



Program #15021B - Justice Integrity Unit Expansion 5/2/2022

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Mike Schmidt
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Now more than ever, in order to demonstrate commitment to justice a District Attorney must be willing to look back and undo past harms. The Justice Integrity Unit (JIU) is tasked with reviewing all clemency applications submitted by the Governor; consider applications for resentencing under the newly passed law SB 819 (2021); assist in the processing of expungement applications and fine and fee forgiveness requests; reexamine old DNA samples with the Oregon State crime lab legacy DNA project; work with community stakeholders in order to build relationships and legitimacy in the criminal legal system; and assist in reconsidering previous non-unanimous jury convictions that were the unconstitutional vestige of a racist system.

Program Summary

The JIU is staffed with 1 Senior Level attorney, funded partially with ongoing county funds and partially with ongoing federal funds via the Byrne JAG grant received by the city of Portland, 1 mid level prosecutor, funded as one time only in FY 2022, and 0.56 FTE Investigator. Since the inception of the JIU, the work has significantly increased due to changes in the law (Ramos & SB 819); changes in technology (new DNA techniques that increase accuracy of past test); changes in the number of requests for comment (significant increase in gubernatorial clemency and pardon petitions); and continued need to give people a chance to thrive by reducing barriers.

This offer expands the JIU from the senior level attorney in 15021A by providing MCDA with an additional attorney and a partial investigator position to actively engage with community members to support them to expunge old convictions and address fines and fees—so-called collateral consequences of criminal legal involvement. JIU will work with community groups to significantly reduce barriers and encourage engagement in the legal process. Addressing collateral consequences of criminal legal involvement allows those impacted to access essential resources like housing, lines of credit, driver's licenses, and better employment opportunities. It also alleviates many complex stressors, reduces hopelessness, and lessens the generational trauma and impact of criminal involvement. This will result in stronger families, safer streets, and thriving communities where the criminal justice system can restore those effected, not just burden them.

This program is a cornerstone of answering the call to actively reduce the disparity that the criminal legal system has had on people of color. The expanded JIU will repair past harms and assist people who have already been held accountable to move on with their lives and thrive. The JIU must also be trauma informed and observe a victim's right to be notified of decisions impacting the cases that they were involved in, and not risk causing more unnecessary harm or trauma.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Number of Justice Integrity Unit cases	N/A	300	200	300
Outcome	Number of expunged convictions	N/A	300	300	400

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$259,794	\$0	\$269,777	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$206	\$0	\$5,223	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$260,000	\$0	\$275,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$260,000		\$275,000	
Program FTE	1.56	0.00	1.56	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 15021B Justice Integrity Unit Expansion