



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 10/15/2019

New Business

Department: Strategic Partnerships

Presenter(s): Rachael Nygaard

Contact(s): Rachael Nygaard

Subject: MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Grant / Request Additional Positions

Brief Summary:

The Safety & Justice Challenge grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, provides support to jurisdictions across the country to address the drivers of local jail populations.

In October 2018, Commissioners voted to accept the \$1.75m grant. The Justice Resource Advisory Council developed a comprehensive plan for local justice system improvement. This plan includes implementation of a Public Safety Assessment at the pre-booking phase. New positions are needed in order to conduct risk assessments on a 24/7 basis at the time of initial appearance before a magistrate. The positions are to be time-limited and fully funded by the Safety and Justice Challenge Grant. This strategy aims to reduce the number of people who are entering our detention facility and staying for short periods of time.

Request for 6 regular positions (4 full-time & 2 part-time):

- To be classified as Pre-Trial Screeners
- Fully funded by the grant
- Eligible for benefits in alignment with Grant Funded Positions Policy, (adopted by the Board of Commissioners in April 2019)
- Time-limited for the life of the grant
- Abolished after the end of the grant

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Approve the creation of 6 regular Pre-Trial Screener positions for the Safety & Justice Challenge grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends approval.