



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request


Meeting Date:

February 26, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number:

Cathy McClaugherty, 854-4713 

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice and Public Safety 

Commissioners Court Sponsor:

Judge Sam Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON TRAVIS COUNTY'S JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JRI) GRANT AND INTRODUCE OUR COLLEAGUES WITH THE CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY AND THE URBAN INSTITUTE.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Since February 2009, Travis County Criminal Justice Planning has been involved with the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Justice Reinvestment Initiative, or JRI. The goals of the project were to develop, implement, and evaluate a local, data-driven, collaborative, strategic plan to achieve meaningful reductions in the jail population and to guide the reinvestment of jail reduction savings into more proactive public safety measures in the community.

In 2012, we were presented with the opportunity to apply for funding as a JRI Phase II site. Under the guidance of a Community Consortium that was created to guide JRI work, plans for a pilot program targeting frequent users of the County Jail who were chronically homeless and mentally ill were drafted. This pilot program will provide permanent supportive housing for twenty-two participants, as well as support services that include intensive case management and other ancillary services.

Travis County has been awarded \$300,000 in federal funding, \$69,012 in private foundation funding, and access to housing vouchers valued at

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

\$82,800 to fully fund this pilot program. The anticipated start date for this two-year-long program is March 1, 2013, and we will partner with Foundation Communities, a local non-profit agency, to provide both housing and services for our target population.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

N/A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Travis County applied for this grant to fill a gap in our community: housing and support services for chronically homeless men and women who are mentally ill and who cycle in and out of our County Jail. It is our hope that we can positively impact this population, resulting in fewer jail bookings and less jail bed days consumed by the program participants.

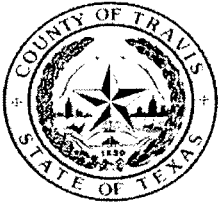
FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Travis County will receive grant funding of \$369,012, and program-based housing vouchers donated by the Housing Authority of Travis County. No County contributions were required for this grant.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

N/A

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JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Roger Jefferies, County Executive

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To: Sam Biscoe, Travis County Judge
Ron Davis, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Sarah Eckhardt, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Gerald Daugherty, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Margaret Gomez, Commissioner, Precinct 4

From: Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice and Public Safety

Date: February 26, 2013

SUBJECT: CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON TRAVIS COUNTY'S JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JRI) GRANT AND INTRODUCE OUR COLLEAGUES WITH THE CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY AND THE URBAN INSTITUTE.

Travis County Criminal Justice Planning first partnered with the Urban Institute in March 2009 in efforts to examine ongoing local jail population management efforts, to sustain the effectiveness of those initiatives which are viable, and to determine potential reinvestments which could be made with these successful initiatives.

In December 2010, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) released a grant opportunity entitled the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). JRI seeks to provide technical support and financial assistance to states, counties, cities, and tribal authorities who would like to engage in justice reinvestment as Phase I or Phase II sites. Because of Travis County's ongoing collaboration with the Urban Institute, we were eligible to apply as a Phase II site.

Travis County was notified that we had been selected to proceed as a Phase II JRI site in October 2011. The Center for Effective Public Policy was selected as our technical assistance provider and has worked with us to implement our justice reinvestment

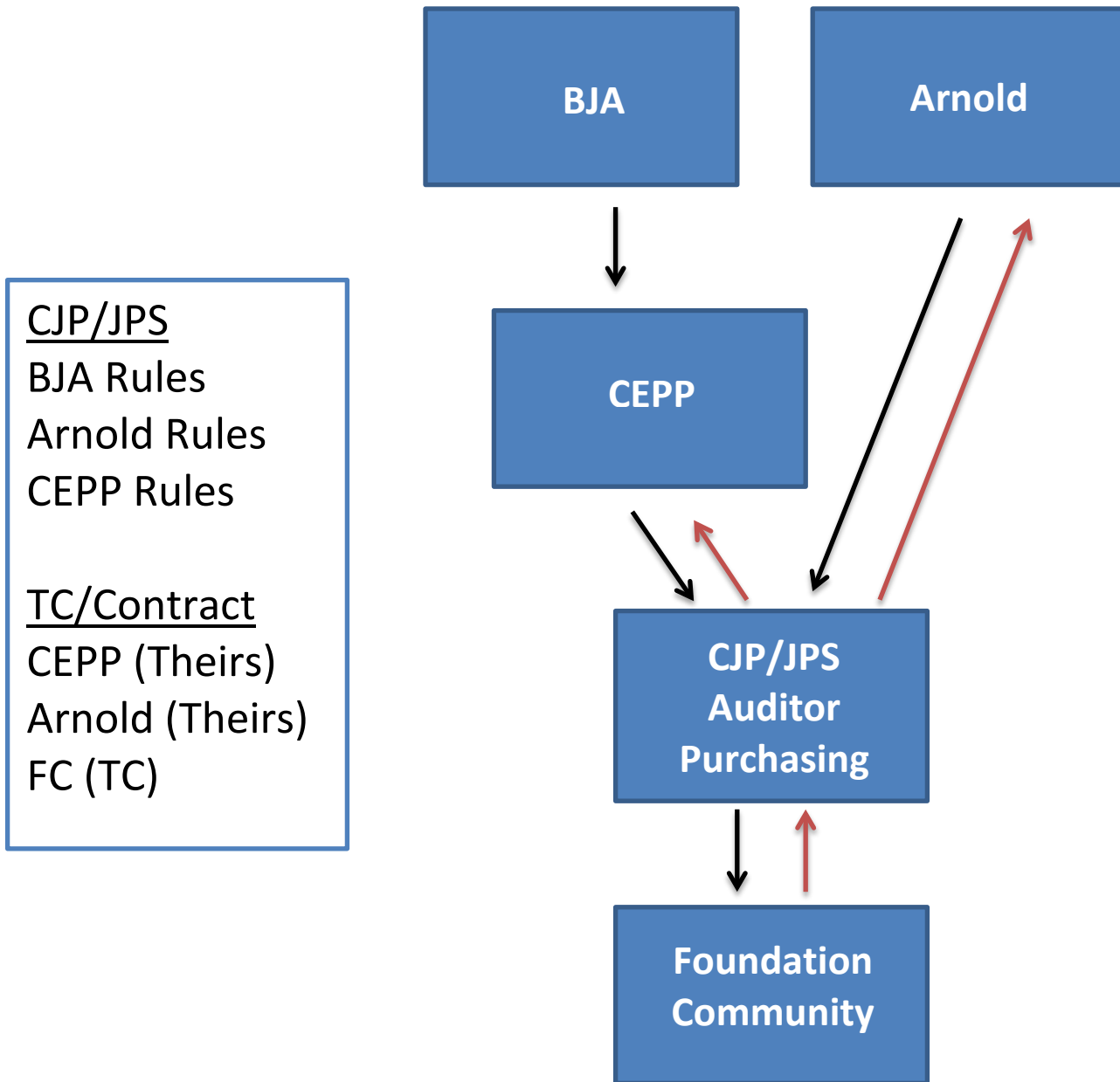
strategy. As a part of this initiative, we have formed a collaborative body, the JRI Community Consortium, to lead the development and implementation of this initiative.

After a year of development and planning, Travis County proposed a JRI initiative that would provide permanent supportive housing (PSH) and support services (intensive case management and ancillary services) over two years to twenty-two chronically homeless, mentally ill individuals who are frequent offenders cycling in and out of the Travis County Jail. The list of eligible individuals includes those who report homelessness in over 50% of their bookings and who are ranked by the frequency of their bookings and the number of jail bed days consumed in the two years prior to starting the program. The proposed budget for this pilot program is \$451,812.

In October 2012, Travis County was notified by BJA that our application had been approved for \$300,000. In order to supplement the pilot program's budget and maintain its original scope and design, additional funding was needed. We applied for and were awarded \$69,012 from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (along with an external evaluation of the program to be funded by the Arnold Foundation and administered by the Urban Institute). The remaining \$82,800 of the budget was originally set aside for housing vouchers, which will be provided at no cost to the County by the Housing Authority of Travis County (HATC).

Via a competitive RFQ process, we have identified Foundation Communities as the entity that will provide both the housing and support services to our target population. A tentative start date of March 1, 2013, has been identified for this pilot program. We will provide periodic updates to the Commissioners' Court as this pilot initiative progresses.

JRI Grant Flowchart



- CJP/JPS
- BJA Rules
- Arnold Rules
- CEPP Rules

- TC/Contract
- CEPP (Theirs)
- Arnold (Theirs)
- FC (TC)

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→ Reporting