



# DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Justice Reinvestment Grant Receives More Funding**

(Roseburg, OR) – December 15, 2017 – During the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting Wednesday morning, the Commission voted unanimously on a Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) grant agreement between Douglas County and the State of Oregon for the amount of \$1.89-plus million dollars.

This includes two related state grant funding streams that Douglas County applied for and will receive for the 2017-19 biennium: Justice Reinvestment grant funding and Supplemental Justice Reinvestment funding. Both JRI funding streams are restricted and cannot be put into the general fund or used for other programs.

“Our county is looking forward to continuing this good work with the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC), because our community has seen the positive results of these dollars at work,” Douglas County Commissioner Chris Boice said.

The county will receive \$1.6-plus million dollars of the allocated funds for their portion of the Justice Reinvestment grant. Those funds will be used to continue the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program in the jail; a jail release assistance officer; and a half-time deputy district attorney focused on specialty courts.

“RSAT has changed many lives, and has steered offenders away from addiction and crime and helped them become productive community members. Many are now employed and have families,” said LYPSCC coordinator Melissa McRobbie-Toll.

Douglas County is also receiving almost \$300,000 in funding through the state’s Supplemental Justice Reinvestment program. Those funds will be used to pay for a deputy district attorney to work within the Oregon Department of Corrections local Community Corrections Department. The DDA will be focused on “downward departure” cases in order to create enhanced communication and supervision that will increase offender accountability, rehabilitation, and restitution collection for victims.

“These programs are integral to Douglas County’s efforts to increase opportunities for rehabilitation and address addiction issues in our community, while maintaining public safety as our number one priority” Commissioner Boice said. “Douglas County would also like to acknowledge local Community Corrections Director Joe Garcia for his leadership in assisting the county with securing these funds. We continue to appreciate our partnership with the Oregon Department of Corrections local Community Corrections Department, and its commitment to improving our public safety system in Douglas County.”

### **JRI History**

The first JRI funding stream has been in place since 2013 (this will be Douglas County’s third biennium receiving this funding, and the amount has increased over time). The supplemental JRI funding stream was just approved by the Oregon Legislature this summer; Douglas County was one of 12 counties statewide that applied for and

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received the supplemental funding. Both Justice Reinvestment initiatives target primarily nonviolent property and drug offenders. The goals of these state grant programs include decreasing the state's prison population, reducing recidivism, increasing public safety, and holding offenders accountable.

Ten percent of BOTH funding streams is required to go to nonprofit victims' services providers. That funding has been allocated to Douglas CARES and Battered Persons Advocacy.

### **About the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program**

The RSAT program is a 120-day drug treatment program inside the jail. Participating inmates receive four hours of treatment per day, provided by Adapt. Beginning intensive treatment while inmates are still incarcerated allows them to begin to understand their addiction and see that other options are available. When they graduate from RSAT and are released from jail, they enter Douglas County Drug Court as the after-care program, ensuring that they continue to get the treatment they need once they're back in the community.

### **About [Douglas County](#)**

Douglas County Government employs approximately 800 full- and part-time employees in a wide variety of jobs. The Board of Commissioners, consisting of three full-time members, is the county's governing body. They provide a direct link between the citizens of Douglas County and their county government. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for: approving ordinances (county laws); adopting the county budget; setting standards for the use of county property; appointing non-elected officials to boards, commissions, and committees; and oversees all operations of the county.

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