

Youth Reinvestment Grant Cohort 2 (July 2020 - June 2023)

Proposal Abstracts (in alphabetical order)

Applicant: AMAAD Institute¹

Project Title & Request Amount: Project ROAR (Restoration Outreach Advocacy & Resiliency) (\$599,029)

Proposal Abstract: The AMAAD (Arming Minorities Against Addiction & Disease) Institute's philosophy, mission, and background make the organization uniquely qualified to specifically facilitate youth diversion activities for the identified priority population. As a boutique entity, the organization's mainstay activities include peer-based essential support services to connect a broad range of coordinated HIV and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) prevention, care and treatment resources. AMAAD's services include strength-based one-on-one counseling sessions, personalized resiliency planning, recovery management services, support groups, leadership development, transitional housing, HIV service navigation, and prison/jail reentry counseling, and follow-up.

With this proposal, the AMAAD Institute seeks to implement *Project R.O.A.R.* (Restoration Outreach Advocacy & Resiliency) which has these goals: 1) To reduce Black LGBTQ youth contact with criminal justice system; 2) To improve behavioral health outcomes of Black LGBTQ youth; and 3) To create a peer-based leadership network to challenge and motivate Black LGBTQ youth to become engaged in positive community activities. *Project R.O.A.R.* will also de-stigmatize the concept of mental health and substance use disorder and other behavioral health issues. This priority population is significantly more likely to have lived through adverse childhood experiences, experienced individualized and systemic racism and homophobia, experience barriers to employment, housing, social services, and other basic needs, are often low-income or underemployed, and chronically have less access to healthcare - all of which cause and/or lead to trauma that they may not understand about themselves. *Project R.O.A.R.* is the culturally relevant and meaningful set of youth diversion activities that are currently missing from the community landscape.

Applicant: Asian American Recovery Services²

Project Title & Amount: Pacific Islander Voices, Outreach, & Transformation (PIVOT) (\$317,427)

Proposal Abstract: Asian American Recovery Services, a program of HealthRIGHT 360 (HR360/AARS), will provide Pacific Islander (PI) middle school students (grades 6 to 9) in San Francisco and San Mateo counties with trauma-informed and culturally responsive behavioral health services to prevent future involvement in the juvenile justice system. Services provided through PIVOT will include a community-defined promising practice called Transforming Our Attitudes (TOA). In addition to TOA, all participants will be

¹ Recommended for partial funding if \$13.5 million is available.

² Recommended for full funding if \$13.5 million is available.

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provided with at least two case management sessions from bicultural staff that mirror the target population; the need for further case management (CM) services will be identified using the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI). CM drop-in hours will also be provided three days a week, from 3 pm to 7 pm. Referrals to this program will come from schools, local collaborative partners, and parents in existing HR360/AARS programs.

Applicant: Centinela Youth Services³

Project Title & Amount: CYS Restorative Justice Diversion (\$1,999,765)

Proposal Abstract: Centinela Youth Services (CYS) has delivered effective trauma-informed, culturally competent, and developmentally appropriate intervention, diversion and intensive case management services for an average of 1,200 Los Angeles youth, annually, since 1995.

The CYS-RJD will deliver its proven pre-arrest and juvenile justice system diversion services for referred Los Angeles County youth between the ages of 12 and 18. Preventative diversion services will be provided for police-referred youth between the ages of 9 and 11 who may no longer legally be arrested. Youth will be referred by CYS's police agency partners in underserved high need communities in eight Los Angeles Police Department divisions, two Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department station areas, and the Hawthorne and Inglewood Police Department catchments. Evidence of need in each TA includes the numbers of juvenile arrests, arrest data indicating R.E.D. in arrest decisions and/or determination of eligibility for diversion. In two TAs there is urgent need to address new incidences of school and justice authorities' regression away from diversion and return to categorical mandates for youth arrests, citations, and adjudication.

CYS will serve TA youth referred at all entry points, with priority on preventing arrest. CYS and its 12 TA partners will reduce the numbers of youth entering the juvenile justice system through referrals of at least 450 youth to diversion annually, totaling 1,350 over three years. Of referred youth, at least 315 youth will enroll in diversion services annually, and 945 youth will be served over three years. Case plans will be based on validated assessments and youth and family priorities. Tier I interventions include Counseling and Referral Services (CARS) intake, assessment, facilitated service access, family services navigation and coordination of restorative justice services; Families Able to Resolve Situations (FARS) family-teen mediations; and Victim Offender Restitution Services (VORS) between youth and those their actions have harmed. Tier I services will meet the needs of at least 250 youth annually, and 750 total. Tier II services will additionally provide intensive clinical case management for at least 65 youth with complex challenges, annually, and 195 total. R.E.D. reduction strategies will integrate arrest data analysis and implicit bias/R.E.D. retraining with each partner to catalyze consistent use of non-subjective criteria for youth arrest or diversion decisions.

³ Recommended for partial funding if \$13.5 million is available.

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Applicant: Community Action Board of Santa Cruz⁴

Project Title & Amount: Luna y Sol Familia Center (\$1,200,000)

Proposal Abstract: **Need:** Despite comprising about only half of court-aged youth (10-17), in 2019, 66% of all bookings in the juvenile detention facility and 72% of the juvenile probation cases were Latinx. Furthermore, in 2019, on average 51% of youth in confinement in SCC were from the county's southern region that encompasses the city of Watsonville. To prevent the continued involvement of youth of color in the justice system, system partners and community-based organizations must work collaboratively to prevent and divert youth from the juvenile justice system. **Target Population:** The primary target population will be south county Latinx youth, predominately males, ages 12-17 who are at risk of justice system involvement (prevention cohort) or are justice system involved (diversion cohort). Additionally, services will be provided to families including parents/guardians and younger siblings. **Program Description:** Santa Cruz County Luna y Sol Familia Center will offer 'off ramps' for youth who are at risk of system involvement or are system involved through culturally and developmentally responsive and family and youth centered programming. Services for youth will be focused on five areas: Basic Needs; Wellness; Education; Economic Opportunities; and Community Engagement/Leadership. Services for families will be focused on four areas: Basic Needs; Parenting Workshops; Economic Opportunities; and Community Engagement. The overarching evidence-based and promising frameworks that will be used include: Family Systems Theory; Youth Developmental Assets; and Restorative Justice Practices. **Goals:** 1) Improve youth wellbeing through prevention and diversion from juvenile justice system. 2) Increase family (parent/guardian) capacity to support their children. 3) Build Community Based Organizations and Probation/Justice System capacity and align with existing county youth efforts to meet the prevention and diversion needs of Latinx youth and families. **Request:** The Santa Cruz County Luna y Sol Familia Center, led by Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County Inc., requests \$1,200,000 to provide a trauma-informed, culturally and developmentally responsive community model of care that will prevent and divert Latinx youth from contact or further involvement with the youth justice system.

Applicant: Community Works West

Project Title & Amount: The Restorative Justice Diversion Project (\$1,923,469)

Proposal Abstract: Community Works (CW), in collaboration with the District Attorney's Offices (DAOs) in Alameda and San Francisco counties, seeks \$1,923,469 to increase referrals and enhance our pre-charge restorative justice diversion (RJD) programs in Alameda and San Francisco counties that have been operational since 2008 and 2013, respectively. RJD is an effective intervention to reduce youth incarceration, recidivism, racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, and related social and fiscal

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costs. CW will also use this funding to establish the nation's first regional network of RJD implementers and serve as the central communication hub between the respective DAOs to improve interagency communication, service access, and program outcomes. The goal of this collaboration is to ensure youth in the San Francisco Bay Area's participating counties have the option of participating in RJD regardless of their county of residence or arrest.

Our pre-charge RJD programs will divert youth who have been arrested for felonies and serious misdemeanors, and where there is a clearly identifiable person harmed. Youth are referred to the programs by the Alameda and San Francisco DAOs and law enforcement agencies in Alameda County. Referred individuals are connected to a multidisciplinary team to address their whole-person care needs and participate in a restorative community conference, which involves a dialogue among those affected by the harm. Through this dialogue, the responsible youth take accountability for the harm they caused and develop a concrete restorative plan in collaboration with all affected parties, including the victim. The DAO declines to file charges upon completion of that plan. The programs will divert 315 youth away from the justice system over the three-year grant.

A 2017 study of CW's current Alameda County RJD program found a 44% reduction in recidivism and a 91% participant satisfaction rate. Recidivism rates of Black and Latinx youth who went through the program were drastically lower compared to the control group (baliga, 2017). There is also significant cost savings when using this model: the average one-time cost for resolving a case through RJD is approximately \$4,500 per youth, compared to \$23,000 for one year of probation (baliga, 2017); when youth are incarcerated, the cost increases precipitously to \$370,000-\$490,000 per youth annually (Tucker & Palomino, 2019). Through this grant, a robust process and outcome evaluation of the proposed RJD programs will be conducted by Impact Justice's Research & Action Center.

Applicant: Creative Build

Project Title & Amount: Invest in our Youth (\$599,655)

Proposal Abstract: Creative Build Inc. is committed to designing, implementing, and operating supportive internships for 120 youth in under resourced neighborhoods of Compton (Years 1 to 3) and Oakland (Year 3), with a focus on working with young African American men.

Partners include employers in the fields of financial services, multi-media production, the arts, and community services. Trained mentors from the community will serve as job coaches and life coaches, and Creative Build will develop a phone based application for data collection and analysis.

In year one, we are working with the Compton Unified School District to set up a referral and assessment system for youth at risk of school failure and criminal justice involvement; training mentors in the evidence based practices of Life Skills, Motivational Interviewing, Social Emotional Learning, and Job coaching. Mentors also receive training in Leadership

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and Brain Development/neuroscience to understand the effects of trauma and violence on youth cognitive and emotional development.

Referrals will also come from the grass roots, community based agencies familiar with the families and youth they serve. A comprehensive assessment will be done to select those youth who are the highest risk of entering the juvenile justice system, and who would benefit most from program services.

In addition to paid internships where youth earn money and learn job skills, we plan activities to engage and motivate youth, including field trips to learn from members of the Los Angeles Urban League about career opportunities, to community colleges to learn about pathways to higher education and technical training options, and we have partnered with an NFL-funded program that brings together off duty police, professional players, and participating youth in football games and mentoring. We have rewards and incentives for youth, and plan youth-led community events to celebrate their work with the community.

Working with the National Prevention Science Coalition's researchers, we will track and monitor outcomes and impacts with both a quantitative and qualitative evaluation. Our goals are to divert youth from initial contact with the system, or re-contact with the system, and to refine a model of youth engagement that can be replicated in Oakland and in other areas of California.

Applicant: Flintridge Center⁵

Project Title & Amount: Youth of Promise Diversion Program Expansion (\$1,081,042)

Proposal Abstract: The proposed project will serve Los Angeles County youth (ages 11-18) at high- risk of initial or continued justice involvement. The project has an emphasis on youth in Northwest Pasadena due to the intense, community-identified disparities impacting youth at high-risk of justice involvement. The project aims to increase community collaboration to reduce the number of youth involved in the justice system. Flintridge Center's Youth of Promise (YOP) diversion program provides a continuum of evidence- based, trauma-informed services to prevent youths' initial or continued involvement with the justice system. In 2019, Flintridge established a formal partnership with LA County and the Pasadena Police Department to expand YOP services to receive pre-arrest and police diversion referrals. YOP also receives referrals from service providers and community entities. Modeled off of the success of formal police and pre-arrest diversion model, the project will formalize existing community-led and service referral diversion with project partners Harvest Village Ministries (HVM) and Live Above the Hype (LATH). HVM and LATH facilitate life skills sessions, which provide an opportunity to identify youth both pre-and post-incarceration who may need a higher level of services. HVM will deliver life skills and outreach sessions at Pasadena's John Muir High School and Pasadena High School (PHS), both Title 1 schools located in Northwest Pasadena to youth at-risk for justice involvement with no prior contact. LATH will provide outreach and life skills sessions

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to currently and/or formerly incarcerated youth at Central Juvenile Hall and in LA County Community Schools. As youth are identified, partners will conduct a warm hand-off referral to Flintridge's YOP program. The project will also expand YOP program components under the goal of increased youth engagement in diversion programs. Expanded YOP components include: 1) An annual Outward Bound Adventures outdoor education trip. 2) Quarterly substance use workshops with partner Day One. 3) Quarterly healthy relationships and teen dating workshops with partner Shepherd's Door. Flintridge Center is experienced in managing grants from the BSCC, including both financial and data responsibilities. Life skills sessions supported through the project will reach over 500 youth annually; 25 appropriate youth will be referred to the YOP annually by LATH and HVM. In total, 100 youth annually will receive comprehensive services through the YOP diversion program.

Applicant: Interface Children and Family Services

Project Title & Amount: Interface Youth Diversion Partnership (\$1,143,391)

Proposal Abstract: Interface Children & Family Services (Interface) is requesting \$1,143,391 for a new Youth Diversion Partnership to serve a minimum of 235 Oxnard at-risk youth, a majority who are Latinx, and prevent them from streaming to Probation and the juvenile justice system. This program is a collaboration between Interface, the Oxnard Police Department (PD) and the Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA), and will engage law enforcement, the school system and Probation for referrals and provide evidence-based programs in assessment, case management and counseling.

In the development phases of this partnership, Interface collaborated with local youth engagement officers, juvenile probation division managers, community-based organizations (CBOs), Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) and the Oxnard School District management. Through this community engagement and outreach it was determined that Oxnard area youth, specifically on school campuses, are those in most need of a diversion program to reduce the disproportionate number of Latinx youth entering into the juvenile justice system.

In order to address this need, Interface and its partners have designed a three-tier system for pre-charge diversion that uses proven, evidence-based practices for assessment, treatment and community referrals to assist youth in developing coping skills, improve their emotional and behavioral health, and prevent further engagement with law enforcement. These interventions will result in fewer youth receiving citations and decreasing the number of youths being referred to Probation, thereby reducing the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

The Youth Diversion Partnership (YDP) was designed specifically to take advantage of the collaborative nature of Ventura County agencies and build upon the work of the JDAI Collaborative and the update of the Juvenile Justice Plan. A robust evaluation plan will be integrated into the program, ensuring quality assurance and continuous quality improvement. Staff will track participant progress through pre- and

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post-tests, monitor and evaluate the evidence-based practices for fidelity, and perform case reviews quarterly. Results will be used to determine program effectiveness, implement program adjustments (CQI) and inform decision-making to support program sustainability.

Applicant: Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade, Black United Fund

Project Title & Amount: Proud to be Me Trauma-Informed Youth Development Mentoring Program (\$1,200,000)

Proposal Abstract: For more than 51 years, the Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade, Black United Fund, Inc. (Brotherhood Crusade) has served low-income South Los Angeles County communities with a mission of improving quality of life for disenfranchised and otherwise underserved individuals. In 2005, after conducting and reviewing an extensive series of needs assessments, the organization commenced development and implementation of its nationally-acclaimed Proud to be Me trauma-informed, trauma-responsive youth development program model. Five years later, Brotherhood Crusade intensified its efforts by focusing on diversion and recidivism prevention in response to the tremendous need to reduce the number of youth experiencing initial or continued negative contact with law enforcement. In the years that followed, Brotherhood Crusade refined its program and eventually became a pioneering innovator, thought leader and practitioner in trauma-informed youth diversion and development. In the last 10 years, the organization has reduced recidivism rates of more than 800 12-18 year old Black males on probation from a Los Angeles County average of 83% to less than 3% and simultaneously prevented in excess of 500 10-17 year old youth who presented with 75% or more of the risk factors that cause youth to engage in delinquency and enter the juvenile justice system from initial or further negative contact with law enforcement. The success of Brotherhood Crusade's Proud to be Me program is predicated on the model's highly-intentional focus to: (1) identify & address unresolved issues of trauma; (2) facilitate mindset change in a culturally-relevant, age-appropriate way that causes youth to care about others' success, aspire to their own success, and eschew any behavior that causes harm to someone else or derails their personal pursuit of success; and (3) work with youth to develop and implement a viable life course plan.

Given this success, Brotherhood Crusade has been asked to expand its programming to across four school districts as well as to Los Angeles County's in-camp and out-of camp probationary youth within the next three years. This project serves to both facilitate that expansion as well as to create a proof of concept model that can be replicated or used to inform trauma-informed youth diversion and development efforts statewide and ultimately dramatically reduce the number of youth who are at-risk of system involvement, experiencing negative juvenile justice system contact.

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Applicant: Outward Bound Adventures

Project Title & Amount: Environmental Studies Expeditions Diversion Program (\$490,314)

Proposal Abstract: Outward Bound Adventures' (OBA) Environmental Studies Expeditions Diversion (ESED) program provides 216 high-risk youth-from LAGRYD in Watts, Peace4Kids Foster Youth agency in South Los Angeles, and Dorothy Gibson County High School's Special Education program in Ontario-access to effective diversion and paid workforce training programming that will help them develop new, appropriate social and life skills while reducing antisocial behaviors. Using a small cohort format and the wilderness as the classroom, each course of this sequential, outcome-based, trauma-informed program is designed to teach participants and their families how to become more resilient, altruistic, socially responsible, and healthier, while increasing their sense of self esteem and self-mastery.

ESED's program focus is to teach youth how to identify and remove themselves from the multi-generational, social cycle of powerlessness that results from poor communication, lack of conflict resolution skills, the feeling of being controlled, and lack of purpose. Our ultimate goal is to provide youth with the tools that franchise them into the daily conversations and decisions that directly impact them, and engage them in settings that redirect their focus towards much bigger issues that serve to create purpose and value in their lives.

ESED is a year-long experiential program that encompasses three courses, each course is designed to challenge youth to acquire progressively higher levels of personal and social responsibility: 1) ESED begins with an overnight camping program that involves the entire family; 2) Teens are divided into 6 cohorts of 12 to begin their series of 3 thematic outdoor education courses that focus on personal development, community building, understanding the natural world, and accessing career pathways in conservation. The expeditions range from 1-day outings to 9-day hiking and camping adventures. Each trip has a curriculum and assessments based on NGSS; and 3) Youth are transitioned into our Environmental Restoration Teams (ERT) program. ERT provides youth with paid work-learning opportunities in restoration and conservation projects in coordination with land management, conservation, and public utility partner agencies. Youth will be in the ERT program for 6 months.

Applicant: San Diego Youth Services

Project Title & Amount: TAY WORKS! (\$599,793)

Proposal Abstract: TAY WORKS! as offered by San Diego Youth Services (SDYS), will provide a comprehensive six-month work-readiness and on-the-job training project to ninety (90) youth ages 15-18 who are receiving prevention or diversion services through an existing County-funded juvenile delinquency prevention program, Community Assessment Team (CAT) or Alternatives to Detention (ATD). Services will be provided within the East Region of San Diego County, an area that includes zip codes with high numbers of youth served by County Probation (479 wards and 178 non wards supervised

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in 2016), and disproportionate representation of African American youth. Project goals are to: A) Divert TAY WORKS! participants from initial or repeat engagement with the juvenile justice system. 8) Improve the capacity and motivation of employers to be part of TAY WORKS! as a comprehensive juvenile diversion and youth development initiative. C) Increase connectedness of TAY WORKS! participants to supportive caring individuals as a protective factor to prevent behaviors that are associated with justice engagement.

TAY WORKS! will integrate new workforce readiness, peer mentoring and on-the-job training with existing service coordination and case management (*intake, assessment, creation of youth-driven individualized service plans, linkage to services and resources*), and behavioral health services (*individual and group counseling and crisis intervention*) offered through CAT and ADT Programs. A trauma-informed, positive youth development approach will be used throughout the program, including innovative employer trainings, utilization of Peer Mentors (youth ages 18-24) with similar lived experience, as well as work-readiness trainings (8 x 4 hour sessions) and customized OJT (8-10 weeks, total of 80 hours). Five cohorts of 15 youth will be recruited and complete the project during the grant period, a 6th cohort will complete the project after the grant period has ended. Engagement in the program will be voluntary. The program's theory of change is that the knowledge and skills developed through the program (i.e. self-efficacy, self-regulation, decision-making), combined with improved connections will build resiliency, better health and reduce recidivism. The project will be developed, implemented and evaluated in partnership with San Diego Workforce Partnership, County of San Diego Probation Department, University of San Diego Nonprofit Institute and numerous local employers.

Applicant: Sharefest⁶

Project Title & Amount: Youth Leadership Academy – Diversion Program (\$600,000)

Proposal Abstract: Sharefest's Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) was launched in 2007 at the urging of the Watts Gang Task Force. Today, the YLA provides academic and prosocial development programming to 400+ youth ages 11 – 18 years old in the South/Harbor region of Los Angeles, which has extraordinarily high rates of violent crime, poverty and poor educational outcomes. The YLA operates exclusively in LAUSD Continuation High Schools – which serve students at greatest risk of dropout – and feeder Middle Schools. Among our students, more than 50% have been involved in the criminal justice system or have a parent who has been incarcerated, or both. Most have experienced trauma and face systemic barriers to upward mobility that are linked to justice system involvement. With YRG funding, we propose to expand and extend the YLA as follows:

1. Increase from four to five Continuation High Schools. We currently operate at Avalon (Wilmington), Angel's Gate (San Pedro), Patton (Harbor City), and Simon Rodia (South Gate/Watts). In 2020-21, we seek to add Moneta Continuation High School in Gardena.

⁶ Recommended for full funding if \$13.5 million is available; recommended for partial funding if \$8.7 million is available.

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We will offer three credit-eligible courses per school per semester, along with weekly mentoring and college/career planning.

2. Add individual case management, family engagement, linkage to mental health and additional services, and additional mentoring support for youth who are at greatest risk of involvement in the justice system. A full-time Case Manager will provide intake, assessment, individualized program planning and implementation support for students most at-risk for justice system entry and/or recidivism.

3. Build out the Middle School program so that it serves as early diversion for youth demonstrating behavioral difficulties, including additional mentoring and peer mentoring, and prosocial bonding experiences. Students will be from Dana (San Pedro), Dodson (Rancho Palos Verdes), Harry Bridges (Wilmington) and Wilmington Middle Schools.

Outcomes will include both traditional measures of academic success and measures described in the Mobility from Poverty framework (www.mobilitypartnership.org), which address the root causes of youth involvement in the justice system. YRG funds will leverage a grant from the California Community Foundation's Ready2Rise program, which is funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Probation.

Applicant: Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management⁷

Project Title & Amount: Restorative Youth Justice (\$2,000,000)

Proposal Abstract: The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (The Center) proposes evidence-based strategies for youth diversion for a target population of 240 predominantly youth of color ages 10–17 who are at risk for juvenile justice system involvement. In our target areas, most youth served will be boys of color, especially African American (AA) youth. We plan services in seven Sacramento neighborhoods that experience the greatest disparities in AA youth system involvement: Arden Arcade, North Sacramento/Del Paso Heights, Fruitridge/Stockton Boulevard, Meadowview, North Highlands/Foothill, Oak Park, and Valley Hi, as well as an eighth site, Rancho Cordova.

Project activities will result in system changes (MOUs with law enforcement, restorative justice in schools); youth and family services (mentoring, tiered services, behavioral health therapy); and increased capacity (use of technology for mentoring and case management) to divert at-risk youth from the juvenile justice system. The proposed diversion services address gaps in mentoring, case management capacity, and trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy while complementing existing efforts to reduce community violence through prevention, intervention, and incident response. In each neighborhood, trusted community-based organizations with culturally relevant expertise, known as *community incubator leads* (CILs), deploy targeted policy and service strategies that benefit all county children. Community Intervention Workers (CIWs) at the CILs provide tiered services: Tier 1 supports focus on social justice and youth development (life skills, mentoring, enrichment, healthy development, trauma-informed care); Tier 2

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provides more targeted education, mentoring, and family services; and Tier 3 has more intensive interventions (critical mentorship, trauma-informed counseling, culturally rooted healing).

This project will expand localized wraparound supports at the eight sites with a dedicated Diversion Case Manager at each site connecting youth and families to community resources, mentoring programming to support community healing, and connected resources for pre-arrest diversion. Behavioral health therapists, deployed regionally, will provide culturally rooted, trauma-informed care for higher need Tier 3 and Tier 3 youth. The programmatic interventions will be supported by technology platforms.

Applicant: Tarzana Treatment Centers

Project Title & Amount: Youth Empowerment Project (\$899,769)

Proposal Abstract: Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (TTC) will implement the Youth Empowerment Project, an evidenced-based, trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and developmentally appropriate (YEP) diversion program for low-income, primarily Latino, youth ages 12-18 in the San Fernando Valley (SFV) of Los Angeles County (LAC) who are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system for the first time or for a subsequent contact. Most youth will be referred from one of more than a dozen Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) school sites where TTC has existing behavioral health or substance use prevention programs as well as through LAC Probation Department and Juvenile Drug Treatment Court. The project will address the high juvenile arrest rate in the SFV and the lack of community-based diversion services. Key project activities include the following: 1) *Onsite Screening, Intake, and Assessment:* TTC will coordinate with participating schools and agencies to offer on-site weekly screening, intake, and assessment for referred youth who have been identified as eligible for diversion services in lieu of arrest or citation. TTC will assign a full-time Diversion Case Manager to the program and will develop regularly scheduled hours at each campus or service site to facilitate enrollment into the program in collaboration with school/agency staff and parents; 2) *Intensive Case Management:* TTC will provide intensive strengths-based case management services to all enrolled youth. Each youth will be assigned a Diversion Community Health Worker (CHW) who will serve as a critical link between the youth and the community, ensuring that they receive all needed services as identified in their Empowerment (Service) Plan. The CHW will work collaboratively with youth and their families to address their needs and to achieve their service goals, referring and linking them to a range of services at TTC or in the community through TTC's extensive community provider network. 3) *Cognitive-Behavioral Group Therapy:* TTC will offer a cognitive-behavioral group intervention (Moral Reconciliation Therapy) designed to improve youths' decision-making and moral reasoning capability. Youth can enter the intervention at any time and be incorporated into an existing group of youth who can serve as mentors to new participants. TTC expects to screen 75 youth in Year 1 and 100 in Years 2 and 3 for a total of 275 youth screened; of these, at least 50 youth will be enrolled in Year 1 and 75 youth in Years 2 and 3 for a total of 200 unduplicated youth provided diversion services under this grant.

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Applicant: Voices for Children

Project Title & Amount: Juvenile Justice Program (\$299,863)

Proposal Abstract: Through the Juvenile Justice (JJ) CASA program, Voices for Children (VFC) provides an evidence-based, trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate intervention to divert youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement from initial contact and to prevent further involvement. VFC recruits, trains, and supervises Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers who advocate on behalf of youth who have committed minor, nonviolent offenses and are involved in, or at risk of involvement in, the juvenile justice system. Of the youth currently enrolled in VFC's JJ program, 85% are involved in the juvenile justice system, 15% are dependents of the San Diego County foster care system. Ninety eight percent (98%) of children served by VFC's Juvenile Justice Program also have a history of abuse, abandonment, or neglect with a history of child welfare services referrals. JJ CASA volunteers are assigned to the case of a single youth and spend an average of 10-15 hours a month with their youth, connecting youth with prosocial activities, mental health and other trauma-informed services and supporting their academic achievement. Through court advocacy and individualized guidance, CASAs ensure that youth complete probation requirements thereby reducing recidivism and initial contact with the juvenile justice system.