



Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Hamilton F. Tyler, Deputy County Attorney /s/

Via: Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney /s/

Date: September 20, 2021

Subject: Resolution No. 48-21, Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Byrne Grant

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. 48-21. 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 2021 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 2021 Local Solicitation in the amount of \$150,462. The Byrne Grant Program operates one year in arrears which is why the application for federal FY 2021 is submitted during FY 2022. 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 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program allocation of \$150,462 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.

Note: This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the resolution as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the resolution.

Each year, approximately 5,000 offenders are released 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 Office of the State's Attorney, 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, office supplies, and communications expenses.

The Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families will use a portion of its requested allotment of funds to support its peer violence intervention strategies. The Heal Violence Community Violence Intervention program currently works with 15 Latinx youth in the communities identified as having the highest rates of gang involvement (or risk for gang involvement) given the presence of high-profile international gangs. Youth are referred by credible members of the community who are well-respected by individuals at a high risk of violence. Working with bi-lingual staff, these high risk for violence youth meet bi-weekly to: (1) resolve potentially violent disputes before they occur; (2) use peer mentoring, trauma-informed

services, and culturally responsive mental health tools to support individuals impacted by daily gun violence; and (3) build tools and life-skills that enable them to be resilient, manage their emotions, and deal with conflict – both in their homes and in the community – without resorting to violence. The first Heal Violence cohort graduated in July 2021. Five members of the cohort will become Youth Advisors for youth gun and gang violence intervention work in Annapolis, being paid a stipend.

The Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth and Families will use a portion of its requested allotment of funds for a Juvenile Re-entry Navigator. A successful reentry program is one which helps individuals overcome one or more barriers and collaborates with other community resources to supplement its own program with other services. Additionally, re-entry interventions should consider juveniles' unique life experiences and address the effects of past trauma, fear of stigma, and need for trusting relationships with adults.

The Juvenile Re-entry Navigator will coordinate between the Department of Juvenile Services Re-entry specialist, school system, workforce development and other programming and systems to ensure each youth's successful re-entry to the neighborhood. The target population is African American Youth who have been committed to out-of-home care by the Department of Juvenile Services and are within six months of re-entry.

The Re-entry Navigator will receive referrals from the Department of Juvenile Services at least two months prior to exit. The Re-entry Navigator will meet with the youth and carry out an assessment. Each youth will work in partnership with the Re-entry Navigator to develop short and long term goals for their re-entry to the neighborhood. The Re-entry Navigator will continue to work with the youth through the first year of release with visits weekly for the first month then gradual decline to phone calls and texts as goals are met.

The Office of the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County will use a small portion of the funds to support an application (app) that it has developed that contains vital information for community outreach access for programs like Safe Surrender, warrant information, citizens' concerns, and COVID-19 information.

The Office of Law is available to answer any additional questions regarding Resolution No. 48-21. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Stuart Pittman, County Executive
Kai Boggess-de Bruin, Chief of Staff
Matthew Power, Chief Administrative Officer
Peter Baron, Government Relations Officer
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer