

## Analysis

### Item 47: Criminal Justice Commission

#### Project Safe Neighborhoods

---

**Analyst:** Julie Neburka

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of \$181,887 for a Project Safe Neighborhoods grant.

**Analysis:** The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program seeks to reduce gun violence at the local level. Coordinated through each U.S. Attorney's Office nationwide, the program supports law enforcement and community partnerships, strategic enforcement efforts that focus on the most violent offenders and/or the most violence-affected locations, prosecution and appropriate sanctions, and the prevention of additional violence through support of local prevention and re-entry efforts. The PSN Program is the U.S. Department of Justice's lead grant initiative in a suite of programs intended to reduce violent crime.

In June 2018, the Bureau of Justice assistance made \$18,000,000 available nationwide for Project Safe Neighborhood grants. The formula-based awards are based on each U.S. Judicial District's population and violent crime rate; the amount available to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Oregon is \$181,887. If awarded, the grant funds will pay for a research consultant to develop outcome measures to evaluate the success of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program and will pay for the PSN executive team to travel to the (required) PSN National Conference in December 2018. Because the Project Safe Neighborhoods program operates as a multi-jurisdictional task force, BJA allows the State Administering Agency (SAA) responsible for managing the state's Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program awards to serve as fiscal agent. The Criminal Justice Commission is Oregon's SAA for Byrne grant funds and is both the grant recipient and fiscal agent in this instance.

The PSN Task Force initially declined to apply for the grant due to the short window within which to apply. After being provided with more time to complete the application, the U.S. Attorney's Office requested that CJC apply for the grant, which it did on August 16, 2018, after timely ten-day notification to the Legislature. Matching funds are not required. Grant awards are expected to be announced on or after October 1st, 2018, and CJC estimates the grant funds will be spent within a twelve-month period. If awarded, the agency may need to return to the Legislature to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** Approve the request.

47  
Criminal Justice Commission  
McDonald

---

**Request:** Retroactive authorization to apply for a grant totaling \$181,887 from the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a Project Safe Neighborhoods Program (PSN) Formula Grant for procurement of a research consultant to support the PSN Task Force.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The PSN program fosters ongoing coordination, cooperation, and partnerships of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. These partners are part of a unified approach to reduce violent crime led by the U.S. Attorney in all 94 districts. Each U.S. Attorney is responsible for establishing a collaborative PSN team, or “PSN Task Force” to implement a strategic plan for investigating, prosecuting and preventing violent crime in a coordinated manner at all levels – federal, state, local and tribal. According to the grant announcement, PSN is the lead grant initiative in a suite of programs focused on reducing violent crime. Each federal judicial district is eligible to apply for a funding allocation, based on the violent crime rate and population of the district.

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) seeks retroactive approval to apply for PSN grant funding. The Commission received an invitation to apply from the USDOJ, requesting CJC serve as the fiscal agent. Initially, the district’s PSN Task Force was unable to apply for the grant due to the application’s fast turn-around and the deadline of July 19, 2018 was missed. BJA contacted the US Attorney’s Office on July 23 and additional time was provided to submit a completed application by August 30<sup>th</sup>, requesting CJC be the fiscal agent for the award. The Commission applied for the grant after timely ten-day notification was sent to the legislature. The project period is 36 months and there is no grant match requirement or ongoing maintenance of effort requirement. The solicitation caps funding requests at \$181,887. If successful, CJC would return to the Legislature to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation to hire a research consultant for 12 months on behalf of the PSN Task Force to develop outcome metrics. Additionally, grant funds would cover travel expenses for the PSN executive team to attend the required Project Safe Neighborhoods national conference in Kansas this December.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Criminal Justice Commission

885 Summer St NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2522  
TEL: 503-378-4830  
FAX: 503-378-4861

August 27, 2018

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair  
State Emergency Board  
900 Court Street N.E.  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-chairpersons:

### **Nature of the Request:**

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is seeking 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 an invitation to apply for supplemental funding to support the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) through BJA. This funding seeks to support states a results-oriented, collaborative approach to public safety that utilizes law enforcement and community partnerships and strategic enforcement efforts to focus on the most violent criminals in the most violent areas within each district. Each U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) must implement a plan to address this effort. U.S. Attorney Billy Williams has asked that CJC be the fiscal agency for this federal grant as the State Administering Agency (SAA). There is no match requirement, or ongoing maintenance of effort requirement.

The solicitation caps the request for funding at \$181,887. The application deadline was July 19, 2018. Originally, the PSN task force opted out of applying for the grant. The deadline was missed. BJA contacted the USAO on July 23. Additional time was provided to submit a complete application by August 30<sup>th</sup>. The PSN task force has requested that CJC submit the application and be the fiscal agent for the award. The grant suggests that the project period will begin September 30, 2018 and continue for 36 months.

### **Action Required:**

The Criminal Justice Commission is seeking retro-active approval for the federal grant application submitted to the U.S. DOJ, OJP, and BJA for support of the USAO in their efforts to implement the Project Safe Neighborhoods plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael Schmidt  
Executive Director

Cc: George Naughton, Chief Financial Officer  
Julie Neburka, Legislative Fiscal Office Analyst  
April McDonald, Chief Financial Office Analyst  
Dustin Ball, Chief Financial Office Analyst

Michael Schmidt  
Executive Director

### **COMMISSIONERS:**

Robert Ball  
Chairman  
Sen. Floyd Prozanski\*  
Rep. Duane Stark  
Walter Beglau  
Rob Bovett  
Wally Hicks  
Greg Hazarabedian  
Kiki Parker-Rose  
Sebastian Tapia  
\*Non-Voting