

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) is issuing this competitive RFP to support county probation departments, in collaboration with their juvenile court and local partners, through implementation of system changes throughout the juvenile justice delinquency continuum. The goal of the PCBA is to decrease the number of non-violent youth detained in secure detention¹, while not compromising public safety. The focus population will be those youth placed into secure detention for:

- Violations of Probation (VOPs),
- Failures to Appear (FTAs), and
- Bench warrants.

These grant funds are intended to support counties with existing strategies as well as counties that are for the first time considering system change with focus on how detention settings are utilized. Several counties in California are in different stages of addressing the issues of using secure detention for VOPs, FTAs and bench warrants. While some have already implemented promising and/or evidence-based practices and strategies to address their needs, others are just getting started and may be considering strategies which are innovative and creative in achieving the goals of this RFP, for example, but not limited to addressing:

- ✓ The process for how VOPs, FTAs and bench warrants result in secure detention,
- ✓ Methods of reducing the incidence of VOPs, FTAs and bench warrants, and
- ✓ Changes in the assessment and classification of juveniles that will result in a more judicious use of secure detention.

A **total of \$1.5 million** in Federal Title II Formula Block (Title II) grant funds is available statewide. Counties will be allowed to request up to a **maximum of \$300,000**, for the period of July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. Counties are encouraged to only request the amount of funds needed to support their proposal and not base the request on the maximum allowable. Applicants who believe their proposal will require substantially less than the maximum are strongly encouraged to apply for funding. Proposals will be read and rated by the Executive Steering Committee that participated in development of this RFP.

While the intent is to receive a wide range of proposals representing California's diverse probation departments, only the most meritorious proposals will be funded. Counties which have recently implemented system changes in relation to their handling of VOPs, FTAs and bench warrants, but are now looking to expand or improve upon those systems changes, as well as counties that are considering system changes for the first time, are encouraged to apply.

Counties may only submit one application; however, two counties may come together to submit joint applications. Joint applications must clearly designate only one county as the "Implementing Agency." At this time only one year of funding is available.

Funded projects will be asked to provide a local evaluation (see application Section IX: Local Project Evaluation); however, it is CSA's goal to also collect sufficient common data from each project to develop an understanding of the grant supported strategies that worked and those that did not, and have grantees share their lessons learned with other counties. Agencies selected for funding will be required to

¹ For purposes of this RFP, the term "secure detention" will be used generically to include juvenile halls, camps, and ranches.

participate in a grantee briefing workshop with the CSA to determine the common data and data-collection strategies.

Proposals not viewed favorably

Due to the short duration of these funds (12 months), proposals which simply include hiring NEW probation officers to supervise youth which might otherwise be placed into secure detention are not likely to be rated favorably. While hiring new probation officers may support the county's juvenile justice efforts, it will not be rated as true "system changes" in relation to the handling of VOPs, FTAs and bench warrants, as envisioned by this RFP. Additionally, hiring new staff can be a time consuming process and grantees will also be rated on their readiness to implement this project on July 1, 2011 (see Section VII: Project Implementation Capability and Readiness.)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Recent studies by both the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) (<http://www.aecf.org/>)² and the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI) (<http://www.burnsinstitute.org/>)² revealed that many youth being held in secure detention settings are being held for technical probation violations and related court order violations. In many instances, both AECF and BI conclude that many youth who are being held in county detention settings pose no real threat to public safety. The studies concluded that many who are being held in secure detention are contributing to issues of overcrowding and are unnecessarily driving up the costs of detention. Similar findings were also recently observed by the five counties funded by CSA's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) – Technical Assistance Project. NOTE: This RFP is not intended to focus on DMC. However, many of the concepts and materials referenced in the reports address DMC and non-DMC populations.

These same reports also suggest that detaining youth in facilities prior to adjudication should be an option of last resort; and that in most cases, detaining youth in secure settings should only be used for serious, violent, and chronic offenders, and for those who repeatedly fail to appear for scheduled court dates. Secure detention should be the option of last resort for:

- ✓ status offenders,
- ✓ those who are very young and/or vulnerable,
- ✓ first-time offenders,
- ✓ those charged with non-serious offenses, and
- ✓ those with active, involved parents or strong community-based support systems.

In 2008, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) released a report which also pointed at the level of parental confusion within the juvenile court system which may also be contributing to violations resulting in the use of secure detention (<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/042508item7.pdf/>)² This report states that many families had, "...difficulty getting information about hearing dates and times...and often reported that were it not for their own efforts to find information...and repeated calls to probation, prosecutors, and the courts, they would simply have missed hearings." This same report goes on to make several recommendations for how to improve communication between the juvenile court system which would help families more clearly understand their obligations and help youth avoid additional secure detention

Throughout California's 58 counties the majority of youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system will also come to the attention of the county probation department. It is therefore not surprising that some probation departments have recently implemented system changes which specifically address the

² CSA is not endorsing these reports but is incorporating them by reference as a resource for the applicants. The reader may elect to review these reports to determine which elements are most applicable to their proposal.

reasons why youth are being detained for VOPs, FTAs, and bench warrants, and have taken action to address these areas within their respective juvenile justice systems. This RFP is intended to support these efforts and probation departments who are interested in collaborating with local partners including but not limited to, the Presiding Juvenile Court Judges, County Offices of Education, Law enforcement, District attorneys, Public defenders, and other youth/community serving agencies.

How This Project Was Developed

In August of 2010, the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP), which oversees CSA's implementation of the Title II funds, took formal action to set aside a total of \$1.5 million to support this project. In October 2010 the SACJJDP took additional action and authorized the establishment of an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) comprised of practitioners within the juvenile justice system to participate in and oversee the development of this competitive RFP. The committee direction to the ESC was to develop a competitive RFP with a goal of reducing the number of non-violent youth in secure detention for VOPs and FTAs through the use of effective and innovative practices. In November and December of 2010, the ESC met to outline the framework for this new RFP.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility:

Only Probation Departments are eligible to apply for this grant. The application should include other significant partners (as identified above), but the Probation Department must be identified as the "lead/implementing agency" in the application below.

Joint Applications Accepted

Counties may submit a joint application as long as only one county is clearly designated as the "Lead/Implementing Agency" on the application. If a joint application is submitted, CSA will expect to work with the "Lead/Implementing Agency" ensuring compliance with all aspects of the grant.

Limit on the Number of Applications Submitted

County Probation Departments may only submit one application per county or joint entities.

Amount of Funds Requested

Applications will be considered for up to \$300,000. However, because the total amount of funds available is only \$1.5 million statewide, applicants are encouraged to request only the amount of funds needed to support the proposal and not base the request on the maximum funds available. Applicant's whose proposals require much less than the maximum available funds are highly encouraged to apply.

Grant Period/Subsequent Funding

This grant period is anticipated to be from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. (Funds must be expended or encumbered by the end of the grant period).

Support from Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

All proposals must include a brief statement from the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge stating the court's support for this proposal. Please be sure to also describe the role of the judge in Section XII of this application: Collaboration with Partners and Stakeholders.

Target Population

The target population for this RFP is youth up to the age of 18.

Supplantation Prohibited

Grant funds may be used to expand an existing effort or develop new ones. If there is an existing effort underway, grant funds must be used to supplement existing funds dedicated to the existing effort and may not replace (supplant) funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. For information on eligible and ineligible costs, applicants may refer to the CSA's Grant Administration and Audit Guide. http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/CSA/PPP/Docs/Grant_Administration_Guide_October2010.pdf

Local Required Match

Local match is required and is based upon the amount of funds requested. For example:

Amount Requested	Required Minimum Match Amount
\$100,000 or less	5%
\$100,000 - \$200,000	10%
\$200,000 - \$300,000	15%

Local match must meet the required minimum as outlined above and be identified in the budget section of the proposal. This obligation may be met through hard (cash) and/or soft (in-kind) funds. **Applicants will not receive additional points from the rating committee for any match beyond the amount required.**

Required 7% for Local Evaluation/Data Collection Efforts

All applicants must set aside a minimum of 7% of the requested grants funds to support costs associated with the required local project evaluation, and submitting certain data to CSA as agreed to by successful grantees during the grantee briefing meeting (see application Section IX: Local Project Evaluation.) These funds may also be used to contract with external evaluators to support these efforts. Use of these funds must be reflected both in the Line Item Budget and Budget Details of this application.

Data Collection/Progress Reports

The specific outcome data to be collected have not been selected but will be fully discussed during the grantee briefing meeting, date TBD. Since these are federal grant funds, some data is required by the federal government - see Appendix C, below. The actual data to be collected will be determined by successful applicants.

Invoices

Disbursement of grant funds occurs on a reimbursement basis for costs incurred during a reporting period. Grantees must submit invoices on-line to the CSA on a monthly basis. Invoices must include grant and matching funds expended during the reporting period. Grantees must maintain adequate supporting documentation for all costs claimed on invoices. For additional information, refer to the CSA's October 2010 Grant Administration and Audit Guide at:
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/CSA/PPP/Docs/Grant_Administration_Guide_October2010.pdf

Audits

Grantees must submit an audit of expenditures (either grant-specific or as part of a federal single audit) within 120 days of the end of each 12-month grant period. Reasonable and necessary extensions to the timeframe may be granted if requested. Grant funds or matching funds can be used to cover the cost of the audit.