

**Judicial Department
Family Court Enhancement Project**

On March 15th, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended retroactive approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Judicial Department to the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$550,000 for a Justice for Families Program grant. The federal grant funds will support the Family Court Enhancement Project, operated by the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

The Family Court Enhancement Project assists litigants in domestic relations cases who have been subject to domestic violence. The assisted litigants do not have attorneys, and the program helps them access the court. Project funds also support training of judges, court staff and attorneys, to improve court adjudication of domestic violence cases. The Project is operated by the Multnomah County Court, and is currently funded by an earlier federal grant. If the application is successful, the new grant will be used to continue the program for a three-year period, starting in October 2017.

The grant has no state match requirements, and there are no requirements to continue any grant-supported activities or services after the grant expires.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.