



CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON *MEASURE Z* EXPENDITURES

The Advisory Committee meets on each Wednesday in March to review applications and will make recommendations to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors in April.

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Agency Name: Humboldt County Public Defender Offices

Mailing Address: 1001 4th Street Eureka, 5501

Contact Person: Marie Essig Title: Business Manager

Telephone: 445-7634 E-mail address: messig1@co.humboldt.ca.us

1. AMOUNT OF MEASURE Z FUNDING REQUESTED FOR FY 2023-2024: \$ 356,507

2. ENTITY TYPE -- Please check appropriate box.

- a. Humboldt County Department
- b. Contract Service Provider to Humboldt County
- c. Local Government Entity
- d. Private Service Provider
- e. Non-Profit Service Provider
- f. Other, Describe: _____

3. Is this application a renewal or related to a project that has been funded by *Measure Z* in the past?
(check one) No.

4. Describe how the scope of your proposal fits the intent of *Measure Z*. Specifically, how will it maintain and improve public safety and essential services, as described on the previous page?

Public defense systems is not only an essential service that county's must provide but effective indigent defense promotes public safety. The absence of effective indigent defense services hampers the ability to deliver justice. A strong public defense system is essential for maintaining the legitimacy of the judicial process. As law enforcement increases efforts to provide a safe community there is the inevitable increase in the number of citizens charged with crimes who cannot afford the cost of representation. Inadequate indigent defense services results in a bottleneck of the local criminal justice system when there are inadequate resources to meet the demand of criminal matters in the local courts.

Providing adequate and effective indigent defense services reinforces the public's belief that the system is governed by fair play and is essential for long-term support that leads to safe communities.



5. Please provide a brief description of the proposal for which you are seeking funding.

The Humboldt County Public Defender Offices is requesting funding for two (2) FT Social Worker positions and one (1) FT Investigator.

Despite the increasing complexity of cases represented by the Public Defender and Conflict Counsel Offices over the last five years and the corresponding increase in volume and complexity of the discovery associated with each case that must be investigated, reviewed, and analyzed by the Public Defender there has been no addition of qualified staff to meet these increased demands.

The addition of one (1) FTE Investigator is needed to provide adequate assistance of counsel by properly reviewing discovery and investigating cases. The increase in body worn cameras by law enforcement as well as increased usage of video surveillance used by law enforcement requires extensive time for investigators to review video and interview relevant witnesses.

The continued funding of two (2) FTE social workers will provide committed resources to assist public defender clients in obtaining critical community resources such as mental health and substance abuse services and temporary and permanent housing. The services provided by the social workers allows the attorneys to focus on the legal merits of their cases reducing delays in case resolutions.

6. How have you developed a plan for sustainability, including diversification of funding sources, for your proposal to carry on without reliance on future *Measure Z* funds?

The Public Defender Office strives to use resources wisely and search and apply for grants and services that can assist with providing funding and resources in providing effective indigent defense services. We will continue to apply for grants that may come available as well as examine our processes and programs to ensure we are utilizing every available resource to provide effective services to the county's most vulnerable citizens. Unfortunately, we are prohibited from charging fees for our services, so funding opportunities are limited.

7. If this request is for the continuation or expansion of an existing program/service, what is the current source of funding for that program/service?

The funding requested for two (2) FT social workers is a continuation of our Critical Services Program funded through the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Unfortunately, the grant is not sufficient to fund a full-time social worker for our Conflict Counsel Office and is not currently a recurring grant. This two-year grant is due to expire on June 30, 2023, with a possible one-year extension currently being proposed. We will not know if the grant will be extended for one additional year before June 2023, nor do we know if that extension will include additional funds at this time.

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8. If you are awarded *Measure Z* funds, how do you plan to leverage these funds to secure additional grants, contributions or community support?

Our intent is to continue to track and measure the services and outcomes provided by our social workers to provide data that substantiates our belief that clients who receive additional support and assistance from Public Defender social workers spend less time incarcerated and actively involved in the justice system. The assistance of public defender social workers ultimately reduces costs and improves community safety by assisting criminal defendants to seek treatment and services that address the socio-economic issues that contributes to their involvement in the justice system. We strongly believe that the cost of funding the social workers is recovered by reducing recidivism and by allowing attorneys to focus on the legal aspects of their cases. We will leverage this information to seek additional grants and community support.

9. Will this proposal require new or expanded activity on the part of another entity to be fully functional and effective? If so, name that entity and describe what that participation would look like.

Our proposal will not require new or expanded activities already provided by our community partners. Our goal is to continue partnering with these agencies and reduce the inherent “snags” or challenges of transitioning eligible clients from incarceration into active treatment programs.

10. Are there recurring expenses associated with this application, such as personnel cost? Please check yes or no: Yes – the recurring personnel costs. Other costs associated with this request will be absorbed by the Public Defender and Conflict Counsel department budgets.

If you checked yes, detail those expenses here:

- a. Two FTE Social Workers: \$ 221,971
- b. One FTE Investigator: \$ 134,536

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Include the following with your application, making sure to **limit your responses to one page, per section.** Responses longer than the maximum, may not be read by committee members or considered as part of your application

Prior Year Results: If your request is a continuation of a program funded with Measure Z in prior fiscal years, please provide the results of implementation. (one page maximum)

Program Budget: Please utilize the template provided on the following pages. This will need to be updated if your agency is approved for funding.



I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above statements and all attachments are true and correct

DATE: February 17, 2023

SIGNATURE: Luke Brownfield, Chief Public Defender

SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION TO:

Humboldt County Citizens' Advisory Committee on *Measure Z* Expenditures
c/o County Administrative Office
825 Fifth Street, Suite 112
Eureka, CA 95501-1153

Exhibit E

PROPOSED BUDGET

Agency Name: Humboldt County Public Defender
Coordinator/Contact: Marie Essig
Address: 1001 4th Street Eureka, CA 9550`
Phone: 707 445-7634

Descriptions	Costs	Requested Budget	Remaining Balance
A. Personnel Costs			
Title: SOCIAL WORKER III - 1 FTE			
Salary and Benefits	114,253.00	114,253.00	0
Duties Description: Coordinate Mental Hlth, Substance Abuse, Housing for Public Defender Clients			
Title: SOCIAL WORKER III - 1 FTE			
Salary and Benefits	107,718.00	107,718.00	0
Duties Description:			
Title: Public Defender Investigator			
Salary and Benefits	134,536.00	134,536.00	0
Duties Description: Review discovery, interview witnesses, assist attorneys			
Title:			
Salary and Benefits			0
Duties Description:			
Title:			
Salary and Benefits			0
Duties Description:			
Total Personnel:	356,507.00	356,507.00	0.00
B. Operational Costs (Rent, Utilities, Phones, etc.)			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Total Operating Costs:	0	0.00	0
C. Consumables/Supplies (Supplies and Consumables should be separate)			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Total Consumable/Supplies:	0	0.00	0
D. Transportation/Travel (Local and Out-of-County should be separate)			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Total Transportation/Travel Costs:	0	0.00	0
E. Fixed Assets			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Title:			
Description:			
Total Other Costs:	0	0.00	0
Budget Total:	356,507.00		