

# PROGRAM INFORMATION July 2020



## Innovative Program Grants

**Woman of Substance & Men of Honor (WOSMOH)** – The WOSMOH program assists young women and men at Ventura Youth Correctional Facility with pre and post release transitional services to help them become self-sufficient and independent through case management, mentoring, college pathways program, life skills classes and leadership opportunities. WOSMOH also includes housing assistance and connection to employment and re-entry supports through a broad community support network.

**Prison Education Project Re-Integration Academy (PEP)**: The reintegration academy operates under the PEP with the assistance of students and faculty volunteers from Cal State Channel Islands, Sacramento State University, Cal State Stanislaus and the University of the Pacific. The Reintegration Academy College readiness program includes: introduction to college, introduction to soft skills, career development and financial literacy courses.

**Insight Garden Program**: The Insight Garden Program provides restorative life skills and vocational training through a curriculum facilitated in classrooms and in gardens. The program fosters self-reflection, personal growth, leadership, and job skills through facility beautification efforts.

**Marin Shakespeare Company**: The Marin Shakespeare program uses a drama-therapy-inspired curriculum, which promotes self-awareness, self-expression, creativity, teamwork, creative problem solving, goal setting, positive choices, intellectual curiosity, and personal transformation.

**Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement (MILPA)**: MILPA utilizes the El Joven Noble Character Development Rites of Passage curriculum. The curriculum is designed for young men to cultivate healthy habits, peer to peer learning exchange and to develop plans of action to refrain from self-sabotaging behaviors. This program includes benefits of credible messengers to mentor youth and enhance protective factors to increase ties to family and community. The program emphasizes teenage years and beyond, social change, cultural storytelling, navigating trauma/conflict, and the youth's capacity for change.

**The Mentoring Center**: The Mentoring Center (TMC) emphasizes "Mentoring and Transformative manhood groups" that address barriers and youth resistant to change through intergenerational mentors and participants. This program also includes leadership development, training, and group activities. Case management is provided for youth released to Oakland or Alameda general area with access to life coaches and critical support services upon release.

**Fathers and Families of San Joaquin County (FFSJ)**: Fathers and Families of San Joaquin County program provides Ethnic Studies workshops utilizing various youth development curriculum such as El Joven Noble, Sacred Fatherhood, and Thinking for Change. This program also works in partnership with San Joaquin Pride Center, Little Manila Rising, Sow a Seed, and Reinvent South Stockton Coalition to provide youth and their family's education, resources, intervention assistance and mentoring upon release to San Joaquin County and beyond.

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**Jump StArts:** Jump StArts was designed as an intervention in the school-to prison pipeline mobilizing partnerships between arts organizations and juvenile justice to create programs that foster socio-emotional, behavioral, academic and developmental outcomes for system-engaged youth. In 2017, the Senate Budget Act dedicated funds specifically to expand the program, including service to state Division of Juvenile Justice Youth Facilities.

### Jump StArts Programs

- **916 INK** – will provide two creative writing workshops to up to 80 young men at NAYCF and OH Close. Each participant will receive 18 hours of English-language arts instruction and have their writing published in a professional anthology.
- **Collage Dance Theatre** – will conduct movement-based, creative health and wellness workshops at the VYCF. The workshops will culminate in performances by the youth participants and Heidi Duckler Dance company dancers.
- **Spector dance** – will offer dance classes, choreography workshops and culminating public performances. This project will explore dance as a tool for prevention, a catalyst for conversation, and a pathway for building community.
- **Ventura County Arts Council** – will provide arts programming to the VYCF in the areas of music, poetry writing and visual art. Teaching artists will work inside the facility on an on-going basis, offering year-round arts instruction.

**AmeriCorps VISTA:** Under a competitive grant, the AmeriCorps VISTA project seeks to build capacity for volunteerism in communities while also building a collaborative culture of service within DJJ.

### Goal of Project

- To involve youth, staff, families, and volunteers to collaborate with DJJ to support youth currently incarcerated.
- Upon youth re-entry, provide community mentorship to youth, and identify individualized pathways toward self-sufficiency and honorable discharge upon release from DJJ.

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### AmeriCorps VISTA Members:

- AmeriCorps VISTA members build capacity in nonprofit organizations and public agencies to help them more effectively generate the commitment of private sector resources, encourage volunteer service at the local level, and empower individuals and communities.
- AmeriCorps VISTA members serve full time one-year terms.

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