



Supreme Court
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

David Gilbertson
CHIEF JUSTICE

TO: Chair, Boards of County Commissioners
Sheriffs
State's Attorneys

RE: Court Security Grant Money

DATE: October 13, 2016

I am pleased to inform you that the Unified Judicial System has secured another year of funding for the Court Security Grant Program to help offset the costs of security improvements in courthouses. Since 1999, the UJS has distributed \$727,754 for 353 county grants throughout the state. The money helped pay part of the costs of the projects ranging from the installation of panic alarm systems to purchasing metal detectors and bulletproofing benches. The UJS has \$10,000 available in FY 2017 to help continue the important work of upgrading the security of courthouses throughout the state.

The \$10,000 appropriated by the Legislature for FY2017 may not underwrite all of the projects that are requested for this fiscal year. Therefore, as in the past, we will allocate funding based on the following priorities:

1. **Purchasing new or upgrading existing panic alarm systems.** It is our belief that being able to call law enforcement quickly and quietly in a dangerous situation remains the most effective means for diffusing problems before they spin out of control.
2. **Purchasing metal detectors.** We received several requests in the past to purchase hand-held and portable metal detectors for use in the courthouses. We will again assist in funding the purchase of this important equipment.
3. **Purchasing locks and peepholes for court facilities.** As noted in past years' grants, securing facilities can be done very economically by installing locks and peepholes throughout court facilities.
4. **Other miscellaneous expenses.** These expenses could include bulletproofing benches (we strongly recommend Kevlar for this purpose) and other measures directly related to improving courthouse security.

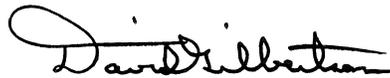
Court Security Grant Money
October 13, 2016
Page Two

Grant applications should be submitted to Gregory L. Sattizahn, State Court Administrator, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, 57501-5070 by **December 1, 2016**. Counties will be eligible for up to a 50% match on security expenses, depending on the availability of funding, the above priorities, and the number of projects submitted.

The grant applications should include a cover letter requesting the funds, description of the project and a written cost proposal or estimate from the vendor of the improvements to be made. Verbal quotes will not be accepted. Please contact Aaron Olson at 773-4872 if you have any grant application questions.

I would again like to extend my sincere thanks to those of you who have been attentive to courthouse security issues. Improving courthouse security not only benefits those who work in such facilities, but also the many members of the public who transact business in them. I look forward to working with you in our continuing efforts to improve courthouse security.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gilbertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "G".

David Gilbertson
Chief Justice

cc: Bob Wilcox, County Commissioners Association
Presiding Judges
Circuit Court Administrators
Gregory L. Sattizahn, State Court Administrator
Aaron Olson, Director of Budget & Finance
Kent Grode, Director of Information & Technology