



### **Agenda Action Form Overview**

Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 19BCC000018 to recognize funds from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Urban Institute in the amount of \$20,000 to continue working to create a fairer, more effective local justice system with innovative, collaborative and evidence-based solutions.

### **Background/Justification**

In 2017, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, through the Urban Institute, awarded Durham County an Innovation Fund grant to implement the Court Date Reminder Service. The remainder of the grant was used to enter into a Technical Assistance Agreement with the Pretrial Justice Institute. The Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI) met with criminal justice stakeholders in May 2018 to discuss potential enhancements to and to improve consistency in the pretrial process. The site visit by PJI was well received by court officials and a final report provided several recommendations.

In August 2018, Durham County was awarded a \$20,000 Innovation Fund Capstone grant to continue working with the Pretrial Justice Institute to improve the pretrial decision process and implement an updated or new assessment tool. Chief District Court Judge Jim Hill has strongly supported this effort.

PJI will return to Durham for at least 2 site visits within a twelve-month period. The first visit will conduct an educational dialogue and presentation to a newly formed Pretrial Improvement Committee, building buy-in and consensus among stakeholders. The second visit will focus on training and implementation of the new assessment tool and matrix. Additionally, PJI will work with the Pretrial Improvement Committee remotely on selecting the new tool and developing the decision-making matrix, as well as eligibility criteria and other processes. After implementation, PJI will continue to provide assistance with troubleshooting and performance evaluation.

Critical stakeholders are the Durham County Sheriff's Office, Durham County Judges and Magistrates, the Offices of the District Attorney and the Public Defender, as well as the Durham Defense Bar.

### **Policy Impact**

This work is intended to result in improvements to the pretrial decision process and increase the number of persons released with no or low money bonds.

### **Procurement Background**

N/A

### **Fiscal Impact**

This grant does not require a County match. The grant period is December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019.



**Recommendation**

The County Manager recommends approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 19BCC000018 in the amount of \$20,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Urban Institute for pretrial process improvements.