

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution to appropriate funds from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant in the amount of \$150,000 (2nd reading)
Staff Contact(s):	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Presenter:	Susan Morrow
Date of Proposed Action:	November 3, 2025

Issue

The Office of Budget and Grants Management was notified of a grant award received from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$150,000 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to support the Albemarle- Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket program run by Offender Aid and Restoration (O.A.R.) from September 1, 2025 through June 2027.

Background / Rule

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Albemarle- Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket program, has received a Department of Criminal Justice Services grant under the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program in the amount of \$150,000 for operation of the Therapeutic Docket program, which is run by Offender Aid and Restoration (O.A.R.). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Department of Criminal Justice Services grant.

Analysis

The Albemarle-Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket program is a supervised 9 to 12 month treatment program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for offenders. The Therapeutic Docket is a specialized docket within the existing structure of the court system given the responsibility to handle cases involving adult misdemeanor offenders who suffer from serious mental illness. The program uses the power of the court to assist offenders to achieve wellness and recovery through a combined system of intensive supervision, medication management, mental health treatment, and regular court appearances.

Other funding for the program includes three funding sources:

Supreme Court of VA:	\$78,150 (pending appropriation)
City of Charlottesville:	\$127,050, (previously appropriated)
Albemarle County:	\$59,488, (previously appropriated)

Total Funding for Program: \$414,688

This relates to the City of Charlottesville's priority area of safety/criminal justice. The Therapeutic Docket is a valuable, less expensive alternative to incarceration for certain criminal offenders with serious mental illness which utilizes a blend of court-ordered supervision, mental health treatment services, court appearances, and behavioral sanctions and incentives to reduce recidivism and enhance personal accountability and mental health and wellness among participants.

The Therapeutic Docket is a direct service provider and is engaged daily with non-violent criminal offenders with serious mental illness who are at a high level of risk for re-offending and have a high

level of need due to mental illness. By collaborating with the Court system, Region Ten Community Services Board and Partner for Mental Health, the Therapeutic Docket provides these offenders with a highly structured, rigorously supervised system of treatment and criminal case processing that results in a significant reduction in recidivism rates for program participants and graduates. Participants gain access to the Therapeutic Docket through referrals from police, probation, magistrates, defense attorneys and other local stakeholders. Participants have active criminal cases pending in the General District Court. If they successfully complete the program, which takes a minimum of 9 months, participants may have their pending charges dismissed or receive an all-suspended sentence. If participants are unsuccessful and have to be terminated from the program, they return to court to face their original charges. Successful Therapeutic Docket participants return the community's investment in them by improving their mental health status, maintaining compliance with treatment regimens, including medications, and reducing their criminal behaviors in the community.

Financial Impact

No financial impact to the City of Charlottesville as City funding has been previously appropriated.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the appropriation of the grant funds and the execution of the grant agreement.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move to approve the resolution as presented to appropriate the DCJS Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$150,000.

I move to approve the City Manager to execute the Statement of Grant Award and any subsequent amendments as applicable for the administration of the DCJS Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Attachments

1. Resolution DCJS SCIP Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \$150,000
2. DCJS SCIP SOGA Charlottesville