

Title	<b>Mendocino County Public Defender Office</b>	12/01/2022
	by <b>Jeffrey Aaron</b> in <b>Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Application</b>	id. 34212153
	aaronj@mendocinocounty.org	

<b>Original Submission</b>	12/01/2022
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The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant Program Application is divided into four sections as identified below: Background Information Contact Information Proposal Narrative and Budget Mandatory Attachments Each section has a series of questions that require a response. Applicants will be prompted to provide written text, select options from a drop down menu, select options from a multiple choice menu, or upload attachments. Questions with a red asterisk require responses. Applicants will not be able to submit the JAG Grant Program Application until all questions with a red asterisk have been completed. Applicants may reference the JAG Instruction Packet for background information, key dates, rating factors, and other important information to aid in the completion of the Grant Program Application. The JAG Instruction Packet is available on the BSCC website at: [http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s\\_bsccjag/](http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccjag/). NOTE: Applicants may start and stop their application but must select "Save Draft" at the bottom of the application before existing.

SECTION I - BACKGROUND INFORMATION	This section requests information about the project name and location, federal identification, funding requested, and an overview of the project.
Name of Applicant	<b>Mendocino County Public Defender Office</b>
Applicant's Physical Address	<b>175 S School St Ukiah CA 95482 US</b>
Applicant's Mailing Address (If different than physical address)	n/a

Mailing Address for Payment	<b>175 S School St Ukiah CA 95482 US</b>
Tax Identification Number	<b>94-60000520</b>
Federal Employer ID	<b>94-60000520</b>
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	<b>FSMPK8PJHKP8</b>
Grant Funds Requested	<b>660000.0</b>
Lead Public Agency	<b>Mendocino County Public Defender</b>
Multi-County Partnerships	n/a
Multi-County Partnerships	n/a
Multi-County Partnerships	n/a
Project Title	<b>Indigent Defense Improvement Grant</b>
Program Purpose Areas (PPA)	<b>Applicants are required to apply for the Program Purpose Areas (PPA) and Priority Areas of Need identified in the JAG Instruction Packet (Page 5). A total of five PPAs are identified: PPA 1: Law enforcement programs PPA 2: Prosecution and court programs PPA 3: Prevention and education programs PPA 5: Drug treatment and enforcement programs PPA 8: Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs Applicants are required to address a minimum of one Program Purpose Area and one corresponding Priority Area of Need. Applicants are not required to address each PPA or Priority Area of Need.</b>
Law Enforcement Programs (PPA 1)	n/a
Prosecution and Court Programs (PPA 2)	<b>Problem solving courts (e.g., mental health, veterans, drug, reentry) Innovations in indigent defense</b>
Prevention and Education Programs (PPA 3)	n/a

Drug Treatment and Enforcement Programs (PPA 5)	<b>Community-based substance use outpatient treatment</b> <b>Community-based substance use residential treatment</b> <b>Co-occurring treatment (e.g., substance use and mental illness or other chronic health conditions)</b>
Mental Health Programs and Related Law Enforcement and Corrections Programs (PPA 8)	<b>Residential in-patient behavioral health treatment programs</b> <b>General mental health services</b>
Proposal Summary	<b>The Public Defender requests a case worker, a paralegal, and an attorney; and the Alternate Defender requests a half-time staff assistant to address various priority areas of need relating to in- and out-patient substance use treatment and behavioral health treatment, c-occurring facilities, and staff Mendocino's Adult Drug Court [ADC] and Behavioral Health Court [BHC]. The grant personnel will (1) connect and monitor clients in these treatment programs; (2) connect and monitor clients in co-occurring treatment facilities; (3) help clients access necessary social services to reduce recidivism; and (4) help staff ADC and BHC and serve as mental health liaisons.</b>
SECTION II - CONTACT INFORMATION	<b>This section requests contact information for the individuals identified as the Project Director, Financial Officer, Day-to-Day Project Contact, Day-to-Day Fiscal Contact, and the Authorized Signature.</b>
Project Director	<b>Jeffrey Aaron</b>
Project Director's Title with Agency/Department/Organization	<b>Mendocino County Public Defender</b>
Project Director's Physical Address	<b>175 S School St</b> <b>Ukiah</b> <b>CA</b> <b>95482</b> <b>US</b>
Project Director's Email Address	<b>aaronj@mendocinocounty.org</b>
Project Director's Phone Number	<b>+17072346950</b>
Financial Officer	<b>Pati Kelly</b>
Financial Officer's Title with Agency/Department/Organization	<b>Administrative Services Manager</b>

Financial Officer's Physical Address	<b>175 S School St Ukiah CA 95482 US</b>
Financial Officer's Email Address	<b>kellyp@mendocinocounty.org</b>
Financial Officer's Phone Number	<b>+17072346953</b>
Day-To-Day Program Contact	<b>Jeffrey Aaron</b>
Day-To-Day Program Contact's Title with Agency/Department/Organization	<b>Mendocino County Public Defender</b>
Day-To-Day Program Contact's Physical Address	<b>175 South School Street Ukiah CA 95482 US</b>
Day-To-Day Program Contact's Email Address	<b>aaronj@mendocinocounty.org</b>
Day-To-Day Program Contact's Phone Number	<b>+17072346950</b>
Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact	<b>Pati Kelly</b>
Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact's Title with Agency/Department/Organization	<b>Administrative Services Manager</b>
Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact's Physical Address	<b>175 S School St Ukiah CA 95482 US</b>
Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact's Email Address	<b>kellyp@mendocinocounty.org</b>
Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact's Phone Number	<b>+17072346953</b>

Name of Authorized Officer*	<b>Jeffrey Aaron</b>
Authorized Officer's Title with Agency/Department/Organization	<b>Mendocino County Public Defender</b>
Authorized Officer's Physical Address	<b>Mendocino County Public Defender 175 S School St Ukiah CA 95482 US</b>
Authorized Officer's Email Address	<b>aaronj@mendocinocounty.org</b>
Authorized Officer's Phone Number	<b>+17072346950</b>
Authorized Officer Assurances	<b>checked</b>
SECTION III - PROPOSAL NARRATIVE AND BUDGET	<b>This section requests responses to the Rating Factors identified in the the JAG Instruction Packet.</b>
Proposal Narrative Instructions	<b>The Proposal Narrative must address the Project Need, Project Description, Collaboration, Capability and Qualifications, and Project Evaluation and Monitoring Rating Factors as described in the JAG Instruction Packet (Pages 21-24). When responding, clearly identify each Rating Factor section that is being addressed (i.e. Project Need, Project Description, etc.). The Proposal Narrative may not exceed 33,556 total characters (includes punctuation, numbers, spacing and any text). In Microsoft Word, this is approximately 15 pages in Arial 12-point font with one-inch margins on all four sides and at 1.5-line spacing. A character counter is automatically enabled that shows the number of characters used and the remaining number of characters before the limit is met. If the limit is exceeded, a red prompt will appear with the message "You have exceeded the character limit". Applicants will be prohibited from submit the JAG Grant Program Application until they comply with the character limit requirements. NOTE: It is up to the applicant to determine how to use the total word limit in addressing each section, however as a guide, the percent of total point value for each section is provided in the JAG Instruction Packet (Page 21).</b>
Proposal Narrative	<b>PROJECT NEED:</b>  <b>1.1. How the need to be addressed relates to PPAs and priority needs.</b>  <b>The Public Defender Office (PDO) and Alternate Defender Office</b>

**(ADO) designed this project to break the cycle of recidivism by enabling our clients to obtain services and treatment they would not otherwise obtain. Our grant funded personnel will address a wide range of the priority areas of need in our project, specifically:**

**PPA: Mental health programs and related law enforcement programs:  
Priority Areas of Need:**

**Residential in-patient behavior health treatment programs.  
General mental health services.**

**PPA: Drug treatment and enforcement programs:**

**Priority Areas of Need:**

**Co-occurring treatment.  
Community-based substance use residential treatment.  
Community-based substance use outpatient treatment.**

**PPA: Prosecution and court programs:**

**Problem solving courts.  
Innovations in indigent defense.**

**As explained below, the granted funded personnel will (1) connect and monitor clients with in-and out-patient behavioral health treatment programs and general mental health services; (2) connect and monitor clients with co-occurring treatment facilities, residential treatment for substance abuse, and outpatient treatment as well; (3) help clients apply for educational and vocational programs; and (4) help staff problem solving courts (Mendocino's Adult Drug Court [ADC] and Behavioral Health Court [BHC]) and will serve as mental health liaisons with the courts, treatment providers, and probation.**

**The PDO and ADO clients' needs are basic, but critical. Mendocino does not have either sufficient in-patient behavioral health treatment programs or general mental health services. The project addresses this by having grant-funded staff guide clients to existing in-country and new and existing out-of-county resources that clients have been unable to access. Thus, the project addresses the PPA relating to mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs.**

**Mendocino has no co-occurring treatment facilities for clients with substance abuse and mental health disorders; few residential and out-patient substance abuse treatment facilities; and no residential facilities for Spanish-speakers. In the project, the grant-funded staff will help clients get into and complete programs in co-occurring treatment facilities and in- or out-patient substance abuse facilities. Therefore, the project addresses the PPA relating to drug treatment and enforcement programs.**

**The grant-funded staff in the project will staff and monitor ADC and BHC programs. The PDO hopes in time to create a Veterans Court and to have the grant staff likewise staff and monitor it. Finally, the grant staff will engage in holistic defense and, at a minimum, connect clients with the social services and benefits they need to help them to complete supervision and not reoffend. This kind of holistic**

defense is an innovation in indigent defense for Mendocino. As a result, the project addresses the PPA relating to prosecution and court programs. Finally, our budget has a small amount of money set aside for case worker, paralegal, or attorney training in substance use or behavioral health training.

## **1.2. Service gaps that contribute to the need.**

Mendocino historically had a shortage of treatment programs for substance abuse and mental health. Some clients are completely unserved, such as Spanish-speakers with residential drug programs, Native American clients in a number of areas, and other groups of clients, such as veterans, who have special needs. Because Mendocino is large and often remote, clients often cannot easily access services, even when aware of them.

Mendocino's jail does not have a full-time psychologist or psychiatrist. Jail staff cannot, therefore, respond to emergency changes in medications or other needs that requires the services of a licensed psychologist or M.D. There are few professionals in Mendocino who can evaluate persons for mental health diversion, mental competency to stand trial, or sanity—so few, in fact, that the Superior Court often appoints professionals from outside the county.

Staffing in ADC and BHC is endangered because of high caseloads in the PDO. With the addition of an attorney position, the PDO can staff and supervise both courts with continuity of representation. In addition, ADC and BHC, while serving veterans, does not address a number of special issues that veterans have and that do not solely involve drugs or psychological disorders. For years, the PDO and the social workers from the Veterans' Administration have tried to interest the court in creating a Veterans Court. The PDO hopes to use the case worker and paralegal to collect the data showing that there is a need for such a court.

## **1.3. Current racial and ethnic disparities, violence, recidivism, etc.**

While the lack of educational, vocational, and psycho-medical resources, the extreme poverty, and the high numbers of justice system-involved persons impacts all races in Mendocino, the Native American community is particularly impacted. According to the latest census, of all 58 California counties, Mendocino County has the 6th highest percentage of persons of Native American ancestry at 8.7% (U.S. Census Bureau 2022, "california-population-change"). Based on figures provided by our Sheriff, our current Native American jail population is about 17%, or nearly double their percentages in the general population (CCP, "Mendocino County Jail Stats"; U.S. Census Bureau 2022, "california-population-change"). Despite 26.1% of our population being Hispanic ((U.S. Census, "california-population-change"), there are no residential drug programs for Spanish-speakers. There are no residential treatment facilities for persons with dual diagnoses of substance abuse and psychological disorders.

Because Mendocino is under-resourced, clients often fail on supervision. For the last quarter, the failure rates for mandatory supervision and PRCS (post-release community supervision) were 31% and 36%, respectively (CCP, "Mendocino County Jail Stats"). Mendocino PDO has no resources to track all the necessary data for criminal justice outcomes by race or ethnicity. Due to poor resourcing, geographic remoteness, poverty, and racial and ethnic disparities, Mendocino has a high failure rate on all kinds of supervision. Success on supervision is further complicated by Mendocino's historically out-sized role in legal and illegal cannabis cultivation as part of the so-called "Emerald Triangle" and the high rates of violent crime and recidivism associated with that.

#### 1.4. Relevant local quantitative or qualitative data in support of need.

Quantitative and qualitative data support the requested grant positions. Only 14 of the 58 counties in California are poorer than Mendocino: the poverty rate of 17.5% is 173% greater than the average poverty rate for all counties (Index Mundi, "percent-of-people-of-all-ages-in-poverty#chart"). Only 12 counties have a lower media income: our median income of \$49,233 is only 69% of the average median income of \$71,228 for all counties (Index Mundi, "median-household-income#chart"). Only three counties have a higher percentage of people under 65 without health insurance (Index Mundi, "population-percentage-without-health-insurance-under-65#chart"). Indeed, only 14 of the 58 counties in our state have more people under 65 who have a disability: our rate is 12.1%, or 156% greater than the state's average (Index Mundi, "population-percentage-with-a-disability-under-65#chart"). Mendocino ranks 38th out of 58 counties in population, but 15th geographically (CSAC "county-profile/mendocino-county," "pod/square-mileage-county"). Much of the county is rural and remote, isolating the most racially and ethnically diverse populations. While California has a population density of 251.3 persons per square mile (sq. mi.); Mendocino County's density, 26.1 persons per sq. mi., is nearly 90% less (U.S. Census, "quickfacts/mendocinocountycalifornia"; World Population Review. "California Population 2020"). Yet the crime rates have a greater impact than in more urban centers. Rural counties, such as Mendocino, account for nearly 51% of nationwide arrests and 57% of jail admissions (Galvin-Almanza, "Small Counties Are Making Major Strikes on Criminal Legal Reform").

There are few resources available in Mendocino to address the critical needs of indigent defendants; consequently, the PDO and ADO need personnel to help those clients secure what few resources are available, as well as to find and secure others outside the county. Northern California in general is a "legal desert": it has the lowest rate of attorneys per sq. mi. (0.05 attorneys per sq. mi.) than any other region; the next lowest, the Inland Empire, has over three times as many attorneys per sq. mi. (0.16 attorneys per sq. mi.) ((CCAJ, "California Attorney Deserts"). In Mendocino, this shortage exists



across the board in all the professions that impact indigents, from medical doctors and psychiatrists, to psychotherapists, to licensed clinical social workers, etc. Indeed, the federal government, considers that all of Mendocino County, and not merely a census tract as with other counties, suffers from a mental health professional shortage (State of California, “Open Data: Mental health Professional Shortage Areas”). Due to high caseloads, PDO and ADO attorneys do not have the time to enable them to assist clients in these areas.

#### **1.5. Compelling justification for grant funds.**

The project strives to break the cycle of recidivism by enabling our clients to obtain services, treatment, education, and employment they would not otherwise obtain, and, hopefully, redress Mendocino’s historic shortages in those areas. The ADO requests funding for a staff assistant, and the PDO for an attorney, case worker, and paralegal, to help serve clients by addressing a wide range of PPAs and priority areas of need.

The PDO and ADO need staff to help clients find, get admission to, and complete in- and out-patient substance abuse and/or mental health programs, whether in or out of our county; and ADC and BHC. As discussed above, Mendocino has gaps in the lack of such programs, problems with accessibility due to the lack of facilities for Spanish speakers and dual diagnosis clients, and geographic isolation. Finally, the requested grant positions are targeted to address the racial and ethnic disparities, as well as the recidivism, discussed above.

In conclusion, rating factors 1.1-1.5 support the grant proposal.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

##### **2.1 Describe the proposed project.**

As described in Section 1.1, the project’s strives to (1) help connect and monitor clients within in- and out-patient mental health programs and general services; (2) help connect and monitor clients within co-occurring treatment facilities as well as in- and out-patient substance abuse treatment; (3) help clients apply for needed social programs; and (4) help staff and serve as liaison for ADC and BHC and other organizations.

The goal is for the PDO and ADO to help as many clients as possible, given that the need is so great and neither the PDO nor the ADO had any ability to provide holistic defense except for the last BSCC grant funding that will expire early in 2023. The PDO and ADO intend to measure objectives and impact in terms of clients serviced. The services will be delivered in person and, where necessary, through other means of communication (voice calls, texts, emails, etc.), and the hope is to continue the project as far into the grant period as possible. Given current cost estimates, the project is hoped to last

from June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

As outlined in Sections 1.1 and 1.5, the PDO and ADO intend to address the Project Need, the intent of the JAG Program, and the identified PPAs and corresponding Priority Areas of Need, by assisting their clients to access the services described in goals (1)-(4) of our project's intervention. Two of the committee members are from the Native American community, and one is the director of the local Legal Aid, and they will serve as resources to target additional areas in the Native American and Latino communities so that the project can address racial and ethnic disparities. The project intends to address recidivism on the part of all clients through greater attention and focus on rehabilitation, as well as ADC and BHC. The PDO and ADO will staff the project with personnel who are culturally informed, competent, and responsive. By focusing on admission into, and completion of, ADC and BHC, the project prioritizes mental health needs and hopefully removes clients from the justice system.

Under the "Mendocino County Indigent Defense Grant," a BSCC funded grant, the PDO sought an attorney, a case worker, and a paralegal. At that time, however, only the case worker and the paralegal were to be working in holistic defense, the case worker full-time and the paralegal part-time. The PDO seeks expand this, given the successes so far, into full-time attorney, case worker, and paralegal positions; and the ADO would seek to provide such services by the additional of a part-time position. The PDO never had a case worker before this grant, and never had an attorney or paralegal dedicated to holistic defense. Funding for the PDO positions of attorney, case worker, and paralegal will expire March 2023. The PDO seeks to extend these positions as far as possible in the grant period of 6/1/23 to 6/30/26. There is no supplanting of any other funds because these positions only existed due to the prior BSCC grant. The PDO intends for these persons to work as a team: the paralegal to provide research and clerical support; the case worker, case management services and court liaison services; and the attorney, representation in court. All three, of course, also will work directly with the clients, their families, other justice partners, and third-party providers.

The ADO has never been able to obtain a social services worker or a paralegal to assist in providing holistic defense, but believes that a half-time staff assistant will serve this function. The ADO staff assistant will coordinate with the PDO case worker and other agencies, help find in- and out-patient treatment, and interact with ADC and BHC.

## **2.2 Description of the target population, plans for serving individuals, etc.**

The target population includes clients with substance abuse or mental health issues; the project will also focus on Native Americans and Latinos because they are over-represented in our justice system and, unfortunately, often under-represented in receiving services.

Attorneys will identify those clients through their direct representation and will refer them to the case worker who will conduct a needs assessment. The only bars to access of service and to assisting clients are those related to language and geographic distance. Our case worker, a fluent Spanish speaker, resolves the language bar for us. He and the paralegal will work full-time and will thus be available, as attorneys are not, to travel to geographically isolated clients. Each of the staff members, the case worker, the paralegal, the attorney, and the staff assistant, will maintain a sustained engagement by direct contact with the client, and/or treatment facilities, providers, or ADC and BHC personnel.

The PDO case worker will help find in- and out-patient substance abuse and mental health treatment program. The case worker, paralegal, and attorney will identify clients who need social services to obtain such treatment, and, when necessary, will assist them with accessing Medi-Cal, Social Security, housing assistance, and other government benefits. They will interact regularly with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Reentry Officer, with the various residential and sober living facilities in our community, and with facilities outside our county. The case worker will serve as a liaison with ADC and BHC, and work to get our clients admitted and through those programs. The case worker and paralegal will monitor and collect data on the veteran population so that the PDO, and the VA social services liaison, can argue for the creation of a Veterans Court.

The PDO paralegal will help keep records for the case worker and attorney regarding the clients' identities, the work performed, the date the work was performed, and the description of the work. In addition, the paralegal will track the clients' gender, race, ethnicity, and national origin, and whatever other categories can enable us to best serve our clients, and document that service. The PDO attorney will help supervise and staff the representation of clients impacted with drug, alcohol, or behavioral health issues in regular and problem-solving courts. The PDO case worker, paralegal, attorney, and the ADO staff assistant, will all service clients directly, including interviewing them out of custody or in jail or prison, communicating regularly by telephone, email, and regular mail, and reaching out and involving the clients' families where appropriate.

## **2.3 Description of the relevant evidence, findings, or research.**

This intervention is both evidence-based and innovative. As discussed above, Mendocino County does not yet have a Veterans Court, which would be a local innovation, and the PDO and ADO practice of holistic defense is itself a new and innovative development. There is a great deal of evidence and research to support a finding that holistic defense can accomplish goals (1)-(4) in our project, as well as the PPAs and priority areas of need that those goals address. In fact, there is evidence and research from other jurisdictions proving that the practice of holistic defense has such outcomes.

Holistic defense has four pillars: “seamless access to services that meet legal and social support needs,” “dynamic, interdisciplinary communication,” “advocates with an interdisciplinary skillset,” and “a robust understanding of, and connection to, the community served” (Bronx Defenders, “Holistic Defense, Defined”). Evidence shows that defendants with “holistic lawyers are less likely to be detained pretrial, no more or less likely to be convicted, less likely to receive custodial sentences, more likely to receive shorter sentences, and no more or less likely to accumulate new arrests – including violent arrests – up through ten years post[-]arraignment” (Anderson et al., at p. 879). In addition to the scholarly and research support, there is a wealth of practical experience with similar populations. The Bronx Defenders in New York, a national leader in holistic defense, has documented the success of holistic defense. (Bronx Defenders, “The Center for Holistic Defense”). Their success in the multi-ethnic impoverished community of the Bronx led to the adoption of holistic defense by many California counties. One of the earliest was San Francisco (San Francisco Public Defender, “services”). In Santa Barbara, “Holistic Defense clients were sentenced to 50 percent fewer days in jail than their control counterparts,” and this “translated into a \$250,000 saving for the county” (Garcia, “Defending Santa Barbara’s Most Vulnerable”).

In conclusion, rating factors 2.1-2.3 support our grant proposal.

#### **COLLABORATION:**

##### **3.1. Provide a roster for the Local JAG Steering Committee.**

Please see attached roster.

##### **3.2. Describe the process used to identify, recruit, and engage steering committee members.**

Given the size of Mendocino County, it was not difficult to identify, recruit, and engage committee members. The PDO wanted representation from Native American tribes and from persons with justice-involved family. The Public Defender contacted an employee of one tribal and was put in touch with their community liaison, who agreed to be on the committee. The Public Defender reached out to criminal defense attorneys to see if there was someone in the Native American community who had a justice-involved family whose case was closed. A Deputy Public Defender knew of a likely candidate, and the Public Defender reached out to them directly. The Public Defender wanted representation from the Latino community and from Legal Services. He knows in a professional capacity the attorney who directs the local Legal Aid office who is herself Latina and a fluent Spanish-speaker, and she agreed to be on the committee. The Public Defender wanted the Chief Judge of the Superior Court, who also presides over one of the problem-solving courts, and the Chief Probation Officer, who staffs ADC, BHC, and has deep knowledge of the issues surrounding recidivism, substance abuse, and mental health issues in our community. Both agreed to serve on the

committee. Finally, the Public Defender wanted someone from the local providers. He contacted the Executive Director of Ford Street, a sober living and rehabilitation facility, and they agreed to serve on the committee. All of these persons have a record of community engagement and all agreed to assist the PDO and ADO through feedback during the regular meetings and, when they chose to do so, in the times between such meeting.

### **3.3. Demonstrate full and balanced representation from traditional and non-traditional stakeholder groups.**

The Chief Judge, the Chief Probation Officer, and the director of the local Legal Aid office appear to be “traditional” stakeholders. A tribal liaison, a justice-involved Native American family member of a justice-involved person, and the director of a local sober living and treatment facility, all seem to be non-traditional stakeholders. Each committee member will be invited to each meeting, will receive the identical presentation that the others will receive, and will have an equal vote on committee matters.

### **3.5. Describe the process used to identify the problem area(s) and develop the Project Need.**

Although unsuccessfully, the PDO has long sought funds to enable their office to practice holistic defense, including from the county and from other committees, such as the Community Corrections Partnership. They only obtained such funds with the BSCC grant that will expire March 2023. By having practiced themselves in these county courts for many years, the Public and Alternate Defenders know the problems facing clients in terms of interventions (1)-(4) in section 1.1. In addition, there is continual feedback from attorneys in the PDO and ADO who tell their supervisors they cannot find rehabilitation facilities, or dual-diagnosis residential programs, or Spanish-speaking programs, or even a psychologist to do a forensic evaluation.

### **3.6. Describe the process used to establish and maintain collaboration as it relates to supporting this proposed project.**

This collaboration will be discussed in its own section below. Collaboration among the committee members will take place at the regular meetings, the regular dissemination of materials, updates, and assessments by the PDO and ADO, and as requested by the committee members themselves.

### **3.7. Describe the steering committee's ongoing role throughout the project.**

The PDO and ADO selected a wide-range of stakeholders, as described in section 3.2, because they wanted a range of advice and guidance in a number of areas. While the PDO and ADO will provide their plans, it is anticipated that the committee members will critique and help refine those plans.

In conclusion, rating factors 3.1-3.7 support our grant proposal.

#### **CAPABILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

##### **4.1. Describe applicant's ability to conduct the proposed project(s).**

We are ready on day one to conduct the proposed project. Many of the people are already in place, and, if not for this grant, funding for their position would end. We would lose experienced staff who can provide essential services.

##### **4.2. List the project partners that will provide services, etc. & 4.3. Describe applicant's/partners' experience and capability to conduct the project(s).**

We have no “partners” within the meaning of grant in that we have no persons or entities other than staff who will receive funds. The funding for the services related to in- or out-patient substance abuse or mental health treatment, etc., will be paid from existing county funds, or third-party sources, such as Medi-Cal.

##### **4.4. Describe staff allocations and assignments for the separate project components.**

As stated in section 2.2, the PDO case worker, paralegal, and attorney will work as a unified team. The attorney identifies the clients who will need treatment, or who will be in ADC or BHC, and the case worker, in conjunction with the paralegal, performs a needs assessment. Each staff member identifies clients who needs social services to obtain such treatment, and, when necessary, assists them with accessing Medi-Cal, Social Security, housing assistance, and other government benefits. Each staff member interacts with the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Reentry Officer, with the various treatment facilities. The case worker serves as a liaison with ADC and BHC, and works to get our clients admitted and through those programs. The case worker and paralegal will monitor and collect data on the veteran population so that the PDO, and the VA social services liaison, can argue for the creation of a Veterans Court. While there are specific functions for some members, like the attorney appearing in court or the paralegal collecting the data to measure project progress, all staff members will service clients directly, including interviewing them out of custody or in jail or prison, communicating regularly by telephone, email, and regular mail, monitoring progress in treatment facilities and court, and reaching out and involving the clients’ families where appropriate.

##### **4.5. Describe the experience and qualifications of key project staff to provide and manage services.**

Our case worker was hired in January 2022 and his BSCC grant funds will expire March 2023. He provides much needed language assistance: before we hired him, we had only two Spanish-speaking

employees. He works with all the attorneys who refer clients to him for him to conduct assessments. He will then communicate with the granted funded attorney and case-worker as to what further work needs to be done.

The case worker, paralegal, and attorney will need to work closely with a variety of local agencies. To date, our case worker has been working with Mendocino County Social Services, the Social Security Administration, Tapestry Family Services (a local provider of out-patient services), DMV, SUDT (Substance Use Disorder Treatment), Mental Health, Ford Street, Mendocino County Probation, California State Parole, Building Bridges Shelter, RCS-Stepping Stones (a local treatment provider), Redwood Quality Mgmt.- RQMC, SUDT Court, and Mendocino County Superior Court ADC and BHC, the Adventist Memorial Hospitals in Ukiah, Willits, and Ft. Bragg, New Life Clinic, and MCAVHN (a local treatment provider). The PDO attorney and paralegal, and the ADO staff assistant will, to a lesser degree, also work with those agencies.

Our case worker and the ADO staff assistant will communicate with the Mendocino County Sheriff's Inmate Services Coordinators to discuss and plan treatment, programs, and other services for clients being released from jail. The PDO case worker will actually meet with the Inmate Service Coordinator each week to coordinate release and admission to various residential rehabilitation services, housing, social services, and Social Security needs. The case worker will have a monthly standing meeting with the Mendocino County Reentry Stakeholder Coalition. There he works with a variety of agencies and non-governmental organizations to better serve clients that are incarcerated and are ready to be released jail by providing and coordination services.

The PDO case worker, paralegal, and attorney, and the ADO staff assistant all work closely with ADC and BHC. The case worker provides services requested by the BHC team, including a Superior Court judge, a District Attorney representation, and a Probation Department officer.

When identified by attorneys, the case worker has assisted clients in being admitted and completing residential treatment for substance abuse or psychological issues, if available, at Hilltop Recovery (in county), Waterfront Recovery Services (out of county), Humboldt Recovery (out of county), and Ukiah Recovery Center (in county), as well as the Salvation Army in Oakland, San Francisco, and Redding (all out of county). Since January 2022, our case worker has placed at least 22 clients in such facilities. He has worked with each of the staff to ensure that the placements are successful, including those at Salvation Army (six placements), Hilltop Recovery (five placements), Humboldt Recovery (four placements), Ukiah Recovery (four placements), and Waterfront Recovery (three placements). With the assistance of a grant funded attorney and paralegal, he can do even more.

The PDO case worker has helped over 50 clients apply for Medi-Cal, CalFresh (a program that provides low income families with assistance to buy food), General Assistance, DMV identification cards, and Social Security cards. Since January 2022, he has assisted clients in completing over 35 Social Security applications, including those for disability and for other benefits, and provided case management services to ensure that they completed the required packets, doctors' appointment, and, when necessary, appeals. Again, with the assistance of a grant funded attorney and paralegal, he can do even more.

The PDO attorney has appeared in ADC and BHC and is well aware of the needs of those specialty courts and clients. He can provide valuable continuity of representation. Our paralegal has done part-time work in holistic defense, as permitted under the initial grant, but with full-time funding the paralegal can participate in the serving of more clients, and, in addition, can keep the necessary data and monitoring.

#### **4.6. Describe management structure and decision-making process for the project.**

These are small offices. In the PDO, the Public Defender, assisted by the Assistant Public Defender and the Chief Deputy Public Defender, will manage the grant-funded staff and the decision-making process. In the ADO, the Alternate Defender will do the same.

#### **4.7 Describe the readiness for development and implementation for the proposed project.**

All of the participants are ready. The case worker has experience working in holistic defense and would continue his activities under the soon to expire grant, and engage with more clients because of the help given by the paralegal and attorney. The PDO paralegal and attorney, and the ADO staff assistant, will be free to devote their full or part-time hours, depending on their funding, to holistic defense.

In conclusion, rating factors 4.1-4.7 support our grant proposal.

### **PROJECT EVALUATION AND MONITORING:**

#### **5.1. Describe the plan to determine how the project evaluation and monitoring activities will be incorporated.**

Throughout the project, the PDO and ADO intend to have all grant funded person keep track of their hours, tasks, and clients. Grant personnel will submit time sheets that list how long they spent on a specific task with a specific client and will, of course, be dated and signed. This way the PDO and ADO who the grant funded personnel worked with, when they performed this work, how long the work took, and what was the nature of the work. In addition, our paralegal will note the gender, race, ethnicity, or national origin of each client, to ensure that we are serving our under-represented communities. We



will then be in the position to share outcomes for client, and to view them within the context of gender, race, ethnicity, or national origin. This data will be digitized and made available to the committee members for their review and input.

In addition to these quantitative measures, we intend to have qualitative measures as well. Each grant funded position will be supervised by a permanently employed member of our office, and each will be subjected to the formal employee review and evaluation process. All new employees are reviewed at five months and again at the end of every year of employment. In addition, the PDO will present the project's progress to the Steering Committee at regular meetings. During these meetings the PDO will discuss the PDO and ADO's qualitative reviews of the grant funded personnel, and the quantitative measures of their performance.

**5.2. Identify the process and outcome indicators that are quantifiable and in line with the intent of the proposal and the objectives listed in the Project Work Plan.**

The objectives in the Project Work Plan necessarily involve obtaining more treatment access for our clients with substance abuse and mental health issues, and working with ADC and BHC. We will track success rates as well as the numbers of clients assisted, who assisted them, what services were provided, and the dates of service. There is no other quantitative data available.

**5.3. Describe the plan to collect and evaluate baseline and outcome data.**

There is no baseline data available. There has been no holistic defense in the PDO or ADO office before the initial grant, and that was only in the PDO and for about ten months. Holistic defense itself is still an innovation in Mendocino County. There is some baseline data as to the success rates in ADC and BHC. We have this data in our case files and court records.

In conclusion, rating factors 5.1-5.3 support our grant proposal.

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#### Budget Instructions

**Applicants are required to submit a Proposal Budget and Budget Narrative (Budget Attachment). Upon submission the Budget Attachment will become Section 6: Proposal Budget (Budget Tables & Narrative) making up part of the official proposal. The Budget Attachment must be filled out completely and accurately. Applicants are solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information entered in the Budget Table and Budget Narrative. The grant budget must cover the entire grant period. For additional guidance related to grant budgets, refer to the BSCC Grant Administration Guide. The Budget Attachment is provided as a stand-alone document on the BSCC website at [http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s\\_bsccjag/](http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccjag/).**

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SECTION IV -  
MANDATORY  
ATTACHMENTS

**This section list the attachments that are required at the time of submission. Criteria for Non-Governmental Organizations Receiving BSCC Grant Funds (Appendix C) Project Work Plan (Appendix D) JAG Steering Committee Roster (Appendix E) Letter of Agreement or Operational Agreement (Appendix F and G) Certification of Compliance with BSCC Policies on Debarment, Fraud, Theft, and Embezzlement (Appendix K)**

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Criteria for Non-Governmental Organizations Receiving Grant Funds (Appendix C)

[Criteria-for-Non-Governmental-Organizations.completed.pdf](#)

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Project Work Plan (Appendix D)

[Project-Work-Plan.completed.pdf](#)

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JAG Steering Committee Roster (Appendix E)

[Steering-Committee-Roster.completed.pdf](#)

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Letter of Agreement (Appendix F)

[Letters\\_of\\_Agreement.pdf](#)

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Sample Operational Agreement (Appendix G) n/a

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Certification of Compliance with BSCC Policies On Debarment, Fraud, Theft, and Embezzlement (Appendix K)

[Certification\\_of\\_compliance.completed.pdf](#)

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OPTIONAL: n/a  
Governing Board  
Resolution

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**OPTIONAL:  
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**CONFIDENTIALITY  
NOTICE:**

**All documents submitted as a part of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program proposal are public documents and may be subject to a request pursuant to the California Public Records Act. The BSCC cannot ensure the confidentiality of any information submitted in or with this proposal. (Gov. Code, § 6250 et seq.)**