

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	November 18, 2024
Action Required:	Approve and appropriate \$408,437 from the Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant
Presenter:	Susan Morrow - Offender Aid & Restoration
Staff Contacts:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	Resolution to appropriate \$408,437 from the Opioid Abatement Authority Collaborative Partnership Grant (1 of 2 readings)

Background

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of itself, Offender Aid and Restoration, Albemarle County, Fluvanna County, Orange County, Madison County, and Nelson County, has received an Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant in the amount of \$408,437 for the expansion of Peer Support and other services for the recovery court and specialty docket programs in the region. The expansion program will be operated by Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant.

Discussion

The 16th Judicial District of Virginia has a total of four Recovery Courts serving seven jurisdictions as well as one Therapeutic Docket serving two jurisdictions. The jurisdictions served included the City of Charlottesville, and the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Orange, Madison, and Nelson. Taken all together, the programs have the capacity to serve 160 individuals at any given time. All of the programs are operated and administered by OAR/Jefferson Area Community Corrections (OAR). Recovery Courts are supervised 12 to 14 month programs combining drug treatment and criminal case processing that serve as an alternative to incarceration for offenders. The Therapeutic Docket is similar to a Recovery Court but it is focused on mental health treatment. The programs use the power of the court to motivate offenders to achieve recovery through a collaborative system of intensive supervision, drug testing, substance abuse treatment and/or mental health treatment, and regular court appearances. The Expanded Specialty Docket Services grant will provide for better integration and coordination of all of the specialty dockets operated by OAR and will increase Peer Support services by embedding Peers in each of the programs.

The total program budget is **\$438,907** and includes six funding sources:

- Opioid Abatement Authority \$388,437
- Offender Aid and Restoration \$30,470 (as appropriated for Charlottesville Albemarle Recovery Court through Albemarle County Human Services Funding Process and the Vibrant Community Fund)
- Nelson County \$5,000
- Fluvanna County \$5,000
- Orange County \$5,000
- Madison County \$5,000

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This grant aligns with the City Council Strategic Plan Framework Outcome Area, Public Safety. This relates to providing support for persons interacting with the legal or criminal justice system and the City of Charlottesville's priority of Health and Safety. Specialty Dockets directly affect communities by reducing recidivism among participants and graduates. Reduced recidivism results in reduced public costs associated with re-arrest and incarceration, a reduction in potential victims of crime, and overall enhanced quality of life for community residents. Not only are Specialty Dockets effective agents of change, they are an extremely cost-effective approach. Numerous meta-analyses have concluded that Specialty Dockets produce an average return on investment of \$2 to \$4 for every \$1 invested. Because of the above, ensuring that local Specialty Docket programs provide adequate services to foster participant success will help the community achieve its goals.

Community Engagement

OAR is a direct service provider and is engaged daily with criminal offenders who are at a high level of risk for reoffending. By collaborating with the Court system, local treatment providers, local Sheriff's Departments, Police Departments, and other community providers our local Specialty Dockets provide these offenders with highly structured, rigorously supervised systems of treatment and criminal case processing that result in a significant reduction in recidivism rates for program participants and graduates. Participants gain access to the Specialty Dockets through referrals from police, probation, magistrates, defense attorneys and other local stakeholders. Participants have active criminal cases pending while they are in Specialty Dockets. If they successfully complete the program, participants may have their pending charges reduced or dismissed. If participants are unsuccessful and have to be terminated or separated from a program, they return to court to face their original charges. Successful Specialty Docket participants return the community's investment in them by maintaining crime free, productive lives, and behaving as good role models in the community.

Budgetary Impact

No additional City funding is required as the City's match for this grant is in-kind with the City acting as fiscal agent for the grant.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval and appropriation.

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

1. RES_\$408,437_FY25 Appropriation - OAA