

Announcement

MAINE STATE BOARD OF CORRECTIONS Pilot Project Award Recipients December 17, 2014

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The State Board of Corrections (SBOC) has approved three applications to serve as pilot project sites for implementing electronic monitoring to reduce domestic violence. The SBOC has announced Kennebec County will serve as the urban pilot project site while Somerset County and Sagadahoc County will both serve as rural pilot project sites. Somerset County is already engaged in the use of electronic monitoring, and will receive funding to join as a pilot project site and continue its efforts. The pilot projects will run for up to six (6) months, between January 1, 2015, and June 30, 2015. Initially, Kennebec County and Sagadahoc County will each receive \$4,000 to begin the project, while Somerset County will receive an initial award of \$2,000. Remaining available funds will be distributed upon request and demonstrated need by the three pilot project sites.

The selected pilot project sites each presented applications which met the requirements of the SBOC's November 18, 2014 request for pilot project applicants. In addition, the selected sites offered small, manageable implementation plans which demonstrated an ability to fulfill the goals of the project in the limited period of time while also offering a commitment for the long-term use of electronic monitoring to reduce domestic violence in the project locations.

These awards mark a significant step forward for the SBOC and local jurisdictions, in response to Public Law 227 (2013) and the Governor's 2012 Task Force to Reduce Domestic Violence through Technology, in an effort to continue responding to domestic violence using best practices.

Additional Information and Requirements:

The following requirements are added to the award or clarified from the notice:

1. Electronic monitoring will not be recommended/used on the highest risk domestic violence offenders, it is to be recommended/used for defendants who would already be eligible for bail in response to the following criteria:
 - a. Cases with the risk factors consistent with those on an evidence-based, domestic violence risk assessment tool, such as the ODARA or the Danger Assessment, and presenting moderate or high risk.
2. In order to remain victim-centered, electronic monitoring will only be recommended/used upon receiving the victim's consent for its use.
3. Pilot project sites agree to receive training within thirty (30) days of this award on the best practices of a High Risk Response Team and on the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force to Reduce Domestic Violence Through Technology, provided by the Maine Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse.
4. Pilot project sites will also report to the Board of Corrections the number of eligible offenders for electronic monitoring who were not recommended for such monitoring due to the limits of the pilot project.