

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Delinquency and Court Services Division (DHHS)
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: May 24, 2013

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by B. Thomas Wanta, Administrator/ Chief Intake Officer – DCSD

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to accept grant revenue totaling \$47,000 from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance and to enter into a Purchase of Service Contract with Wisconsin Community Services for an Alternative Sanction Program within the Delinquency and Court Services Division**

Issue

Section 56.06 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances requires County Board approval to accept grant revenue and section 46.09 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances requires County Board approval to enter into purchase of service contracts. Therefore, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to accept grant revenue from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance to implement juvenile justice system reform activities associated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), and to enter into a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services for \$40,000 to implement a pilot Alternative Sanction Program within the Delinquency and Court Services Division (DCSD).

Discussion

DCSD recently applied for and was awarded a Juvenile Justice Title II Formula grant from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance to implement juvenile justice system reform activities associated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). On April 9, 2013 DCSD received a grant award notice in the amount of \$47,000 for the time period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. There is no local funding match requirement associated with this grant revenue.

JDAI is a national juvenile detention reform effort that has been implemented in nearly 200 jurisdictions in 39 states. JDAI has successfully reduced the number of youth in confinement while maintaining or improving public safety in other states across the country through implementing eight core strategies. Milwaukee County was chosen in 2012 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to participate in JDAI as one of three Wisconsin counties, along with Manitowoc and Racine Counties, as part of a statewide roll-out through the Wisconsin Office of

Justice Assistance. Milwaukee County formally agreed to serve as a pilot JDAI demonstration site and follow the JDAI model through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

As a JDAI demonstration site, DCSD receives technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation designed to:

- Reduce reliance on confinement
- Improve public safety
- Utilize best practice programs
- Save taxpayers' dollars
- Reduce racial disparities & bias
- Stimulate overall juvenile justice reforms

The Milwaukee County Board passed a resolution in January 2013 (File No. 13-84) in support of efforts to implement system reform strategies within the Milwaukee County juvenile justice system through participation in the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. This resolution stated support for the overall principle of safely reducing reliance on confinement of youth while maintaining or improving public safety and for Milwaukee County's participation in JDAI including receiving technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement system reform strategies.

The Alternative Sanction Program is designed as a pilot program to provide a community-based alternative to detention for sanctions placement for youth who violate the conditions of their probation. The Alternative Sanctions Program will provide a timely response that holds youth accountable relative to their violations and engages them in positive and constructive programming. This program will consist of a weekend (Saturday) report center that features structured activities. The target population for the Alternative Sanction Program is youth who are referred by their probation officer or ordered by a judge to participate in the program as a response to violating the conditions of their dispositional (probation) order. The capacity of the report center on a given day will be up to 16 youth.

The goals of the Alternative Sanction Program include the following:

- Provide a timely community-based alternative to sanctions in detention
- Hold youth accountable for violations of the conditions of their dispositional order
- Assist youth in restoring and maintaining compliance with the conditions of their dispositional order
- Target interventions to address the nature of youth's violations and build skills and competencies for improved decision-making relative to behavior leading to violations
- Expose youth to community-based services and positive programming with the potential to lead to continuing involvement beyond their sanction and/or probation involvement

DCSD issued a request for proposals (RFP) in April 2013 for the operation of the Alternative Sanction Program. In addition to Section 46.09 of the County Ordinances, DCSD conforms to the DHHS RFP process to ensure objectivity and fairness in the awarding of purchase of service contracts. DCSD relies on these objective reviews by community panels and DHHS contract

administration/quality assurance to guide award recommendations. In addition to the DHHS panel scoring process, DCSD may consider other salient factors in order to best meet the needs of the juvenile court and youth served including the financial stability of applicants to ensure the continuity of services, the minimization of service disruption, provider alignment with emerging strategies or changing system demands, opportunities for further resource leveraging and information sharing and maximization of resources.

Applicants submitting eligible proposals included Northern Star LLC, Social Development Commission, Southwest Key Programs and Wisconsin Community Services. A panel including community members and a member of DHHS contract administration staff reviewed and scored the proposals.

Based on the scores from the panel, DCSD is recommending that a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services be awarded in the amount of \$40,000 for July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

If this is a successful pilot program, DCSD plans to incorporate it into the array of alternative programming already used for youth, therefore the contract has an optional renewal for up to two additional years, and the possibility, with Board approval, of adjusting funding to meet expanded service needs.


The remaining grant funds will be used to develop additional alternatives to detention, including the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) as a monitoring enhancement tool.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$47,000 associated with the Juvenile Justice Title II Formula grant to implement juvenile justice system reform strategies based on the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, and to enter into a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services in the amount of \$40,000 for the time period of July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of this request has no tax levy impact. The revenue received through the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance grant will cover the full cost of the purchase of service contract. There is no local funding match requirement associated with this grant revenue. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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