

September 26, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Public Safety and Human Services Committee
From: Asha Venkataraman, Analyst
Subject: Council Bill 120424: Court Grant Acceptance

On September 27, 2022, the Public Safety and Human Services Committee will discuss and likely vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 120424](#), which would amend the 2022 Adopted Budget to allow the Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) to accept a grant to use for therapeutic courts and services. This memorandum provides a description of the grant and proposed use.

Background

In 2022, the Washington State Legislature appropriated in its supplemental budget one-time grant funding to the Washington State Administrative Office of the Court (AOC). The AOC issued a grant application in June 2022 for (1) the creation of new therapeutic courts or the expansion of services provided in existing therapeutic courts; and (2) support for community justice counselors and community coordinators to work with court drug and therapeutic court programs. These counselors are intended to work with court participants to connect them to community services and existing resources to complete court requirements, as well as additional support.

SMC is an eligible grantee for these funds, for its multiple therapeutic courts, including Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, the Domestic Violence Intervention Project, and Community Court. SMC received two grants in July 2022, totaling \$367,000. Both must be fully spent by June 2023. The Court received \$191,384 to support a Therapeutic Court coordinator, who would support the existing therapeutic court teams through collaboration, evidence-based practice, daily operations, data analysis, and program innovation. The Court received \$175,173 to support Community Justice Counselor services to help Community Court participants to connect to and sustain participation in community-based treatment and services. The Court intends to use this funding as a pilot approach for service follow up and connection for Community Court participants by contracting with a community-based organization.

CB 120424

CB 120424 would authorize the Court to accept both grants and execute the agreements needed to implement use of the funds. It would also add 1.0 FTE term-limited Strategic Advisor 1 position for the coordinator position.

Because these are one-time, non-renewable funds, the Court has indicated it will treat both projects as pilots and after evaluating them in 2023, decide on next steps and options for pursuing ongoing funding.

Next Steps

If the Public Safety and Human Services Committee votes in favor of approving CB 120424, it will be at City Council for a vote on October 11.

cc: Esther Handy, Director
Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director