

## Department of Corrections Analyst: Ball

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a federal grant of up to \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance to improve probation success.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** On March 1, 2017 the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) submitted a letter seeking approval to apply for the Smart Supervision Grant Program made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance. This is a competitive grant with an estimated total amount awarded of up to \$5,000,000 and individual awards of up to \$750,000. Grant applications are due no later than March 7, 2017.

The goal of the grant is to develop and test innovative strategies and implement evidence-based probation and parole approaches that improve supervision success rates, thereby increasing community safety. Objectives of the grant program are to improve the capacity and effectiveness of community supervision agencies to increase probation and parole success rates and reduce the number of crimes committed by those under probation and parole services, which would in turn reduce admissions to prisons and jails.

DOC reports that grant proceeds will be used to create a training academy for supervisors and managers to assess and address evidence based practices in their offices using proven practices with the goal of reducing recidivism. The academy would be designed in two levels with a number of courses offered. Level 1 of the academy will be offered twice yearly and participants must have a plan for how they will support the application of the new skills they learn. Level 2 of the academy will only be available to jurisdictions that have committed to organizational change and ongoing training and support of the new implementation/sustainability strategies being taught.

There is no match requirement associated with the grant, and the award period would be for 36-months beginning on October 1, 2017. Applicants will be notified if they were successful no later than September 30, 2017. If successful, DOC may need to return to an appropriate legislative body to seek additional federal funds expenditure limitation.