



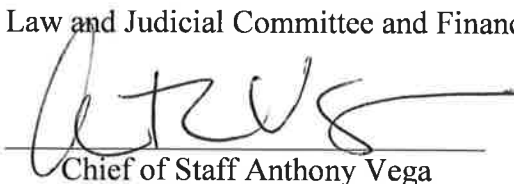
JOHN D. IDLEBURG
SHERIFF

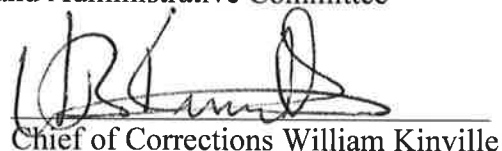
OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 25, 2019

TO: Law and Judicial Committee and Financial and Administrative Committee

FROM:


Chief of Staff Anthony Vega


Chief of Corrections William Kinville

REFERENCE: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Implementation Grant for Culturally Sensitive Intensive Case Management and Nicasa Behavioral Health Services

On May 8, 2018, the Law and Judicial Committee and the Financial and Administrative Committee of the Lake County Board authorized the LCSO to submit an Implementation Funding Application to the SJC to safely reduce the overutilization of the jail by 10% and decrease the racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

In October 2018, Lake County was awarded a \$700,000 Implementation Grant by the SJC. The grant will be implemented over a two-year period, October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2020. The resolution being presented acknowledges grant acceptance, the emergency appropriation of the funds, and a bid exemption request for Nicasa Behavioral Health Services. Funds to be expended for Nicasa's case management shall not exceed \$400,000 over a two-year period.

The LCSO is serving as the lead agency that will implement five key strategies:

- 1) Expanding the Jail Diversion High Utilizer Intensive Case Management Program;
- 2) Implementing a Court Date Text Notification System in the Public Defender's Office;
- 3) Education and Training on Racial and Ethnic Disparities;
- 4) Pre-Trial First Appearance Criminal Background Investigations; and
- 5) Implement policy changes informed by a JFA Institute Stress Test on case processing trends

The LCSO will lead community engagement efforts related to this SJC work.

The Jail Diversion High Utilizers Program provides intensive culturally sensitive case management services to the jail high utilizers to divert these individuals from the criminal justice system.

The Public Defender's Office will implement a court date text notification system with their current case management system, THEMIS to send reminders to the clients of upcoming court dates to reduce the issuance of failure to appear court warrants.

The LCSO will participate in education and training opportunities with the justice partners on identifying and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

The 19th Judicial Circuit Court Probation Department will employ one (1) full-time Pre-Trial Officer to pilot preparing criminal backgrounds on persons arrested to be provided to justice partners to encourage non-cash and low cash bond at arrested persons' first court appearance. Grant funds will cover 100% of the salary and benefits of this position

Per our grant application one (1) full-time Data Coordinator/Analyst will be hired. This position will work out of Central IT and serve as the liaison between the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance and the Lake County to facilitate data collection and other activities related to the performance measurement and evaluation of the five key strategies. The coordinator will invest 20 hours a week as the coordinator, although it anticipated hours are closer to 40. Any other responsibilities of data analysis will be related to supporting the Lake County Justice partners with analytics, reports and dashboards. Grant funds will cover 100% of the salary and benefits of one (1) Data Coordinator/Analyst position.

Per the County's FY19 Budget Policy, the Pre-Trial Officer and the Data Coordinator/Analyst, will be eliminated once the program funding source, the SJC Grant, has been closed, unless an exception is made, and specific conditions are met.

5. *If program funding from any non-County sources (e.g. state grants, federal grants, intergovernmental agreements, etc.) is reduced or eliminated, commensurate expense reductions or new revenue increases shall be made or, where necessary, the program will be eliminated. Exceptions may be made where grant funds were used to offset expenses that were previously provided for by local tax dollars, where loss of funding may result in a verifiable increase elsewhere in the County budget, or when a service is considered critical as recommended by the County Administrator and approved by the Board. When a request to fund a program or service grant that has been cut is brought forward, a similar cost reduction or revenue increase must be identified. Approval of such a request will require a supermajority vote of the Financial & Administrative Services Committee (F&A). As part of the budget process, departments shall be prepared to respond to changes in State funding or general revenue loss due to cuts in State payments.*

As a recipient of SJC funds, Lake County was invited to participate in a JFA Institute Stress test exercise to conduct a case-based review of a representative sample of persons who have been released from jail to identify case processing trends that impact the jail population. Subsequent justice policy changes informed by this stress test will be implemented to reduce the average daily jail population.

In the past 22 years, Nicasa Behavioral Health Services was the only one in Lake County, to bring classes that address Parenting, Anger Management, Substance Abuse Prevention and Gambling Intervention into the Lake County jail. Nicasa has consistently brought quality programs to the inmates in the facility that has not been matched by any other provider. From 2003 – 2018, Nicasa taught classes in parenting, anger management and substance abuse prevention.

It was logical that the LCSO identified Nicasa Behavioral Health Services as the organization that is more qualified to provide the culturally sensitive intensive case management services that meet grant requirements. Nicasa will be required to provide and meet performance measurement and reporting standards. Nicasa has provided services for the \$50,000 MacArthur Jail Diversion Case Management Innovation Grant with technical assistance from the Urban Institute. The goal was to reduce the incarceration of persons who are part of communities of color, women, individuals with serious mental illness and/or individuals who identified at LGBTQ. Nicasa is currently serving as the provider for intensive case management services for the \$100,000 Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County Jail High Utilizer Diversion and Health Engagement Project Grant. This grant continues the intensive case management services of the prior grant.

Pursuant Article 6, Section 102 of the Purchasing Ordinance, the Purchasing Agent convened an Ad Hoc Review Group that approved a bid exemption on the basis that there exists a long standing, successful relationship with Nicasa Behavioral Health Services for professional services. The Ad Hoc Review Group concurred with the bid exemption request for LCSO to enter into an agreement for culturally sensitive intensive case management services. LCSO thanks the Review Group for their time and consideration and recommendation that the contract with NICASA meets the requirements of Article 6, Section 102 of the Purchasing Ordinance.

We look forward to continuing our working relationship with Nicasa, the ability to utilize the data obtained during the grant period that can pinpoint additional ways to decrease our jail population and to assist individuals through this program and make them productive self-sufficient citizens that will not return to jail.

We thank our Justice Partners, Central IT and County Administration for their willingness to participate in the implementation of the five key strategies that will reduce the overutilization of the jail by 10% and decrease the racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

We also thank the County Board for their continued support of these grants; the assistance provided by these grants benefits the individuals that are serviced by them and it benefits the community overall because they become productive citizens.