

Good evening, Senator Sears –

Thank you for flagging your constituent's issue for our consideration. We reviewed the concern and studied the FY24 and proposed FY25 budgets to provide some clarity to you, and for your passage to your constituent.

No cut to base funding is contemplated by the Department in the proposed FY25 budget. The CJC funding line remains stable at \$2,961,000.00. However, your constituent is right to flag that they will feel a downward pressure resulting from the end of one-time funds that were granted to CJs in FY24. Two separate onetime funding grants were issued to CJs in FY24, one totaling \$342,247.00 resulting from out-of-state bed savings reappropriated to Justice Reinvestment, and one totaling \$250,000.00 from the Justice Reinvestment base budget on the recommendation of the Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council (CJRC). In total, these onetime appropriations equaled \$542,247.00.

As you may recall, the out-of-state savings are no longer accumulated and instead the Administration and the Legislature agreed to lower the budgeted funds for the out-of-state contract and reallocate that funding to the Justice Reinvestment line in the Department's budget. This line totals \$899,000.00. The CJRC did not recommend how the FY25 funds should be appropriated. The CJRC met yesterday to discuss this issue and is working on a plan to inform its recommendations. The Department is waiting on the CJRC for its recommendation prior to making a recommendation on same. The Department requested recommendations from CJRC before May 1, 2024, so the recommendations can be considered in its granting process for FY25. Because this recommendation and council process is new, the CJRC process is still being designed. The CJRC's recommendations may result in increased funding to the CJs, but that will not likely be known until at least May 2024.

Simply put, no Department base funding for CJs is in jeopardy. FY24 onetime funds did end, thus the CJs will receive less money in FY25 than they did in FY24. The CJRC may recommend additional funding for the CJs as part of its process, which may be included in the Department's recommendation to the Governor.

I hope that helps. I've included a few attachments for your review and consideration that document the funding in question. Please let me know if you wish to discuss further.

Warm regards,

Nick