

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2023-865

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Mayor

**Date of Introduction:** December 12, 2023

**Committee(s) of Reference:** F, R

**Date of Analysis:** December 14, 2023

**Type of Action:** Appropriation of US Department of Justice grant funds; providing for the carryover of funds through 2027; designation of oversight department

**Bill Summary:** This bill appropriates \$899,660 from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program to fund the enhancement of a multi-system approach to assist certain veterans arrested for non-violent offenses with service-related substance use disorders, mental disorders, co-occurring disorders, or injuries such as PTS, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma, including additional providers and evidence-based practices with respect to the VTC programs. The bill establishes a grant period which retroactively commences on October 1, 2023, extending to September 30, 2027. The funds are authorized to carry over to FY 23-24.

The bill establishes the Court Administration, Director of Problem Solving Courts as the oversight department for the project.

**Background Information:** The Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida applied to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund Veterans Treatment Court Enhancement projects. The program should increase the number of partnered clinical providers, expand transitional housing and transportation options for veterans, and utilize validated trauma, risk, and needs assessments to implement the "Dare to Dream" recovery capital model developed by the National Drug Court Institute with the long-term goal of removing barriers to long-term success for all veterans.

The Fourth Judicial Circuit was awarded the full award amount of \$899,660 by the DOJ on September 27, 2023, with the projected start date of the project being October 1, 2023.

**Policy Impact Area:** Veterans assistance

**Fiscal Impact:** This bill appropriates \$899,660 in DOJ grant funds for Veterans assistance projects.

**Analyst:** Webb