

-COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE-
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : July 1, 2014

TO : Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Board of Supervisors

FROM : Joshua Fudge, Interim Fiscal & Budget Administrator, DAS-Fiscal

SUBJECT : 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

REQUEST

Retroactive approval to apply for and accept Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 is requested.

BACKGROUND

On April 24, 2014, the 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 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The U.S. DOJ indicated that the deadline for the application was June 10, 2014, prior to the scheduled July cycle Committee meetings.

In order to mitigate the risk of losing grant funding, DAS-PSB solicited departments for requests under this grant and submitted the grant application on June 10, 2014. DAS-PSB, and is now requesting retroactive approval to apply for the grant. This procedure was also used for the 2013 grant, as the timeframe of the application fell between Committee cycle schedules. Part of the application requirement for the JAG grant requires the administering agency to provide an opportunity for public comment on the spending plan, which is attached.

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 DOJ has declared Milwaukee County a disparate jurisdiction and therefore eligible to share in the funding awarded to municipalities located within Milwaukee County.

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	\$849,996
WAUWATOSA	\$10,328
WEST ALLIS	\$23,583
TOTAL	\$883,907

The total allocation of \$883,907 represents an increase of \$77,580 or 10 percent from the FY 2013 version of the grant. Since 96% of all the local funds are earmarked for the City of Milwaukee, no attempt was made to extract funding from the municipalities other than the City of Milwaukee. After discussions with Milwaukee Police Department, it was agreed that funding would first be allocated to fund the Community Justice Council Coordinator position housed at the Public Policy Forum at a cost of \$95,000, with Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee County each providing one-half of the funding. The net award to the City of Milwaukee is then \$754,996. Of that, Milwaukee County will receive \$377,498 or 50% of the City of Milwaukee's net award.

Milwaukee County has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the 2014 JAG grant as it is for the prior year 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.

Spending Plan

The spending plan is attached. For Milwaukee County projects, the Office of the District Attorney and the Department of Administrative Services were the only two organizations to make requests for funding. No requests were received by the deadline from any other department or office.

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 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.

FISCAL NOTE

Approval of this request will result in total 2014 JAG funds of \$883,907 being provided to the following localities:

Municipality	Award Amount
MILWAUKEE	\$849,996
WAUWATOSA	\$10,328
WEST ALLIS	\$23,583
TOTAL	\$883,907

This grant does not require a local match; however, staff time is required because Milwaukee County will be the fiscal agent for the grant. DAS-PSB, upon verification that expenses submitted for reimbursement are consistent with the approved joint spending plan, will transfer the funds to the appropriate departmental account from the trust account where the funds will be held. In addition, DAS-PSB, upon verification that expenses submitted for reimbursement are consistent with the approved joint spending plan, will make payment to the municipalities from the trust account where the funds will be held.

PREPARED BY:

Josh Fudge, Budget Director



Joshua Fudge
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pc: Chris Abele, County Executive
John Chisholm, Milwaukee County District Attorney