



Internet Email: opd@opd.wa.gov

**WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE**

(360) 586-3164
FAX (360) 586-8165

May 4, 2021

Lara McRea
Office Manager
Lewis County Administration
351 NW North St
Chehalis, WA 98532

Re: Limited Public Defense Grant Funds for Blake Representation

Dear Ms. McRea:

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) is excited to share a limited funding opportunity. OPD has fiscal year 2021 funds that are not otherwise obligated. Lewis County has been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$84,396.00 for representation of individuals seeking to obtain orders to vacate felony convictions or have felony resentencing hearings pursuant to *State v. Blake*, 481 P.3d 521 (2021).

This grant is consistent with OPD Policy 4.02 related to Use of Unrestricted Funds, and is consistent with purposes authorized in subsequent fiscal years by Section 116(5)(b) ESSB 5092 as adopted by the Washington Legislature. Please note that additional funding for felony post-conviction representation pursuant to *State v. Blake* will become available later in this calendar year.

Priority for these limited funds has been given to counties without public defense agencies, and counties whose public defense agencies handle the far minority of local indigent felony cases. Each county's allocation has been calculated in proportion to their convictions for possession of controlled substance (RCW 69.50.4013) since 1999, based on data provided by the Washington State Caseload Forecast Council. This grant is one-time only, does not create an entitlement, and does not obligate OPD to future expenditures.

If you wish to accept these funds, please sign and return the attached Agreement to Nicole.Dodge@opd.wa.gov no later than May 21, 2021. OPD will thereafter send you a fully executed copy, and issue your county its payment pursuant to the Statewide Vendor Number SWV0001232-36, the number used by OPD for the Chapter 10.101 RCW payment issued earlier

Lara McRea
May 4, 2021
Page 2

this year. (Please notify us in writing us as soon as possible if a different Statewide Vendor Number should be used.)

If you have any questions please contact Katrin.Johnson@opd.wa.gov or 360-688-0422.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Jefferson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Larry Jefferson
Director

cc: Presiding Superior Court Judge James W. Lawler

Enclosures