

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program

DEPARTMENT: Fiscal Services **DIVISION:** Administration – Fiscal Services

AUTHORIZED BY: Lisa Spriggs **CONTACT:** Jennifer Bero **EXT.** 7125

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Approve to submit grant applications to the US Department of Justice requesting approximately \$750,000.00 in funding through their Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Program; and authorize the County Manager to execute any supporting documents as may be required for the application.

County-wide

Jennifer Bero, Michele Saunders

BACKGROUND:

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the US Department of Justice is seeking applications for the Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program. The program provides resources to improve the capacity of state and local criminal justice systems, and provides for national support efforts including training and technical assistance programs strategically targeted to address local needs.

The Community Services Department plans to apply for funding for the Adult Probation Division to expand its efforts in preventing and reducing violent crime. The funding will focus on efforts related to domestic violence and gang related activities. The Probation Division was recently appointed to be part of a gang related regional task force and funding from this grant would assist this Division in accomplishing its functions for this task force. Furthermore, the EMPACT/DV program is experiencing an increase in need for Probation supervision and the funding would also allow for this expansion.

The Community Services Department plans to submit a second application for funding the Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (PAY) Program. The funding will be used to support the expansion of their jail diversion program that uses a Teen Court model. This model focuses on pre-adjudication diversion services that work with first time offenders to help keep them out of deep end services and directs them back towards a productive lifestyle. The funding will be used to support one staff person who will provide screening and monitoring; and counseling services that are critical to a youth's success.

Submission of a third application is requested by the Adult Drug Court Program to accommodate a lower level drug court program. Due to budget reductions realized by the court, casual users such as prescription drug offenders or those not involved in the sale or distribution of controlled substances are no longer accepted in the current program and must be handled through the normal criminal docket. If awarded, the grant would fund the cost for the current Drug Court Administrator to maintain a full-time work status during the 2-year grant period to handle the increased caseload, provide for screening by certified addiction professionals, purchase testing supplies, and provide educational programs and training for clients.

Due April 27, 2009, the proposed applications would request approximately \$750,000.00. There is no match requirement for this grant program; therefore, no financial commitment would be required of the county.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve to submit grant applications to the US Department of Justice requesting approximately \$750,000.00 in funding through their Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Program; and authorize the County Manager to execute any supporting documents as may be required for the application.