

Department of Corrections Ball

Request: Authorization to apply for a federal grant of up to \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice to research the impact of acute and/or chronic stress on Corrections Officers and their families.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: On March 7, 2017 the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) submitted a letter seeking approval to apply for the Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System Grant made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. This is a competitive grant with total awards to all recipients estimated at \$4,500,000. Grant applications are due no later than March 23, 2017.

The purpose of the grant is to promote multidisciplinary research in the area of safety, health, and wellness for the criminal justice community. Individual applicant proposals should address one of the following three categories:

1. Causes and effects of stress and trauma on: (a) Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers or (b) individuals in violent communities;
2. Impact of parental jail incarceration on children; or
3. The efficacy of services, strategies, policies and processes within the criminal or juvenile justice system that serve as responses to children exposed to violence.

DOC's grant request would focus on the cause and effects of stress and trauma on Corrections Officers. Specifically, DOC is developing a proposal that would expand the depth and research of its mindfulness-based emotional intelligence interventions for staff. This would enhance research through additional tracking of stress markers and absenteeism.

There is no match requirement associated with the grant, and the award period will depend on the research proposed (normally not to exceed 36-month beginning on January 1, 2018). 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.