



Fact Sheet | South King County Pretrial Services

Background Information

King County has recognized the positive impact an effective pretrial release program can have in reducing pretrial failures to appear and recidivism and providing an opportunity for individuals to address their needs at the earliest opportunity in the criminal justice process. This is an acknowledgement that pro-social interventions that address behavioral health disorders, employment, housing, medical, and educational issues afford defendants the opportunity for personal improvement, reduce failures to appear and decrease the likelihood of criminal behavior. Given the previous lack of available pretrial services in south King County, however, individuals facing charges at the Maleng Regional Justice Center's full-service court in Kent were less likely than those in Seattle to have the opportunity to participate in pretrial services, less likely to be successful when released to those services and, as a result, more likely to remain incarcerated pending trial.

Intent/Purpose

The intent is to implement a jail alternative pilot program for eligible and appropriate felony pretrial defendants in south King County using a human services approach versus a corrections approach. Per the King County Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Strategic Plan, the pilot program invests in community partnerships to intervene sooner with adult individuals involved with the criminal legal system by providing appropriate and responsive services and supports. The County is committed to addressing disproportionality in the criminal legal system and recognizing that DAJD is aiding the court to reduce the impacts to individuals, particularly people of color, who have become involved in the criminal legal system. The program is expected to be operational in January 2020.

Eligibility Criteria

The Pretrial Services pilot program will serve up to 40 adult individuals on any given day who are released by King County Superior Court and ordered to participate in behavioral health and/or other services in the community based on validated risk-needs assessment.

Services and Staffing

The pilot program will consist of a team of clinicians, case managers, clinical supervision, security, administrative support and other program components to serve participants enrolled in behavioral health services, other social services and adult basic education programs to address unmet needs that have led individuals to become incarcerated. Services will be evidence-based and include Motivational Interviewing, Trauma Informed Care, and cognitive-behavioral interventions in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Procurement of a Site and Services

Behavioral health services and assistance with covering program site/lease occupancy costs will be procured concurrently via a formal 2-part Request for Proposals (RFP) process through the King County Procurement.

- The King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division will allocate MIDD RR-15 funds to purchase behavioral health services via an RFP-PART A and execute a contract with the selected provider.
- DAJD will allocate County General Funds to assist the selected behavioral health provider in covering site/lease occupancy costs via an RFP-PART B and execute a separate contract with the selected provider.
- The two-part competitive procurement package will be posted concurrently in early August 2019.
- Submitted proposals for only one of the RFPs will be considered incomplete and nonresponsive.
- Selection of the successful applicant is expected by mid-September.

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