

Notice of Intent to Award Funds to the Worcester Police Department

August 11, 2017

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) intends to award up to \$99,000.00 in federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funds (award 2016-DJBX-0653) from the set aside share designated for state priorities to the Worcester Police Department (WPD).

EOPSS and WPD have teamed up to pilot an innovative collaborative approach to tackle the heroin and opioid epidemic plaguing our cities and towns called “Buyer Diversion Treatment Alternative” (BDTA). BDTA is a partnership between the City of Worcester, Worcester County District Attorney’s Office and EOPSS and designed to divert users from the criminal justice system, identified and arrested for purchasing narcotics from a dealer who was under law enforcement surveillance. The primary purpose of this initiative is to provide lower level heroin and opioid users arrested as a result of such undercover type operations, an opportunity to receive treatment rather than criminal prosecution by participating in the BDTA program. Eligibility will be based on individuals meeting certain criteria as determined by the District Attorney’s Office and WPD.

This award will enable the WPD to hire a coordinator to work with the District Attorney’s Office and WPD to assist with administering and monitoring this program throughout the duration of this award as well as to hire a case manager with expertise in substance abuse and counseling to serve as a liaison between law enforcement and the treatment centers where individuals will be referred to for care. If successful, EOPSS intends to expand this initiative into other regions of the Commonwealth.

Any questions or concerns about this award should be emailed to Kevin Stanton, Deputy Executive Director, EOPSS Office of Grants and Research at: kevin.stanton@state.ma.us.