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July 3, 2020

Linda Penner, Chair
Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Subject: Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program

Dear Chair Penner,

On behalf of the Chief Probation Officers of California we write in response to the Board of State and Community Corrections' (BSCC) administration of the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 emergency spending on the justice system. We appreciate the Board's efforts to coordinate and administer this funding and appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on key programmatic areas that would benefit from this funding.

Probation has taken great effort and action to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 and support the populations we serve while continuing to keep community safety as our focus. Because of the unique role we play within the justice system, any changes to other parts of the system have a compounding impact on probation. Below we outline a number of areas in which we encourage prioritization of funding:

- *Juvenile Services: Supporting Services Provided to Youth in Juvenile Facilities*
 - o Probation departments have in many cases needed to increase staffing at juvenile facilities to directly deliver services where providers were no longer providing instruction or facilitating instruction. Additionally, facilities required increased staffing to bring additional units online to facilitate public health directives and address needs related to social distancing, isolation and/or quarantine when needed.

- *Services and Supervision*
 - Prioritization of funding for services that provide for immediate food and housing needs. For example, Probation has been coordinating and providing services at Project Roomkey locations and has facilitated distribution of food to facilities.
- *Pretrial Services*
 - Prioritization of funding to address pretrial services and needs. For example, county probation departments are working with courts and county officials to utilize pretrial options or probation supervision to promote public safety, assist in managing jail space, and support clients in the community.
- *Staff and Client Wellness*
 - Prioritization of funding to support staff and client wellness in the community and in facilities. Examples include:
 - Additional sanitary supplies for juvenile facilities to allow for increased and enhanced cleaning of the facility; face masks for youth, staff and visitors
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff going out in the field and for staff and youth in juvenile facilities.
 - Support for staff for contact tracing and related training

Probation departments have done tremendous work to continue to provide services, support, and programming to youth, our clients, and our extended community during the COVID-19 response. We appreciate the opportunity to outline a number of areas in which there have been notable impacts as a result of COVID-19 and we ask for your consideration in prioritizing funding to support and mitigate these efforts to help ensure the delivery and support of our clients and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Sanchez
Legislative Director