

MEETING DATE: September 11, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: B

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: America Velasco, Field Representative
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SUBJECT: Proposition 47 Grant, Cohort 5 Funding Recommendations:
Requesting Approval

Summary

This agenda item seeks Board approval for the Proposition 47 Cohort 5 grant awards, as recommended by the Proposition 47 Cohort 5 Scoring Panel. If the proposed list of award recommendations is approved, 23 public agencies will receive \$127 million to provide mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and/or diversion programs for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. A list of the recommended proposals for funding can be found in Attachment B-1 and corresponding summaries for these proposals are included in Attachment B-2.

Background

Proposition 47 codified Government Code sections 7599-7599.2 in a 2014 voter-approved initiative. Its purpose, as stated in the ballot initiative, is as follows:

The people enact the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act to ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses, to maximize alternatives for nonserious, nonviolent crime, and to invest the savings generated from this act into prevention and support programs in K–12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment.

As stated in the proposition, the BSCC's responsibilities are to:

Administer a grant program to public agencies aimed at supporting mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and diversion programs for people in the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on programs that reduce recidivism of people convicted of less serious crimes, such as those covered by this measure, and those who have substance abuse and mental health problems. (Gov. Code, § 7599.2, subd. (a)(3).)

[Assembly Bill 1056 \(Chapter 438, Statutes of 2015\)](#) added legislative priorities for this grant program, including housing-related assistance and community-based supportive services, such as job skills training, case management, and civil legal services. Grants may fund programs that serve both adults and juveniles.

The RFP for Cohort 5 also recognized the enactment of Proposition 36. In November 2024, voters passed Proposition 36, also known as The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. Among its provisions, Proposition 36 enacted a new category of offense

known as a “treatment-mandated felony.” It established a court process where individuals could have their charges dismissed upon completion of a court approved treatment program. (Health & Saf. Code, § 11395.) Proposition 36 also states that these court approved treatment programs may be funded by the BSCC’s Proposition 47 grant. (Gov. Code, § 7599.200, subd. (b).)

On April 10, 2025, the Board approved the release of the Proposition 47 Cohort 5 Request for Proposals (RFP) (Attachment B-3), making competitive funding available to public agencies in California. Prospective applicants could choose to compete in either the Large Scope or Small Scope category, depending on the size of their proposed project and the amount of funding requested. Applicants in the Large Scope category were eligible to apply for up to \$8 million, while those in the Small Scope category could apply for up to \$2 million. As established by the prior Executive Steering Committee, the County of Los Angeles was permitted to submit one application requesting up to \$20 million. The grant period spans 45 months, from October 1, 2025, to June 30, 2029.

The BSCC received 67 proposals requesting approximately \$379 million. Of those proposals, 48 met all submission criteria and were sent to a Scoring Panel for funding consideration. On July 9-10, 2025, the BSCC conducted training for the Scoring Panel members, who evaluated each proposal according to the process outlined in the RFP. After all scores were submitted, BSCC staff created a ranked list of proposals that met the minimum scoring threshold. Among the proposals submitted in the Large Scope category, eleven (11) are recommended for full funding and one (1) is recommended for partial funding, since it fell at the cut-off point once all available funds were exhausted. In the Small Scope category, eleven (11) proposals are being recommended for full funding.

Recommendation/Action Needed

On behalf of the Proposition 47 Cohort 5 Scoring Panel, staff recommend that the Board:

1. Fully fund eleven (11) Large Scope and eleven (11) Small Scope proposals totaling approximately \$119 million for programs and initiatives that provide mental health services, substance-use disorder treatment, and/or diversion programs for people in the criminal justice system.
2. Partially fund one (1) proposal in the Large Scope category for \$6.9 million;
3. Authorize staff to continue awarding funds from the rank-ordered list if any applicant is unable to accept the award, relinquishes an award, or is deemed ineligible first by offering to any partial awardee and then to the next highest-ranked application(s); and
4. Dissolve the Proposition 47 Cohort 5 Scoring Panel upon approval of the funding recommendations.

Attachments

B-1: List of Proposals Recommended for Funding

B-2: Proposal Summaries

B-3: Proposition 47 Cohort 5 RFP

B-4: Proposition 47 Cohort 5 Scoring Panel Membership