



Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: July 25, 2013

Title	Agenda Item Type
Collaborative Justice: Funding for Parolee Reentry Court Programs through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	Action Required
	Effective Date
	July 25, 2013
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Date of Report
None	July 12, 2013
Recommended by	Contact
Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee	Shelley Curran, 865-8069
Hon. Richard Vlavianos, Chair	shelley.curran@jud.ca.gov
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Executive Summary

The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), enter into an interagency agreement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The interagency agreement will effectuate a provision in the Budget Act of 2013 by transferring \$3 million in funding from CDCR to the AOC for the support of currently existing parolee reentry courts. The AOC will allocate funding to the Superior Courts of Alameda, Los Angeles, Santa Clara, and San Diego Counties for the purpose of expanding or enhancing their reentry court programs with the goal of reducing recidivism among the parolee population.

Recommendation

The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 25 2013:

1. Through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), enter into a two-year interagency agreement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in the amount of \$3 million to support existing parolee reentry courts, as directed by the Legislature in the Budget Act of 2013. (A letter of intent from CDCR concerning this interagency agreement is included in this report as Attachment A.) Of this amount, \$2,925,000 will be distributed to the trial courts and \$75,000 will be allocated to the AOC for administrative overhead.

2. Through the AOC, use the funding provided by the interagency agreement to execute contracts in fiscal year 2013–2014 in the amount of \$2,327,962 to be allocated to the parolee reentry courts as follows:
 - Superior Court of California, County of Alameda \$685,800
 - Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles \$399,814
 - Superior Court of California, County of San Diego \$532,000
 - Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara \$710,348

The specific dollar amounts were agreed upon by the reentry court judges and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

3. Develop a methodology in cooperation with CDCR to equitably distribute the remaining \$597, 038 during fiscal year 2014–2015 based on program caseload and performance and to allocate the funding accordingly in order to provide additional support to existing reentry courts.

Previous Council Action

The Judicial Council has taken no previous action related to parolee reentry courts.

Rationale for Recommendation

The recently enacted State Budget includes an allocation of \$3 million from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to certain trial courts for the continued operation of reentry courts. The budget bill language states: “The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may utilize up to \$ 3,000,000 of funds appropriated in this item for use in the 2012-13 fiscal year to support Parolee Reentry Courts funded pursuant to subdivision (d) of Provision 2 of item 0690-102-0890, Budget Act of 2009 (Ch. 1. 2009-10 3rd Ex. Sess., as revised by Ch.1, 2009-10 4th Ex. Sess.).”

The Budget Act of 2009 allocated \$10 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Justice Assistance Grant monies for a pilot project to establish, enhance, and evaluate parolee reentry courts in California. Six courts (the Superior Courts of Alameda, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara Counties) participated in the pilot and began operation between October 2010 and January 2011.

The reentry court programs provide an alternative to incarceration for parole violators with a history of substance abuse and/or mental illness. Reentry courts employ evidence-based practices patterned on the collaborative justice court model that combines treatment with ongoing judicial monitoring and intensive supervision. More than 1,200 parolees have participated in the reentry court pilot programs.

The AOC collects data on the pilot reentry courts and is charged with evaluating the program in cooperation with CDCR. Findings from the evaluation are currently scheduled to be released in early 2014.

Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications

The Legislature allocated funding from CDCR to the reentry courts that were funded through the reentry court program. CDCR supports the use of this funding for this purpose and has reviewed the draft budgets submitted by the participating courts and approved the allocation amounts. The existing reentry courts, CDCR, and the AOC considered the possibility of allocating the funding directly from CDCR to the courts; however, at the request of the reentry courts, it was determined that allocating the funds through the AOC reduced the workload impact on the trial courts.

Each of the existing reentry courts was given the opportunity to receive funding; however, two of the courts are not participating in the allocation. Due to budget constraints and the administrative overhead and workload, the Superior Court of San Joaquin County will not be participating in this allocation. CDCR has committed to working with the court to ensure that adequate treatment resources are provided to the parolee participants in their reentry court program. The Superior Court of San Francisco County has modified the focus of its program significantly, is no longer concentrating on parolees, and will not seek additional funds.

Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

The estimated cost to the AOC for administrative overhead of the project is \$75,000 and includes program management, contract execution, grant accounting, and invoice and expenditure tracking. As noted above, allocating these funds through the AOC rather than CDCR lessens the workload impact on the courts.

In the event that additional funding becomes available in subsequent fiscal years, the AOC will work in collaboration with CDCR to develop a funding methodology to support new or existing reentry courts and will present options for allocation to the Judicial Council for approval.

Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives

The recommendations in this report support Judicial Branch Strategic Plan Goal IV, Quality of Justice and Service to the Public, and specifically address Objective 1: Foster excellence in public service to ensure that all court users receive satisfactory services and outcomes.

Innovative problem-solving practices and expanded collaborative justice programs are identified in desired outcome IV.1.c. This funding allocation enables the courts to expand and enhance collaborative justice model parolee reentry court programs that focus on providing services to court participants as an effective method for reducing recidivism for parolees, which may potentially reduce future court workload.

Attachments

1. Attachment A: Letter of intent from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

DIVISION OF REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS

P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



June 26, 2013

Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Members of the Judicial Council,

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) supports the expansion and enhancement of Parolee Reentry Courts and intends to enter into an Interagency Agreement (IA) with the Administrative Office of the Courts in order to allocate funding to select superior courts. The IA will be initiated by CDCR's Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP).

DRP manages adult inmate and parolee rehabilitative programs, and is at the heart of rehabilitation activity in CDCR. Its top priority is providing rehabilitative programming and skills to inmates in an effort to reduce the likelihood of reoffending by the time they return to their homes and their communities. DRP recognizes that the goals of Parolee Reentry Courts are consistent with the division priorities and supports their continued operation.

If you have any questions regarding the information above, please contact me at 916-327-7683, or via email at Millicent.Tidwell@cdcr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Millicent Tidwell".

Millicent Tidwell
Associate Director
Office of Offender Services