



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

2019 MAR -7 AM 11:18

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Department Name: Probation  
Department No.: 022  
For Agenda Of: March 19, 2019  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Tanja Heitman, Chief Probation Officer (805) 882-3652  
Director(s)   
Contact Info: Brian Swanson, Probation Manager (805) 739-8606

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Submit Application for the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) Program

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to submit a grant proposal to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG), execute any subsequent Grant Award Agreement, and accept funding if awarded.
- B. Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

The Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) program was established by the 2018 Budget Act (Senate Bill 840, Chapter 29, Statutes of 2018) and a later related trailer bill (Assembly Bill 1812, Chapter 36, Statutes of 2018). This grant provides funds for the diversion of low-level and low risk youthful offenders at the point of their initial contact with law enforcement in order to reduce the number of youth who enter the juvenile justice system. The grant supports approaches which are evidence based, culturally relevant, trauma informed, and developmentally appropriate and is meant for communities

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

where the rate of racial/ethnic disparities is high, within an already high rate of juvenile arrests. Ninety percent of awarded funds must be passed through applicant local governments/lead agencies to non-governmental/community-based organizations; services must then be performed in the identified communities where there are high rates of juvenile arrests. The Probation Department, in partnership with the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA), a local community-based organization (CBO), recommends the submission of a grant proposal to the BSCC to create diversion services county-wide for youth who, without these alternatives, would likely enter the juvenile justice system. The Department would be lead agency on this proposal, and would receive 10% of awarded funds to coordinate this effort with local law enforcement agencies, partner agencies, and CBOs. The Department will then pass through the remaining 90% of funds awarded to CBOs for services provided under the grant.

**Background:**

Over the last two decades, continued research in the field of juvenile justice has shown that traditional responses to juvenile offenders, including arrest and incarceration, are not effective. Ideally, youth should be diverted at the earliest possible point and to the greatest extent possible, to avoid drawing youth deeper into the justice system. This has resulted in an evolution of the juvenile justice and juvenile probation best practices, since youth on probation often experience a higher rate of recidivism than youth who were diverted without formal contact with the juvenile court. In addition, ongoing research has highlighted the need for developmental approaches to supervision; youth have often experienced trauma, which alters their coping mechanisms in adolescence, and their brains do not mature until their late teenage years or early adulthood. Treatment for juveniles must therefore be conscious of these issues, and should not be identical to the methods used for adults. Juvenile services should focus on developmentally appropriate evidence-based interventions, and should identify and build on existing strengths. Diverting youth also decreases the possibility of exposure to negative influences within the juvenile justice system.

There is a need for a broader base of diversion services in Santa Barbara County, which will enable the County to continue transforming juvenile justice practices. The YRG offers an opportunity to establish these services in partnership with CBOs and local law enforcement. If the County is a successful applicant, the Department and partner agencies would continue to evaluate the program's effectiveness during the July 1, 2019 through February 28, 2023 grant period.

On February 19, the Probation Department submitted a Letter of Intent to the BSCC indicating our intention to submit a proposal for the YRG. The Department has subsequently worked with CADA to develop a draft proposal for diversion programs which would function as alternatives to arrest and incarceration, and avoid further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Proposal development is still underway and the completed proposal must be submitted to BSCC by March 29, 2019. This proposal will outline proposed diversion services for low-level juvenile offenders, particularly those who are first-time offenders and those with certain misdemeanor charges. Law enforcement, probation, and education partners may divert youth into programs and services which will not require the involvement of the juvenile justice system, but will instead rely on case management by CBOs such as CADA, to work with youth and families and change at-risk behaviors. CADA will track and report outcomes on this population as part of their work under the grant.

**Performance Measure:**

Outcome measures under development for this grant proposal may include but not be limited to: reduction in the number of misdemeanor arrests in the county; a further reduction in the number of misdemeanor youth on probation; and a low rate of recidivism for youth referred into diversion services provided under the grant.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State		\$ 363,636.00	\$ 1,333,333.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ 363,636.00	\$ 1,333,333.00

**Narrative:**

The Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) requires a 25% match. The Probation Department intends to apply for a \$1,000,000 grant to be expended over the 44 month grant period which begins July 1, 2019. The match requirement totals \$333,333 over the grant period which will be funded by unspent prior year Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds. The total project costs including grant and matching funds is \$1,333,333. There will be no funding in the current fiscal year and if awarded the Probation Department will take action to include the funds in the Department’s FY 2019-20 budget.

**Staffing Impacts: None**

**Legal Positions:**  
0

**FTEs:**  
0

**Special Instructions:** Please return two (2) Certified Minute Orders to Michael Cameron, Fiscal Manager, Probation Department, 117 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

**Authored by:** Deputy Chief Probation Officer Holly Benton