

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : June 26, 2017

TO : Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Board of Supervisors

FROM : Steven Kreklow, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget

SUBJECT : 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

REQUEST

Authorization to apply for and accept the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for the Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

BACKGROUND

JAG funding is awarded to municipalities based upon the average annual number of PART 1 violent crimes reported by the unit to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Since Milwaukee County bears the cost of prosecution and incarceration that arise out of Part 1 violent crimes, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has declared Milwaukee County a disparate jurisdiction and therefore eligible to share in the funding awarded distributed to municipalities located within Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County is not eligible for a direct grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Typically the DOJ release grant solicitation around the early to mid-May, but as of June 26th, 2017 the Department of Administrative Services – Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB) has not received the 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant solicitation from the United States DOJ. In prior years the solicitation, stating the quantity of funds that are available, was released in early to mid-May. As of June 26th, 2017 this amount is unknown. Although the solicitation has not been posted, DAS-PSB is requesting authorization to apply for, if solicited, and received, if awarded, the 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. Due to the timing of the Federal fiscal cycle and County Board cycles, as well as, a County Legislative recess in August 2017, authorization to apply for and accept if awarded is being requested in this July 2017 County Board cycle.

In order to mitigate the risk of losing grant funding, DAS-PSB will continue to monitor the DOJ website for the solicitation. If and when the solicitation is posted DAS-PSB will apply for the available funds.

The 2017 funding also requires the qualifying localities to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the administration and distribution of funds. The MOU currently being worked on. The following is a list of previous year's awards:

Year	Award Amount
2016	\$937,932
2015	\$818,713
2014	\$883,907
2013	\$806,327
Average	\$861,720

While we do not know the amount that may be awarded the average of the past four years awards is \$861,720. The County is currently communicating with Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) regarding funding allocation. Previously funding has been first be allocated to fund the Community Justice Council Coordinator position housed at the Public Policy Forum (PPF), with MPD and Milwaukee County each receiving approximately one half of the remaining amount. Assuming the 2017 request from Community Justice Council of \$99,881 and the average of the last four years, the County and MPD would split \$761,839.

Consistent with prior year's administration, Milwaukee County has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the 2017 JAG grant.

Matching Funds Requirement

The JAG grant does not require a local match.

Trust Fund Requirement

The JAG funds, which are forwarded to the County and pursuant to grant guidelines, must be held in a separate trust account.

Recommendation

In order to strengthen the collective ability of local jurisdictions to combat violent crime, it is recommended that DAS-PSB be authorized to apply for and accept 2017 JAG funds. In addition, a separate trust fund must also be authorized and established to meet grant requirements and to deposit the grant monies that will be forwarded to the County.



Steve Kreklow, Director
Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Department of Administrative Services