

### Youth Justice Reimagined – Phase 1 funding proposal

On November 24, 2020, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to launch a five-year plan to implement the recommendations of Youth Justice Reimagined (YJR), and directed the CEO's office to identify \$75 million for a reserve fund by winding down of juvenile Probation.

In the FY 2021-22 budget, the CEO allocated an additional \$17.3 million in one-time funding to the division of Youth Diversion and Development (YDD),<sup>1</sup> bringing their full budget to \$26.1 million, to expand youth diversion countywide and restart the planning process with the Youth Justice Advisory Group. This falls far short of the Board's original goal of \$75 million. Allocating on-going funding for diversion expansion is necessary; however, Phase 1 of YJR included more than just planning and expansion of diversion. Phase 1 also calls for \$55 million to go to community-based organizations to fund not only county-wide diversion, but also school-based support, re-entry, credible messengers, and peacebuilders. These additional strategies are necessary to break the strong links which remain between schools and the criminal justice system. And, funding robust wrap-around supports for re-entry youth and youth on Probation supervision is a proven strategy to reduce recidivism which has not received adequate funding. The need for resourcing these supports is even more urgent, as young people have faced huge academic, economic, and mental health challenges as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

#### Funding Proposal Summary (Descriptions Below):

Title	Strategy	Ongoing Funding Requested	Administrator
Youth re-entry support	Fund community-based re-entry support for youth exiting camp dispositions, DJJ, and juvenile hall, and/or youth who are on probation supervision. To serve approximately 1,000 youth.	\$13,650,000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Administrator
School-based youth development	Fund community-based youth development services in schools with highest rates of youth arrest and supervision. To serve 3,000 – 3,500 youth.	\$21,000,000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Administrator

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<sup>1</sup> Chief Executive Officer Fesia A. Davenport. "Recommended Adjustments to the 2021 -22 Recommended County Budget to Reflect Various Changes and Authorization to Execute Funding Agreements." June 28, 2021. Accessed at: <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/159069.pdf>

### Funding youth development and re-entry services

Based on existing research and provider experience in youth development, we base funding proposals on the following costs to provide a continuum of youth development services, informed by decades of experience of Brotherhood Crusade:

Population focus	Cost per youth for one year of services
At-promise youth and/or youth living in under resourced neighborhoods with highly impacted by the justice system	\$6,000
Youth with early contact with the justice system (diversion youth)	\$8,300 <sup>2</sup>
Youth transitioning from incarceration (re-entry youth) and youth on active probation supervision	\$13,000

The County’s Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council provides solid estimates for how many youth in LA County are in need of these services (See below).<sup>3</sup> The numbers below demonstrate that there is a great need in the County; therefore, it should be noted that this funding proposal will only serve a small fraction of the youth in need.

Target Population	Estimated Numbers <sup>21</sup>	Continuum of Youth Development services	Service categories (discussed further in the sections below)
Pre-system connected/at-promise youth	706,147	Primary Prevention	-Behavioral Health Services -Education/Schools -Employment/Career/Life Skills
Youth with initial and early contacts with law enforcement	10,000	Focused Prevention/Early Intervention	-Socio-emotional supports -Housing -Parent/caregiver support
Probation youth	4,054	Intervention	-Arts and recreation

### Third party administrator

Community-based providers have consistently reported significant barriers to contracting with County departments, especially smaller organizations. As the County works to expand YDD and build a new Department of Youth Development, the County can assure CBO’s are funded to provide these essential services through a third-party administrator, such as through a public-private partnership with a foundation. Recently, the Measure J Advisory Committee recommended a significant portion of Measure J funds be administered through a third party, meaning the County will have to build greater capacity to administer funding through third parties. The Measure J Education Access and Youth Development subcommittee passed guiding principles for the third-party administrator, including prioritizing funding

<sup>2</sup> This aligns with the diversion funding needs outlined in *YDD Report back for Phase 1 of Youth Justice Reimagined*

<sup>3</sup> “County Of Los Angeles Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan.” Fiscal Year 2021-2022. [http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/probation/1103652\\_FY2021-22CMJJPJCCAdopted-JJCC12-3-20.pdf](http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/probation/1103652_FY2021-22CMJJPJCCAdopted-JJCC12-3-20.pdf)

for zip codes disproportionately impacted by the carceral system and an advisory board of impacted community members which includes young people to guide funding decisions.

We recommend aligning the selection of a third-party administrator with these guiding principles. In addition to youth and adults with lived-experience with the justice system, funding decisions should be informed by community-based providers with a proven track record of successfully working with the target population of youth.

### **Youth Re-entry Services - \$13,650,000**

Community-based re-entry services are a key component of assuring young people can successfully transition after incarceration to prevent further involvement with the justice system. Youth who have experienced incarceration and youth on probation supervision are even more likely to have system involvement later in life than “diversion” youth, those with early contact with the justice system. For this reason, funding wrap-around re-entry services for all youth is an essential strategy to prevent future contact with the justice system as these young people become adults.

- While more information is needed, members of LA Youth Uprising (LAYUP) have consistently tried to identify juvenile probation funding going to community-based re-entry services. After reviewing available public documents, LAYUP was only able to identify about \$1.3 million in LA County funding going to CBO’s for youth re-entry:
  - Youth Offender Black Grant (YOBG) funds - [Camp Community Transition Program](#) - \$2,420,315 total. Of this full amount \$2,124,21 Probation Salaries and Benefits and **only \$285,125 goes to CBO’s** (Jewish Vocational Services, Asian Youth, and Soledad Enrichment Action) for education and vocational services. While this report is from 2018, YOBG funding does not seem to change dramatically from year to year.
  - Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act fund (JJCPA) - FY 2019-20 - **\$1 million** in JJCPA growth funds to GRYD for community-based in reach and re-entry services
- Funding should be prioritized for organizations which employ formerly incarcerated individuals for the management and delivery of services, as well as for violence intervention organizations working with youth.
- Funding could also support capacity-building for CBO’s, if identified as a need, and should be guided by the advisory committee of impacted community members and Youth Justice Advisory Group
- Based on the cost of providing robust services to re-entry youth described above, this proposal would fund **re-entry services for approximately 1,000 youth and includes 5% for administrative overhead.**
- This proposal is for on-going funding in order to build and sustain a robust Youth Development Network (as described in YJR), but the funding mechanism can be revisited once the Department of Youth Development is established and has sufficient capacity to oversee and coordinate the resourcing of youth re-entry services
- Funding allocations should be additionally informed by and coordinated with the Youth Justice Advisory Group
- Funding should not go through the Probation Department or any other law enforcement agency

## **School-based youth development support - \$21,000,000**

So often, youth involvement in the justice system results from school push-out, school discipline, and school-based arrests, oftentimes starting at a young age. Million Dollar Hoods found that Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) made 3,389 arrests and issued 2,724 citations from 2014 to 2017, one in four of these arrests was of a middle or elementary school student.<sup>4</sup> COVID 19 has presented even greater challenges for school attendance and academic achievement.

- The Youth Justice Work Group, who created YJR through a 10-month collaborative process, recognized the need to change these patterns in schools to reduce youth contact with the justice system and set youth up for a successful future
- They also recognized mentors such as credible messengers (people who come from a similar background and who have lived experiences in the justice system), and Peace Builders (also credible messengers, but with training in conflict resolution and community violence reduction) as an important part of providing effective, culturally rooted school-based supports for youth at greatest risk of contact with the justice system
- Funding should be prioritized for support in schools with the highest rate of youth arrest and probation supervision
- Funding could also support capacity-building for CBO's, if identified as a need, and should be guided by the advisory committee of impacted community members and Youth Justice Advisory Group
- Based on the cost of providing robust services to at-risk youth and/or youth in neighborhoods most impacted by mass incarceration described above, this proposal would fund **school-based youth development services for 3,000 – 3,500 youth and includes 5% for administrative overhead**
- This proposal is for on-going funding in order to build and sustain a robust Youth Development Network (as described in YJR), but the funding mechanism can be revisited once the Department of Youth Development is established and has sufficient capacity to oversee and coordinate the resourcing of school-based youth development services
- Funding allocations should be additionally informed by and coordinated with the Youth Justice Advisory Group
- Funding should not go through the Probation Department or any other law enforcement agency

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<sup>4</sup> <http://milliondollarhoods.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Policing-Our-Students-MDH-Report-Final.pdf>