



# Yamhill County Department of Community Justice

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Date: June 14, 2019

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Jessica Beach, Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Director

Re: Request for approval to submission grant application to Youth Development Division (YDD) state grant funds to support 1.0 FTE School Transition Specialist

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In December of 2016, the Juvenile Department was awarded a grant by the Youth Development Division (YDD), administered through the Multnomah Education Services District (MESD), that paid for a full time School Transition Specialist. This position is currently housed in the Juvenile Probation Department but is an employee of MESD. The primary duty of this person is to facilitate the re-entry of youth who are housed and released from detention back into local schools or other educational services in the community. This grant was originally awarded to Yamhill County because of the low graduation rates of youth who had entered our detention facility. Unfortunately, the current TDD grant will end in March of 2020 and the funding will most likely run out as soon as January 2020. Currently, YDD has no plans to continue this specific source of funding.

Over the last two and a half years, it has become very clear that this position is extremely valuable to our youth because they act both as an advocate for the specific educational needs of each individual youth and collaborate with local schools to meet these youths' needs. Research is clear that school attendance and education is directly tied to overall youth success and lowering of recidivism rates.

I was recently informed that the YDD has funds available through "Youth and Community Grants" that could fund this position for the next biennium through October 9, 2021. Although the details of the budget for this position have not yet been finalized, the grant allows for an ask of up to \$200,000 for the 2019-21 biennium. The grant is due July 16, 2019. Of additional note, this funding stream is not limited to the next two years and will most likely be available to us in future biennium similar to the YDD Juvenile Crime Prevention Grants we have utilized for the last 20 years to fund our Peer Court Program.

Because probation staff are not permitted contact with youth in detention while cases are pending, this period of time between detention and case resolution is crucial to ensure youth are attending school while incarcerated so that their basic educational needs are being met. During the operation of this past grant, it became clear that all of our youth with educational needs could benefit from this service. This grant would also allow for service offering to all Juvenile Probation referrals as opposed to only those who have been detained. It should be noted that the majority of the youth population that are served are never admitted into detention.

The position of the School Transition Specialist is a direct service that I feel is too valuable to lose and this grant opportunity would allow for the continuation of this service to our local youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

B.O.19-192

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Accepted by Yamhill County  
Board of Commissioners on  
6/20/19 by Board Order  
# B.D. 19-192