

Analysis

Item 29: Criminal Justice Commission

Justice Reinvestment

Analyst: Tim Walker

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of up to \$1.75 million for three years to support Oregon's Justice Reinvestment efforts.

Recommendation: Approve of the request, with instructions.

Analysis: In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Pew Charitable Trusts launched the Justice Reinvestment Initiative as a way of helping states reduce the cost of incarceration and improve public safety. The initiative funds and provides technical assistance for a targeted, data driven policy-making process through which states can increase the cost-effectiveness of their criminal justice systems by reducing incarceration and increasing investment in evidence-based public safety strategies instead.

BJA's 2016 funding opportunity anticipates awarding up to four grants of up to \$1.75 million over three years to states or tribes to further their existing justice reinvestment strategies, which could include:

- Promoting the use of evidence-based programs and strategies by third-party treatment and programming providers.
- Enhancing paroling authorities' use of evidence-based policy, practice, and decision-making.
- Creating or expanding the continuum of pretrial options in one or more jurisdictions.
- Developing and piloting measures and analyses that account for population characteristics including crime type, risk level, age, and criminal history.
- Establishing or enhancing performance incentive funding programs to encourage successful integration of evidence-based practices in community supervision.
- Piloting or scaling up swift and certain intermediate sanctions.
- Expanding evidence-based re-entry programs for high risk offenders.

The Criminal Justice Commission intends to use the grant dollars, if awarded, to fund administrative positions in Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils (LPSCCs) serving 10-12 local jurisdictions across the state. LPSCCs are integral to local justice reinvestment work, and oversee local justice reinvestment efforts on behalf of counties. The grant has no match requirement and no maintenance-of-effort expectation. The grant was submitted on April 11, 2016 after timely ten-day notification to the Legislature. Awards are expected to be announced in October 2016.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) recommends approval of the request. If the grant is awarded, LFO further recommends that the agreements between the Criminal Justice Commission and participating LPSCCs clearly state that there is no expectation of ongoing state funding to support local LPSCC positions after grant funding is exhausted.

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Criminal Justice Commission
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Request: Retroactive authorization to apply for a federal grant of up to \$1.75 million from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for Oregon’s Justice Reinvestment efforts.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: Justice Reinvestment is a data-driven approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending, and reinvest savings in strategies that can decrease crime, reduce recidivism, and strengthen neighborhoods. The initiative provides funding and technical assistance for a policy-making process through which states can increase the cost-effectiveness of their criminal justice systems by reducing incarceration and increasing investment in evidence-based public safety strategies. Technical assistance is tailored to each site, and includes:

- A comprehensive analysis of criminal justice data and expert diagnosis of the current criminal justice and corrections system to identify factors that are driving costs associated with criminal justice
- Coordination and facilitation of bipartisan forums and working groups that bring policymakers together with other officials and stakeholders to share information, ideas, and consider policy options
- Assistance in monitoring implementation progress and assessing the impact and cost-benefits of justice reinvestment

The U.S. Department of Justice anticipates awarding a maximum of four grants of up to \$1.8 million for a 36-month project period. Grant awards are intended to support states in furthering the goals of formal justice reinvestment efforts. Participating in this initiative means garnering commitment from legislative leadership and criminal justice authorities in the state, developing or improving information sharing capabilities, collecting and analyzing criminal justice data, developing policy options and strategies based on that data, and enacting evidence-based policies that increase public safety.

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) intends to use the grant dollars, if awarded, to fund administrative positions in Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils serving 10-12 local jurisdictions across the state. Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils are integral to local justice reinvestment work, and oversee local justice reinvestment effort on behalf of counties.

The grant has no match requirement and no maintenance-of-effort expectation because Oregon is a “Justice Reinvestment State.” The grant was submitted on April 11, 2016 after sending a timely ten-day notification to the Legislature. Awards are expected to be announced in October, 2016. If the grant application is successful, the CJC anticipates returning to the Legislature to seek an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Criminal Justice Commission

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April 20, 2016

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Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request:

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is seeking retroactive approval for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

Agency Action:

The U.S. DOJ has issued a competitive grant solicitation announcement from the BJA for Justice Reinvestment: Maximizing State Reforms. This funding seeks to support states to further the goals of a state's formal justice reinvestment efforts. The CJC intends to use these federal funds to financially support 10-12 local jurisdictions across the state with administrative personnel positions and tasks that serve Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils (LPSCCs). Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils are integral to local justice reinvestment work and on behalf of counties apply for and oversee local justice reinvestment efforts. Because we are a "Justice Reinvestment State" there is no match requirement, or ongoing maintenance of effort requirement.

The solicitation caps the request for funding at \$1.75 million. The application has been submitted. The grant does not specify a date by which the grants will be announced, but the project period will be 36 months in length.

Action Required:

The Criminal Justice Commission is seeking retroactive approval for a grant of up to \$1.75 million to the U.S. DOJ, OJP, and BJA to support justice reinvestment goals in the state administered through the CJC.

Legislation Affected:

This grant opportunity was not anticipated in the Commission's 2015-17 Legislatively Adopted Budget. If the grant application is successful, the CJC will return to the Legislature to request additional federal funds expenditure limitation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,