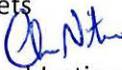




Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • mha.ohio.gov

To: Ohio Specialized Dockets
From: Chris Nicastro, LPCC-S 
Chief, Bureau of Criminal Justice

Date: July 31, 2014

Re: Specialized Docket Payroll Subsidy – Am. Sub. House Bill 483

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is pleased to facilitate additional support for specialized dockets by announcing a funding opportunity for such programs that are certified by the Ohio Supreme Court.

Pursuant to Am. Sub. HB 483, Section 327.83 (D), up to \$4.4 million in fiscal year 2015 is available to courts that have a specialized docket that targets participants with a drug addiction or dependency and has received or anticipates receiving certification from the Supreme Court of Ohio for this docket. More specific information concerning this funding opportunity can be found in the attached copy of the statute (see attachment 1).

These funds shall be used to defray a portion of the annual payroll costs associated with the employment of one new or existing full-time or full-time equivalent, specialized docket staff member by a court of common pleas, a municipal court, or a county court, including a juvenile or family court that has a family dependency treatment court.

The specialized docket staff member must have received training for or education in alcohol and other drug addiction, abuse and recovery prior to or within ninety days of hire. The fundamental competencies shall include, at a minimum, an understanding of alcohol and other drug treatment and recovery, how to engage a person in treatment and recovery, and an understanding of other health care systems, social service systems, and the criminal justice system.

A specialized docket can receive partial funding for the staff member's time allocated for specialized docket duties and responsibilities. OhioMHAS is authorized to pay up to sixty-five percent of the staff member's actual annual compensation and fringe benefits. This state funding shall not exceed \$50,700.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please email a letter of interest to specialized.docket@mha.ohio.gov by no later than 5:00 P.M. on August 22, 2014.

Should you have any questions concerning the application or this opportunity, please contact me at (614) 466-9969 or Christopher.Nicastro@mha.ohio.gov.

CC: Ohio Supreme Court
Ohio Judicial Conference
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities

Attachment 1

(D) Of the foregoing appropriation item 335507, Community Behavioral Health, up to \$4.4 million in fiscal year 2015 shall be used to defray a portion of the annual payroll costs associated with the employment of one full-time, or full-time equivalent, specialized docket staff member by a court of common pleas, a municipal court, or a county court, including a juvenile or family court that currently has, or anticipates having, a family dependency treatment court that meets all of the eligibility requirements described in division (D)(1) of this section. A specialized docket staff member employed under this section shall be considered an employee of the court.

(1) To be eligible, the court must have received Supreme Court of Ohio certification for a specialized docket that targets participants with a drug addiction or dependency.

In addition, the specialized docket staff member must have received training for or education in alcohol and other drug addiction, abuse, and recovery and have demonstrated, prior to or within ninety days of hire, competencies in fundamental alcohol and other drug addiction, abuse, and recovery.

Fundamental competencies shall include, at a minimum, an understanding of alcohol and other drug treatment and recovery, how to engage a person in treatment and recovery, and an understanding of other health care systems, social service systems, and the criminal justice system.

(2) For the purposes of this section, payroll costs include annual compensation and fringe benefits.

(3) The Department, solely for the purpose of determining the amount of the state share available to a court under division (D)(5) of this section for the employment of one full-time or full-time equivalent, specialized docket staff member, shall use the lesser of:

- (a) The actual annual compensation and fringe benefits paid to that staff member proportionally reflecting the staff member's time allocated for specialized docket duties and responsibilities; or
- (b) \$78,000.

(4) In accordance with any applicable rules, guidelines, or procedures adopted by the Department pursuant to this section, the county auditor shall certify, for any court located within the county that is applying for or receiving funding under this section, to the Department the information necessary to determine that court's eligibility for, and the amount of, funding under this section.

(5) For a specialized docket staff member employed by a court in this section, the amount of state funding available under this section shall be sixty-five per cent of the payroll costs specified in division (D)(3) of this section. This state funding shall not exceed \$50,700.

(6) The Department shall disburse this state funding in quarterly installments to the appropriate county or municipality in which the court is located.

(7) Of the foregoing appropriation item 335507, Community Behavioral Health, the Department shall use up to one per cent of the amount set aside in division (D) of this section in fiscal year 2015 to pay the cost it incurs in administering the duties established in division (D) of this section.

(8) The Department may adopt rules, guidelines, and procedures as necessary to carry out the purposes of division (D) of this section."