



## Chief Probation Officers of California

### Officers

*President*  
**Chief Mary Butler**  
Napa County

*President Elect*  
**Chief Jim Salio**  
San Luis Obispo County

*Treasurer*  
**Chief Terri McDonald**  
Los Angeles County

*Secretary*  
**Chief Stephanie James**  
San Joaquin County

*Legislative Chair*  
**Chief John Keene**  
San Mateo County

*Past Presidents*  
**Chief Steve Bordin**  
Butte County

**Chief Michael Daly**  
Marin County

**Chief Mark Varela**  
Ventura County

**Chief Mark J. Bonini**  
Amador County

*Bay Region Chair*  
**Chief R. Ted Baraan**  
San Benito County

*Central Region Chair*  
**Chief Kelly Zuniga**  
Kings County

*North Region Chair*  
**Chief Jeffrey Bosworth**  
Sierra County

*Sacramento Region Chair*  
**Chief Marshall Hopper**  
Placer County

*South Region Chair*  
**Chief Steven J. Sentman**  
Orange County

---

*Executive Director*  
Karen A. Pank

*Deputy Director*  
Rosemary Lamb McCool

*Legislative Director*  
Danielle Sanchez

August 25, 2017

Mary Jolls  
Deputy Director  
Corrections Programs and Grant Planning Division  
Board of State and Community Corrections  
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833

### **Subject: Title II Grant Public Comments**

Dear Ms. Jolls,

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) wishes to submit our comments below in response to your request for comment for strategies to be included in California's Title II grant application to the federal government. CPOC is a statewide association representing California's 59 Probation Chiefs who are responsible for the supervision and rehabilitation of approximately 400,000 juvenile and adult offenders.

The purpose of Title II grants mirror probation's fundamental mission which is, in part, to divert at-risk youth from entry and further penetration into the juvenile justice system. When successful, the entire community benefits from the work of probation, not just the youth and his or her family. During the most recent funding cycle four probation departments received Title II grant awards which provided funding for activities such as aftercare and reentry as well as alternatives to detention.

For the next four-year cycle one of the core areas CPOC would like to see California's Title II grant emphasize is alternatives to detention. CPOC believes funding for these alternatives should be evidenced-based and broad allowing grantees to develop strategies within this scope which are responsive to the unique characteristics and needs of their local youth. Below we provide more specifics on our proposal.

***Alternatives to Detention*** – Programs funded in this area would focus on expanding programming and services for youth who are more appropriately served in the community. Activities and/or programs funded would include, but not be limited to: utilization of assessment tools to determine appropriate supervision/program needs; alternative to detention programs in the community such as restorative justice programs; family and youth engagement; mental health and/or substance use services; gender specific services; and combatting racial and ethnic disparities.



Over the last ten years the juvenile justice population in California has declined, similar to nationwide trends. However, what California Probation Chiefs have observed is an increase in the acuity of needs youth referred to the juvenile justice system are presenting. This requires an ability to have an array or continuum of services at the county's disposal in order to be able to respond to the unique needs any one youth may present. More of California's youth have mental health and/or substance use needs. We also know that youth questioning their biological gender identity or identifying as lesbian, gay, transgender or bisexual are marginalized and are more likely to find themselves at-risk and in need of prevention/intervention services that can afford them assistance during a difficult period in their young lives.

Therefore, strategies focusing on alternatives to detention allow for local communities, including probation departments, to be responsive to the needs of their youthful population. For these reasons we strongly encourage the Board of State and Community Corrections to include Alternatives to Detention Strategies in their Title II grant application to the federal government.

Respectfully,

Karen Pank  
CPOC Executive Director