

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Department of Accountability Courts – CACJ Annual Grant
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to submit an application, and if approved, accept \$650,000 or as otherwise awarded from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the operation of the Superior Court Accountability Courts, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and to amend the Multi-governmental Fund by \$650,000 or as otherwise awarded. The City is required to provide a 15% cash matching funds (\$115,000.00) to participate in this grant program. This cash match is satisfied in the salary and benefits of the current Director of Accountability Courts.
INITIATED BY:	Superior Court

Recommendation: Approval is requested to submit an application, and if approved, accept \$650,000 or as otherwise awarded from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the operation of the Superior Court Accountability Courts, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and to amend the Multi-governmental Fund by \$650,000 or as otherwise awarded. The City is required to provide a 15% cash matching funds (\$115,000.00) to participate in this grant program. This cash match is satisfied in the salary and benefits of the current Director of Accountability Courts.

Background: The State of Georgia has provided funds to operate Accountability Courts. The funds are being provided through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to be utilized to operate accountability courts in FY26.

Analysis: The Superior Court Department of Accountability Courts is requesting a grant of \$650,000 from the CJCC to operate the Adult Drug, Mental Health, and Veterans Treatment Court programs for a period of 12 months.

Financial Considerations: The City is required to provide a 15% cash matching funds (\$115,000) to participate in this grant program. This cash match is satisfied by the salary and benefits of the Director of Accountability Courts.

Projected Annual Fiscal Impact Statement: The Columbus Consolidated Government will not be required to continue this program when the grant funds have been expended.

Legal Considerations: The Columbus Consolidated Government is eligible to apply for funds from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils.

Recommendations/ Actions: Approval is requested to submit an application, and if approved, accept \$650,000 or as otherwise awarded from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the operation of the Superior Court Accountability Courts, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, and to amend the Multi-governmental Fund by \$650,000 or as otherwise awarded. The City is

required to provide a 15% cash matching funds (\$115,000.00) to participate in this grant program. This cash match is satisfied in the salary and benefits of the current Director of Accountability Courts.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT AND IF APPROVED, ACCEPT A GRANT OF \$650,000 OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL TO FUND THE SUPERIOR COURT ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS FROM JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 WITH A 15% CASH LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENT AND ALSO AUTHORIZING DR. ANDREW COX AS THE SOLE PROVIDER FOR EVALUATION AND CLINICAL SERVICES FOR THE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 AND TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AWARD AMOUNT.

WHEREAS, funds have been made available from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to the Department of Accountability Courts for a 12 month period beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, funds are being made available to provide support for the operation of the Superior Court Accountability Courts for FY26; and,

WHEREAS, funds have been made available from the State through the CJCC to fund Accountability Courts in the State of Georgia and the CJCC is accepting grant requests from Accountability Courts throughout the State of Georgia; We are requesting to continue to use New Horizons Behavioral Health for our treatment needs for those without insurance, Family Life Center and OPANS for confirmation testing and Dr. Andrew Cox for our clinical and programmatic evaluations; and,

WHEREAS, the City is required to provide a 15% cash matching funds to participate in this grant program. This cash match is satisfied by the salary of the current Director of Accountability Courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to submit a grant application to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to fund the Adult Drug, Mental Health and Veteran's Treatment Court and if awarded accept \$650,000 to provide funding from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 and authorize a sole source contract to New Horizons Behavioral Health, OPANS, The Family Life Center and Dr. Andrew Cox and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the grant award.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor