

# Budget Detail Request - Fiscal Year 2016-17

Your request will not be officially submitted unless all questions and applicable sub parts are answered.

1. Title of Project: Forensic Case Management Unit IC code: 3005180
2. Date of Submission: 11/30/2015
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Kathleen Passidomo

## 4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No  
*If answer to 4a is "NO" skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d*
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request (Note that Column E will be the total of Recurring funds requested and Column F will be the total Nonrecurring funds requested, the sum of which is the Total of the Funds you are requesting in Column G):

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2015-16 <i>(If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 <i>(If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)</i>			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)</i>	Recurring Base Budget <i>(Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A )</i>	<b>INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested</b>	<b>TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested</b> <i>(Nonrecurring is one time funding &amp; must be re-requested every year)</i>	<b>Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding</b> <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)</i>
Input Amounts:					569,460	23,724	593,184

- e. New Nonrecurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:  
 Operating Expenses     Fixed Capital Construction     Other one-time costs
- f. New Recurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:  
 Operating Expenses     Fixed Capital Construction     Other one-time costs

5. Requester:

- a. Name: Kathy Smith
- b. Organization: Office of the Public Defender
- c. Email: kathleens@pd.cjis20.org
- d. Phone #: (239)533-1814

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Office of the Public Defender- 20th Judicial Circuit
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee

7. Write a project description that will serve as a stand-alone summary of the project for legislative review. The description should summarize the entire project's intended purpose, the purpose of the funds requested (if request is a sub-part of the entire project), and most importantly the detail on how the funds requested will be spent - for example how much will be spent on positions and associated salaries, specifics on capital costs, and detail of operational expenses. The summary must list what local, regional or statewide interests or areas are served. It should also document the need for the funds, the community support and expected results when applicable. Be sure to include the type and amount of services as well as the number of the specific target population that will be served (such as number of home health visits to X, # of elderly, # of school aged children to receive mentoring, # of violent crime victims to receive once a week counseling etc.)

The total request of \$593,184 has a salary rate of \$365,000 with salaries and benefits totaling \$556,436. Pursuant to the Modified Standard #3 the operations portion is \$36,748 of which \$23,724 is non-recurring. PD 20 is requesting the above funding to serve approximately 2500 clients annually that live with a severe and persistent mental health diagnosis and have a pending action filed against them in the courts of the 20th Judicial Circuit. The Office of the Public Defender for the 20th Judicial Circuit faces unique challenges in providing aggressive front-end representation for its ever increasing caseload of clients that have been diagnosed with a mental illness or a developmental disability whether they have been arrested and are facing criminal charges or have had a petition for civil commitment filed under the Baker Act. The 20th Circuit includes Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades Counties. Geographically, it is the largest circuit in the state of Florida. Nonetheless, the 20th Circuit receives one of the lowest per capita funding rates for mental health and substance abuse services in Florida. Additionally, the 20th Circuit is experiencing closures of treatment providers in our rural counties resulting in pressure being placed on crisis units and more centrally located treatment providers to adequately care for this vulnerable population. As the community resources are stretched to their limits or fail to provide adequate services, responsibility to find appropriate placements and acceptable services for these clients falls to their Public Defender lawyers. All too often these clients linger in inappropriate jail or hospital settings waiting for resolution of their court cases. The Office of the Public Defender for the 20th Judicial Circuit is requesting funding to develop a Forensic Case Management Unit to provide efficient and effective proactive representation to our mentally ill clientele. This unit will consist of four (4) attorneys, two (2) case dispositional specialists, and three (3) support staff members which will provide representation in all five (5) counties of the 20th circuit. Attorneys, case dispositional specialists and support staff will work as a team from the case's inception to ensure that proper assessments and evaluations are ordered in an expeditious manner. This group will also work promptly to identify cases qualifying for diversionary status and work to swiftly gain the safe release of clients to family members or other appropriate placements. Such

placements will lead to better care as well as lower incarceration and hospitalization costs. Additionally, by getting clients into therapeutic treatment quicker, we can also reduce recidivism rates for this population of clients. The Forensic Case Management Unit will conduct thorough investigations of any mitigating factors resulting from a client's mental illness or developmental disability by interviewing family members and gathering medical, mental health and school records. This unit will also provide assistance and guidance to the trial lawyers, and present mitigating factors to the court on behalf of the clients including but not limited to developing alternative sentencing plans to incarceration or hospitalization, locating appropriate treatment programs and assisting clients with obtaining benefits and housing which are all key factors in maintaining mental well-being and in building the stability needed to continue treatment thereby reducing recidivism.

The Office of the Public Defender, 20th Judicial Circuit continues to passionately advocate for clients living with mental illness and substance abuse issues despite the fact that the legislative allocation of monetary resources to the 20th Circuit continues to be well below that of other judicial circuits representing similar caseloads. As dollars allotted to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment to the 20th Judicial Circuit by Central Florida Behavioral Health Network also fall substantially below the other circuits they serve, citizens of the 20th Judicial Circuit have less meaningful access to services resulting in the absence of legitimate alternatives to incarceration. The Sheriff of Lee County reports that on any given day between 12-15% of the inmates housed in the Lee County Jail are being prescribed psychotropic medications. Nonetheless, his staff believes that many mentally ill prisoners are unidentified due to short time frames in jail so the actual number of mentally ill inmates is higher.

8. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding:

Federal: 0

State: 0 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)

Local: 0

Other: 0

9. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

Yes