

## **Evidence-Based Practices to Improve Public Safety (EBP-TIPS)**

The goal of the Evidence-Based Practices to Improve Public Safety (EBP TIPS) Project is to reduce recidivism of youthful offenders by providing a comprehensive and flexible funding source to probation departments to support a systems change approach in implementing evidence based practices known to be effective in delinquency prevention. Federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) funds totaling approximately \$1 million were set-aside for this project.

Five probation departments were selected through a competitive process to participate in a two-year systems change approach in implementing or expanding the use of EBP within their local juvenile justice communities. While probation is the lead agency in the implementation of EBP and the main recipient of the services, the success of this project lies in the collaboration and partnership of the key stakeholders within each juvenile justice community. It is expected that through this project, the courts and probation departments, along with other important juvenile justice and community partners, will move forward together in supporting and implementing EBP. The project began on October 1, 2014 and will end December 30, 2015.

Projects may use their funding for additional technical assistance or resources to support the effective implementation of EBP including, but not limited to:

- Assessment tools
- Data collection
- Programming
- Training
- Evaluation

### Project Descriptions:

#### **Contra Costa**

The Contra Costa Probation Department seeks to enhance existing Evidence-Based-Practices by examining the delivery of “Thinking for a Change” to ensure implementation as designed. This systems change approach will involve implementation of quality assurance activities and further enhance training of staff using modeling, coaching, and feedback processes that are effective in supporting the cultural shift and acceptance of EBP practices, programs and strategies. Specifically, we will assess T4C delivery, determine treatment fidelity, identify training needs and evaluate youth outcomes.

#### **Mono**

The EBP-TIPS project funding for the Mono Probation Department is being used to develop a Juvenile Case Management module utilizing the department’s existing CaseLoad Pro Adult Case Management system. This system will effectively case manage youth as well as query data for evidence based practices. The system will be tailored to the specific needs of youth to include therapeutic, clinical, competency, consequences and a host of other juvenile specific variables. Further, it will be designed to query specific information for the many reports specific only to youth as required by the state, federal and local entities.

## **Mariposa**

Mariposa Probation Department is using EBP-TIPS funding to replace the case management system (e.g., hardware, SQL servers, software, etc.) to support and enhance Probation's ability to collect, organize and analyze data for quality assurance, evidence-based-practices, employ the Integrated Model and to inform decision making.

## **Sonoma**

Sonoma EBP-TIPS Project use funding to evaluate case management and service processes (e.g., intake and follow up assessment, referrals, etc.) and assist with the development of sustainable data collection and reporting systems for quality assurance. In the second year, the project will continue development of data collection and reporting systems, and evaluate probation case management activities, services and sanctions for effect size related to recidivism.

## **Tulare**

The Tulare County Probation Department, with the support of the EBP-TIPS Grant, is utilizing funding to purchase and implement an evidence-based, gender responsive assessment tool to provide individualized reports that identify the risks and needs of a juvenile offender to develop an effective comprehensive case plan. In addition, the department intends to expand its service to youth by purchasing a variety of programming that address the needs, including the most critical personal, environmental and community risk factors identified by the assessment tool, while building upon the most important protective factors and assets. Any programs implemented will be centered on evidence-based concepts of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), motivational interviewing (MI), the social learning model, with key coping and problem solving skills for self-efficacy. Staff training is also imperative to the development and implementation of programming; therefore, a portion of the funding will be utilized to enhance the skill set of their probation officers. Lastly, the department intends to enhance their existing case management system to include data collection and the ability to run comprehensive reports to assess measurable outcomes.