's public safety responsibility. CJC provides services to the Oregon criminal justice community through the administration of federal grant programs that reduce drug use and crime and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

These grants were effective July 1, 2017.

Action Requested:

The commission requests the Emergency Board increase the commission's Federal Fund limitation by \$1,045,940 to fund the LPSCC Maximizing Capacity Grant Program and the Core Capacity Building Project.

Legislation Affected:

Chapter 505, Section 3, Oregon Laws 2017

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Quintero at 503-866-1006.

Sincerely,



Michael Schmidt
Executive Director, Criminal Justice Commission

cc: Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Office
Julie Neburka, Legislative Fiscal Office
George Naughton, Chief Financial Office
Dustin Ball, Chief Financial Office
April McDonald, Chief Financial Office