



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 3/21/2022

SUBJECT: Deschutes County's Emerging Adult Program Restorative Justice Grant Application

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Move to approve authorization to apply for the Commission Justice Commission's FY22 Restorative Justice Grant Program

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In July 2021 the Deschutes County DA's Office launched a pilot Emerging Adult Program to test the concept of using restorative justice methodologies rather than sending cases with young adult offenders through the traditional criminal justice system. The purpose of this program was to help young adult offenders change their life trajectory.

Current research informs us that the brains of young adult are not fully developed, which results in many making poor decisions. Unfortunately, these poor decisions can often create lifelong complications. Research also indicates that this point in life is pivotal for both positive and negative consequences, so with the right support after a bad decision has been made there are significant opportunities to change that trajectory. So by adjusting how we work with young adults, we feel confident that we can change recidivism rates for this population.

The pilot program has been running for eight months and we have enrolled nine individuals for their six-month intervention program. To date, one young adult has graduated, one has been revoked, and three on are schedule to graduate in April. Although it is a very small sample, this test has allowed us to learn a lot and has been positive enough to indicate that we should consider expanding this opportunity to a larger group to test it further. To do that we know that we need dedicated staff to oversee these cases and we need to enhance our partnerships with community organizations.

Simultaneously, the concept of restorative justice has been gaining momentum across the country and the Oregon Legislature recently gave the Criminal Justice Commission \$4M for the FY22 biennium to encourage counties to implement restorative justice initiatives. The Deschutes County DA's Office, in partnership with Community Solutions of Central Oregon,

Thrive Central Oregon, Deschutes County Behavioral Health – Intensive Youth Services, and Deschutes Defenders want to apply for this funding to expand the Emerging Adult Program.

Draft proposal and budget are attached.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

Projected Grant Request:

- Approximately \$1,000,000 – July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024

Personnel - DA Office

- 1 FTE Program Technician
- 0.75 FTE Victim Advocate
- 0.5 FTE DDA

Sub awards/Contracts

- Community Solutions of Central Oregon
- Thrive Central Oregon
- Greg Stewart, Portland State University Researcher

ATTENDANCE:

Kathleen Meehan Coop, Management Analyst (District Attorney)