

**MEETING DATE:** February 9, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** D

**TO:** BSCC Chair and Members

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

**SUBJECT:** Indigent Defense Grant Program, Twelve-Month No-Cost Extensions:  
**Requesting Approval**

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### Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval of a 12-month liquidation extension for the Indigent Defense Grant program. Grant-funded projects experienced implementation delays and service interruptions due to COVID-19, and grantees were unable to deliver services as planned. A 12-month liquidation period extension will allow additional time for grantees to implement programming and to spend down funds as originally intended.

### Background

The Indigent Defense Grant program was established in the 2020 Budget Act with \$10 million in funding. (Senate Bill 74, Chapter 6, Statutes of 2020.) Of that amount, up to \$200,000 was set aside for program evaluation. Funding for indigent services may be used to help address the staffing, training, case management needs, or other attorney support of California Public Defender Offices. A \$9.8 million non-competitive Request for Applications (RFA) was released in January 2021 (D-1). Nineteen proposals were submitted from county Public Defender and Alternate Defender Offices and, following consultation with the Office of the State Public Defender, the Board made awards at the November 2020 board meeting.

In the years following the Board's approval, Indigent Defense grantees have experienced significant implementation delays. Due to COVID-19, there were procurement delays, staffing shortages, limited in-person contact with clients, and counties could not deliver services as intended. In recognition of these unforeseen impacts, the Governor's January 2023 Budget proposes a liquidation period extension through June 30, 2024 for the Indigent Defense Grant program (D-2). (Senate Bill 72, 2023 - 2024 Sess. Introduced January 10, 2023.) Grantees will be offered a 12-month extension to expend funding, contingent upon approval of the 2023 Budget Act. No additional funding will be provided through this action.

### Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board approve a 12-month liquidation period extension for the Indigent Defense Grant program. Staff also recommends the Board direct staff to make any amendments, extensions, and addendums to the grant agreements as needed to complete the Indigent Grant Program as proposed.

### Attachments

D-1: Request for Application

D-2: Senate Bill 72