



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Jessica Karls-Ruplinger, Acting Director

TO: SENATOR ALBERTA DARLING
 YBO
FROM: Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorney

RE: Duties of the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee

DATE: March 21, 2019

This memorandum responds to your request for a summary of the duties of the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee, which was created and assigned responsibilities by 2017 Wisconsin Act 185. The memorandum provides background on provisions of Act 185 regarding the grant program administered by the committee, summarizes the duties assigned to the committee under Act 185, and outlines the timelines set by Act 185 for particular duties of the committee.

ACT 185 BACKGROUND

Act 185 made changes relating to juvenile correctional facilities, including the closure of the Lincoln Hills and Copper Lakes Schools and the establishment of new Department of Corrections (DOC) Type 1 juvenile correctional facilities and new county residential care centers for children and youth (SRCCCYs). Under the act, counties and tribes may establish SRCCCYs to provide secure care for juveniles.

Act 185 authorizes up to \$40 million in general fund supported borrowing to fund grants for counties that construct SRCCCYs. The act creates a juvenile corrections grant program, to which counties may apply for grant funding. The funds may be used to cover 95% of the costs of designing and constructing an SRCCCY, 95% of design and construction costs for a facility housing both an SRCCCY and a juvenile detention facility, or 100% of design and construction costs for an SRCCCY or portion of an SRCCCY that is only for female juveniles.

The act also creates a 10-member "Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee" to administer the grant program along with DOC. Act 185 imposes certain duties and deadlines on the committee, and provides that the committee terminates on the date all grant-funded projects are completed, or January 1, 2021, whichever is earlier.

DUTIES OF THE GRANT COMMITTEE

Act 185 assigns to the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee the general duty to establish and administer the juvenile corrections grant program, and also specifies particular responsibilities as follows:

- Design Grant Application Requirements. Act 185 requires the committee to establish requirements, guidelines, and criteria for grant proposals. The act specifies that a county must comply with the following requirements in developing its grant application: (1) consider best practices in designing and operating secure juvenile facilities; (2) consider the feasibility of developing an existing facility into an SRCCCY; and (3) solicit input on SRCCCY design from county juvenile court judges. The committee may determine how to implement these requirements into the application process, and what other application requirements a county must meet. The committee may also work with counties to modify their applications following initial submission.
- Determine Framework for Grant Application Decisions. Act 185 requires the committee to establish requirements, guidelines, and criteria for awarding grants.
- Select Grant Applications to Recommend. Act 185 requires the committee to develop a statewide plan recommending which grant applications to approve. The committee must consult with DOC and the Department of Children and Families, and cannot recommend an application until DOC approves the county's construction plans and specifications for the SRCCCY. Under the act, the committee must favor certain proposals: (1) proposals that utilize existing facilities that consider proximity to the juvenile populations served; and (2) proposals for a multi-county cooperative facility.
- Submit Approval Recommendations to the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC). Act 185 requires the committee to submit its statewide plan recommending approval of certain grant applications to JFC. The committee and DOC cannot implement the plan until JFC approves the plan, either as originally submitted or as modified by JFC.
- Monitor SRCCCY Project Progress. Act 185 requires the committee to monitor progress of the grant-funded projects after DOC issues the grants to recipients. The committee must monitor progress to ensure compliance with the grant program, and to ensure completion by the deadline for closure of Lincoln Hills and transfer of juveniles to SRCCCYs.

TIMELINES FOR COMMITTEE DUTIES

Act 185 creates timelines for particular Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee duties. The act provides that grant applications are due by March 31, 2019. The committee then has three months to work with counties to modify their applications and improve their chances of receiving a grant. This activity by the committee must be completed by June 30, 2019.

The committee must submit its plan recommending particular grant applications for approval to JFC by July 1, 2019. Following issuance of grant funds, the committee must monitor progress of SRCCCY projects until they are all completed, or until the January 1, 2021 deadline for closure of Lincoln Hills and transfer of juveniles to SRCCCYs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at the Legislative Council staff offices.

KBO:ty