



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 23-0843A, Version: 1

Subject:

Amendments to the agreements with the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant.

Recommended Action:

Approval of the amendments to agreements with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender (PD), and Ready for Life Inc. for the 2019 Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant (CJMHA).

- The 2019 CJMHA Reinvestment Grant supports implementation or expansion projects that increase public safety and avert increased spending on criminal and juvenile justice systems.
- The County's project, entitled "Road to Success", expands the PD's existing Crossover Youth program to divert 145 youths from arrest, prosecution, or incarceration into treatment and support services.
- The original CJMHA grant term was July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023. DCF awarded Pinellas County a no-cost extension through September 30, 2023.
- These Amendments extend the agreements through September 30, 2023 and change the total award amount from \$1,200,000.00 to \$800,000.00 over the full term.
- This reduction to \$800,000.00 will more accurately reflect the amount that can be spent within the timeframe.
- The total of \$400,000.00 for the grant agreement is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Adopted Budget.
- This three-month no-cost extension will allow for continued services through the extended grant period and for the program to meet its match requirement. The total impact on the Public Defenders budget for FY23 is \$354,669.75.
- A 100% in-kind match is provided by the PD.

Strategic Plan:

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.2 Be a facilitator, convener, and purchaser of services for those in need

Summary:

The CJMHA Grant funds the Road to Success (RTS) project, an expansion of the Public Defender's Crossover for Children program. The first Amendment to agreements reduced the first year's "youth served" measure to allow for a longer startup period due to COVID-19 and allow the PD to be reimbursed on a monthly basis. These Amendments allow for a three-month no-cost extension to finish up the program and for the PD to meet the match amount.

Background Information:

The CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant was created to provide resources for the planning, implementation, or expansion of initiatives that increase public safety and avert future increases in criminal and juvenile justice systems costs. The RTS project uses CJMHSA Reinvestment funds to provide intensive diversion services to 145 clients over 36 months. Eligible clients include juveniles and young adults who have a mental illness, substance use disorder, or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder, and who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal or juvenile justice system.

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved the grant agreement with DCF on June 23, 2020. The interlocal agreement with the Public Defender and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were ratified by the Board on June 23, 2020. The first amendment to the grant agreement was ratified by the Board on October 23, 2020, and the first amendment to interlocal with the Public Defender was ratified by the Board on October 22, 2020.

This three-month no-cost extension will allow for continued services through the extended grant period and for the program to meet its match requirement. The Amendment is changing the yearly match amount from \$400,000.00 per year to Year 1 \$176,662.00, Year 2 \$185,670.00, Year 3 \$331,993.00, and the 3-month extension \$105,675.00.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00 over three (3) years and the 3-month no-cost extension is provided by the CJMHSA Reinvestment Grant. Match totaling \$800,000.00 will be provided by the Public Defender through a combination of cash and in-kind sources. This award was included in the FY20 estimates and FY21 budget request as part of FY21 budget development.

Staff Member Responsible:

Karen Yatchum, Director, Human Services Director

Partners:

Florida Department of Children and Families
Sixth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
Ready for Life, Inc.

Attachments:

DCF Amendment
PD Amendment
RFL Amendment