

Staff Report

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Kerri Curtiss, Trial Court Administrator

DATE: April 6, 2016

RE: Request to apply for 2016-2017 Swift & Sure Sanctions Program Grant

BACKGROUND

The program began in 2009 and Isabella County was the first program of this type in Michigan. Grant funding for this program started in 2011. The Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program is a specialty court program for local probationers who have demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to comply with traditional probation conditions. The goal of the program is to maintain community safety while providing probationers with the tools and skills they need to reduce recidivism.

This is a moderately intensive form of probation that is compliance-driven. It is designed to encourage compliance by providing immediate and predictable sanctions for probation violations. Each probationer is aware as they enter the program what the expectations are and what the consequences will be if they violate. The program lasts a minimum of 9 months and provides probationers with additional supervision, testing, counseling and other resources to assist them with compliance and rehabilitation.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternative would be to cut the program completely or for the county to fund it in its entirety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approving the request to apply for grant funds would allow (if awarded) services to continue and to fund the salaries and fringes of both Carolyn Johnson and Nicole Mieksztyn.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The original grant request in 2015-2016 was for \$375,798.80 and the court was awarded \$265,000. This is a reduction from the amount that was awarded for the 2014-2015 year which was \$336,134. Said reduction was expected as there were multiple notifications from the State that courts would be receiving less than they had in the past. This is a result of less funds available compiled with more courts participating.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Move to authorize application to apply for 2016-2017 Swift and Sure Sanctions Program in approximately the same amount as 2015-2016.