

**Item Title:** Appropriate Department of Public Safety Funding for Capital Area Workforce Development to serve as Intermediary Agency for the Wake Local Reentry Council

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$130,000 from North Carolina Department of Public Safety into the budget for Capital Area Workforce Development.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates grant awards to County departments.

**Background:** CAWD works with community-based and faith-based reentry service providers to help individuals transition from correctional facilities back to public life. As part of this service, CAWD will coordinate the Wake County Local Reentry Council's work to help build local capacity, and over time assist partners to sustain their efforts. CAWD applied for and received a grant for \$130,000 from the NC Department of Public Safety (DPS). This grant is recurring for three years. After three years, CAWD can reapply for continued funding. The grant funds two positions that will support reentry services, a Reentry Council Coordinator and Reentry Council Case Manager. The Coordinator will lead the local council, made up of community partners, to a common goal of ensuring formerly incarcerated individuals have access to resources to support their reentry. The Reentry Council Case Manager will provide intake, referrals, and follow-up to returning citizens in Wake County.

Family Resource Center South Atlantic was the previous Intermediary Agency for the Wake Local Reentry Council. Their current case load is 232 individuals. CAWD will continue to provide services to the current individuals. CAWD predicts that there will be an increase in participation among returning citizens. The new Wake Local Reentry Council will be located at the NCWorks Career Center at Tillery Place and will partner closely with other CAWD programs. This will increase access and referrals to the Wake LRC.

**Board Goal:** This action complements initiatives in the Public Safety goal area.

**Fiscal Impact:** The County will receive a one time \$130,000 grant from US Department of Labor. No matching funds are required.

**Additional Information:**

CAWD Board has set a strategic goal to assist the untapped workforce in gaining the skills, competencies, and credentials required for in-demand, family-supporting careers. In 2019, CAWD received a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to develop and implement Roads to Reentry, a program to connect returning citizens to training and employment opportunities in Wake and Johnston Counties. CAWD is also a partner in the Wake County Inmate Employment and Education Initiative (WCIEEI) to provide education and training to people in the Wake County Detention Center and career support upon release. The Wake Local Reentry Council will serve as a hub for returning citizens. WCIEEI clients will be referred to the Wake Local Reentry Council for additional support. The Wake LRC will refer clients to appropriate partners, including the Roads to Reentry program. Roads to Reentry, WCIEEI, and serving as the Intermediary Agency for the Wake Local Reentry Council will serve as the foundation of a system to connect returning citizens to the community, education, and employment resources they need to successfully return to our community.

**Attachments:**

1. Budget Memo