



Contra
Costa
County

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender
Date: February 9, 2016

Subject: Grant Award from the National Juvenile Defender Center

RECOMMENDATION(S):

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Public Defender, or designee, to apply for and accept a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the National Juvenile Defender Center for the Juvenile Post Disposition Reentry Legal Fellowship program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This grant will provide \$40,000 salary reimbursement for an initial eight (8) month pilot fellowship program, with the potential for renewal for an additional year. A local direct match of \$15,617 is required to cover benefits, and additional in-kind expenditures of \$15,125 are anticipated for staff support, office space, supplies, etc, as follows:

FY 2015-16 General Fund benefits cost = \$9,760

FY 2016-17 General Fund benefits cost = \$5,857

In-Kind Contribution = \$15,125

NJDC Grant Revenue = \$40,000

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **02/09/2016** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYE: Candace Andersen, District II
Supervisor
Mary N. Piepho, District III
Supervisor
Karen Mitchoff, District IV
Supervisor
Federal D. Glover, District V
Supervisor

ABSENT: John Gioia, District I
Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: February 9, 2016

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Chris Heck, Deputy

Contact: Richard Loomis,
(925)335-8093

cc:

FISCAL IMPACT: (CONT'D)

Legal Fellowship Program Total Cost = \$70,742

BACKGROUND:

The Juvenile Unit of the Public Defender's Office values zealous, client-centered advocacy. Our Deputy Public Defenders aim to achieve diversion and acquittals on the front-end; and on the back-end, to decrease the number of detained youth, to increase successful completions of probation, and to connect youth with community services so that they can succeed after court supervision. The Juvenile Unit has taken various steps to leverage resources to provide post-disposition representation to juvenile clients. Recently, we obtained funding for a youth advocate for two of the seven attorneys (the Community Lawyering Youth Project). We also obtained another youth advocate and a half-time attorney through Byrne JAG funds as part of the creation of a county-wide Youth Justice Initiative. Through collaboration with the community and Probation Department we are seeking improvement in reentry outcomes of youth returning from high-level incarceration placements.

The anticipated caseload of the attorney funded by the National Juvenile Defense Center (NJDC) fellowship is 80-100 clients for the initial eight (8) month period, comprised of: referral from existing post-disposition attorneys, AB12 Clients (youth in group home placements) and sealing/expungement cases (eliminating employment barriers for juvenile offenders).

The NJDC seeks host organizations to pilot the Juvenile Post-Disposition Reentry Legal Fellowships, as an initiative to support the success of justice-involved youth returning to their communities by removing legal barriers to education, employment and housing. Under this program, the NJDC provides the Legal Fellow salary, training and travel expenses, and the host organizations provide fringe benefits, malpractice insurance, appropriate workspace and supplies.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Office of the Public Defender would not be able to effectively address the legal representation needs of its Juvenile clients.

CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Fellowship funded by this grant is designed to provide legal services to address barriers in employment and education that youthful offenders face in community reintegration following a juvenile delinquency placement or commitment. Legal services may include record expungement, deregistration, securing a driver's license, litigating housing or employment denials and educational advocacy. The ultimate measure of success of this pilot program is an increase in employment and education participation of post-disposition

juvenile offenders.