

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 13, 2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization for Housing Services to retroactively submit and accept federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant funds in the amount of \$1 million and commit a \$1 million County match to provide reentry housing opportunities

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The DHHS Director is requesting authorization for Housing Services to retroactively submit and accept federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant funds in the amount of \$1 million and commit a \$1 million county match to provide reentry housing opportunities for residents at the Community Reintegration Center (CRC).

POLICY

Per Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, departments are required to seek County Board approval to submit a grant application that requires a county match with county funding or in-kind services.

Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:		56.06(1)
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BACKGROUND

Housing Services is proposing to implement the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) 2024 Smart Reentry: Housing Demonstration Project. The purpose is to increase affordable, safe housing options for Milwaukee County’s CRC residents reentering the community. Project activities include convening a reentry task force; supplying safe and affordable housing for CRC residents upon reentry; providing secure, stable short-term and permanent Housing Services for CRC residents upon reentry; and delivering wraparound services to meet common needs of, and provide continuity of care to, CRC residents.

Expected outcomes include increased capacity of the implementation team to better address the specific reentry needs of individuals exiting the CRC; reduction in recidivism for CRC residents; increased community involvement in reentry programming, services, and policy decision-making; and regular program assessments. Subrecipient activities include pre- and post-release services and programming, as well as engaging reentry task force members to leverage all funding and resources to meet program goals and objectives.

The term of the grant is 10/1/24 through 9/30/27. During this time period, Housing Services will enter into contracts with three local organizations to provide services:

My Way Out

Housing Services will contract with My Way Out to provide reentry services to residents at the CRC. Using the successful Credible Messenger programming, My Way Out will provide referrals services including but not limited to counseling, housing, employment, and other related services.

Community Advocates

The grant will partially support the Community Advocates Milwaukee Reentry Housing Taskforce. Activities from the Taskforce will focus on project outreach, community collaboration and coordination.

Medical College of Wisconsin

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) will act as the evaluator for the grant. MCW will measure the effectiveness of the interventions spelled out in the grant as well as the activities of selected contract agencies.

As the BJA grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match, Housing Services and its partners have pledged a \$1 million match over a three-year period. The source of the match from Milwaukee County is existing staff time from Housing Services as well as the Community Reintegration Center (CRC). The CRC is also pledging existing rental assistance resources. Housing Services's partner, My Way Out, is also pledging existing staff time and resources for the match requirement. No additional Milwaukee County tax levy is needed to meet the match requirement.

The total budget of \$2 million over the three-year period is reflected below.

Federal Request				
Expense Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Personnel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel	\$ 4,431	\$ 4,431	\$ 4,431	\$ 13,293
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subrecipients	\$ 103,866	\$ 106,387	\$ 108,983	\$ 319,236
Contractual	\$ 40,675	\$ 41,838	\$ 68,431	\$ 150,944
Indirect charges	\$ 24,030	\$ 24,452	\$ 24,873	\$ 73,355
Other costs	\$ 13,172	\$ 215,000	\$ 215,000	\$ 443,172
TOTAL	\$ 186,174	\$ 392,108	\$ 421,718	\$ 1,000,000
Non-Federal Request				
Expense Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Personnel	\$ 144,450	\$ 147,339	\$ 150,228	\$ 442,017
Fringe Benefits	\$ 66,418	\$ 67,746	\$ 69,075	\$ 203,239
Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subrecipients	\$ 54,787	\$ 52,039	\$ 55,298	\$ 162,124
Contractual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Indirect charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other costs	\$ 192,620	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 192,620
TOTAL	\$ 458,275	\$ 267,124	\$ 274,601	\$ 1,000,000
Total Budget	\$ 644,448	\$ 659,232	\$ 696,319	\$ 2,000,000

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This action item aligns with strategic plan objectives 2A (Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity) and 3A (Invest upstream to address root causes of health disparities).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to retroactively submit and accept federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant funds in the amount of \$1 million and commit a \$1 million county match to provide reentry housing opportunities for residents at the Community Reintegration Center.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The grant is effective from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director
James Mathy, Housing Administrator

PREPARED BY:

James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Madeline Fruehe, Budget & Management Analyst, SBP