

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 5, 2022
To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairperson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
From: George Christenson, Clerk of Circuit Court
Subject: Request to Accept Grant Funding and Create Positions (File No. 22-XXX)
File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Clerk of Circuit Court requests approval to accept the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Grant in the amount of \$181,098 to participate in the NCSC Eviction Diversion Initiative and to create the following position to support the program:

1 Court Coordinator (Eviction Diversion), pay grade 29M effective pay period 15, beginning July 11, 2022.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis Stats 59.17
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	MCGO 56.06(1); 17.05(1)
Specific Adopted Budget:	2022 Adopted Budget

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County's Court has convened the Housing Consortium (HC) for approximately two years to improve the handling of evictions in Milwaukee. The HC is composed of judges, commissioners, clerks from the court system, landlord representatives, legal services, rental assistance, and local funding partners.

In the 2022 Combined Court Related Operations (Courts) budget, one commissioner and three additional clerks were added to address evictions processed in Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County also launched a "right to counsel" initiative in fall of 2021. The increase in staff capacity represents a shift toward problem-solving and collaboration to improve the eviction process and increase housing stability in our community. To further support these efforts, the Chief Judge and Clerk of Circuit Court applied and received a grant from the National Center for State Courts to fund a Court Coordinator (Eviction Diversion) to facilitate continued progress.

This is a two (2) year grant in the amount of \$181,098, with the potential for additional funding in the third and fourth years of the program. Payments will be made in two installments. The first payment of \$119,907 will be paid in 2022 after receipt of the signed agreement. The second installment of \$61,191 will be paid in June 2023. The goal of the program and position is to accomplish the following:

- (1) Establish or expand court-based eviction diversion programs
- (2) Identify and address barriers faced by litigants
- (3) Collaborate with community partners that can stabilize litigants
- (4) Strengthen data collection to measure impact and outcomes of the program; and
- (5) Pursue local goals.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

Related File No's:	
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

FISCAL EFFECT

The NCSC Eviction Diversion Grant does not require a local match.

It is recommended that Combined Court Operations be authorized to accept the National Center for State Courts Eviction Diversion Grant, and one position of Court Coordinator for Eviction Diversion be approved effective pay period 15. In addition, the Comptroller’s Office in conjunction with the Director of the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance and Combined Court Operations are authorized and requested to process an appropriation transfer to recognize \$119,907 in grant revenue for 2022 and provide \$XX,XXX to salary accounts to fully offset the cost of the position align expenditure authority per the grant rules. Expenses and revenues related to the grant in 2023 are expected to be included in the budget.

POSITION INFORMATION

<u>Action</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Pay Range</u>	<u>Annual Salary Range</u>
Create	1	Court Coordinator	29M	\$62,670 to \$75,088

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

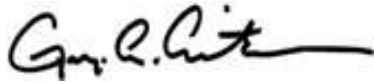
George Christenson
Mary Triggiano
Brenda Ottesen
Tammy Kruczynski
Donya Saffold

PREPARED BY:

Brenda Ottesen
Chief Deputy Clerk

APPROVED BY:

George Christenson
Clerk of Circuit Court



George Christenson

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk