

**Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership**  
Funding Request and Change Form

Date: August 25, 2022

Requesting Agency: Public Defender

Contact: Brian Morris

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Is Request One-time or On-going? Ongoing

Request Amount

Current FY: \$12,252 (for the month of June, 2023 only)

Annualized: \$147,024

Request Title: Public Defender Social Worker

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**I. Description of Funding Request**

The Public Defender's Office (PD) currently has a social worker position funded by the California Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC).<sup>1</sup> This funding ends on May 31, 2023. We are requesting that the Sonoma County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) fund this position beginning on June 1, 2023, to allow these integral client social services to continue.

Our Social Worker has helped meet the growing demand to assess clients' increasingly complex needs and to connect our clients with necessary services. For instance, our Social Worker is responsible for assisting clients to find services that may qualify as alternatives to incarceration, developing factors in mitigation to reduce incarceration exposure, and working collaboratively with local criminal and social justice partners to assist clients to find transitional housing.

Also, our Social Worker connects our clients with mental health services, drug and alcohol services, and other social services options. This client-centered work bolsters our department's goal to improve our clients' quality of life while also making the community safer. Finally, our Social Worker greatly reduces attorney time and costs by handling critical social service functions that would otherwise consume an inordinate number of attorneys' working hours.

**II. Resource Requirements**

1.0 FTE Social Services Worker III position

a. FY 2022/23: \$12,252

b. Annualized: \$147,025

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<sup>1</sup> We filled this position with great success, but this position recently became vacant. Following a recruitment, we offered a qualified candidate the position on August 19, 2022. We expect this position to be filled within three weeks.

**III. Staffing Requested**

1.0 FTE Social Services Worker III position

**IV. This request most closely aligns with Tier:**

Tier 1: Specifically for realigned offenders.

Tier 2: Clearly assists with County's criminal justice system overall but may not directly or exclusively impact AB 109 offenders.

*A Social Worker embedded in the Public Defender's Office can effectively collaborate with our justice partners and community-based organizations to provide necessary social services for our clients (specifically as a member of the Sonoma County Interdepartmental Multidisciplinary Team (IMDT)). These housing, substance abuse, and mental health services will improve client's lives and hopefully help them escape the criminal justice system's revolving door. Healthier clients in our community will also make our community safer.*

Tier 3: Provides ancillary benefits to criminal justice in Sonoma County.