

**MEETING DATE:** October 3, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** C

**TO:** BSCC Chair and Members

**FROM:** Dameion Renault, Field Representative, [dameion.renault@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:dameion.renault@bscc.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Public Defense Pilot Program, 22-Month No-Cost Extension:  
**Requesting Approval**

### **Summary**

This agenda item requests Board authorization of a 22-month, no-cost grant term extension for the Public Defense Pilot Program. The 22-month extension was included as part of Senate Bill 104, which amended the State Budget Act of 2023 (Attachment C-1). The extension revises the original end date of the grant from March 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026.

### **Background**

Senate Bill 129 (Chapter 69, Statutes of 2021), which amended the State Budget Act of 2021, established the Public Defense Pilot Program (PDPP). Program funds must be used by each county for indigent defense providers, including public defenders, alternate defenders, and other qualifying entities that provide indigent defense in criminal matters for the purposes of workload associated with the provisions in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 1170 of, and Sections 1170.95, 1473.7, and 3051 of, the Penal Code.

The PDPP was designed as a three-year pilot funded by annual appropriations from the State Budget Act, to run from March 1, 2022, to March 1, 2025. All California counties were eligible to participate in the program. Since its inception, a total of \$130 million has been made available to counties that completed an annual non-competitive application. A total of 35 counties have participated in the pilot program. This extension to December 31, 2026, will provide counties with additional time to spend down these critical funds. A list of participating counties showing annual award amounts is provided in Attachment C-2.

### **Recommendation/Action Needed**

Staff recommends the Board approve a one-time, no-cost, 22-month extension to the Public Defense Pilot Program grants, extending the end date from March 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026, as authorized by the State Budget Act of 2023.

### **Attachments**

C-1: Senate Bill 104 (Chapter 189, Statutes of 2023)

C-2: Annual PDPP Awards by County