



Pretrial Services Grant Fund (PGSP)

State FY 2019
Established by HB 447



Primary Purpose

To help counties develop and implement pretrial services programs that:

- effectively **reduce** the local detention population while protecting public safety and ensuring court appearance,
- provide pretrial services **more equitably** across the state by empowering local jurisdictions to provide pretrial services, and
- bring all existing programs into a **consistent standard** of best practices.

Priority Considerations

Priority consideration will be given to requests that support:

- the general goals of the Justice Reinvestment Act, specifically the recommendations of the Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council,
- the utilization of evidence-based practices and consistent data collection,
- previous commission findings and studies conducted in Maryland,
- the standards established by the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies and the National Criminal Justice Association.

Eligibility

County-level entities in Maryland are eligible to submit applications for Pretrial Services Grant Program funding, including:

- Local detention centers
- Local courts
- County government agencies
- A partnership between multiple local criminal justice agencies

Only one application may be submitted per county. Cross-agency collaborations are strongly encouraged, and should be addressed in the program description, and/or through letters of support.

State-level entities conducting pre-trial services are **NOT eligible to receive funding.**

Eligibility

Eligible for funding to establish a pretrial program:

- Allegany County
- Caroline County
- Cecil County
- Charles County
- Garrett County
- Kent County
- Queen Anne's County
- Somerset County
- Talbot County
- Washington County
- Worcester County

Eligible for funding to enhance a pretrial program:

- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore County
- Calvert County
- Carroll County
- Dorchester County
- Frederick County
- Harford County
- Howard County
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County
- St. Mary's County
- Wicomico County

Program Requirements

In order to receive funding, an applicant county must satisfy ALL THREE (3) program requirements listed in HB 447:

- 1. Use of a validated, evidence-based, race-neutral risk scoring instrument to guide release or no bond decisions*
- 2. Use best practices shown to be effective in other jurisdictions*
- 3. Incorporate multiple levels of supervision based on defendant risk scores.*

Program Requirement #1

1. Use of a validated, evidence-based, race-neutral risk scoring instrument to guide release and no bond decisions
 - Programs can elect to use a risk scoring instrument designed for estimating pretrial release risk that:
 - has already been validated in Maryland **OR**
 - utilize a validated universal assessment with plans to validate the tool during the grant year using grant funds
 - Per the requirement, this risk assessment **must** be conducted at initial appearance to guide release decisions and at bail review hearings to inform bond decisions

Program Requirement #2

2. Apply best practices shown to be effective in other jurisdictions

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the supervision agency, local courts, state's attorney's office, and/or the office of the public defender.
 - If already in place, applicants are required to submit a copy of this agreement with their online application. If no MOU is in place, applicants should address plans to form an MOU during the grant period and name likely partners. Agreements should include the responsibility and mechanisms for witness/victim notification of pre-trial release, when applicable.
- GOCCP will assist in detailed data collection to validate assessment tools and monitor public safety outcomes

Sample Best Practices

- [Open Society Foundation](#)
 - “Steps in the Right Direction: Maryland Counties Leading the Way in Pretrial Services”
- [National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies](#)
- [Pretrial Justice Institute](#)
- [National Center for State Courts](#)
- [Virtual Tour of the Kentucky Model](#)

Program Requirement #3

3. **Incorporate multiple levels of supervision based on defendant risk scores** with features that include all of the following:

- **Cellular telephone reminders of a defendant's hearing date** - Programs can implement this requirement through development of an automated call, live caller, and/or text message system
- **Drug and alcohol testing** - Programs are strongly encouraged to primarily utilize random drug testing and have policies in place to address defendants who are receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- **GPS monitoring** - Priority consideration will be given to counties that include GPS monitoring components that include victim stay-away alert technology in compliance with HB 1163 of 2017
- **Substance use, mental health, or mediation referrals** - Referrals for substance use treatment should include referral to, and accommodate compliance with, all forms of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).
 - PSGP funding is not intended to pay for treatment services

Sustainability



Funding continuation is subject to future budget approval.

Receipt of grant funding in one year does not guarantee continued funding for the duration of the grant's existence.

Counties should plan how to use savings from this grant program to ensure local sustainability beyond the end of the grant period.

Question and Answer

- Can an agency requesting the grant funds be different from the agency providing the pretrial services? Yes
- What is the most an agency can apply for? \$1 million
- What is validation and is it necessary? Is it covered by grant funding?
 - Yes, it is necessary and an allowable expense. For more information see the full FAQs.
- Are letters of support required?
 - No, but they are beneficial to an application

Access the full FAQ document with all questions answered during this webinar at goccp.maryland.gov/pspg.

Contact Us

For questions related to your applications,
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For questions related to program criteria or program
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