



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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File #: 21-828D, Version: 1

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### **Subject:**

Annual Employment Screening Affidavit for the Department of Children and Families' Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant.

### **Recommended Action:**

Approval and execution by the County Administrator of the annual Employment Screening Affidavit required by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant (CJMHSA Grant).

- The CJMHSA Grant funds "Road to Success" (RTS), an expansion of the Public Defender's crossover youth program serving youth with dual contact in the juvenile justice and dependency systems.
- DCF requires that a background Employment Screening Affidavit is executed by the County annually under the terms of the agreement.
- RTS is a three-year project beginning 7/1/20 and ending 6/30/2023.
- The CJMHSA Grant provides \$1,200,000.00 over a 36 month period and requires 100% in-kind match, which is provided by the Public Defender and Ready for Life, Inc.

### **Strategic Plan:**

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

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

2.4 Support programs that seek to prevent and remedy the causes of homelessness and move individuals and families from homelessness to permanent housing

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

### **Summary:**

The affidavit asserts that all employees operating under the CJMHSA Grant have been screened in accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 435. The Public Defender and Ready for Life provide client services under this grant and have also completed Employment Screening Affidavits attesting that all CJMHSA Grant employees have been screened in accordance with the requirements set forth in the grant.

### **Background/Explanation:**

DCF's CJMHSA Grant provides funding to counties for initiatives that improve public safety, avert increased justice system spending, and improve accessibility and efficacy of treatment services for people in or at-risk of entering the justice system who have mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.

The 2019 CJMHS A Grant awarded to Pinellas County funds "Road to Success" (RTS), an expansion of the Public Defender's crossover youth program, which serves juveniles with dual contact with the juvenile justice and dependency systems. The primary goal of the program is to divert these youth from arrest, prosecution, or residential commitment and into treatment and support services. Funding for RTS through the CJMHS A Grant began on July 1, 2020 and will conclude on June 30, 2023.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the grant agreement with DCF, the interlocal with the Public Defender, and the Memorandum of Understanding with Ready for Life on June 23, 2020.

**Fiscal Impact:**

No fiscal impact to funding by or through this item.

Funding in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 over 36 months is provided by Grant #LHZ91 and is included in the applicable budgets. Grant includes 100% match composed of in-kind match from the Sixth Judicial Circuit Public Defender and Ready for Life, Inc.

**Delegated Authority:**

Authority for the County Administrator to sign this Affidavit is granted under Code Section 2-62 (a)(1).

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Karen Yatchum, Director, Human Services

**Partners:**

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

**Attachments:**

County Employment Screening Affidavit  
Public Defender Employment Screening Affidavit  
Ready for Life Employment Screening Affidavit  
DCF Agreement - 2019 CJMHS A Reinvestment Grant