

**MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2022 **AGENDA ITEM:** C

**TO:** BSCC Chair and Members

**FROM:** Dameion Renault, Field Representative, [dameion.renault@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:dameion.renault@bscc.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Public Defense Pilot Program Application Deadline:  
**Requesting Approval**

### Summary

This agenda item requests that the Board extend the application deadline for the Public Defense Pilot Program. The extension would allow additional time for counties to apply for the funding. No additional changes to the original grant period dates are requested.

### Background

The Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 129) established the Public Defense Pilot Program (PDP). Program funds must be used 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 PDP, 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 PDP is March 1, 2022, to March 1, 2025. All counties were eligible to receive funds as part of the formula grant program, authorized by the Board at the July 2021 board meeting.

The original application period for the PDP closed on January 14, 2022. The Board of State and Community Corrections received requests totaling \$47 million (out of an available \$49.5 million) from 35 of California's 58 counties.

As part of the coordination with the Office of the State Public Defender in administering this grant program, staff received information indicating that at least one additional county is interested in participating in the program, but the participating entity was unable to submit its application by the January 14, 2022 application deadline. The county has indicated that it will be able to submit its application prior to the grant cycle start date of March 1, 2022 and no later than February 23, 2022.

Staff recommends that the application period be reopened and extended to February 23, 2022 to allow additional counties an opportunity to apply for these funds.

**Recommendation/Action Needed**

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Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve and reopen the application period and extend the application deadline for the Public Defender Pilot Program to February 23, 2022.

**Attachments**

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C-1: Public Defense Pilot Program Grant Allocation List