

FILL THE GAP (FTG) APPLICATION FY 2012

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. COURT NAME: COCHISE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

2. CONTACT PERSON: KAREN D. FERRARA

3. TITLE: COURT ADMINISTRATOR

4. ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP): P.O. BOX 204, BISBEE, ARIZONA 85603

5. PHONE: 520-432-8500

6. FAX: 520-432-5835

7. E-MAIL ADDRESS:

KFERRARA@COURTS.AZ.GOV

B. BUDGET INFORMATION

8. PROJECT TITLE: SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION V

9. BEGIN DATE: 07/01/11

END DATE: 06/30/12

10. AMOUNT STATE FTG REQUESTED:
\$ 52,306

AMOUNT LOCAL FTG REQUESTED:
\$194,123 LOCAL FTG
\$ 49,275 LOCAL COURT ENHANCEMENT

LOCAL BALANCE:
\$ 352,967.84
AS OF: 06/30/11
(CERTIFIED BY LOCAL FINANCE)

11. OTHER ACTIVE APPROVED GRANTS FOR FTG (STATE \$ AMOUNT):

12. NEW REQUEST

CONTINUE PROJECT – TIME & \$

CONTINUE PROJECT – ADDITIONAL STAFF

EXTEND PROJECT

MORE TIME

NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS

GPT #

GPT #

C. PROJECT INFORMATION

13. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT PLAN.

I. LOCAL FTG (FELONY CASEFLOW ENHANCEMENT):

This is a continuation grant for the Felony Caseflow Enhancement Project in Cochise County, first established in FY 02. Local fill the Gap funds are utilized to fund a judge of the superior court, along with support staff. This judge oversees the "front-end" management of felony cases, presides over the Early Resolution Court implemented in October of 2009, and conducts the "probation calendar" including probation revocations and the Deferred Incarceration Sanction Program. Greater emphasis on the management of felony cases has proven to significantly enhance disposition rates and to assist in a greater balance of judicial attention to all case types in the superior court of Cochise County.

IIA. STATE FTG (PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATOR):

The funding of an additional Pre-sentence Investigator in the Adult Probation Department is necessary as a result of the implementation of the Early Resolution Court (ERC) in Cochise County. Implemented in October of 2009, the ERC has resulted in much-improved dispositions of felony cases, but has also resulted in significant pressures on the pre-sentence unit of adult probation. Having an additional pre-sentence investigator will provide the resources needed to generate an additional 150-plus reports in an accelerated fashion, in compliance with the ERC cases proceeding to disposition.

IIB. STATE FTG (JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRO TEM):

There are six Justices of the Peace in Cochise County, all of whom preside over full caseloads. These Justices of the Peace also work within a weekend and holiday rotation to cover felony and misdemeanor initial appearances throughout the year. There are occasions when the judges are not available to provide for weekend and holiday coverage, as well as occasions when all judges are out of county attending training/conferences. The plan for this funding is to cover the costs of Justices of the Peace Pro Tempore to provide coverage of felony and misdemeanor initial appearances when the regular judges are not available.

14. DESCRIBE THE NEED FOR THIS PROJECT AND HOW THE EXPENDITURE OF THESE MONIES WILL ADDRESS THE NEED.

I. The Superior Court Judge funded for this project is designated as the Presiding Criminal Judge, responsible for the front end management of felony cases, now termed the "Early Resolution Court (ERC)". The Early Resolution Court, created in October of 2009, has resulted in dramatic improvements in the case disposition rates in Cochise County.

Prior to the ERC, in Fiscal Year 2008, this court had a disposition rate of 46% within the 100 day threshold. In Fiscal Year 2011, that disposition rate had increased to 83.6%. In Fiscal Year 2008, this court had a disposition rate of 5.8% within the 30 day threshold and in 2011, that rate had increased to over 56%.

The funding of this judge and the staff dedicated to the front-end management of felony cases has proven to be an investment with significant results.

IIA. APD requires a staff of six presentence investigators to handle the current and short-term projected number of PSR requests. The county funds only 2.7 PSI positions; the state funds none. Of APD's four PSI officers, one is funded by Fill-The-Gap. Every incremental dollar is crucial to APD's ability to generate statutorily mandated PSRs. Without these reports, courts cannot proceed to sentencing and the whole system grinds to a halt. The Fill-The-Gap-funded presentence investigator accounts for approximately 20% of the PSRs and presentence interviews APD handles each year. Projections for FY2012 are 155 PSRs and 140 interviews. Funding this critical position is very much in keeping with Fill The Gap's mission.

The Adult Probation Department (APD) has been especially hard hit by ERC. Field caseload numbers have soared far above mandated levels, as have the number of presentence reports (PSRs) the agency prepares. Compared to the total for 2008 -- the year prior to ERC's start -- the first two years of ERC saw a 42% jump in PSR numbers (from 472 to 810). No positions were added to accommodate this spike. APD, it should be noted, is staffed to accommodate 552 PSRs.

While the backlog of ERC cases has now been cleared out, projections for FY2012 show only about a 4% reduction in PSR numbers (from 810 to 795). The overflow reports (more than 200 per year) have been handled by field officers, temporary workers and the Presentence Investigations Supervisor. Given the fact it takes nearly 16 hours to prepare an overflow PSR, removing officers from their normal field duties is both inefficient and risks compromising public safety. That is why the role of the Fill-The-Gap-funded PSI officer is so crucial to the department and to the community.

IIB. The Justices of the Peace in Cochise County have caseloads that require their full-time attendance in court five days a week. The use of pro tems is for those occasions when the elected Justices of the Peace are unavailable on weekends or holidays or when they are all attending court-related training/conference events. The Justices of the Peace are requesting funding for 19 days during which time the Justice of the Peace pro tems are expected to perform at least 300 Initial Appearances.

15. LIST THE PROJECT'S PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

The goals are to continue with this remarkable improvement in the management of felony cases in Cochise County. In addition to maintaining the achievement (surpassing) the goals set by the Fill the Gap initiative, the court will continue to work with the other members of the criminal justice system, seeking further improvements to the system overall. Examples include seeking additional resources for the pre-sentence investigation unit in adult probation and enhancing the means by which restitution information can be obtained from victims in a more timely fashion

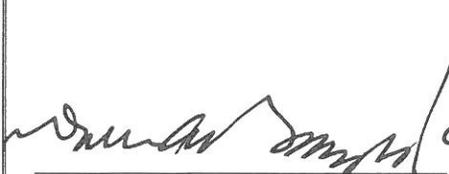
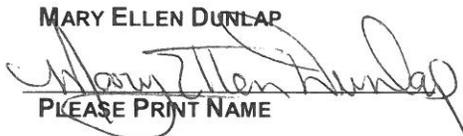
D. BUDGET (SUPERIOR COURT) (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF PROPOSED EXPEDITURE).

PERSONNEL	\$	288,068
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$	
TRAVEL	\$	
OTHER OPERATING	\$	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$	
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$	
TOTAL	\$	288,068

E. BUDGET (CLERK OF THE COURT)		
PERSONNEL	\$	_____
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$	_____
TRAVEL	\$	_____
OTHER OPERATING	\$	_____
OFFICE EQUIPMENT/FURNITURE	\$	_____
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$	_____
TOTAL	\$	_____

F. BUDGET (JUSTICE COURT)		
PERSONNEL	\$	7,636
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$	_____
TRAVEL	\$	_____
OTHER OPERATING	\$	_____
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$	_____
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	\$	_____
TOTAL	\$	7,636

I. SIGNATURES OF SUBMITTING PARTIES

 _____ PRESIDING JUDGE SUPERIOR COURT WALLACE R. HOGGATT _____ PLEASE PRINT NAME	10-05-2011 _____ DATE	 _____ CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PATRICK G. CALL _____ PLEASE PRINT NAME	n/a _____ DATE
_____ CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT MARY ELLEN DUNLAP  _____ PLEASE PRINT NAME	10-5-11 _____ DATE	 _____ PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE JOSEPH KNOBLOCK _____ PLEASE PRINT NAME	09-29-11 _____ DATE

**RETURN COMPLETE APPLICATION AND SEND TO:
TONI MURBACH
COURT SERVICES DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
1501 W. WASHINGTON, SUITE 410
PHOENIX, AZ 85007**