



# WASHTENAW COUNTY

## OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS



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TO: Ann Arbor City Council

FROM: Renee Wilson, Director Community Corrections  
Washtenaw County Office of the Sheriff

Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Advisory Board

DATE: June 24, 2011

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan Application

#### **COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) requests that the Ann Arbor City Council approve the grant application to the Michigan Department of Corrections for the annual Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan in the amount of \$421,801 for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In November 1991, Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor developed a Comprehensive Corrections Plan pursuant to Public Act 511 (PA 511) for the purpose of offering diversion and alternative sentencing options to the Washtenaw County. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved the original Comprehensive Corrections Plan on November 9, 1991 (BOC resolution #91-0280). The mission continues to be for Community Corrections to: a) reduce prison commitments for eligible offenders; b) protect public safety and reduce jail crowding so that priority for scarce and costly jail beds will be reserved for dangerous offenders; and c) improve treatment effect to reduce recidivism through credible alternatives to incarceration. This mission aligns with County Guiding Principles to ensure provision of mandated services, reduce the cost of doing business and promote intergovernmental cooperation to improve services, and focus on the root causes of problems. Community Corrections is a division of the Office of the Sheriff that provides services which span the spectrum of the criminal justice system from pretrial intervention to jail based programming to treatment initiatives aimed at probationers and parolees.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The FY 2011-12 grant application was submitted to the state in May and requires City Council and county Board of Commissioners' approval. The County Board of Commissioners approved the application on June 1, 2011. The application requested funding from the State of Michigan to continue existing alternatives to jail programming, adding to the continuum of alternative sanctions for Washtenaw County. The request for funding comes after the Governor's Executive Budget Recommendation for FY 2012 provided for a continuation of the Community Corrections Plans and Services line item which was equal to that of 2011. However, the Governor's proposed budget will need Legislative approval prior to the award of funds for the next fiscal year. The Governor's Executive Budget is solely a recommendation and the appropriation line items may be redistributed during the Legislative approval process.

### Staffing

An Administrative Coordinator position and a Deputy Director position have been placed on hold vacant status with the plan of not filling these for the entire fiscal year.

The additional part time drug testing agent/lab tech, approved by the Board for FY 10-11, will once again be funded through the general fund.

### Probation Residential Services

PRS reimbursement is tied entirely to utilization on a per diem basis. The expansion of the eligibility criteria allows for the request of additional PRS monies for placement of offenders into probation residential services. A total of 18 beds have been requested in this application for FY 2011-2012 funding. All Probation Residential Contracts are now being maintained by the State of Michigan rather than passing through to the County.

### Programming

In fiscal year 2011-2012, grant application additions to our continuum of services, structured sentencing and centralized services are very solid once again Community Corrections is positioned at the front end of the criminal justice system allowing for all options to be identified at the earliest point of contact for the offenders. In this year's grant application we have once again attempted to enhance the delivery of programs allowing for expanded space availability and greater accessibility into our programs, thus allowing for additional individuals to be served with less of a wait time for programming. We believe the continuance and enhancement of the current programs will allow for an even greater impact in FY 2011-12 on our state and local criminal justice objectives. All of these options will be vital to the success of the diversion possibilities. All programming identified will be based upon offender classification and program eligibility criteria established by the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB). The program eligibility criteria were expanded by the CCAB as part of the 2005-06 Community Corrections Agreement.

The reality of the economic situation in the State of Michigan and the challenges that face Washtenaw County have never been more evident than they are today during these budget processes. Community Corrections is, and will continue to be, an investment to both the fiscal stability and public safety in Washtenaw County. Since becoming a division of the Office of the Sheriff, Community Corrections has become a key component in a systems approach and continues to work to develop new alternatives and cost savings programs to the Office and the County. The Office of the Sheriff continues to push forward new ways of operating to increase

efficiency and effectiveness. Community Corrections is vital to these new ways of approaching long standing issues. In FY10-11

**IMPACT ON CITY OF ANN ARBOR HUMAN RESOURCES:**

None.

**IMPACT ON CITY OF ANN ARBOR BUDGET:**

None.

The total Community Corrections budget proposed in the application is \$1,010,060 This represents a funding request to the Michigan Department of Corrections/Office of Community Corrections in the amount of \$421,801 for programs and administration. In addition, it is estimated that \$295,890 will come from program generated fee revenue, with \$292,369 in county general fund match being required. These budget figures are contingent upon approval of the grant application. If adopted the impact on the level of general fund support from the county would be \$292,369.

**IMPACT ON OTHER CITY/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:**

Effective implementation of programs and services results in improved systems approach to effectively reducing recidivism and ensuring public safety. This positively affects nearly every County department and improves the quality of life for County citizens.

The increased supervision levels and programming available assist the Office of the Sheriff by saving jail bed days and assist Courts by providing them with alternative sanctions to the jail.

This program positively affects the County by directly saving General Fund dollars allocated for jail bed days. Community Corrections programs are utilized in lieu of incarceration. Therefore, individuals not participating in Community Corrections programming would otherwise be housed in the Washtenaw County Jail. Conservative estimates from 2009 and 2010 demonstrate the following savings to the County General Fund:

2009 – 45,470 jail bed days were saved = cost savings to County of \$3,864,950

2010 – 39, 560 jail bed days were saved = cost savings to the County of \$3,362,600