

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: G

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Timothy Polasik, Field Representative, timothy.polasik@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Title II Grant Program - Identifying Effective Interventions and Replicable Strategies for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Contract:
Requesting Approval

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval of a contract between the Board of State and Community Corrections and WestEd, in partnership with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, to identify effective interventions and replicable strategies for reducing racial and ethnic disparities. This contract, which was developed through a Request for Proposals process recommended by the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) and approved by the Board, if approved, will assist the BSCC with fulfilling its grant requirements under the federal Title II grant program. Specifically, this project would focus on developing a State and County data dashboard to identify where Racial and Ethnic Disparity exists in the Juvenile Justice system and use that information to determine the interventions that would improve the system. The final product would assist the SACJJDP in making data-driven recommendations on the portion of Title II funding allocated for reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Juvenile Justice system.

Background

The Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) of 2018 is the federal statute that establishes the Title II Grant Program. The U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the grant, in part, by awarding grants to states to support delinquency prevention and improvements in the juvenile justice system. The BSCC is the state agency that receives and administers California's Title II award.

OJJDP requires states that receive Title II awards to establish a State Advisory Group to advise on Title II activities. In California, this is the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The SACJJDP is a Governor-appointed committee serving as a standing BSCC Executive Steering Committee to support policy and programs designed to improve outcomes for young people in the justice system (Attachment G-1).

Pursuant to the JJRA, states and territories must "implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies at the state, territorial, local, and tribal levels, as applicable, to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities (R.E.D.) among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas, by:

- Establishing or designating existing coordinating bodies, composed of juvenile justice stakeholders (including representatives of the educational system) at the state, local, or tribal levels, to advise efforts by states, units of local government, and Indian Tribes to reduce racial and ethnic disparities;
- Identifying and analyzing data on race and ethnicity at decision points in state, local, or tribal juvenile justice systems to determine at which such points create racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system; and
- Developing and implementing a work plan that includes measurable objectives for policy, practice, or other system changes, based on the needs identified in the data collection and analysis under [prior subparagraph].

(34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(15).)

To address the above R.E.D. requirements, the SACJJP developed the following charge:

The SACJJDP will hire a consultant or use a subject matter expert(s) to develop a detailed review of each county, including the assessment of county interventions that are resulting in the reduction of racial and ethnic disparity and the identification of challenges and barriers that may exist within the county juvenile justice system. The review would analyze the Relative Rate Index (RRI) data and other sources of data as well as county policies, processes, and procedures. The analysis would demonstrate where disparity exists within the juvenile justice system and the project will highlight projects that are particularly noteworthy and include information about what makes them noteworthy to provide a framework to help counties to develop more effective interventions and/or replicable strategies.

To fulfill this charge, the SACJJDP looked to the subject-matter experts on in its Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D) Subcommittee to develop an RFP (Attachment G-2). To avoid Conflicts of Interest, the R.E.D. Subcommittee formed a working group that included representatives from the SACJJDP and experts on reducing racial and ethnic disparities (Attachment G-3). After completing the RFP and proposal rating process, the SACJJDP working group selected WestEd as the contractor to recommend to the Board.

Request for Proposals Process

On November 19, 2020, the Board approved the release of the Request for Proposals with a due date of January 29, 2021. The BSCC received a total of four proposals. On February 10, 2021, the BSCC research staff delivered training to the R.E.D. Working Group on how to read and rate the proposals based on the criteria established in the RFP. Once all scores were submitted by the raters, BSCC research staff developed a ranked list (Attachment G-4). The SACJJDP recommends funding WestEd, a nonprofit research agency with expertise in identifying youth opportunity gaps, working in partnership with the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR). One-page project abstracts from the four submissions are

provided as Attachment G-5. In preparing for this recommendation, staff have requested spending authority in the 2021/22 state budget. With approval, it is anticipated that the project would begin July 1, 2021.

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the recommendation to contract with WestEd, as approved by the Reducing Racial and Ethnicity Disparity Subcommittee Working Group and the SACJJDP.

Attachments

G-1: State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Roster

G-2: Identifying Effective Interventions and Replicable Strategies for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Request for Proposals

G-3: State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Reducing Racial and Ethnicity Disparity Subcommittee Working Group Roster

G-4: Ranked Order List

G-5: Proposal Abstracts