



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 3/9/2015)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 9/8/16
Agenda Item #: R.1
Est. Start Time: 9:30 am
Date Submitted: 8/25/16

Agenda Title: *Acting as the PCRB Board - Resolution Approving a Sole Source Exemption Request for the Department of Community Justice to Contract with Code for America.*

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested September 8, 2016 **Time Needed:** 5 minutes
Department: Department of Community Justice **Division:** Victims Services
Contact(s): Denise Pena
Phone: 503-988-4793 **Ext.** **I/O Address:** 503/2
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Scott Taylor, Director, DCJ

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Acting as the Public Contract Review Board - Board approval requested of Sole Source Exemption request #4-5078 for the Department of Community Justice's participation in a contract for a fellowship with Code for America for the development of a Victims' Services Portal.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

This action affects program offer #50003 (DCJ Crime Victims Services Unit). The Crime Victims Services Unit is responsible for advancing the goals of DCJ's Strategic Plan related to the long-term commitment to crime victims' rights and needs. The most recent strategic plan emphasized the importance of creating a Crime Victims Services Unit. The Victims' Services Portal will provide that unit, and DCJ's partners with the tools necessary to provide high quality services to those victims served.

DCJ recently served as the lead applicant of a group of three partners (including the Oregon Dept. of Corrections and the District Attorney's office) for a fellowship with Code for America, a nonprofit organization that pairs teams of technologists with local governments in order to redesign digital services. The NOI for this fellowship application was approved by the Board on May 12, 2016.

DCJ was recently awarded the fellowship, and will need to execute a contract with Code for America in order to receive fund-matching in the form of technologists who will provide

consultation, design, building and testing services of a fully-customized Victims' Services Portal through which crime victims will be able to log in and access information supplied by the State Courts, the District Attorney's office, the Parole Board and the Department of Community Justice regarding their offender's case. The total cost of the project will be \$500,000. Code for America will provide 50% of the funding needed. DCJ, the Department of Corrections and the District Attorney's Office will share in the cost of the remaining 50% in funding required for the services.

The Portal concept is in response to growing recognition that crime victims' rights are often lost in the complex process of an offender moving through the criminal justice system. Victims are typically engaged by the District Attorney's Office soon after the crime occurs, where their right to information, input and participation in the case against the offender is described and support offered. There is currently no mechanism, however, to relay the victim's preferences and needs as the offender moves through the criminal justice system, which can span multiple years and involve the local jail, state prison, the state parole board, or community supervision. This disconnect results in the need for victims to continually reassert their rights to a system they do not understand or know how to access. It is not uncommon for victims to lose track of where the offender is, the status of their case, or even when or where they will be released, all of which can have a dramatic impact on the victim's ability to work through trauma related to the crime and feel personal safety. As envisioned, the Portal will protect the victim's privacy while simultaneously allowing them to register at any point in time, identify what type of information they want to receive, and modify their preferences throughout the offender's time in the criminal justice system. As such, the Portal will seamlessly support the victim as they change and process their experience over the course of years while ensuring their right to privacy, information, and input throughout.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

The 2 year exemption is for \$250,000 The three partners will provide funding as follows: DCJ will provide \$125,000, Department of Corrections will provide \$100,000, and the District Attorney's Office will provide \$25,000.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

None

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The Department of Community Justice, the Department of Corrections and the District Attorney's Office will work closely with Code for America to ensure that crime victims' needs will be comprehensively met by the Victims' Services Portal upon completion. This will be achieved by Code of America's engagement of the three government partners, as well as the community that will be served by the portal. Engagement will occur during the design, build and test phases. Code for America will conduct interviews and research with government staff, community residents and community groups to inform and drive the development of the technology tools and approaches to creating the Victims' Services Portal.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department**

Director: Scott Taylor /s/

Date: August 24, 2016

Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/