

Analysis

Department of Corrections

Supervision Strategies to Reduce Recidivism

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approval to apply for \$750,000 from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for evidence-based probation and parole practices.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Department of Corrections supervises and funds the supervision of more than 32,000 offenders on parole and probation in Oregon. These offenders have committed felony crimes and are serving sentences of felony probation, parole, post-prison supervision, or prison sentences of 12 months or less served at the county level. Supervision is provided by probation/parole officers, and the intensity of the supervision, community-based sanctions, and correctional programs is guided by the offender's behavior and risk of committing new crimes.

The US Department of Justice's *Smart Supervision* grant program improves 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 supervision, which would in turn reduce admissions to prisons and jails and save taxpayer dollars. Funds can be used to support capacity-building activities, including staff training to meet the rehabilitative and supervision needs of the supervision population; assessing and addressing gaps and/or quality of service provision; standardizing new or existing strategies to promote replication and scaling; and developing and implementing performance metrics. The US Department of Justice anticipates granting seven three-year awards of up to \$750,000 before October 1, 2017. There is no match requirement.

If successful, the Department of Corrections would use the grant funds to implement an advanced training academy for community corrections supervisors and managers throughout the state on such topics as Case Management, Evidence Based Practices, Gender specific supervision, and working with victims. The advanced training academy would allow the agency to focus on developing the supervisory skills required for adopting emerging and best practices for reducing recidivism among probationers and parolees.

If awarded, the agency may return to the legislature to request additional federal funds expenditure limitation.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the grant application request.