

## Pre-trial Services Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

- **What county entities are eligible to receive funding?**

In general, only county-level government entities will be funded under this opportunity. That can include county government, local detention centers, sheriff's offices, states' attorneys' offices, or local courts. The entity submitting the application for funding and receiving the grant does not need to be the same entity who will be implementing the program. In every application, GOCCP is looking for documentation of collaboration between any or all of these entities, with clear designation of duties and commitment to how the pretrial process will be supported by all of these offices. Regardless of which local entity submits an application for funding, it must be on behalf of the county's program as a whole. Only one application will be funded per county.

- **Are there certain requirements that a county seeking funding to enhance an existing program must meet or funding limitations?**

A county applying to enhance an existing pretrial service program would be eligible to receive funding to implement only the program requirements specifically stated in the grant, with the aim of bringing all programs to a consistent statewide standard. Funds will not be awarded to otherwise expand or supplant any other pretrial services currently offered outside the scope stated in the NOFA. There is no difference in the funding limitation between counties with established programs or counties initiating programs.

- **Is the requirement that the risk assessment is to be done prior to the initial appearance?**

The bill which established the funding ties the usage of the validated screener to informing release, bond and/or Pre-trial supervision decisions. In order to inform initial release decisions, it would need to occur before first appearance. This is consistent with the NAPSA national standards that are linked in the NOFA. That being said, not many other states have the same 24 hour restrictions Maryland has. As long as you can demonstrate in your program how the screener would be taken into account for an initial release decision, then the screener could potentially be administered at the initial appearance.

- **Is the initial appearance requirement necessary for the purpose of applying, or can it be implemented after receiving grant funding?**

For counties that are applying for funding to enhance existing programs, the expansion to satisfy the program requirements of the grant would occur during the grant year.

- **What is the full amount available?**

There will be \$1 million per year available for programs statewide. Applicant counties are eligible for up to that amount of funding, subject to GOCCP allocations based upon proposed program quality, local need, strength of sustainability plan, and other priorities identified during review. Applicants are encouraged to apply with the budget required to implement the requirements of the grant. In the future, grant program priorities may shift from year to year depending upon the number of applicants with existing pretrial service programs.

- **What is risk assessment validation and is it necessary?**

Validation is the process of designating a risk screener as evidence-based by tracking its performance over time. This process requires detailed data collection and analysis of risk screening outcomes, including appearance rates, new offense rates, and trends across race, age, and gender. Validation is usually conducted by an independent researcher, but can be performed by program staff. This evaluation can take a number of months, as it requires tracking outcomes over time, but applicants can shorten the process if they can provide detailed historical data. Some tools have already been validated on a large number of national records, such as the Pretrial Safety Assessment (PSA), while others have been developed and validated in Maryland, such as the tool employed in Montgomery County. The decision to use a tool that has already been validated or to use funding to validate a new tool is within the discretion of the applicant, and are equally

The Pretrial Service Program Grant can only fund evidence-based race neutral risk and needs assessments that have been validated or will be validated during the grant period, either by providing funding to implement a previously validated tool or by providing funding for validation studies of locally developed tools.

- **Is Baltimore City eligible to receive funding?**

Baltimore City pretrial services is operated by the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services, a state agency, thus the agency is not eligible to apply. However, if the City of Baltimore provides services in connection with and related to pretrial services, the City would be eligible to apply for a grant in the manner provided in the Pretrial Services Program Grant NOFA.

- **Is it possible the deadline will be extended for applications or GMS access/User ID?**

The deadline for the application has been extended to **July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018** for all applicants. If applicants have not yet obtained a user identification number or access credentials to GOCCP's Grants Management System (GMS), they may still do so. Requests should be sent to [support@goccp.freshdesk.com](mailto:support@goccp.freshdesk.com), following the guidance provided online at [goccp.maryland.gov/grants/requesting-access](http://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/requesting-access). For further questions on application deadlines and access, please contact [Quentin.Jones@maryland.gov](mailto:Quentin.Jones@maryland.gov).

- How quickly will applicants be notified that they were accepted?

Review timelines can vary, but applicants will generally be notified within a month of application if they have been awarded funding or not.