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### Court Diversion and Pretrial Services Budget FY 2019 Budget Adjustment

The Office of the Attorney General is seeking additional General Funds for Court Diversion and Pretrial Services (CD/PTS) in the FY 2019 Budget Adjustment. The current GF figure for CD/PTS is \$2,270,486. The requested increase in FY 2019 BAA is \$22,662. The purpose of the request is to meet immediate needs for Court Diversion and Pretrial Services.

Both Court Diversion and Pretrial Services have experienced significant increase in referrals during the past year.

- Adult Diversion referrals increased 93% from FY 2017 (1,210) to FY 2018 (2,337).
- Tamarack referrals increased from 518 to 819 from FY 2017 to FY 2018.
- The percentage of misdemeanor cases filed in Criminal Division referred to Diversion doubled, from 10% in FY 2017 to 20% in FY 2018; those of Tamarack referrals from 4% to 7% of misdemeanor cases from FY 2017 to FY 2018.
- Court-ordered referrals to Pretrial Monitoring more than doubled, from 164 to 387.

On average, 80% of individuals referred engage in the programs, and 85% of those complete successfully.

**FY 2019 Budget Adjustment Act:** Based on the knowledge that a funding increase would only occur in February, we request an increase of only \$22,662 which would allow Pretrial Services to increase staffing for the remainder of the fiscal year. This request is relatively low because of the use of carryforward funds and the fact that the contractor is partnering with another non-profit agency to use grant funds for a staff person in Chittenden County. These grant funds end June 30, 2019