



*Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney*

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Council Members, Anne Arundel County Council

**From:** Hamilton F. Tyler, Deputy County Attorney

**Via:** Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney

**Date:** September 3, 2019

**Subject:** Resolution No. 35-19

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### **Legislative Summary**

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office of Law for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Resolution No. 35-19. The Resolution approves the application to the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, for a grant under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program federal FY 2019 Local Solicitation and recognizes the County Executive's authority to act in connection with the grant.

### **Purpose.**

The purpose of the Resolution is the review and approval of the application to the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, for a grant under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program federal FY 2019 Local Solicitation in the amount of \$154,218. The Byrne Grant Program operates one year in arrears which is why the application for federal FY 2019 is submitted during FY 2020. Byrne Grant Awards may be used over a period of four years. Passing the Resolution is a condition of the Byrne Grant funds awarded to the County.

### **Background.**

Anne Arundel County, Maryland's federal FY 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Allocation of \$154,218 will be used to support programs to assist with the implementation and funding of the goals and objectives of the County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the benefit of all citizens living and working within Anne Arundel County.

Each year, approximately 5,000 offenders are released to the supervision of the State Division of Parole and Probation and Drug Court in the County. Numerous strategies are in place to assist these individuals while still incarcerated to prepare for re-entry and to help them have the tools necessary to return to the community. Without the knowledge of available resources to make a difference in their behaviors and actions, these individuals may re-offend and repeat the cycle.

The Anne Arundel County Health Department, in collaboration with the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, will continue to address those persons incarcerated who have existing co-occurring disorders, meaning that these individuals are in need of both substance abuse treatment and assessment of mental health issues. The funding will be used to provide mental health services to approximately 75 incarcerated County residents who are uninsured and have mental illness and substance dependence. The services are comprised of psychiatric evaluations and co-occurring mental health therapy. These services will coincide with substance abuse treatment provided by the Health Department. Funding will support programs for service improvements to stabilize incarcerated persons, followed by additional resources once released. The Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency will receive funding through the Anne Arundel County Health Department.

Anne Arundel County has two Drug Court Programs. The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County operates the Adult Drug Treatment Court with a mission of improving the community through enhanced public safety by providing judicially-supervised treatment to substance abusing offenders, thereby reducing the social and economic cost of criminal activity. The adult program can serve up to 175 offenders. Admissions are on a rolling schedule. Participants are usually able to enter when referred and graduate when they complete the program requirements. The District Court operates an Adult Drug Court and a DWI Court.

The combined Drug Court Programs have established key partnerships with community stakeholders, including the Department of Health, the States Attorney's Office, the Division of Parole and Probation, the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Juvenile Services, and local law enforcement agencies. These partnerships have enabled the Drug Courts to be successful in the goals of providing alternatives to incarceration, reducing recidivism, and increasing public safety.

These specialty courts have been operational for a number of years and have proven to be effective in providing community-based treatment and supervision to the targeted populations. These programs require support to help with operational costs of salaries, education materials, graduation and office supplies, and communications expenses.

The Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families will use its requested allotment of funds for a continuation of the Community Conferencing Program, a restorative justice juvenile diversion program that has been in operation for over a year. Community Conferencing aims to bring the victim, offender, and interested community stakeholders, including parents, together with a trained facilitator. Funding will provide a part-time Community Conferencing Coordinator who works with the parties to assist them in responding to destructive behavior in constructive ways and to build connections that serve the well-being of all.

The Office of Law is available to answer any additional questions regarding Resolution No. 35-19. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive  
Jennifer Purcell, Chief of Staff  
Benjamin J. Birge, Chief Administrative Officer  
Peter Baron, Government Relations Officer  
Jim Beauchamp, Budget Officer