



Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluation of the STEP Supervision Program

Criminal Justice

Requester Information

Legislator Name: Clancy, Tyler

Created Date: December 18th 2025

Submitted Date: December 18th 2025

Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

This funding request supports a randomized controlled trial evaluation of the STEP Supervision Program, a justice court probation model built on swift, certain & fair accountability for nonviolent, substance-involved offenders. The evaluation will compare STEP supervision to standard probation to determine impacts on recidivism, compliance, substance use, & jail utilization. The population intended to benefit includes probation-eligible individuals whose criminal behavior is driven by substance use, as well as communities that bear the public safety & fiscal costs of repeat offending. Results will guide future legislative decisions on whether the program should be continued or expanded statewide.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Angela Hawken

Organization: Swift Certain & Fair Research Center

Position: Board Member

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Personnel Services	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$160,000.00	
In-State Travel	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	



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Category	One-time		Ongoing
Out-of-State Travel	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
Supplies and Equipment	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$25,000.00	
Technology Purchases	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$40,000.00	
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026:	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2027:	\$0.00	

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
\$0.00	\$225,000.00	\$0.00

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	\$0.00
2027 (One-time)	\$225,000.00
2027 (Ongoing)	\$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
\$0.00	\$225,000.00	\$0.00



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Is this a multi-year project?

No

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

No

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Safety and Security

Agency:

064 / Governor's Office - Criminal Justice

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

State Government

Grant recipient

No

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement



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Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

The primary beneficiaries are nonviolent, probation-eligible individuals whose offenses are driven by substance use and who are supervised in Utah justice courts. Secondary beneficiaries include victims, families, and local communities that benefit from reduced reoffending and improved accountability, as well as justice courts, probation officers, and local governments through more effective supervision and lower jail utilization. The Legislature also benefits by receiving high-quality evidence to guide future public safety and corrections investments.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

This project is intended to rigorously evaluate whether the STEP Supervision Program improves public safety and supervision outcomes compared to standard probation in Utah justice courts. Using a randomized controlled trial, the evaluation will measure impacts on recidivism, probation compliance, substance use, and jail utilization for nonviolent, substance-involved offenders. The project will also assess whether swift, certain & fair accountability reduces violations while supporting treatment engagement and employment stability. The results will provide the Legislature with Utah-specific evidence to determine whether STEP should be sustained, refined, or expanded in future years.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

The Legislature will know the project is successful if the randomized controlled trial demonstrates measurable improvements for STEP participants compared to standard probation within 12 to 24 months. Short-term targets include reductions in new criminal charges and probation violations, fewer jail days imposed for technical violations, and higher rates of supervision completion. Additional indicators of success include improved drug and alcohol test compliance and faster resolution of violations through graduated sanctions rather than incarceration. A final independent evaluation report will present outcome data, cost impacts, & clear policy recommendations to support legislative decision-making.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Previous Funding Documents



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Full Time Employees

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