



**Colorado Justice: Celebrating 42 years of fair
and impartial courts through merit selection**

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 20, 2008

Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché
303-837-3633
303-837-3644
robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us
jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us

Forty-seven Colorado counties share in nearly \$1.8 million in grants to improve courthouse security, public safety

DENVER – New metal detectors and surveillance cameras, additional personnel and training opportunities and other security measures will appear soon in courthouses in 47 Colorado counties with the Court Security Commission’s approval of \$1.75 million in grants, the commission announced today.

After the second full round of grants, 54 counties have shared grants totaling \$2.67 million in a program established through 2007 legislation designed to help counties install security measures they may not otherwise have been able to afford.

While the seven-member commission must give approval before grants are distributed, decisions on where the money should be spent are made by local security teams made up of the sheriff, a county commissioner and the chief judge of each judicial district.

“The reason this program is providing excellent results in such a short time is that local officials who are in the best position to know their own needs are determining how best to meet those needs,” said Otero County Sheriff Chris Johnson, president of County Sheriffs of Colorado. “The teams are coming up with creative solutions to make the most of limited resources.”

Under Senate Bill 07-118, two rounds of grants were scheduled only for the first year of the program. Additional awards will be distributed once per year until at least 2017, when the General Assembly will review the program to decide whether to continue the grants, funded by surcharges on a variety of court fees.

In the first two rounds of grants, every county that applied for a grant received some funding.

“The bottom-up approach set up by the legislation is much more effective than working under one-size-fits-all mandates or guidelines set by a central authority,” said Steven Steadman, court security specialist for the Colorado State Court Administrator’s Office. “And it couldn’t work at all without the contributions from our partners at Colorado Counties Inc. and the Colorado County Sheriffs Association.”

Counties that won grants in the latest round of funding are Alamosa, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Boulder, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Gilpin, Grand, Gunnison, Huerfano, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Las Animas, Lincoln, Logan, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Ouray, Park, Phillips, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Miguel, Sedgwick, Teller, Washington, Weld and Yuma.

Questions may be directed to Steadman at steven.steadman@judicial.state.co.us or by calling 303-861-1111.

Court Security Grants fact sheet

Through the second round of grants approved in the Colorado Court Security Grants program, funding has, in part, paid for:

- 28 full and part-time court security officer positions
- 17 magnetometers
- 5 X-ray package screeners
- 23 video surveillance systems
- 10 access control systems (door entry systems)
- 14 duress alarm systems
- 2 videoconferencing systems
- 10 800mHz radios