



Legislation Text

File #: 21-1130, Version: 1

To: Harris County Commissioners Court

Through: Jim Bethke, Director, Justice Administration Department

Prepared By: Stephanie Armand, Program & Special Projects Administrator, Justice Administration Department

Subject: MacArthur Foundation Safety + Justice Challenge Grant No Cost Extension

Project ID (If applicable):

Purpose and Request:

Request by the Justice Administration Department to accept an amendment with the MacArthur Foundation to extend the Safety + Justice Challenge grant through June 30, 2021.

Background and Discussion:

Harris County is in its sixth year in participating in the Safety + Justice Challenge with the MacArthur Foundation. The County was chosen in 2016 as one of eleven jurisdictions across the United States to receive \$2 million to implement strategies for justice system improvement. In 2019, we applied for a renewal grant and received \$2.1 million to continue the SJC work and expand our strategies. The renewal grant period expired on December 31, 2020. MacArthur Foundation approved the request for a No Cost Extension on February 22, 2021. We are respectfully requesting approval for a no cost extension to enable the County to use unexpended grant funds in the amount of \$501,279 to cover several SJC strategies including the Racial and Ethnic Equity Committee work, three community micro grants, Pretrial Services Step-Down Pilot with GPL, expanding JOY Pretrial Release Support Program.

Fiscal Impact:

[INSTRUCTIONS: A short description of the cost of the request and where you are requesting funding from. No more than 2 sentences. In addition please fill out the table below. This includes financial impact to the current fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years along with the source of funding (general fund, grant, etc.). If the amount is within the current budget, please indicate the amount from 'Existing Department Budget'. If all of or part of the request is a new expense, please indicate funding source in the space provided.]

Fiscal Summary			
Expenditures	FY 20-21	FY 21-22 Projected	Future Years Projected [3 additional years]
Service Impacted: [Please division where expenditure]			
Existing Budget			
Additional Appropriation			
Total Expenditures			

Funding Sources			
Existing Department Budget			
Please Identify Funding Sources Special Revenue, Grant, etc.			
[INSERT FUNDING SOURCES]			
Total Sources			

Alternatives:

Alignment with Strategic Objective:

This agenda item aligns with our strategic objective to ensure that Harris County's pretrial policies and practices balancing emphasis on defendants' Constitutional rights, safety of the community, and efficiency, while working to reduce punitiveness and racial/ethnic disparities.

Attachments:

- No Cost Extension Letter to MacArthur*
- Email of Approval for No Cost Extension from the MacArthur Foundation*
- SJC Renewal Grant 2019-2020*
- CC Order*