



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: October 14, 2010
Subject: Grant Request

Enclosed please find three (3) requests that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration.

JFO #2464 — \$365,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Department of Corrections (DOC). These funds will allow DOC to develop and operate Circles of Support and Accountability (COSAs) for 24 high risk offenders reentering the community during the grant period.
[JFO received 10/07/10]

In accordance with the procedures for processing such requests, we ask you to review the enclosed and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at 802-828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for Joint Fiscal Committee review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by October 29 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

cc: James Reardon, Commissioner
Andrew Pallito, Commissioner
James Hester, Director
Roger Allbee, Secretary

2.a.I.

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2.2.I.

Vermont Legislative Council

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MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee

From: Erik FitzPatrick

Date: November 5, 2010

Subject: Second Chance Act grant to Department of Corrections

The agenda for the Joint Fiscal Committee's November 15th meeting includes discussion of a federal Second Chance Act grant recently awarded by the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to the Vermont Department of Corrections "to work with municipal community justice centers to develop and operate Circles of Support and Accountability (COSAs) for 24 high risk offenders reentering the community." This item was placed on your agenda due to concern that the program funded by the grant might be prohibited or limited to some degree by 24 V.S.A. § 1967, which prohibits referring to community justice centers cases involving domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, or stalking "except in department of corrections offender reentry programs pursuant to protocols protecting victims." The Joint Fiscal Committee requested the Corrections Oversight Committee to consider the matter at its November 4 meeting and recommend how to proceed.

The five members of the Corrections Oversight Committee present at the November 4 meeting (Senator Sears and Representatives Emmons, Haas, Heath, and Lippert) reviewed the grant proposal, determined that the grant would be administered in compliance with 24 V.S.A. § 1967, and recommended that it be approved and accepted by the Joint Fiscal Committee. Corrections Department Commissioner Andrew Pallito and Derek Miodownik, restorative systems administrator at the department, testified that a working group had been developing the victim protocols required by the statute, and that the group intended to complete a draft by the end of the year. In the meantime, Commissioner Pallito and Mr. Miodownik agreed that 24 V.S.A. § 1967 prohibits using any of the grant money for community justice center referrals involving domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, or stalking except pursuant to victim protection protocols, and that the offenders identified in the statute would not be served by community justice centers until those protocols were in place. Based on this commitment, the Corrections Oversight Committee members present at the meeting concluded that the grant should be approved and accepted by the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.