

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: February 13, 2018

To: Milwaukee County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.

From: Michael Hafemann, Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction (HOC)

Subject: From the Superintendent of the House of Correction (HOC), requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Employ Milwaukee to commence the JAG EBDM Jail Reentry Pilot Site Project (2016) from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program - File #18-176

REQUEST

Authorization to enter into a contract with Employ Milwaukee to hire and retain a Reentry Case Manager to commence the JAG EBDM Jail Reentry Pilot Site Project (2016) from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

Discussion

As per File No. 18-131 the Board of Supervisors approved the HOC to accept JAG funds to create a reentry project. This pilot project is intended to develop a model of jail reentry designed to prevent recidivism, ensure individuals have a plan for housing, health care, employment and training, and benefits and/or other services so they can successfully reintegrate and become part of the community upon release. The goal of the pilot is to develop a model that can be tested and evaluated to determine the effectiveness, to potentially lead to replication in other counties.

This reentry pilot project will afford the HOC the opportunity to establish the same level of integrity in its reentry services at the point of release as well as post return. Currently inmates are encouraged to connect to a variety of service providers when they are released and these providers have pledged to provide the supports and connections returning citizens need to experience a smooth transition back to the community. However, the process for making these connections is informal and not yet clearly articulated in a reentry plan. Because the process has not been institutionalized, returning citizens often do not have their critical risk factors intentionally addressed. This pilot will extend all of the established cross-systems planning to include deeper and more intentional reentry planning both within various departments of the County as well as among the HOC's vast network of community partners. Individuals selected for enrollment in the program will benefit from the existing network of services and providers while they are incarcerated as well as from a clearly articulated and highly individualized reentry plan and network of service providers that connects returning citizens to the specific resources and services needed to successfully transition back to the community. We anticipate these services to include things such as housing, health insurance, mental health/substance abuse counseling, employment services, and family reunification supports to name a few.

As was mention in File No. 18-131 the HOC Reentry Pilot Project will continue its relationship with Employ Milwaukee as the lead connector of services both pre and post release. Through this funding the HOC will support Employ Milwaukee to hire a Reentry Case Manager that will be charged with reentry planning and coordination with partners, Office of the Sheriff, HOC administration and Department of Health and Human Services. The Case Manager will identify the training and technical assistance needed for the pilot project and the team will work together collaboratively on all aspects of

the development and local implementation of the reentry pilot including the development of a set of guiding principles that complement the priorities established by the State.

Fiscal Effect

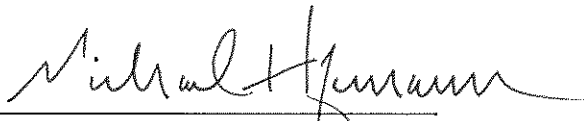
Approval of this request will result in a one (1) year contract with Employ Milwaukee for a total of \$62,500, with the ability to renew each year that the HOC is awarded JAG funds for a maximum of four (4) one (1) year extensions, and a maximum of \$326,000. If JAG funds are not awarded to the HOC in future years, the HOC will not extend this contract, unless an alternate funding source is established and approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation

In order to allow this pilot program to begin it is recommended that the HOC enter into a one (1) year contract with Employ Milwaukee with four one year extensions.

I am respectfully requesting that this item be placed on the agenda for the appropriate committee(s) as an action item.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hafemann", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Hafemann, Superintendent
Milwaukee County House of Correction

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Supervisor Peggy West, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Scott Manske, CPA, Milwaukee County Comptroller
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Stephen Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
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Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Janelle Jensen, Chief Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk