

County of Contra Costa
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 27, 2017

TO: PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

FROM: LARA DeLANEY, Senior Deputy County Administrator

SUBJECT: **Community Recidivism Reduction Grant (CRRG) Program**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. DIRECT staff on the utilization of the balance of CRRG funds in the amount of \$16,040.12 derived from the John F. Kennedy School of Law “Driver’s License Restoration Clinic” project.
2. CONSIDER allocating the funds to the Reentry Strategic Plan Update for additional community engagement/outreach efforts.

BACKGROUND:

In August 2014, the CAO’s office was notified by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) that the Budget Act of 2014 had allocated \$8 million to the BSCC for the Community Recidivism Reduction Grant, as described in Penal Code section 1233.10. Counties were eligible to receive funds if the Board of Supervisors, in collaboration with the CCP, agreed to develop a competitive grant program intended to fund community recidivism and crime reduction services, which County staff performed. On September 16, 2014, the Board of Supervisors passed item C. 51, confirming to the BSCC the County’s interest in receiving the funding, of which **\$250,000** was allocated to Contra Costa County.

Other requirements of the statute included:

“The board of supervisors, in collaboration with the county's Community Corrections Partnership, shall establish minimum requirements, funding criteria, and procedures for the counties to award grants consistent with the criteria established in this section.

A community recidivism and crime reduction service provider that receives a grant under this section shall report to the county board of supervisors or the Community Corrections Partnership on the number of individuals served and the types of services provided. The board of supervisors or the Community Corrections Partnership shall report to the Board of State and Community Corrections any information received under this subdivision from grant recipients.”

The Public Protection Committee directed the CAO’s office to develop a competitive process for distribution of the funding set at \$50,000 per region of the County (West, Central, East) for adult reentry services and \$100,000 for juvenile programs. The County Administrator’s Office, in

collaboration with the Reentry Coordinator, the Probation Department, the Reentry Network Manager, and the director of the West County Reentry Resource Center, developed the RFP and the process timeline.

RFP PROCESS FOR 2014 BUDGET ACT CRRG FUNDING

The RFP for the Community Recidivism Reduction Grant (CRRG) made available up to \$250,000 (\$50,000 per grant) to provide Community Recidivism Reduction Grants to nongovernmental entities to provide community recidivism, crime reduction and other reentry-related services to persons who have been released from state prison, a county jail, or a juvenile detention facility, who are under the supervision of a parole or probation department, or any other person at risk of becoming involved in criminal activities, in Contra Costa County, for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Proposals were received from the following organizations:

Adult	Region	Responder
	West	1 Bay Area Legal Aid
	West	2 Contra Costa Crisis Center
	West	3 Reach Fellowship International
	West	4 San Pablo Economic Development Corporation
	Central	1 John F. Kennedy University School of Law
	East	1 Rubicon Programs
	Central/East	1 Counseling Options and Parent Education Support Center, Inc.
Juveniles		1 Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)
		2 Contra Costa County Service Integration Team
		3 Monument Crisis Center
		4 Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center
		5 RYSE Center
		6 The Congress of Neutrals
		7 The Youth Intervention Network

Review Panels' Recommendations

The Review Panel recommendations for contract award were issued on April 17, 2015 and included:

Adult Services

Central County, \$50,000:

**John F. Kennedy University
College of Law**—*Establishment of a Probation Assistance Clinic in conjunction with the Contra Costa County Homeless Court, centered on driver’s license restoration.*

West County, \$50,000:

Reach Fellowship International—*Residential and Job Training Program for women of West County.*

East County, \$50,000:

Rubicon Programs—*Rental assistance in a Sober Living Environment (SLE) with career and financial coaching.*

Juvenile Services

Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)—\$50,000: *A program to engage juveniles in east Contra Costa County in a comprehensive program utilizing employment training and leadership development.*

RYSE Center—\$50,000: *Pre-release transition planning, technical skills training, and the creation of a social media application focused on youth reentry for justice-involved youth at the RYSE Center.*

At its May 11, 2015 meeting, the PPC reviewed the results of the RFP process and concurred with the Review Panel contract award recommendations. At its June 9, 2015 meeting, the Board of Supervisors authorized contracts (C. 125) for these service providers in the amount of \$50,000 each for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

BUDGET ACT OF 2015 CRRG FUNDING

At their August 10, 2015 meeting, Public Protection Committee (PPC) was notified of an additional allocation from the State of **\$125,000** to Contra Costa County in Community Recidivism Reduction Grants for fiscal year 2015-16.

Per direction from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC): “To afford maximum flexibility, if your county has already completed this competitive process with the FY 14-15 funding, counties may allocate FY 15-16 funding to those service providers who competed for the FY 14-15 funding, or counties may choose to initiate a new competitive process...The FY 14-15 funding as well as the FY 15-16 can be spent over four years after allocation of funding to counties. Any funds not used by a county or a service provider within four years will revert back to the state General Fund.”

At their September 14, 2015 meeting, the PPC directed staff as follows, essentially dividing the \$125,000 allocation evenly between adult (\$62,500) and juvenile (\$62,500) programs and utilizing the results of the initial RFP process to determine awards to service providers:

Approved with the following direction to staff:

Forward funding recommendations below to the Board of Supervisors for consideration:

Adult Programs: \$62,500 - Fund two proposals from the 2014 grant cycle that were unable to be funded at that time:

a. Bay Legal: \$31,250* - To fund free, expert attorney services that prevent homelessness, support family connections, ensure access to mental healthcare and alcohol and drug treatment, and public benefits programs to clients referred by the West County Reentry Success Center.

b. Contra Costa Crisis Center: \$31,250* - To fund the development and implementation of a Reentry Resource Web-based Icon Guide for reentry services in Contra Costa County.

Juvenile Programs: \$62,500 - Increase existing service provider contracts in the following denominations:

a. Bay Area Community Resources (BACR): \$31,250 - Continue program to engage juveniles in East Contra Costa County in a comprehensive program utilizing employment training and leadership development.

b. RYSE Center: \$31,250 - Continue pre-release transition planning, technical skills training, and the creation of a social media application focused on youth reentry for justice involved youth at the RYSE Center.

*Note that these amounts were added to the organization's existing AB 109 Community Programs contracts, rather than developing stand-alone contracts for the CRRG funding.

CRRG RESULTS

As required in the budget act, each county who receives Community Recidivism Reduction Grant funding must report on two specific data sets for each service provider: the types of services provided and the number of individuals served. This information is required to be reported on an annual basis on January 31 until the final reporting date of January 31, 2019 (for FY 14-15 funding) and January 31, 2020 (for FY 15-16 funding).

The reports that CAO staff have submitted in compliance with this requirement are included in Attachments A and B.

At this time, staff is seeking direction from the PPC on the utilization of the balance of funds from the \$50,000 allocation to John F. Kennedy University, School of Law. After the conclusion of the Driver's License Restoration Clinic, which was initiated in the fall of 2015 and ended after the summer session in 2016, there was a balance of **\$16,040.12** remaining on the contract.

Basically when someone goes to Homeless Court in this county, usually all of their traffic tickets obtained in this county are waived. But many people may have tickets in other counties that prevent them from getting their license. The JFK Clinic was tasked with 1) providing some education prior to Homeless Court aimed at prevention – “know your rights for next time the person gets a traffic ticket,” and 2) meeting with people as they exit Homeless Court to get their DMV print out and walk them through what tickets remain in other counties, connect them to resources in those counties and help them create a plan for addressing those tickets. Because JFK did not charge for “Administrative Support” and other nonpersonnel expenses anticipated in the contract, a balance of funds remains at the conclusion of the contract.

Staff recommends that the PPC consider allocating the balance of the funds to the Reentry Strategic Plan Update project, to increase the community engagement/outreach efforts in the development of that Plan. The Reentry Strategic Plan Update is being prepared by Resource Development Associates whose \$60,000 contract is funded by a federal Smart Reentry grant. These additional funds will allow for additional community forums under that contract.

Attachments

Attachment A – CRRG Data Reporting Spreadsheet FY 14-15

Attachment B – CRRG Data Reporting Spreadsheet FY 15-16