

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

DATE: September 11, 2014

**SUBJECT: Funding Recommendation for the Federal Title II
Formula Block Grant Monies Focused on
Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.)
within the Juvenile Justice System. Requesting Approval.**

AGENDA ITEM: K

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

RESOURCE

PERSON: Shalinee Hunter, Field Representative
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Summary: This agenda item requests approval of grant awards for the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.) grant funding as recommended by the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) and Executive Steering Committee (R.E.D. Subcommittee). This is a four-year grant program using approximately \$1 million in Title II Formula Block Grant Funds.

Background: For states to receive the Federal Title II Formula Block grant funds, they must comply with four Core Requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). The first three mandates are addressed in California Statute; however, the fourth requires states to address any disparities in the decision-making processes within the juvenile justice system that impact youth of color.

The SACJJDP, R.E.D. Subcommittee and BSCC have been working to reduce racial and ethnic disparities by implementing an Initiative comprised of incentives for Probation Departments interested in bolstering their efforts to ensure a fair and effective justice system locally.

The R.E.D. Subcommittee (which includes 12 subject matter experts) historically has served as the Executive Steering Committee for overseeing the development and implementation of the Initiative including administering the Request for Proposal processes (RFP) and other pertinent tasks. At the September 2013 SACJJDP meeting the SACJJDP approved the R.E.D. Subcommittee as the ESC (absent those members recusing themselves in alignment with BSCC protocol) to examine lessons learned from the previous direct service Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) grant. The ESC developed grant proposal eligibility and program requirements, as well as criteria for rating the merit of proposals aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionality.

For this solicitation the goals and objectives address several prioritized themes. These themes include the emphasis on community engagement as a lynchpin to improved outcomes, the intersection between the reduction of implicit bias and the data-driven decision-making, and lastly, the application of principles that focus on enhancing correctional practices while still allowing for innovation.

Additionally, the ESC determined BSCC staff should provide outreach and training focused on assisting county probation departments with understanding how closely aligned their goals are with the R.E.D. Initiative (i.e. ensuring the appropriate youth are detained, reducing recidivism through

community engagement, ensuring a fair system is in place, minimizing costs to the County, increasing community partnerships, etc). To that end, technical assistance calls were made to the leadership of specifically targeted probation departments that have not applied in previous years. Additionally, three regional trainings on reducing racial and ethnic disparity were provided to probation managers and staff throughout the state.

The development of this solicitation tackled the challenging issue of setting a threshold for funding consideration and caps for small, medium and large counties as follows:

- 50% of 300 of the proposal's total possible points or more will be considered for funding; and
- Small counties may apply for up to \$150k, Medium up to \$200k and Large up to \$250k

The RFP was released May 19, 2014 and notification of the solicitation was sent to all Probation Departments. On July 14, 2014 BSCC staff received the applications, and on July 22 and 23, 2014 the ESC members were provided rater training and subsequently established the attached funding recommendation. The grant period commences October 1, 2014 and ends September 30, 2018 with an annual re-application and contingent upon congress allocating the funds.

As previously mentioned the total amount available is \$1,000,000 and approximately \$697,940 was requested. The remaining dollars will go back before the SACJJDP for development and allocation that best suits the funding focus. Each of the four applicants seeking awards may need to make slight revisions to their budgets in alignment with state and federal requirements. To that end, SACJJDP and the ESC requests conditional Board approval allowing for BSCC staff to facilitate appropriate changes to the budget before contractual commitments are made final. The final Title II Formula Grant Fund recommendations is attached (attachment A) and before you today for your consideration.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

Staff is requesting conditional Board approval of the SACJJDP and ESC's recommendations for grant awards as identified in Attachment A for the R.E.D grant. The conditional approval is contingent upon staff's negotiations with the four applicants to ensure each budget aligns with federal and state fiduciary constraints.

Attachment:

- A. Title II Formula Grant Fund - funding recommendations.