

Proposition 47 Grant Program

Local Evaluation Plan

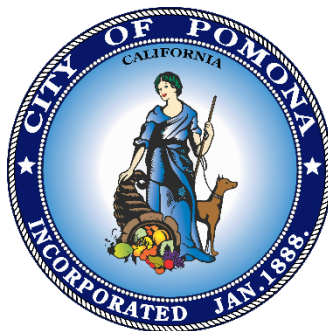
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City of Pomona

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4

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Project Background

In Los Angeles County, California, the City of Pomona grapples with a pressing concern: a burgeoning challenge with low-level crimes. Within Pomona's population of 151,338 residents, the period spanning January 2019 to December 2023 saw a staggering total of 13,833 incidents categorized as low-level infractions. These offenses paint a concerning picture of community safety. While individually considered minor, the cumulative impact of these crimes is far-reaching, reflecting a deeper societal issue that demands urgent attention and comprehensive solutions.

Moreover, the prevalence of low-level crimes in Pomona, such as vandalism (primarily tagging) and simple assault, serve as a precursor to more serious offenses, including violent crimes like homicides and non-fatal shootings. Between 2019 and 2022, Pomona's fatal and non-fatal shootings increased as vandalism and simple assault increased. Research suggests a correlation between low-level criminal activity and the likelihood of future involvement in more severe criminal behavior (Kylvsgaard, B., 2002). Addressing these low-level infractions proactively not only enhances public safety in the immediate term but also mitigates the risk of escalating crime rates and associated social consequences in the long run.

The program serves system-impacted individuals of all ages and genders residing in Pomona who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense and have a history of mental health or substance use disorders. This group is disproportionately affected by various social determinants of health, including racial inequalities, poverty, health disparities, family incarceration, and involvement in the criminal justice system. These factors perpetuate a cycle of disadvantage, disrupting familial stability, economic prospects, and overall well-being.

Upon release, formerly incarcerated individuals often face significant challenges transitioning back into society, particularly in the absence of sufficient community-based support. While some cities have implemented Community Collaborative Courts to provide services for low-level offenders, the City of Pomona does not currently have access to such a court. This lack of infrastructure places the burden of support on local community-based organizations, making this program a critical resource in bridging this gap. The program is designed to assist system-impacted individuals by offering trauma-informed, rehabilitative, and harm-reduction services that facilitate successful reintegration and prevent recidivism.

In addressing the challenges posed by the burgeoning low-level crimes in Pomona, it's crucial to acknowledge the limited availability of client-focused holistic programs for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. Pomona is served by only three organizations that offer comprehensive wrap-around services support to this population. Despite their valuable contributions, these organizations may face constraints in meeting the overwhelming demand for services, given the scale of the issue and the complexity of the needs involved.

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The paucity of resources intensifies the prevailing service disparities, constraining many individuals' access to vital support networks upon reintegrating into the community. Notably, our primary collaborator, God's Pantry (GP), currently operates with a year-long waiting list for enrollment in their comprehensive services. Insufficient availability of such wrap-around support could impede individuals leaving the criminal justice system from effectively addressing co-occurring issues like mental health disorders, substance abuse, housing instability, and barriers to employment. This shortfall heightens their susceptibility to recidivism, perpetuating the cycle of crime and incarceration. The objective of this grant is to bolster and extend these crucial services in the coming years.

Pomona acknowledges the importance of a multifaceted approach, integrating evidence-based strategies and community engagement to reduce offending and re-offending. The Office of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Wellbeing (OVP) plays a central role in providing tailored interventions to address criminal behavior. With grant support, Pomona aims to maintain and expand vital services such as mental health support, substance abuse programs, and youth diversion initiatives, enhancing accessibility and impact in the community. These interventions target the root causes of criminal behavior, mitigating the risk of incarceration and promoting rehabilitation. This grant will enable our key partner, God's Pantry, to continue offering culturally competent services to divert individuals away from criminal justice involvement including case management, life skill workshops, work development, legal assistance, family reunification, transformative travel, and restorative justice opportunities, along with comprehensive social services programs such as food distributions and transitional housing. God's Pantry staff meticulously monitor and document rates of participation in these services, as well as the attainment of significant milestones by program participants.

Housing assistance and workforce development programs mitigate involvement in criminal activity by providing stable housing and employment opportunities, fostering financial independence (Nally, J., et al., 2013). Tattoo removal services assist individuals in removing visible gang affiliations or criminal markings, facilitating their reintegration into society and reducing the risk of gang-related violence (Kremer, P., et al., 2020). Individual case management and domestic violence education enhance rehabilitation journeys and promote safer households (Hunter, S. B., & Huang, C. Y., 2014).

God's Pantry (GP) actively participates in the Los Angeles Superior Court's diversion program, where it has received more than 850 referrals over the past three years. These referrals come from various sources, including Parole Officers, the Pre-Release Prison Program, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and court-mandated community service programs.

Additionally, our Youth Diversion and Development Program (YDD) offers an alternative to incarceration for young offenders, prioritizing rehabilitation and skill-building over punishment. In collaboration with the Pomona Police Department (PPD), the YDD aims

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to steer youth away from the criminal justice system by empowering them with diversion programs designed to encourage better decision-making. In 2023 alone, over 18 youths were referred to this program, which bypasses both pre and post-booking processes. Upon successful completion, participants' cases are not filed with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office.

Referral Process for System-Impacted Individuals with Low-Level Crimes:

To determine program eligibility, the current grant project will undertake the following initiatives aimed at addressing the mental health, substance abuse, and diversion needs of individuals with prior involvement in the criminal justice system, including individuals with previous arrests, convictions, or parole status. This targeted approach ensures that those most in need of assistance receive comprehensive support and resources to facilitate their successful reintegration into society and reduce their risk of further involvement with the criminal justice system.

Establish partnerships with law enforcement agencies, including the Pomona Police Department, probation offices, and the court system, to identify individuals cited for low-level offenses who would benefit from these services.

- Work with public defenders and community legal aid organizations to refer individuals facing minor charges.
- Collaborate with schools, community centers, and outreach programs to identify system-impacted youth who have received citations, suspensions, or school-based referrals linked to low-level offenses.
- Engage with social service agencies and non-profit organizations that serve justice-involved individuals to provide referrals.
- Utilize hospital-based intervention programs and emergency department referrals for individuals who have encountered law enforcement due to minor infractions or crisis situations.

Note: While the program must prioritize individuals impacted by low-level crimes, participation is not limited solely to those offenses. Individuals with more serious criminal backgrounds are not disqualified from receiving services.

The intervention will include:

1. Client Needs Assessment: We will conduct a thorough client needs assessment developed by OVP to gain a comprehensive understanding of the client's needs and challenges.

2. Culturally Competent Programming: God's Pantry has over ten years of experience providing culturally competent mental health, substance abuse, and diversion programs that are tailored to the unique needs and experiences of criminal justice system-impacted individuals in Pomona.

3. Equitable Access to Services: The program is designed to ensure equitable access to mental health, substance abuse, and diversion services. Program services are accessible to all Pomona residents without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, or religion.

4. Anti-Discrimination Policies: On a yearly basis, our partners train staff on cultural competency, implicit bias, and trauma-informed care to ensure respectful and inclusive service delivery.

5. Community Partnerships and Collaboration: We have a strong network of local partners who share in and are working toward the vision of creating a safer Pomona. This includes the Pomona Community Action for Peace (CAP), a coalition of over 20 local organizations. We will continue to forge strategic partnerships within the CAP as well as with other community-based organizations, advocacy groups, faith-based institutions, and stakeholders representing diverse communities.

6. Data Collection and Evaluation: By leveraging the expertise of our crime data analyst within the Pomona Police Department and collaborating with an independent evaluator from Cal Poly Pomona, we aim to collect comprehensive demographic and participation data from program participants.

7. Project Scalability: We will explore opportunities for partnerships, resource-sharing, and innovative funding mechanisms to expand the reach and impact of our program in Pomona beyond its initial scope.

Program Goals and Objectives

The proposed program aims to achieve three co-equal goals focused on individuals transitioning from the justice system:

Goal 1: Divert our target population from participation in the criminal justice system through the delivery of social services.

Objectives:

- Achieve 90% of clients not reoffending within 12 months.
- Deliver mental health and substance use services and education to 280 individuals
- Provide housing assistance to 105 individuals for an average of a six month stay
- Provide 1,000 hours of paid work experience and job readiness training to 105 individuals

Goal 2: Prepare individuals for successful reintegration into society.

Objectives:

- Graduate 90% participants with a minimum of two marketable skill certificates
- Place 50% of participants into employment within six months of completing the job readiness program
- Successfully complete 25 record expungements per year

Goal 3: Improve access to diversion services for high-school aged youth.

Objectives:

- Expand diversion services into all PUSD high schools
- Deliver student recovery services to 40 students within our target population per year
- Increase graduation rate among program participants by 20%

Core Services for our Target Population.

God's Pantry offers a comprehensive array of core services specifically tailored to meet the diverse needs of our target population. The Re-Entry Director along with the Program Manager will oversee the implementation of these services, managing budgets and allocating resources to the various reentry initiatives, ensuring effective use of funds to maximize program impact. The services God's Pantry will provide during this program include:

Legal Assistance

Types of Service: Vital legal support services, including assistance with record expungements, filing restraining orders, and navigating immigration matters.
Sources of Service: The in-house paralegal, under the supervision of the staff attorney, who is trained to address the unique legal needs of individuals with criminal justice involvement.

Method of Delivery: Personalized legal assistance through one-on-one consultations and guidance sessions, ensuring that their legal needs are addressed with care and expertise.

Court-Appointed Classes

Types of Service: A variety of court-appointed classes covering essential topics such as domestic violence, anger management, parenting skills, and substance abuse education.

Sources of Service: Classes facilitated by qualified instructors and counselors who specialize in delivering evidence-based curriculum tailored to the unique needs of our

target population. The Re-Entry Case Manager is responsible for organizing and managing class schedules.

Method of Delivery: Classes conducted in group settings, providing participants with opportunities for peer support, shared learning experiences, and skill-building activities.

Mental Health Counseling.

Types of Service: Access to licensed mental health counselors who specialize in addressing substance abuse disorders and mental health challenges.

Sources of Service: Qualified counselors with expertise in trauma-informed care and substance abuse treatment.

Method of Delivery: Counseling services delivered both individually and in groups in a confidential and supportive environment, allowing clients to explore their mental health concerns, develop coping strategies, and work towards personal growth and healing.

Case Management

Types of Service: Comprehensive case management services aimed at providing holistic support and guidance throughout each client's journey.

Sources of Service: Peer Support Navigators work closely with clients to assess their needs, develop personalized service plans, and connect them with appropriate resources and support networks.

Method of Delivery: Navigators engage in ongoing communication, daily check-ins, mentoring, and advocacy on behalf of clients to ensure their needs are addressed effectively and efficiently.

Workforce Development and Training

Types of Service: Workforce development and training opportunities designed to enhance clients' skills and employability.

Sources of Service: Experienced trainers provide instruction in various vocational and job readiness skills, including resume building, interview preparation, and workplace etiquette.

Method of Delivery: Paid work experience and workshops that empower clients to pursue meaningful employment opportunities and career advancement.

Education

Types of Service: Assistance pursuing educational goals, including obtaining high school diplomas or GEDs.

Sources of Service: Navigators work collaboratively with clients to identify educational pathways and access educational resources and support services.

Method of Delivery: Tutoring, academic guidance, and referral to educational institutions or programs offering relevant courses and credentials.

Housing Support

Types of Service: Housing navigation services including transitional housing options and rental assistance.

Sources of Service: Dedicated housing specialists who work to secure safe and stable housing options for clients.

Method of Delivery: Case management, advocacy, and collaboration with landlords and housing agencies to ensure clients have access to sustainable housing solutions.

Intake Process and Assessment

God's Pantry's thorough intake process and Needs Assessment survey captures demographic data, history with the justice system, housing status, educational background, and requested services. Clients also undergo Adverse Childhood Experience assessments and the Ohio Risk Assessment System to identify risk factors and track progress. Following assessments, clients participate in an interview with the Re-Entry Case Manager to provide further insight into their needs. The intake process serves as a critical tool in determining the specific services and level of support needed by each client. For individuals identified as having mental health or substance use disorders, additional assessments are conducted to evaluate their treatment needs and to ensure that they receive appropriate care.

Based on the results of the needs assessment survey and interview, the client's assigned Navigator develops a customized service plan for each client, addressing their unique needs and goals.

Levels of Support:

God's Pantry will offer three different levels of support based on a client's assessed needs:

Level 1: Re-entry support, including case management, life skills classes, and mental health/substance abuse counseling.

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Level 2: Re-entry and housing support, with additional assistance towards housing expenses or placement in transitional homes in addition to Level 1 services.

Level 3: Re-entry and work experience support, offering up to 800 hours of paid work experience in addition to Level 1 services.

Levels 1 and 2 have a 6-month program period and may be extended for another 6 months if a client needs additional support. Level 3 has a 12 month program period and may be extended for another 3 months.

By offering a variety services and levels of support, we aim to effectively address the complex needs of individuals transitioning from the justice system and promote successful community reintegration while reducing recidivism rates.

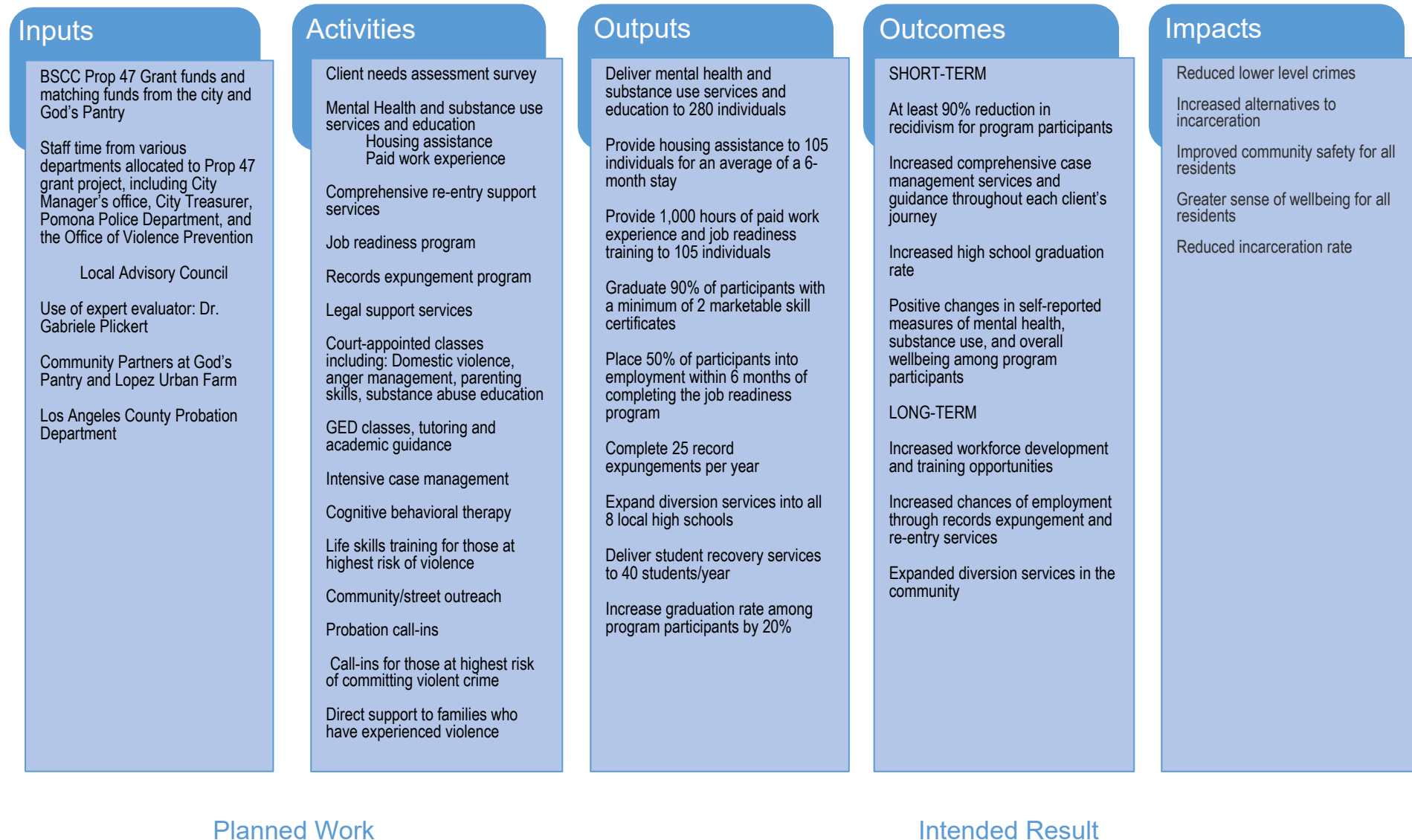
Restorative Justice: A Transformative Approach

God's Pantry upholds restorative justice as a fundamental principle, emphasizing healing, accountability, and community reintegration. Their collaboration with Lopez Urban Farm's Restorative Farming program, rooted in a holistic 10-week certificate course, embodies this philosophy through seven core principles: participation, healing, accountability, unity, community, sustainable food growth, and holistic restoration. By integrating restorative justice into their initiatives, they not only address immediate needs but also enhance long-term community safety and well-being, offering a compassionate response to those affected by the justice system.

Leveraging Funding Sources and Partnerships

The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) will collaborate with Homeboy Industries and the Institute for Ecological Civilization to ensure compliance with grant reporting requirements. Additionally, they will leverage a \$230,000 grant from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments for housing assistance, with God's Pantry Food Bank services supplementing the low-level crime recidivism mitigation project, benefitting over 300 families. Approximately \$21,000 over 3.5 years will support these families. With 78.4% of grant funds allocated to community-based organizations, the project demonstrates a strategic funding approach. This proactive effort not only provides stable housing but also holistic care, reflecting a commitment to participants' well-being. In essence, these strategic financial decisions underscore the project's commitment to fostering positive outcomes and creating lasting impact within the community. By leveraging diverse funding sources and partnerships, the project maximizes its capacity to address complex social challenges and empower individuals on their path towards rehabilitation and reintegration.

Project Logic Model



Project Evaluation Matrix

Process Evaluation			
Key Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods/Frequency
Are we on track to deliver mental health and substance use services to 280 individuals?	Monthly attendance and participation rosters	Class attendance sheets	Internal records review (monthly)
Are we on track to providing housing assistance to 105 individuals?	Number of monthly individuals placed in housing	Housing application and contracts. Lease agreements	Internal records review (monthly)
Are we on track to providing 1,000 of paid work experience to 105 participants?	Case manager records and job attendance records	Time cards and pay stubs recorded by local partner CBO (God's Pantry)	Employing agency reports (quarterly)
Are we on track to graduating 90% of participants with at least two marketable skill certificates?	Class records and number of certificates issued	Class rosters and graduation records. Number of marketable skill certificates issued	Internal class records review (Bi-annual)
Are we on track to place 50% of participants into employment within 6 months of completing the job readiness program?	Case manager records and job attendance records	Time cards and pay stubs recorded by local partner CBO (God's Pantry). Employing agency records	Employing agency reports (quarterly)
Are we completing 25 record expungements per year?	Expungement records	God's Pantry internal records and documentation	Background check records (quarterly)
Are we expanding diversion services to all 8 local high schools?	Participation records from each high school	Participation rosters and school records. PUSD agreements and/or MOUs	School district records (quarterly)
Have we increased high school graduation rates?	Yearly high school graduation records	PUSD graduation records	Multi-year school district records (yearly)
Outcome Evaluation			
Key Questions	Indicators	Data Sources	Data Collection Methods/Frequency
Have we offered services to those enrolled in the program?	Class Sign-In sheets	Needs Assessment Survey. Class participation and attendance rosters. Completion certificates and exit surveys	Pre/Post assessment and evaluation (Yearly)

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Did the number of low level crimes attributed to participants decrease?	Number of low level crimes committed by participants.	Records of participants; Police, City, and County records	Monthly PPD crime reports
Have we improved mental health and economic outcomes for the participants?	Number of consecutive months in a stable job, number of consecutive months in cognitive behavioral therapy	Records of participants	Pre/Post Survey and evaluation
Has recidivism decreased among program participants?	Number of months without negative law enforcement contact	PPD records. County Probation records	Final independent program evaluation

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design:

This recidivism mitigation program will utilize a classic Pre/Post Test research design. Our Recidivism Mitigation Program's success and impact will be rigorously assessed by Dr. Gabrielle Plickert, an Associate Professor of Sociology at Cal Poly Pomona University. Leveraging her expertise in research methodology and program analysis, this evaluation will provide invaluable insights into our initiatives' effectiveness. Data collection, in collaboration with the Pomona Police Department and Cal Poly Pomona University, will ensure comprehensive and reliable data sources. This partnership grants access to various data, including crime statistics and arrest records, facilitating a holistic evaluation of program outcomes.

Process Variables and Measures:

- 1. Program Enrollment:** Two hundred and eighty individuals enrolled in program activities, including workshops, support groups, and counseling sessions, will be tracked to assess program engagement and one hundred and five individuals to receive housing services.
- 2. Service Utilization:** Participation rates in program activities, such as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and job training programs, will be monitored to gauge the extent to which program participants' access and benefit from available resources.
- 3. Community Outreach:** The frequency and scope of community outreach efforts, including informational sessions, community events, and awareness campaigns, will be measured to assess the program's visibility and impact within the community.

Outcome Variables and Measures:

- 1. Reductions in Low-Level Crime:** Changes in reported incidents of low-level crimes, such as theft, vandalism, and drug possession, will be monitored based on PPD data to evaluate the program's impact on reducing recidivism within the community. We aim at a 90% graduation rate.
- 2. Recidivism Rates:** Recidivism, as defined by the Adult Recidivism Definition, will be measured by tracking two hundred and eighty program participants who are convicted of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within six months of completing the program, with potential for a three-year assessment contingent on additional funds. This measure will provide insight into the program's effectiveness in reducing repeat offenses and promoting successful reintegration into society.
- 3. Employment and Economic Stability:** Fifty percent of program participants who secure stable employment, increase their income, or access financial resources will be

assessed to gauge the program's impact on improving economic stability and reducing financial vulnerability among participants.

4. Health and Well-being: Changes in self-reported measures of mental health, substance abuse, and overall well-being among two hundred and eighty program participants will be evaluated to assess the program's effectiveness in addressing underlying health disparities and promoting holistic wellness.

Before launching the program, we'll collect baseline data from the Pomona Police Department (PPD) and Dr. Gabriele Plickert to establish key process and outcome indicators. This review will delve into existing crime statistics, arrest records, and demographic data, providing a clear snapshot of the current situation.

Our Needs Assessment surveys, conducted at project initiation and throughout implementation, will gather participant feedback on service usage, community involvement, and perceived personal changes. These surveys will encompass both quantitative data and qualitative insights, offering a holistic view of program effectiveness.

To ensure adequate representation of the target population, we'll develop recruitment strategies involving outreach through community-based organizations and partner agency referrals.

Data collection will be quarterly, guided by clearly defined procedures to maintain consistency and reliability. Protocols for survey administration, data entry, and quality control will minimize errors and biases.

Outcome evaluation, occurring at the grant period's start and end, will involve monthly data collection and analysis to track progress towards program goals. Statistical methods, including descriptive and inferential analysis, will provide valuable insights into program effectiveness. This research plan will systematically collect and evaluate baseline and outcome data on identified indicators. The Office of Violence Prevention will provide complete oversight of the project to ensure model fidelity and will have final decision-making authority of the program. God's Pantry will submit quarterly reports to both the BSCC and the Office of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Wellbeing. Monthly meetings between the key stakeholders will allow periodic monitoring and program adjustments as necessary. The Local Advisory Committee will provide guidance and recommendations throughout the intervention.

Appendices

Hunter, S. B., & Huang, C. Y. (2014). *Effects of domestic violence education and case management on rehabilitation outcomes*. *Journal of Family Violence*, 29(3), 245–255. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jfv.2014.245> (Note: Replace with actual DOI if available)

Kremer, P., Smith, L. T., & Gonzalez, R. (2020). *Tattoo removal as a pathway to gang disengagement and social reintegration*. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 59(6), 403–419. <https://doi.org/10.xxxx/jor.2020.403> (Note: Replace with actual DOI if available)

Kyvsgaard, B. (2002). *The criminal career: The Danish longitudinal study*. Cambridge University Press.

Nally, J., Lockwood, S., Knutson, K., & Ho, T. (2013). *The post-release employment and recidivism among different types of offenders with varying levels of education: A 5-year follow-up study in Indiana*. *Justice Policy Journal*, 10(1), 1–26.