

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS**



**NINETEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT**

*Wendy Parent*  
*Senior Court Operations Consultant*

October 25, 2024

**RE: Amended Award of the 2024/2025 Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Treatment Fund**

Background: In July 2024, the Indian River Board of County Commissioners awarded up to \$50,000 to problem-solving courts to help offset costs associated with participant program requirements. These funds are drawn from the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Trust Fund. Following the Commission's approval in July, a budget amendment was made to transfer these funds from the Drug Abuse Program Fund/Cash Forward (effective October 1, 2024) to the Drug Abuse Program Fund/Drug Test Program (account #12111069-088692) and the Drug Abuse Program Fund/Other Professional Services (account #12111069-033190). As of September 18, 2024, the total balance in the trust fund stands at \$385,549.14.

Drug Testing, Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment and Wraparound Services: Many defendants face challenges in participating in problem-solving courts due to high costs associated with program requirements, including drug testing, substance use and mental health treatment, and wraparound services like housing and transportation. Participants are required to undergo frequent drug testing at a cost of \$40 per week, totaling around \$2,240 annually. Treatment costs vary, with outpatient care at \$50 per week and inpatient services reaching \$15,000 per month. Transitional housing ranges from \$500 to \$750 monthly, MAT costs about \$1,500 per month, and transportation services are approximately \$35 per trip. Funds from the Drug Abuse Trust Fund help offset these expenses for defendants who cannot afford them.

Request: We request that the Indian River Board of County Commissioners approve the use of the previously approved amount of up to \$50,000 to include transportation services for fiscal year 2024/2025, which was not part of our original Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Trust Fund budget request for this year. This request will not require an increase in our approved budget proposal, ensuring there will be no impact on the overall budget. If approved, we plan to allocate these funds for transportation services, along with the originally approved services for substance use and mental health treatment, drug testing, housing, and medication-assisted treatment for indigent participants in Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Treatment Court.

The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit is grateful to the Board of County Commissioners for their ongoing support of problem-solving court programs in Indian River County. We appreciate your consideration of our request to include transportation services from the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Trust Fund for participants in these programs.