

County of Santa Clara
Department of Correction
Administration



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DATE: October 17, 2006

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Edward Flores
Chief of Correction

SUBJECT: Department of Correction Funding Opportunity – Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara delegating authority to the Chief of Correction, or his designee, to sign and/or submit the County of Santa Clara's application to the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) relating to the grant funding for the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Program (MIOCR), up to the amount of \$1,500,000 for the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and to negotiate, execute, amend and terminate any necessary agreements, annual renewals or extensions of the Grant Agreement subject to review and approval as to form and legality by County Counsel and approval by the Office of the County Executive. The delegation of authority shall expire on June 30, 2012. (Roll Call Vote)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no net impact on the General Fund as a result of this action. This application requests \$1,500,000 in grant funding for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The in-kind contribution of \$2,928,514 included in the application reflects Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) approved Full Service Partnership and Behavioral Health Recovery Services Program budgeted amounts. If the Legislature appropriates funds for subsequent years and MIOCR programs demonstrate effectiveness, funding for four more additional years may be available.

This application is one component of a two-component system being submitted by Santa Clara County to CSA, one is for adults and one is for juveniles. In accordance with CSA requirements, the Department of Correction is submitting the application for the Adult Mentally Ill Offender Program and the Probation Department is submitting the application for the Juvenile Mentally Ill Offender Program. The Department of Correction's application requests \$1,500,000 in grant funding, and the Probation Department application requests \$1,480,626 in grant funding.

CONTRACT HISTORY

In the first round of MIOCR funding in 1998, Santa Clara County applied for Demonstration Grant funds, but was not selected as a recipient. In September 2000, after the Santa Clara Board of Supervisor's established the MIOCR Strategy Committee, the County applied for, and received a \$62,500 MIOCR Planning Grant from the Board of Corrections (BOC) to develop a MIOCR Demonstration Grant.

In April 2001, Santa Clara County applied for MIOCR funding. Due to funding limitations, the BOC could only fund 14 proposals. Unfortunately, the Santa Clara County proposal was ranked fifteenth in the Request for Proposal process and was not selected for funding. However, because there was approximately \$850,000 remaining in the Demonstration Grant fund account, and there was a potential for additional funding from unused portions of the Planning Grant account, Santa Clara County was invited to submit a second proposal that would reduce its original scope commensurate with the reduction in available funds. In July 2001, the BOC determined that \$1,196,823 would be available.

The County of Santa Clara Strategy Committee developed a plan that focused on one major aspect of the original proposal; linkages to existing community and treatment services which provides direct and immediate linkage for mentally ill adult offenders who are about to be released from the jail. The name of the new program was Providing Assistance with Linkages to Services (PALS). Santa Clara County applied for, and was awarded, a MIOCR Demonstration Project grant in the amount of \$1,196,823. The annual allocation of funds were as follows: FY 2002: \$257,973; FY 2003: \$458,002; FY 2004: \$480,828.

In 2004, The Legislature cut the third year funding for the MIOCR program, and the grant amount was reduced by \$449,511 for the remainder of FY 2004. Due to the success of the program, the County Mental Health Department elected to continue funding the program, and has maintained funding for the PALS Program to present.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Assembly Bill 1811 established the MIOCR grant program and directed the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) to award grants for projects designed to reduce recidivism among adult and juvenile mentally ill offenders. The MIOCR grant must be "consistent with the purpose and intent" of Senate Bill 1485, an initiative designed to determine the most effective strategies for reducing the involvement of mentally ill offenders in the criminal justice system.

The 2006 State Budget Act, as amended by, Assembly Bill 1811, appropriated \$22,295,500 for grants targeting adult mentally ill offenders, and \$22,295,500 for grants targeting juvenile mentally ill offenders.

Assembly Bill 1811 requires that the 15 counties that participated in the second cycle of funding for the Senate Bill 1485 program receive priority consideration for proposals targeting adult mentally ill offenders because the original grant amounts were reduced when the Legislature cut funding for the program. As such, Santa Clara County will receive priority consideration for the adult MIOCR proposal.

The initial grant period for these funds is January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. There is no guarantee of continued funding beyond the initial grant period. However, the proposals awarded grants through this RFP process may obtain funding for up to four additional years if the Legislature appropriates funds for the program and the grantee is making progress toward stated goals, and is in compliance with contractual requirements.

As an applicant, the Santa Clara County strategy for this grant is to establish an adult-focused collaborative justice, probation, mental health, substance abuse, social supports and recovery services system that extends to all courts within Santa Clara County. This partnership will build upon existing and planned system components through integration of proposed new grant components with the previously funded MIOCR program, locally funded efforts supported by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, and new programs funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

BACKGROUND

The MIOCR II funds awarded in 2002 were used to establish the Providing Assistance with Linkages to Services (PALS) Program. The program was designed to reduce the recidivism of mentally ill offenders by providing short-term (60-day) service linkage and case management services. Recidivism rates were initially lower in the PALS group than the comparison group; however, recidivism rates between the groups appeared to be comparable by the one year follow-up period.

The conclusion documented in the final report on MIOCR II to the Board of Supervisors was that while the 60-day short-term support and linkage approach was promising, the target population needed more enduring long-term support in order to have a significant impact on behavior and lifestyle. The seriously mentally ill clients enter the criminal justice system with lifelong behavioral problems, substance misuses, and poor or degraded social and financial support systems. An important finding was that while PALS was effective in increasing initial linkage to services, critical services provided by Santa Clara County did not appear to effectively support continued engagement with this challenging and difficult population. The recommendation was that more sustained efforts are needed in order to have an enduring sustainable impact.

Assembly Bill 1811 established the MIOCR Program and directed the CSA to award grants for projects designed to reduce recidivism among persons with mental illness. The intent of the MIOCR Program is to reduce crime, jail time, and criminal justice costs associated with the mentally ill adult offender population.

The proposal being developed for the MIOCR 2006-07 grant will build upon and expand current and planned system components through the integration of proposed new grant components with previously funded MIOCR program elements which leverages local resources and new MHSA funded services. Two specific programs and a drop-in self help unit will be funded with MIOCR funding, the Mental Health Treatment Court and an expansion of the PALS linkage program.

The Department of Correction received an invitation to apply for the MIOCR Grant Program. In light of the short application submittal timeline, combined with the Board of Supervisor's meeting schedule, this was the first opportunity to present the MIOCR grant program to the Board of Supervisors.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Correction would be unable to apply for the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction program grant and will miss a potential opportunity to reduce recidivism among mentally ill adults in Santa Clara County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Correction, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, will submit the MIOCR proposal to the State Corrections Standards Authority prior to the November 6, 2006 deadline. The Department of Correction and the Mental Health Department will complete a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of grant allowable services. The Corrections Standard Authority expects to provide notification of award grants prior to January 1, 2007.

Upon the Board of Supervisor's approval, the Clerk of the Board's Office is requested to send Keyboard notification of completed processing to Alfredo Nevius, Carla Cisi, and Sandra Dalida from the Department of Correction. The Corrections Standards Board requires that the Resolution be submitted with the grant application. Please provide the Resolution to the Department of Correction on October 26, 2006.

The Department of Correction will provide the Clerk of the Board the original copy of the Agreement and any subsequent Amendments, once they have been fully executed.

ATTACHMENTS

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- Adult MIOCR Resolution
- Supp. Info 1 – Resolution