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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND RELEASE OF REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

DATE: October 4, 2021

TO: California Counties

FROM: Kathleen T. Howard, Executive Director

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENSE PILOT PROGRAM

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is announcing the release of the Public Defense Pilot Program Request for Applications (RFA).

The Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 129) established the Public Defense Pilot Program. Program funds must be utilized for indigent defense providers, including public defenders, alternate defenders, and other qualifying entities that provide indigent defense in criminal matters for the purposes of workload associated with the provisions in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 1170 of, and Sections 1170.95, 1473.7, and 3051 of, the Penal Code.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22, the Budget Act appropriated \$50,000,000 for the Public Defense Pilot Program of which \$49,500,000 is available for California counties and \$500,000 is available for administrative costs and for an independent evaluation. Subject to future appropriations in FY 2022-23 and 2023-24, it is anticipated that a total of \$148,500,000 will be available to counties. The grant period for the Public Defense Pilot Program is March 1, 2022 to March 1, 2025.

All California counties are eligible to participate in the Public Defense Pilot Program. Only one (1) application may be submitted on behalf of the County. Applications must be submitted by the Board of Supervisors or the County Administrative Officer. The Board of Supervisors or County Administrative Officer may also delegate the County Public Defender's Office or an Alternate Defender's Office as the applicant entity.

Proposals must be received by the BSCC by **5:00 p.m. on January 14, 2022**. A copy of the RFA is attached and is available on the BSCC [website](#).

For questions about the Public Defense Pilot Program or to request additional information, please contact us at publicdefensegrant@bscc.ca.gov.