

Request for Legislative Action

Res. #21431

Sponsor: Donna Peyton

Date: October 16, 2023

Completed by County Counselor's Office

Action Requested:	Resolution	Res.Ord No.:	21431
Sponsor(s):	Donna Peyton	Legislature Meeting Date:	10/16/2023

Introduction

Action Items: ['Authorize']

Project/Title:

Resolution authorizing an extension to the Innovative Prosecution for Combating Violent Crimes Grant awarded to Jackson County by the Department of Justice.

Request Summary

Resolution authorizing a 12 month no cost extension to the Innovative Prosecution for Combating Violent Crimes Grant awarded by the Department of Justice to the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office to address gun violence in Kansas City, Missouri. The extension provides continued funding to support salary/benefits, training, software and computer equipment to staff assigned to the Crimes Strategies Unit within the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office as well as contractual services authorized under this grant, through the expiration date of 9/30/24.

Contact Information

Department:	Prosecuting Attorney	Submitted Date:	10/5/2023
Name:	Gina Robinson	Email:	grobinson@jacksongov.org
Title:	Chief of Operations	Phone:	816-881-3369

Budget Information

Amount authorized by this legislation this fiscal year:			\$ 0
Amount previously authorized this fiscal year:			\$ 0
Total amount authorized after this legislative action:			\$
Is it transferring fund?			No
Single Source Funding:			
Fund:	Department:	Line Item Account:	Amount:
			!Unexpected End of Formula

Request for Legislative Action

Prior Legislation	
Prior Ordinances	
Ordinance:	Ordinance date:
5466	November 30, 2020
Prior Resolution	
Resolution:	Resolution date:
21094	November 14, 2022

Purchasing	
Does this RLA include the purchase or lease of supplies, materials, equipment or services?	No
Chapter 10 Justification:	
Core 4 Tax Clearance Completed:	
Certificate of Foreign Corporation Received:	
Have all required attachments been included in this RLA?	

Compliance	
Certificate of Compliance	
Not Applicable	
Minority, Women and Veteran Owned Business Program	
Goals Not Applicable for following reason: not spending money	
MBE:	.00%
WBE:	.00%
VBE:	.00%
Prevailing Wage	
Not Applicable	

Fiscal Information
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Request for Legislative Action

History

Submitted by Prosecuting Attorney requestor: Gina Robinson on 10/5/2023. Comments:

Approved by Department Approver Gina Robinson on 10/5/2023 4:15:45 PM. Comments:

Not applicable by Purchasing Office Approver Barbara J. Casamento on 10/5/2023 4:19:55 PM. Comments:

Approved by Compliance Office Approver Ikeela Alford on 10/6/2023 9:33:37 AM. Comments:

Approved by Budget Office Approver David B. Moyer on 10/6/2023 9:48:16 AM. Comments:

Approved by Executive Office Approver Sylvya Stevenson on 10/6/2023 10:53:28 AM. Comments:

Approved by Counselor's Office Approver Jamesia Manning on 10/12/2023 11:58:54 AM. Comments:



JEAN PETERS BAKER
Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney

March 20, 2023

RE: Support for No-cost extension Grant Adjustment Modification (GAM) for Award 2020- YX-BX-0014

The Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is seeking a one (1) year no-cost extension for the Innovative Prosecution Solutions for Combatting Violent Crime award, number 2020- YX-BX-0014. The current period of performance for this award is 10/1/20 – 9/30/23. The most recent unobligated funds balance as of 4/4/22 is \$281,779.09.

This grant adjustment notice constitutes our second request for a no-cost extension pursuant to OJP Order 4200.1 ¶ 3.6.1.

Current Program Status

This grant was awarded to build a Crime Strategies Unit for Jackson County to collect, organize and disseminate critical crime data to police, prosecutors, City Hall, and the community. The grant included funds for technology as well as a crime analyst. It also included strategy and funding to engage with a high-crime neighborhood and implement a community diversion program there. At this time, a CSU has been established in Jackson County. The CSU has analyzed current and historical crime data and worked tirelessly to share this with the community. CSU built real-time dashboards available to anyone with an internet connection. These dashboards provide up-to-date crime data from our office and include the number and type of cases submitted, charged and disposed by our office. The dashboards also provide the most accurate data on who and for how long people have been detained pre-trial. This level of detail and transparency is unprecedented in our jurisdiction. CSU also added a Community Advisory Board of urban residents and neighborhood leaders to advise about its efforts to bring more transparency to the prosecutor's office.

The creation of a dashboard to track violence – fatal and non-fatal shootings in Kansas City – was initially intended to inform the community more deeply about the type and location of this violence, as well as how many of these cases were being submitted for prosecution, were dismissed or pleaded or won or loss at trial. But the dashboard and the data behind it offered another opportunity. Command staff at the Kansas City (MO) Police Department, until about August 2022, had declined to share important information, especially contact details for the gunshot victims. When police command shifted on this and began to supply CSU with information to contact victims, CSU expanded its efforts, enlisting community partners to build a

computer-based referral system. CSU built the computer system to refer the city's gunshot victims to an urban-based hub for social services, where a social worker contacts victims to see if they are interested in a variety of services, everything from help with rent because their wounded family member can't work, to fixing a door damaged by gunfire to securing grief counseling. CSU believes this outreach to gunshot victims is extremely important since Kansas City ranks in the nation's Top 10 for number of homicides. For CSU, this effort has been greatly helped by the addition in late-October of a second crime analyst, who makes those referrals and maintains the violence dashboard. It's updated each week with the previous week's shootings. The analyst builds a spreadsheet of the week's victims, and we discuss with KCPD which ones should be referred for services.

An additional note about this new referral system. It is part of the Partners for Peace program, a new effort to reduce violence in Kansas City that originated from the Justice Department's Public Safety Partnership, which helped Kansas City create a strategic plan to reduce violence in Kansas City after the Kansas City No Violence Alliance was ended by KCPD. A key pillar in the new program, now called Partners for Peace, was Intervention. The prosecutor's office was named to lead the intervention effort. The strategy agreed to for the intervention effort included a goal of reaching out to every gunshot victim in our city. CSU has given us a way to do that.

CSU also acquired more sophisticated technology that has provided significant help in major cases, resulting in at least one historic verdict and multiple important plea agreements. made significant in-roads with the community in Blue Hills area. CSU has also engaged in a contract with a local restorative justice organization for the community diversion program but is yet to get any cases through the diversion.

Project Delays

The project has been delayed for a number of reasons. Last year, in April, we requested a one-year extension. We wanted it in order to finally bring a second crime analyst on board. Note that in last year's extension we stated we had brought on a second analyst, but before that second analyst could begin, our first analyst left for the private sector. We moved the new analyst into the first analyst's position, supported by non-grant dollars. We didn't hear about approval of our extension request until late summer. We began the process of advertising and hiring a new analyst soon after. We hired and on-boarded the new analyst in late-October. Since then, his funding has come from the grant. The hiring process, as well as the effort to get more cases for our restorative justice effort, was slowed by the departure of Kate Brubacher, the assistant prosecuting attorney who worked on the grant. She left the prosecutor's office in August to prepare for her nomination as U.S. Attorney for the state of Kansas. She was recently confirmed.

Earlier, our work was thwarted by the global pandemic and its after-effects. Our courthouse closed in mid-2020 and our office is still working on a reduce trial schedule, although it appears that it will open up completely this year. For a time, most of our office was working remotely/ As all offices, we had multiple people out sick within the county. This greatly stalled our ability to get contracts and purchases through our legislature and purchasing department. Even in the normal

course, to which we have basically returned, the process of approving funds for spending through the county bureaucracy always takes longer than anticipated. This grant involves purchasing technology from vendors that were not already approved. It also included technology and software that was different than the standard technology purchased through the county IT department. This has caused substantial delays; it is not uncommon for us to order technology and not receive it many months later.

One Year Project Plan if Extension Is Granted

Our project plan has not changed substantially from our original proposal. If granted this extension we would continue our effort to fulfill our technology purchases and implement them to enhance prosecution, strengthen community ties, and make more data-informed decisions in our charging and sentencing decisions. We would submit a budget modification to add at least part-time support of an assistant prosecutor so we can send more cases to the community diversion. CSU also directs a Community Advisory Board for the office and those meetings will continue, on the same quarterly basis, through 2024. Our budget modification would add some funding to support the community board, which can become good messengers for CSU's efforts.

If Extension is Not Granted

If the extension is not granted, CSU will continue, but with only one instead of two analysts. We also have no training or travel budget for the remaining analyst. We would seek online training options for our analyst. The community diversion program has been delayed but will be able to process a few cases if the grant is not extended.

Sincerely,



Jean Peters Baker
Prosecutor for Jackson County

Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
415 E. 12th Street, Floor 11, Kansas City, Missouri
64106 **Office:** 816-881-3555 / **FAX:** 816-881-3821
WWW.JACKSONCOUNTYPROSECUTOR.COM

From: [Default](#)
To: [Tina M. Wise](#); Antonio.Tovar@usdoj.gov; kebrubacher@jacksongov.org; [Tina M. Wise](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL Grant Award Modification for an award from DOJ is Approved
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 3:13:31 PM
Attachments: [.datacontent\image\images\justgrants_seal_final_43A942_F2F3F41591889687873.png](#)

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JUSTgrants
JUSTICE GRANTS SYSTEM

The request for a grant award modification, GAM-573143, for award number 2020-YX-BX-0014 under the solicitation *BJA FY 20 Innovative Prosecution Solutions for Combatting Violent Crime* is approved.
Please log into DOJ's JustGrants system at [JustGrants](#).

For more information go to www.justicegrants.usdoj.gov
JustGrants is operated under the U.S. Department of Justice

Active Funded Award

(2020-YX-BX-0014) PENDING-ACTIVE

Entity Legal Name (JACKSON COUNTY)

Doing Business As: (JASKSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR)

Actions

Solicitation BJA FY 20 Innovative ProsSolicitation

Title:Category:

Project Innovative Prosecution Federal Award Amount\$340,000.00

Title: Solutions for Combatting Violent Crime Program Office: BJA

Project 10/1/20 - 9/30/24 UEI: FFLFQA71R3K9

Period: TIN: 446000524

Managing OJP

Office:

DOJ Meredith Healey

Grant

Manager:

Grant Award Title: TIA-WISE

FAW FAW-66021

Case ID