



Office of the District Attorney Alameda County

Ursula Jones Dickson
District Attorney
da.alamedacountyca.gov

The Proposition 47 Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act Grant Program Local Evaluation Plan

Title of Project:

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services
(C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program

Submitted by:

Alameda County District Attorney's Office

Prepared by:

Tara Anderson Tara.Anderson@acgov.org

Date: June 2, 2025

Grant Cycle: October 3, 2024, to June 30, 2028

Award Amount: \$6,000,000

Project Background

I. Project Need & Prior Work

As the seventh most populous county in the state of California with both urban centers and a significant footprint of unincorporated areas, Alameda County (“AlCo”) experiences complex and persistent challenges related to untreated mental health and substance use. These challenges are rooted in economic inequalities and the lack of safe and trusted alternatives to arrest for law enforcement and the community at large.

Economic inequalities in AlCo disproportionately impact access to care. According to the Alameda County Public Health Department, over the past four decades, income has been increasingly concentrated among fewer individuals with the median net worth of White households about 19 times that of Black households and 18 times that of Latino households (AlCo Public Health Department, 2012). This means for every 1 dollar of wealth owned by the typical White family, the typical Black family had 5 cents and the typical Latino family had 6 cents (AlCo Public Health Department, 2012). As identified by the ACDAO, this economic inequality and urban displacement has created an environment that is primed for extremely vulnerable populations to experience homelessness and become impacted by the criminal justice system. Moreover, these factors continue to be linked to criminal incidents referred for review to the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office (“ACDAO”) year to year.

Annually, the ACDAO receives approximately 20,000 incidents resulting in arrest from over twenty-two law enforcement agencies for review. According to the ACDAO case management system (RD3), from 2019 to 2023 just over 6,700 (5,477 people) incidents of misdemeanors and other C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center qualifying crimes alleged under PC 242 Battery, PC 484 Petty Theft, PC 602 Trespassing, PC 594 Misdemeanor Vandalism, PC 647 Loitering, HS 11364 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and HS 11550 Under the Influence of Controlled Substance, were presented to the ACDAO for review. More specifically, of those in 2023 there were 668 police incidents submitted to ACDAO for review involving 639 people. In addition, while the jail population has decreased post-COVID, the average length of stay for the sitting jail population has increased from 218 days in 2019 to 321 days in 2021, an increase of 42 percent (Still & Ware, 2023). On average Misdemeanor charge releases comprised 41 percent of releases and had an LOS of just under 2 days. This group comprised an average of 48 beds on any given day in the jail in 2021 (Still & Ware, 2023). Diverting these individuals with short lengths of stay directly to services in lieu of jail bookings is optimal and cost

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

effective. Both the frequency of police incidents referred and the percentage of the jail population potentially eligible for services indicate a clear need for more Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.). Navigation Center Diversion Program services.

Over the last decade, ACDAO has led advancements to alternatives to prosecution and community-based solutions for reducing recidivism. This has included groundbreaking initiatives such as: Mentor Diversion Court – 2015, Early Intervention Court – 2017, Alameda County Justice Restoration Court - 2020, and in recent years the integration of the Community C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center, to allow law enforcement agencies to direct individuals with mental health or substance abuse issues as an alternative to imprisonment.

The ACDAO's existing C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program is supported by limited funds made available by the BSCC Proposition 47 Grant Program (Alameda County, Cohort III, 2023), with Alameda County Behavior Health serving as the lead agency for that investment. The C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center is currently located in the heart of West Oakland and operates in partnership with the Uncuffed Project Inc., a grassroots community-based organization. The current operational hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and primarily are only able to reach north and west county. The C.A.R.E.S. The C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center utilizes a Livingroom model meaning participants are welcomed into a fully ADA accessible home environment. Services currently provided include Intake and Assessment, Mobile Assessment and Transport, Connection to Mental Health Services and SUD Resources, Barrier removal and confirmation of connection to referred services post diversion. To date, only a small fraction of the referrals that are made to the ACDAO have been specifically from east and south county. The ACDAO has not been able to devote resources exclusively to support additional staff exclusively assigned to C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center efforts and advance supplemental support services.

Under this funding, the ACDAO is expanding on the successful early implementation of the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center to ensure the continuity of comprehensive interventions and to increase access to community based supportive services in underserved communities across AlCo.

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

II. Project Scope

The C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion model is an earliest phase intervention aimed at deflecting people from further engagement in the criminal justice system. The funded activities provide critical interventions that meet the balance of directing people toward the care and support they need while also holding them accountable for community harm. These activities are directed toward the target population of people aged 18 years and older throughout AlCo engaging in low-level crime associated with mental health and substance use, with additional targeted initiatives in south and east sections of the county.

III. Project Area

AlCo spans a geographically diverse 813 square miles and includes 14 incorporated cities and 9 unincorporated communities. AlCo has a robust transportation and commerce infrastructure including the fifth largest port in the country, approximately one (1) million daily commuter trips, and is home to Oakland International Airport serving approximately 15 million passengers a year.

AlCo is the seventh most populous county in California and is home to 1.6 million people who are 40.5% White, 34% Asian, 12% Black or African American, 1.0% Native American, 1.0% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Additionally, over 46% of the population speaks a language other than English, 33% are foreign born and 9.4% live below the poverty line. Furthermore, median household income in Alameda County varies dramatically according to the race/ethnicity of the householder, with non-Hispanic white and Asian median household income outpacing Hispanic/Latino and Black households by significant margins (American Community Survey, 2022).

III. Target Population

The planned expansion activities are directed toward critical intervention and effective alternative to incarceration strategies for people aged 18 years and older throughout AlCo engaging in low-level crime associated with mental health and substance use. Engagement with the target population is aimed at supporting mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and diversion programs for people in the criminal justice system, the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center model operates with a direct emphasis on programs that reduce recidivism for justice involved people.

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

IV. Eligibility Criteria & Determination of Services

Eligibility Criteria

ACDAO will develop updated offense type eligibility criteria that will consider pre- and post-arrest incidents, thus, determining the appropriateness of referral to the C.A.R.E.S. Diversion Program requires careful assessment of each individual. Ultimately, the ACDAO expects to reach 900 individuals, ages 18 and above, over the grant period. Having a Mental Health (MH) or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Need and justice involvement will continue to serve as key criteria.

Determination of Services

The C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program offers the following community-based support services: culturally competent assessment, intervention mapping, peer mentoring, educational and employment navigation and referral, benefits navigation and referral, and referral to permanent housing programs. Sources of Services. The distant position of the West Oakland C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center and the limited resources available to accept referrals and coordinate with law enforcement partners beyond north and west county, create obstacles for accessibility and ultimately impact the capacity to effectively refer individuals. The expansion activities include establishing a secondary community partner to support the design and implementation of a C.A.R.E.S. Center/Satellite Site and deploy additional mobile unit teams to aid in targeted interventions.

The proposed C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program builds upon several foundational concepts from the Cohort III pilot program to support target interventions that will lead to the greatest impact. The Referral Process, Risk/Needs Assessment, and Warrant Review are described in greater detail below.

Referral process. At present, there exist only two referral pathways, primarily via local law enforcement and secondarily through ACDAO identification and referrals. If successful in securing the BSCC funding, the C.A.R.E.S. Diversion Program will utilize an early identification and referral strategy to assess incoming cases, introduce alternate referral pathways rooted in community, and establish a referral procedure flow chart to provide guidance regarding when and how to offer the C.A.R.E.S. Diversion Program. Having clearly outlined eligibility criteria and referral process is essential to develop trust with referring law enforcement agencies. Critical to this effort is completing training on the referral process and further affirming the legal parameters that allow for

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

the authority to lawfully transport of referred persons to C.A.R.E.S. site. When combined these efforts instill trust, respect and legitimacy.

Risk/Needs Assessments. Timely, effective, and personalized care for individuals designated as eligible for the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program hinges on the central role of screening and assessment in their identification and treatment. Accordingly, the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program integrates a combination of responsive collaborative diversion planning and clinical practices to foster a safe and supportive atmosphere for clients. Upon arrival to the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center, clients are greeted by a peer support specialist who builds rapport with the client. A licensed clinician conducts a mental health and criminogenic risk/need evaluation to determine the appropriate level of services needed for the individual. A Clinician and the Peer Support Specialist then work together using assessment information to develop a Risk Reduction Plan (RRP). Once the plan is developed the staff in the Navigation Center conduct a multidisciplinary team (“MDT”) meeting including the Deputy District Attorney assigned to the Navigation Center, the Peer Support Specialist, and the Clinician. During the MDT, the Deputy District Attorney assigns the applicable level of diversion. After the MDT is complete the Navigation Center staff previews the plan with the guest and gains consent from the client to move forward with Diversion. Once the guest receives their RRP, with referrals, in many cases clients are transported to service providers same day. Guests may remain at the Center until 30-minutes before closing for additional respite and in order to deter same day re-engagement with law enforcement. All support services are voluntary.

Warrant Review. Critical to the assessment process is the role of the Deputy District Attorney (DDA) ensuring that any pending criminal cases are not an impediment to the recovery process for the individuals referred to the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center. A designated DDA is on call to screen individuals who may be better served into Collaborative Courts or other appropriate proceedings due to seriousness of other open pending serious criminal matters. This role serves as a bridge connecting or re-connecting the person to other system partners including their defense counsel and probation officer.

V. Project Goals and Objectives

The C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program relies on a comprehensive network of system and community-based partners aligned to connect people with mental illness and substance use needs to services. The C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center and related mobile activities aim to achieve several key goals and objectives.

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

The following three goals and objectives have been identified to measure program and participant success: 1) Improve early identification and referral processes for timely placement in C.A.R.E.S. Diversion; 2) Increase the capacity of the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Diversion Program focusing on a regional strategy to enhance accessibility and promote public safety; and 3) Interrupt the cycle of recidivism using evidence-based practices and data driven approaches.

Goal 1: Improve early identification and referral processes for timely placement in C.A.R.E.S. Diversion, with a focus on prioritizing restorative justice principles.

Objectives:

- A. Increase knowledge of suitable cases for C.A.R.E.S. Diversion Program
- B. Engage law enforcement agencies and community partners in identifying potential referral strategies and practices.
- C. Increase the use of data to Deflect, Defer, and Divert (3-D) eligible cases and participants.

Goal 2: Increase the capacity of the C.A.R.E.S. Diversion Program focusing on a regional strategy to enhance accessibility and promote public safety.

Objectives:

- A. Diversify CBO service types available at the C.A.R.E.S Navigation Center
- B. Increase access to culturally appropriate preventative care services across unserved/underserved communities (i.e., target geographical areas).
- C. Implement secondary C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center/Satellite Site.

Goal 3: Interrupt the cycle of recidivism using evidence-based practices and data driven approaches.

Objectives:

- A. Increase the use of data to identify evidence-based practice in prosecutorial decision making.
- B. Shift individuals at the highest risk to paths away from the criminal justice system.
- C. Divert individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

The criteria utilized to assess whether an individual participant has successfully fulfilled the program requirements remain under development. These are aligned with the program goals outline above. Currently, the following key benchmarks are informing this development are subject to change:

1. Participants choose C.A.R.E.S. Navigation services following detentions or arrests for qualifying misdemeanors when eligible and informed of the opportunity to receive those services and thereby avoid prosecution. Participants agree to be transported by law enforcement or C.A.R.E.S. Mobile Team (CMT) to one of the Satellite locations or Navigation Center.
2. Participant de-escalates at one of the Satellite locations or Navigation Center and engage with a peer support specialist/case manager to identify social-economic barriers impacting the individual and identifying community resources to mitigate challenges.
3. Participant participates in an assessment with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Certified Substance Use Disorder Counselor to identify mental wellness challenges and/or Substance Use concerns affecting the individual and relevant referrals and community resources to assist in their immediate crisis.
4. Participant and C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Team discuss Diversion decision and a Risk Reduction Plan highlighting referrals, community resources, family support and next steps for individuals.
5. Follow-up on each participant based on the diversion decision: Defer: 1-day, 5-day and 3-week follow-up to determine engagement with services. Divert A: 1-day and 30-day, 6-month and 1-year follow-up to track progress with treatment plan.

Project Logic Model

The C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV builds off the process and outcome evaluation components established as a part of the Prop 47 Cohort III LEP established in partnership with RDA Consulting. While program activities are distinct between cohorts, this adaptation of the evaluation is critical to the fidelity of the program and commitment to continuous process improvement. The specific Inputs/Resources, Activities, Outputs, Outcomes, and Impacts are outlined in detail in the logic model below.

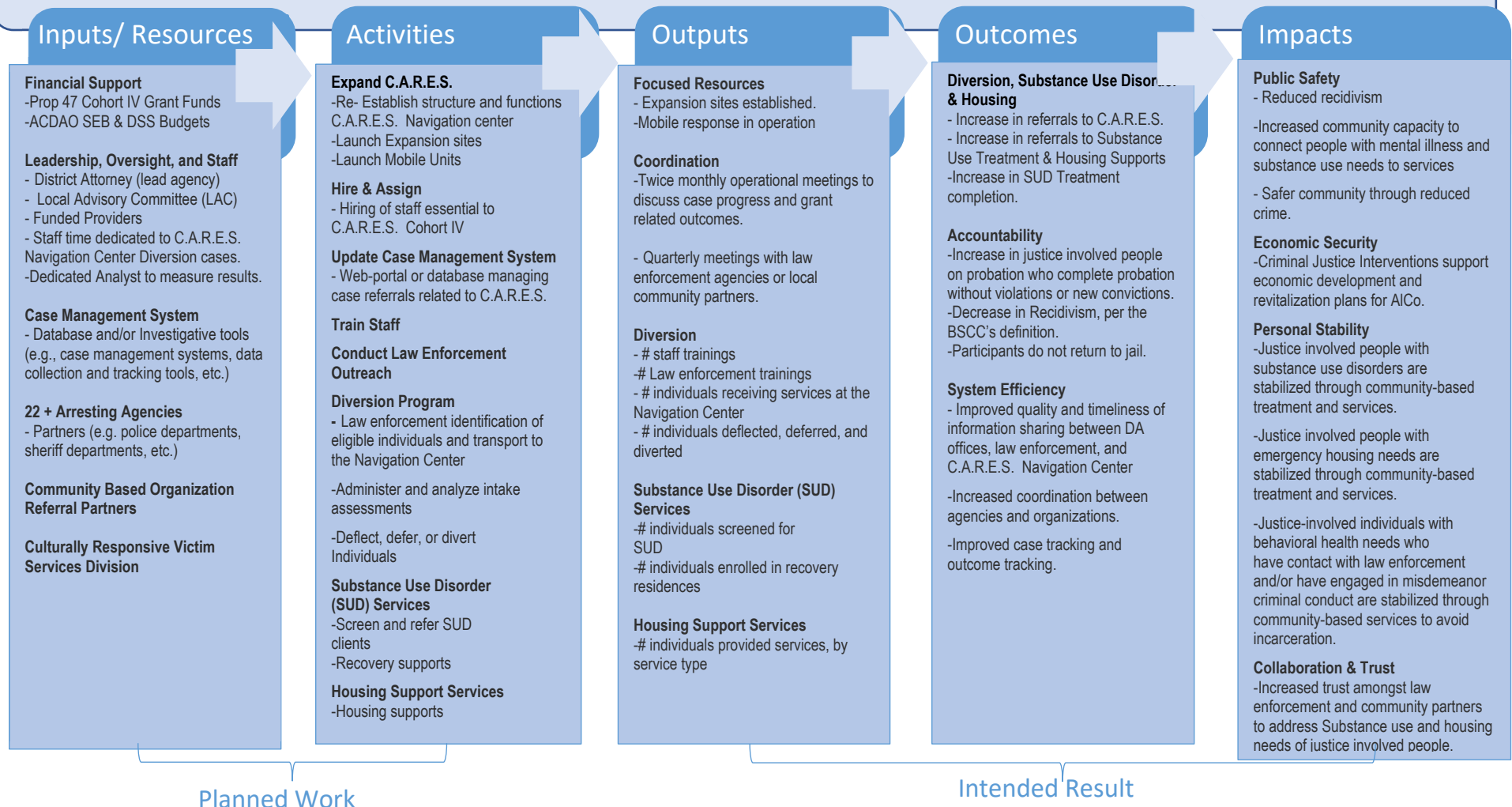
Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Alameda County District Attorney's Office Logic Model:

Goal 1: Improve early identification and referral processes for timely placement in C.A.R.E.S. Diversion.

Goal 2: Increase the capacity of the C.A.R.E.S. Diversion Program focusing on a regional strategy to enhance accessibility and promote public safety.

Goal 3: Interrupt the cycle of recidivism using evidence-based practices and data driven approaches.



Process Evaluation Method and Design

I. Process Evaluation Research Design

The evaluation will utilize a mixed-methods approach including both quantitative and qualitative elements. Quantitative results may demonstrate trends in referrals to C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Services from law enforcement arresting agencies and prosecutors, and service referrals. Qualitative data will also yield insights about the challenges associated with expansion of the program model. Further qualitative data can help explain trends in behavior change through diversion. As a part of qualitative data collection C.A.R.E.S. staff team members, funded Community Based Organizations (CBOs), law enforcement and community partners will be interviewed to determine strengths and challenges associated with expanding the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program. This is discussed in greater detail in Section II. The process evaluation deliverable will be the final report as required.

II. Process Data Collection & Analysis

The ACDAO has set a quarterly regular reporting schedule to document project activities and track client progress. The quarterly reporting schedule mirrors the BSCC reporting schedule. The BSCC Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) metrics in part cover many of the reporting variables included the process evaluation quantitative metrics. While the LEP metrics are more expansive it is desirable to keep these quantitative metrics on the same reporting timeline, as follows.

Quarter	Reporting Period	Internal Due Date
1	October 3, 2024, to December 31, 2024	February 15, 2025
2	January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025	May 15, 2025
3	April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025	August 15, 2025
4	July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025	November 15, 2025
5	October 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025	February 15, 2026
6	January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026	May 15, 2026
7	April 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026	August 15, 2026
8	July 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026	November 15, 2026
9	October 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026	February 15, 2027
10	January 1, 2027, to March 31, 2027	May 15, 2027
11	April 1, 2027, to June 30, 2027	August 15, 2027
12	July 1, 2027, to September 30, 2027	November 15, 2027
13	October 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027	February 15, 2028
14	January 1, 2028, to March 31, 2028	May 15, 2028

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

The regular internal reporting of C.A.R.E.S. process data allows the ACDAO assigned data analyst, who serves as the 'Data Coordinator' the opportunity to,

- Assess data reliability and validate data collection methods.
- Confirm adherence to the fidelity of the C.A.R.E.S. program model.
- Receive feedback from staff and agency partners to ensure the metrics tracked the tools used are user friendly and efficient.

The grant assigned data analyst is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the data being submitted and these procedures also ensure data accuracy for all metrics reported to the BSCC.

The process measures are focused on the inputs and activities as outlined the logic model. The specific measures are designed to address the following questions about C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center expansion.

1. To what extent have each of the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program expansion activities been implemented as intended?
2. Is C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program reaching the target audience identified by Alameda County?
 - a. What barriers or challenges were encountered in providing C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program services to this population and how were these addressed?
3. To what degree are the agencies and organizations overseeing and implementing C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program successfully communicating and coordinating with each other to support implementation?
4. Have C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program reflected use of evidence-based practices (EBPs) and alignment with the BSCC grant's guiding principles? Examples include:
 - a. Use of healing strategies and trauma informed care
 - b. Culturally competent services and approaches that foster restorative justice principles
 - c. Use of diverse staffing, including those impacted by the justice system.
5. To what extent has community engagement been incorporated in the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program planning and implementation process?
6. Has the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program been effective in supporting capacity building for service providers to meet the needs of Prop 47 individuals?

Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV

7. Are clients receiving services through C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program satisfied with the services provided? What processes and services are perceived as effective and what areas are perceived as needing improvement?

The detail on the process variables and how they will be defined, measured, and collected are detailed in the following table. In addition, the related source of the data, unit of analysis and frequency of data collection are included in Table I.

Quantitative data and qualitative data will be used to achieve a cohesive understanding of the expansion of C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion and related programming. Data will be extracted from the ACDAO case management system and cleaned for analysis. Excel, R and Python are the likely analytical tools to be used for quantitative analysis. Outputs of the quantitative analysis will include descriptive statistics applied to the data on cases presented for review, ongoing investigations, case filings and case resolutions. In addition, participant data will be collected from the funded CBO partners.

The qualitative data will be collected through survey and interviews administered to several target groups. Surveys will be completed in partnership with CBO partners by C.A.R.E.S. Navigation participants and both survey and interviews will be conducted with the C.A.R.E.S. Staff, CBO partners, and referring law enforcement.

Like prior Prop 47 investments in AlCo, qualitative data will include: Experiences regarding how and why Prop 47 funded services impacted mental health stability, substance use, housing stability, and criminal justice involvement.

The qualitative data will be assessed to identify themes for system improvement. The collection of qualitative data will be focused on understanding the following topics:

- Effectiveness of identification, screening, and referral to C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Diversion programs.
- Fidelity to C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Model, including services delivered and staff competencies.
- Perceptions of service providers' cultural responsiveness and ability to provide services. Implementation successes and challenges.
- Participant satisfaction

Interviews will focus on: (1) successes, challenges, and lessons learned in identification, referral, engagement and (2) system coordination.

**Community Assessment Referral and Engagement Services (C.A.R.E.S.)
Diversion Program, Prop 47 Cohort IV**

Table I. Process Evaluation Quantitative Measures

Input/Resource/Activity/Output	Data Element(s)	Data Source(s)	Unit of Analysis	Frequency of Data Collection
Launch Expansion sites	# and Location of Expansion Sites	Funded Partner Reports	Address	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Launch Mobile Units	# of mobile units	Funded Partner Reports	VIN numbers, geolocation data	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Hire & Assign Staff	# of staff hired and assigned	Employment records	Project specific vacant job codes	Annually throughout duration of grant
Update Case Management System Web-portal or database managing case referrals related to CARES	# of and type of system upgrades	Funded Partner Reports & RD3 Case Management System	Date of upgrade	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Train Staff	# of staff trainings held	Training agendas, Team calendar	Trainings by training date	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Conduct Law Enforcement Outreach	# of roll call trainings, # of executive meetings	Training agendas, Team calendar	Trainings by training date	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Law enforcement and community partners refer 900 individuals to the Navigation Center over the entire grant period	# of referring Law enforcement agencies, # of community based referring agencies	Funded Partner Reports & RD3 Case Management System	Individual arresting or referring agency.	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
	# of individuals successfully referred	Funded Partner Reports & RD3 Case Management System	Police Incident Number paired with unique person identifier	Each time a referral is made. Review Quarterly by filed date.
	# of individuals who are referred who are not charged.# of individuals who are referred, by referral source.	Funded Partner Reports & RD3 Case Management System	Unique Participant ID and date of referral	Each time a referral is made. Review Quarterly by filed date.
Administer and analyze intake assessments	# of intake assessments started, # of intake assessments completed	Funded Partner Reports	Unique Participant ID and date of intake	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Participants Screened and Referred to SUD	# of referred persons identified treatment need, # referred to treatment	Funded Partner Reports	Unique Participant ID and date of screen	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Provide Recovery Supports	# of people who enter treatment program (by type of program)	Funded Partner Reports	Unique Participant ID and date of referral	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Participants Screened and Referred to housing Support	# of referred persons identified housing support need , # referred to housing support	Funded Partner Reports	Unique Participant ID and date of screen	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Provide Housing Supports	# of referred people who enroll in a housing program	Funded Partner Reports	Unique Participant ID and date of referral	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Oversight and engagement	# of LAC meetings attend by Staff and funded partners	Meeting agendas and minutes	Meeting count and staff count.	Quarterly throughout the duration of the grant.
Expand Funded Providers	# of Standard Services Agreements	Standard Services Agreements	Contract Number	Annually throughout duration of grant.

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

I. Outcome Evaluation Design

The outcome evaluation will focus on measuring the short- and long-term outcomes associated with participating in the expanded C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion program and the potential impacts of the intervention. Critical to understanding the impact of the funded expansion activities is measuring recidivism.

For the purposes of this outcome evaluation the ACDAO will utilize the BSCC definition for recidivism. Recidivism as approved by the BSCC Board is defined as conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction. For the purposes of this evaluation the triggering event marking the “release of custody” or “placement on supervision” is the date of referral to the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Diversion Program.

The ACDAO will conduct like group comparative analysis for determining whether recidivism rates and other outcomes are due to the project and not some other factor(s) unrelated to the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center. The key characteristics of people referred to the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center include lower level criminal conduct and mental health and/or substance use issues. To ensure that the comparison groups are as alike as possible the ACDAO will generate a like group comparison based on the time period of referral by crime type (based on eligibility criteria), local criminal history and basic demographics. The time period restriction will create a cohort model whereby people who were not referred to C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center but instead arrested and charged during the same time period would be in the comparison cohort to individuals referred to C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center during the same time period. Crime type and, criminal history and demographics will be used to further restrict the groups to ensure like person comparison. Critical to this design is access to reliable custody status data, to avoid including people in the comparison group who are in custody for the recidivism window. The ACDAO is actively working with system partners to obtain custody status data in a reliable and consistent form. A comparison to individuals who have

In addition, the ACDAO will monitor other subsequent contacts with the criminal legal system including but not limited to arrest, and supervision violations. While these measures are not recidivism as defined for the purposes of this evaluation, those touch points offer further understanding about how to improve eligibility criteria and referrals to services.

II. Outcome Data Collection & Analysis

ACDAO will continue to build on the impact analysis originally developed in partnership with RDA consulting to examine the outcomes and impacts of the C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center Division program expansion. The outcome evaluation will track several types of

outcomes as adapted from the Cohort III LEP. The questions examined will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Is C.A.R.E.S Navigation Center diversion expansion associated with:
 - a. Reducing recidivism for participants?
 - b. Stabilizing individuals in the target population with mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) issues by reducing symptoms and improving functioning?
 - c. Improving housing conditions?
2. To what extent is the system better able to meet the needs of the target population because of C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center diversion expansion?
3. Are the changes and programs implemented as part of C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center diversion expansion sustainable for the County?
 - a. If not, what are impediments to maintaining this change?

The outcome evaluation will use the measures in Table II on page 15 to examine the impact.

ACDAO will track project performance for all the sub-contractor(s)/sub-grantee(s) over time, including both implementation and impacts, for the implementation of C.A.R.E.S. Navigation Center programing. All data gathered and subsequent analysis will be used to inform and changes to policy and practice as appropriate.

Evaluation Reporting Schedule

Evaluation findings will be provided in the two types of report deliverables detailed below.

Annual Recidivism Reporting

As described above on page 13 the ACADO will utilize the BSCC definition of recidivism to provide recidivism data on an annual basis to the BSCC on or before June 30th of 2026, 2027 and 2028.

Final Local Evaluation Report (LER)

To determine project results and document definitive evidence regarding the project's efficacy and overall impact the ACDAO will submit the final LER will be submitted to the BSCC by June 30, 2028.

Table II. Outcome Evaluation Quantitative Measures

Outcome	Definition	Data Source(s)	Unit of Analysis	Frequency of Data Collection
Public Safety				
Decrease in Recidivism	Conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of completed intake. Using the offense date as recidivism date per BSCC guidelines.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Court Number by Case Resolution Type.	Intervals as set by the BSCC.
Increased community capacity to connect people with mental illness and substance use needs to services	Increase in partner agencies engaged with CARES, Increase in referral law enforcement, and Increase in geographical coverage of CARES.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Referring agency ID by type of agency and type of referral.	Quarterly
Diversion, Substance Use Disorder Treatment & Housing				
Increase in referrals to C.A.R.E.S.	Increase in number of referring agencies, Increase in number of people referred.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Participant ID, Agency Name	Each time a case is referred. Review Quarterly.
Increase in successful referrals to Substance Use Treatment	Increase in number of participants who enroll in treatment programs by program type.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Treatment status by type	Quarterly
Increase in successful referrals to Housing Supports	Increase in number of participants who report housing stability.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Housing status by type	Quarterly
Increase in durable/ actual connection to services.	Increase in reports that actual connection to service occurs.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Confirmation status by service type, and exit date and exit reason	Quarterly
Accountability				
Increase in justice involved people on probation who complete probation without violations or new convictions.	Referred people who complete an intake and are on current supervision do not violate or receive a new conviction.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Police Incident Report Number and Court Number	Quarterly
Participants do not return to jail.	Referred people who complete an intake do not return to jail.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	Custody status through the duration of participation	Quarterly
System Efficiency, Collaboration & Trust				
Increased coordination between agencies and organizations.	Increase in number of community partners, law enforcement, funded partners reporting satisfaction with program expansion.	Qualitative survey retrospective	Referring agency ID by type of agency	Three months post referral
Improved case tracking and outcome tracking.	Timely submission of data reports and participant updates.	Contractor Quarterly Reports to ACDAO RD3 Case management System	QPR number	Quarterly