

Analysis
Criminal Justice Commission
Adult Discretionary Drug Courts

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approval to apply for a \$1.5 million federal grant from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for Adult Discretionary Drug Courts.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) administers Oregon's treatment court grant program. During the 2015-17 biennium, the CJC funded 36 programs in 22 counties with state and federal resources. Treatment courts operate under a specialized model to provide court directed supervision and mandated treatment to non-violent offenders with substance use or mental health issues underlying their criminal behavior. Participants are required to adhere to a strenuous regimen of treatment and accountability which requires a strong personal commitment to eliminate substance use and sustain a crime-free lifestyle.

Additionally, the CJC serves as a clearing house and information center for the collection, preparation, analysis and dissemination of the best practices applicable to specialty courts. This includes coordinating research, distributing research results, providing treatment court specific trainings, and supporting evidence-based practice implementation. CJC's specialty court program develops evidence-based standards for treatment courts in consultation with the Judicial Department, designed to reduce recidivism and target high to medium risk offenders.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program provides financial and technical assistance to states, state courts, local courts, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to develop and implement drug courts that effectively integrate evidence-based substance use disorder treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in a judicially supervised court setting with jurisdiction over substance-misusers. Awards from this competitive grant program must be used to build and/or expand drug court capacity at the state, local, and tribal levels to reduce crime and substance misuse among high-risk, high-need participants.

Applications for funding are due on February 28, 2017. The agency intends to use grant proceeds to financially support four local Oregon treatment courts and to pay for a portion of the new Oregon Treatment Court Case Management System replacement. There is a 25 percent match requirement that the agency will meet from its current resources. Grant awards are expected to be announced by September 30, 2017. If successful, CJC may need to return to the legislature to seek additional federal funds expenditure limitation.

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