



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of
Supervisors

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Defender
Department No.: 023
Agenda Date: December 17, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Tracy M. Macuga, Public Defender 805-568-3494
TM Macuga
Contact Info: Deepak Budwani, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
805-568-3589
SUBJECT: The Regents of the University of California Agreement for READY Research and Evaluation Services for FY 2023-27, and Data Transfer and Use Agreement for FY 2023-27

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: No

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chief Public Defender or designee to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with The Regents of the University of California, for the provision of University of California, State Barbara (UCSB) research and evaluation services for the Holistic Reentry, Early Access, and Diversion for You (READY) project under Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Grant Agreement No. BSCC 1216-23, for a maximum contract amount not exceed \$154,000 for the period of June 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026 (Attachment A);
- B. Delegate to the Chief Public Defender or designee the authority to suspend, delay, or interrupt the services under the research and evaluation Agreement for convenience and make immaterial changes to the Agreement, respectively, without altering the maximum contract amount and without requiring the Board’s approval of an amendment of the Agreement, subject to the Board’s ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time;

- C. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chief Public Defender, or designee, to execute a Data Transfer and Use Agreement with The Regents of the University of California to provide a limited data set for research purposes, for the period of June 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026 (Attachment B); and
- D. Determine that these activities are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that these activities are covered by the common sense exception that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that these activities may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to approve, ratify, and authorize the execution of the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with The Regents of the University of California, for the provision of grant evaluation services for the Holistic Reentry, Early Access, and Diversion for You (READY) project and all grant reporting and data analysis required by both the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Grant Agreement No. BSCC 1216-23 via the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP).

To provide the grant evaluation services for the READY project, UCSB will receive limited data set from the Public Defender. A limited data set is protected criminal justice and health information that excludes specific direct identifiers of the individual or of relatives, employers, or household members of individual. The Public Defender requires Board approval to execute a Data Transfer and Use Agreement that outlines the terms for the use, confidentiality, and secure storage of the project data. Approval of the recommended action will allow the County to contract with UCSB to provide research and evaluation for the County's READY project. As part of this grant, there must be data analysis completed by an outside vendor as well as quarterly reporting.

Background:

The READY project weaves together resources from the Public Defender, Probation, Good Samaritan Shelter, and local community-based organizations that specialize in areas such as life skills, job readiness, medical care, and other skills. The goal of READY is to provide an assessment of needs, connection to services, and representation at the earliest stage of a criminal case in addition to reducing the harm of pretrial incarceration for those well suited to be released from jail and diverted from the criminal legal system. READY will provide enhanced representation and connection for Santa Barbara County community members addressing disparities in the community. The BSCC through the JAG Grant along with the CCP provided funding to the County for the READY program.

On August 22, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved and authorized the Public Defender to execute the BSCC READY Grant Agreement (No. BSCC 1216-23), accepting \$715,000 for the County of Santa Barbara for the period of June 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026. As part of the grant requirements, the County must submit quarterly reports in a format prescribed by the BSCC describing progress made on the program objectives and included required data. Additionally, a Local Evaluation Plan was to have been completed by July 31, 2023, and a Final Location Evaluation Report must be submitted by December 31, 2026. The Public Defender has been in communication with the BSCC in regards to the Local Evaluation Plan and the efforts to complete it. There was not ample time from the County being selected to when the LEP plan needed to be complete to work out the logistics and workflow that would lead to the data collection needed for the Local Evaluation Plan. The department is working closely with UCSB for the past 14 months finalizing the details. The County will collect

and report all data for required quarterly progress reports, and UCSB will provide consultation with County at quarterly project meetings to maintain an understanding of the data collection procedures and updates.

In collaboration with the County, UCSB developed the Local Evaluation Plan. In the third year of the grant term, UCSB will conduct a qualitative study of the impact of READY on participants. This will involve qualitative analysis, and reporting results of the study. At the end of the project, County will provide UCSB with longitudinal data that UCSB will analyze for the final evaluation report.

Performance Measure:

The purpose of the Local Evaluation Plan is to ensure that projects funded by the BSCC can be evaluated. The Local Evaluation Plan describes the evaluation design or model to assess the effectiveness of the project component(s), with the project goals and the project objectives clearly stated. The Plan also addresses process and outcome evaluations.

Following project completion, the Final Local Evaluation Report must be completed by December 31, 2026. Within the Local Evaluation Report, an executive summary must be included that adheres to the format prescribed by the BSCC. The purpose of the Final Local Evaluation Report is to determine whether the overall project (including each individual component) was effective in meeting the goals laid out in the Local Evaluation Plan. To do this, the grantee must assess and document the effectiveness of the activities that were implemented within each individual project component. READY evaluations will address the following measurable program goals and objectives:

(1) Goal:	Reduce Recidivism for Adults Facing Criminal Prosecution.
Objectives	<p>A. 75% of clients booked into jail will meet with READY within 48 hours of booking.</p> <p>B. Time for resolution of cases will improve by 10% by June 2026.</p> <p>C. 80% of clients who meet with READY will engage in at least one evidence-based program with a community-based organization.</p> <p>D. The recidivism rate of READY clients who engage in at least one evidence-based program will decrease by 10% by June 2026</p>
(2) Goal:	Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities.
Objectives	<p>A. The overall pretrial misdemeanor average weekly jail population over a three-month period will decrease to 70% or lower, from the current rate of 80%, by June 2026.</p> <p>B. Rates of representation will be the same for clients of color as clients who are white.</p> <p>C. Rates of READY engagement and READY outcomes will be equivalent for clients of color as for clients who are white, taking into consideration the type of offense.</p>
(3) Goal:	Reduce Violence
Objectives	<p>A. 80% of clients engaged in READY will complete comprehensive intake and discharge assessments.</p> <p>B. Average jail days of READY clients who engage in at least one evidence-based program will decrease 10% by June 2026.</p>

	C. At discharge, 75% of clients will improve in the domain of drug abuse, as measured by the intake/discharge assessments Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI), a housing assessment, and a mental health screener.
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(4) Goal:	Improve Well-Being.
Objectives	<p>A. The rate of settlement at arraignment will improve 10% from the baseline by June 2026.</p> <p>B. 75% of clients engaged in READY will receive comprehensive treatment and support services through multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) for six months or longer.</p> <p>C. At discharge, 75% of clients will have improved employment and housing as measured by case managers.</p> <p>D. At discharge, clients will have higher scores on self-report protective factors (e.g., family satisfaction, mental health).</p>

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

The Public Defender is in compliance of all performance reporting.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No; recommend approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0010202.

Fiscal Analysis:

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	3-Year Total
Costs by Object Level				
Outside Evaluation-UCSB	\$48,200	\$47,500	\$58,300	\$154,000
Total Estimated Cost	\$48,200	\$47,500	\$58,300	\$154,000

Narrative: The above-referenced agreement for research and evaluation services for the READY project is funded by State grant funding from BSCC. UCSB will be providing external evaluation services for the READY project with the yearly budget equaling approximately 21% of the overall project (approximately \$48,200 in year 1), \$47,500 in year 2, and \$58,300 in year 3. The READY evaluator expenses are included in the FY 2023-24 adjusted and the FY 2024-25 adopted budget. There is no fiscal impact resulting from the Data Use Agreement.

Key Contract Risks:

UCSB’s deliverables under the Agreement will allow the County to meet the reporting requirements of the BSCC Grant Agreement. Failure to meet the prescribed reporting requirements could result in funding being withheld from the County.

As the grant was awarded to the Public Defender, staff worked with the Sheriff’s office and other parties on logistics and ensuring access to all the tools for grant operations. Access to the Sheriff’s Jail Management Information System (JMIS) system and space in the jail to be able to conduct the interviews was identified. Although the Local Evaluation Plan was not in place, the team has completed all the quarterly and invoice workbooks to ensure grant compliance requirements. Once the Local Evaluation Plan is finalized, staff will submit amended progress reports.

As part of the research and grant evaluation process, UCSB will receive a limited data set from the

County. UCSB and the County will enter into a Data Transfer and Use Agreement to mitigate risk and clearly outline the terms for use, confidentiality, and secure storage and distribution of the data.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no impacts to County staffing from this contract as the grant requires an external data analyst.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order to Deepak Budwani at dbudwani@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with the University of California, Santa Barbara

Attachment B: Data Use Agreement with the University of California, Santa Barbara

Attachment C: BSCC Grant Agreement, 2023 JAG Grant Agreement – Santa Barbara County
BSCC-1216-23

Authored by:

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