

2022 RES-218

ACCEPTING U.S. BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARD FOR A COMMUNITY COURT

The Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Community Courts Initiative supports efforts by state, local, and federally recognized American Indian tribal governments to establish and enhance community courts in their jurisdictions. Community courts are area focused court programs that combine the power of the community and the justice system to address local problems. They connect persons committing less serious crimes — often non-violent misdemeanor and low level felony cases — to judicially supervised drug treatment, alternative sanctions, and other community-based services.

Community courts enhance public safety by addressing underlying issues that lead to criminal behavior, including substance use and behavioral health issues. By engaging communities in planning and operational processes, they provide justice system officials with more effective options in dealing with lower-level offenses, enhance public trust in the conduct of justice, and help to reduce unnecessary incarceration. The types of cases community courts accept vary depending on the communities that they serve.

The Dane County Criminal Justice Council began to explore community courts in 2015 with a peer visit of city, county, and community stakeholders to the Red Hook Community Court in New York City. The Community Restorative Court was an outgrowth of this initial visit. Subsequently the County Board hosted Red Hook officials at a committee of the whole in 2016, and the Criminal Justice Council completed a community court assessment in 2021, after holding pre-planning engagements with seven BIPOC groups in 2020 and 2021.

Dane County has been awarded a 4 year community court initiative planning and implementation grant in the amount \$596,149, to include funding for a position, planning support, required travel, and program supports. Federal funding must be accepted within 45 days of being awarded. This resolution accepts the funds initially into the County Board Office, in anticipation that, should a new Office of Justice Reform and Equity be established in the 2023 budget, the grant funds and position authority will be transferred to that office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors and the Dane County Executive accept the grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of \$596,149.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution by the Dane County Board, a 1.0 P 11 FTE position will be created for the Dane County Community Court Initiative in the Dane County Board Office Operating Budget in 2022, to be hired in 2023 and transferred to the Office of Justice Reform in 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following expenditure accounts be initially established for the remainder of 2022, with subsequent years reflected in the annual budgets:

COBOARD NEW	“COMMUNITY COURT POS FACILITATOR”	\$12,000
COBOARD NEW	“BJA ADMINISTRATIVE”	\$1,875