



Alachua County

Board of County Commissioners

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County Manager

August 24, 2020

NiKisha L. Love
State Policy Advisor for Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs
US Department of Justice
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Re: No Cost Extension for Grant Award Number 2017-MO-BX-0027

Dear Ms. Love:

This letter is a request for consideration of a second No Cost Extension on Grant #2017-MO-BX-0027. This action will enable Alachua County to continue offering training to partner entities which has been delayed as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic and State-Wide Stay-Home orders.

The first No Cost Extension granted to the County by BJA was due to a slow start-up from award date in September 2017 through September 2018. The Program Manager was subsequently hired, active progress was initiated on the project and was intended to fulfill the 2-year process analysis and planning stage through September 2020. The global pandemic COVID-19 Stay-Home orders implemented by the County were effective from March 24, 2020 through May 31, 2020. The Department and many partners on the JMHCP Project continue to work, primarily remotely. This resulted in planned training and some other activities being halted until safe and reasonable to resume. Our teams are primarily comprised of Law Enforcement and Healthcare providers which continue to be affected on the frontline of the pandemic.

The training initiative is a fundamental objective identified by our Project, and our priority is to expand Motivational Interviewing (MI), a key evidence-based practice model in the criminal justice system, significantly further into our local justice and behavioral health systems. The trainer has developed a virtual method reporting at least equal efficacy during the pandemic. We are now prepared to continue training though, as currently projected, will continue beyond the grant end date of September 30, 2020 to November 30, 2020. The additional time requested will be used to complete trainings and continue implementing the Strategic Plan recommendations. There are three parts to this training; 1) Introductory End User which is conducted over 2 half day sessions via virtual format; 2) for those assigned to advanced level training will be enrolled in a two-part Train the Trainer track consisting of a pre-coaching session; and, 3) Trainer proficiency training. The Training budget is currently \$28,780 Per the Federal Financial Report covering April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020, a total of \$41,502.63 remains for the planned last quarterly grant period (July 1 - September 30). These funds will cover the training, Program Manager's salary/ benefits, and supplies.

Prior to the Stay-Home orders issued by the County and the State of Florida, the Project was on track to complete all aspects by September 30, 2020. We completed in a timely manner all deliverables including quarterly and semi-annual grant and financial reports, and approval of the Planning and Implementation Guide on November 22, 2019. We also conducted the initial Motivational Interviewing training on December 5th, 2020, submitted the consultants' final report on June 18th, 2020, and submitted the Strategic Plan to the Alachua County Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) on June 18, 2020 to include a PSCC JMHCP Oversight Sub-committee with membership including the County Board Commission Chair, Circuit Judge, Sheriff, Chief of Police, State Attorney, Public Defender, CEO of the local Behavioral Health provider, and NAMI representing the consumer interest. We developed 3 operational teams made of partner entities including the core planning team, law enforcement advisory, and data collection/ evaluation team. We have deepened our collaborative efforts with University of Florida Health/ Shands Vista Psychiatric Hospital through an overdose project funding opportunity of that organization which wishes to leverage the cross-system/ inter-agency partnership coordinated and developed through the Alachua JMHCP.

On the whole, our community's JMHCP Project has already made strong contributions to improving the functioning of the local criminal justice and behavioral health systems, however the additional time period will enable us to bring a vital component of training completely to fruition.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding our request. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Hutchinson, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr20.070

RH/DRJ/drj

Enclosure: Noted and Itemized Requested Points and The Alachua County Response

CC: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Carl Smart, Assistant County Manager
Salatheia Jenkins-Brown, Interim Director, Court Service

Noted and Itemized Requested Points and The Alachua County Response:

1. Authorizing Official per Grant Management System:
Chair Robert Hutchinson, signed on official letterhead
2. Date of Request: August 24, 2020
3. Grant Award Number: 2017-MO-BX-0027
4. Requested New Extended End Date: November 30, 2020
5. Detailed written justification as to why an extension is needed including "Extreme Circumstance":
The global pandemic COVID-19 Stay-Home orders implemented by the County were effective from March 24, 2020 through May 31, 2020. The Department and many partners on the JMHCP Project continue to work primarily remotely. This resulted in planned training which was previously conducted in large in-person settings no longer permitted and some other activities being halted until safe and reasonable to resume. Our teams are primarily comprised of Law Enforcement and Healthcare providers which continue to be affected on the frontline of the pandemic.
6. Total Amount of Federal Funds Remaining: The Training budget is currently \$28,780 Per the Federal Financial Report covering April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 submitted to BJA, a total of \$41,502.63 remains for the planned last quarterly grant period (July 1-September 30). Updated amount including through August 21, 2020: Federal funds remaining \$28,522.99. These funds will cover the training, Program Manager's salary/ benefits, and supplies. No other expenditures are planned for this period.
7. Written statement explaining how those funds will be spent on approved grant projects during the extension period: The training initiative is a fundamental objective identified by our Project (\$30,000 of the \$190,544 budget, 15.7%) and our priority is to expand Motivational Interviewing, a key evidence-based practice model in the criminal justice system.

There are three parts required for this training; 1) Introductory End User; 2) for those assigned to advanced level training will be enrolled in a two part Train the Trainer track consisting of a pre-coaching session; and, 3) Trainer proficiency training. We have conducted 2 trial sessions on the virtual option on August 10, and 12th, 2020 and have one scheduled for August 31st, 2020. We are in negotiations with the trainer to schedule through September 2020 with the potential of 5 End User sessions (serving 20-30 persons each required to be conducted in 2 half day sessions) and 10 Train the Trainer sessions (2 sessions of 3-4 discipline-specific sessions). This pace can be sustained September through November.

The trainer charges from \$325 - \$350 per half day, dependent on class being taught. With the funds remaining for training, this provides for at least 45 sessions. 15 per month for September through November. This will provide for opportunities to complete the intended and approved training.

Funds will also support the Program Manager's continued efforts towards the grant objectives and advancing the strategic Plan submitted to the Public Safety Coordinating Council including convening the PSCC JMHCP Oversight Sub-committee prior to the next full PSCC committee meeting as required currently scheduled for October 22, 2020.

8. Statement that funds repurposed are not solely for “Extending” the grant project: The Training budget is currently \$28,780 Per the Federal Financial Report covering April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020, a total of \$41,502.63 remains for the planned last quarterly grant period (July 1-September 30). These funds will cover the training, Program Manager’s salary/ benefits, and supplies.