



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

JIM SKINNER, SHERIFF

To: Commissioners Court

From: Sheriff Jim Skinner

Date: March 12, 2025

Re: Proposed Contract between the County and Justice Benefits, Inc. for Identifying SCAAP
and Other Federal or State Funding

For several years, the County has had a contract with Justice Benefits, Inc.¹ to assist the County in asking DOJ for reimbursement of certain costs associated with housing federal criminal aliens in the county jail under the SCAAP program (State Criminal Alien Assistance Program), 8 U.S.C. § 1231(i).² As I pointed out in a Jan. 29, 2025 memo, from 2017 to 2023, JBI worked with County Audit and received these amounts in SCAAP reimbursement:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 2014 - \$16,102 | 2015 - \$3,074 |
| 2016 - \$8,418 | 2017 - \$199,205 |
| 2018 - \$238,226 | 2019 - \$277,219 |
| 2020 - \$253,121 | 2021 - \$352,725 |
| 2022 - \$139,207 | 2023 - \$120,859 |

Although DOJ offered to reimburse the County only \$79,615 for 2024, County Audit reported that DOJ acknowledged that it made a mistake with respect to salaries in the County's calculation for that year. In any event, because JBI has successfully helped the County (in 2014–16, I believe that the County did the calculations on its own), the County's contract with JBI appears to be a good value. Thus, I recommend that the County sign a contract with JBI to continue to assist with SCAAP going forward.

The language in this proposal is broader than SCAAP alone, however. After checking with Purchasing, I understand that the County currently doesn't plan to work with JBI on projects other than SCAAP. If the County does this or is considering this, this may be a decision for County Administration.

¹ In an Apr. 15, 2024 meeting (A155731), the Court approved a contract on the same terms—e.g., a 15% fee—with JBI in Commissioners Court Order No. 2024-383-04-15 (referring to Contract No. 2021-220).

² See U.S. Dept. of Justice, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) (visited Mar. 11, 2025), <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/state-criminal-alien-assistance-program-scaap/overview>.