

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : August 16, 2019

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

FROM : Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget

SUBJECT : 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

REQUEST

Retroactive approval to apply for, and accept, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds for the Federal Fiscal Year 2019; and to create a new trust fund (if awarded).

BACKGROUND

JAG funding is awarded to municipalities based upon the average annual number of PART 1 violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault etc.) 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 DOJ has declared Milwaukee County a disparate jurisdiction and therefore eligible to share in the funding awarded to municipalities located within Milwaukee County.

Historically the DOJ releases grant solicitations for the JAG around early to mid-May. On July 29, 2019 the Department of Administrative Services – Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB) was notified by the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) that it had released applications for the 2019 JAG. DAS-PSB was notified that the deadline for the application was August 23rd, 2019, prior to the scheduled September cycle Committee meetings, but after the deadline for the July cycle. The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors had a legislative recess in August. Rather than request a special public meeting ahead of the deadline, DAS-PSB is requesting retroactive authority to apply for, and receive, the 2019 JAG Grant and to hold the public hearing and review for the application during the regular September 2019 cycle meeting.

In order to mitigate the risk of losing grant funding, DAS-PSB submitted the grant application on August 23th, 2019. Then, the public hearing and review of the application will occur at the Finance and Audit Committee on September 12th, 2019.

The funding also requires the qualifying localities to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the administration and distribution of funds. Milwaukee County is not eligible for a direct grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The following is a list of municipalities that are eligible for funding and their award amount:

Municipality	Award Amount
Milwaukee County	\$510,472 ¹
City of Milwaukee	\$401,895
City of West Allis	\$20,892
Total	\$933,259

¹ Includes the Wisconsin Policy Forum sub award of \$108,577 to fund the Community Justice Council Director as agreed to by both the COUNTY and CITY OF MILWAUKEE.

The total allocation of \$933,259 represents a decrease of \$34,824 or 3.59 percent from the FY 2018 JAG grant. After e-mail communication with Milwaukee Police Department, it was agreed that funding would first be allocated to fund the Community Justice Council Coordinator position housed at the Wisconsin Policy Forum at a 2019 cost of \$108,577, with Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee County each receiving one half (\$401,895) of the remaining amount.

Milwaukee County has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the 2019 JAG grant as it has for the prior year's JAG grants.

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 retroactively authorized to apply for and accept 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.



Joe Lamers, Director
Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Department of Administrative Services