

MEETING DATE: February 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: C

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: John Prince, john.prince@bscc.ca.gov, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 823: Request For Information Summary and Request For Application development: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item proposes the development of a Request for Application (RFA) for the \$9.6 million Youth Programs and Facilities Grant Program portion of Senate Bill 823 (Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020) requested by the working group, co-chaired by Chair Linda Penner and BSCC Board Member David Steinhart.

Background

On September 30, 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 823, which began the closure of the state's Division of Juvenile Justice, realigning those state functions to county governments. Under SB 823, DJJ intake will close for most youth on July 1, 2021, and counties then become fully responsible for housing, programming and treatment of youth at higher offense and needs levels who can no longer be committed to DJJ.

As part of SB 823, \$9.6 million was set aside for the Board of State and Community Corrections to "award one-time grants, to counties for the purpose of providing resources for infrastructure-related needs and improvements to assist counties in the development of a local continuum of care."

At the November 19, 2020 meeting, the Board approved the formation of a working group, co-chaired by Chair Linda Penner and BSCC Board Member David Steinhart, to develop for county response a request for information (RFI). The survey requested information about each county's intent to house youth after June 30, 2021, specific programming that may be developed/offered for the population, whether youth from other counties will be housed, the anticipated number of youth to be housed, and infrastructure needs to house these youth. Counties were asked to respond to the RFI by January 15, 2021. Fifty-seven of the 58 Counties in California responded to the survey, which have been summarized (Attachment C-1). For reference, a 2019 Overview of the DJJ population is also attached (Attachment C-2).

For the youth population that can no longer be committed to DJJ, a majority of responding counties indicate that they lack capacity to serve youth in one or more of the following

high-needs categories and that they intend to refer these youth to other counties for appropriate treatment and placement.

1. Females
2. Sex Offenders
3. Seriously Mentally Ill youth

SB 823 does not include funding that is specifically dedicated to regional hubs or centers that can accept referrals of realigned youth from other counties. Nevertheless, about a dozen counties responding to the survey have indicated that they will or may be able to accept placements of high-needs, DJJ level youth under referral agreements from other counties. The proposed RFA would allocate grant resources to support the infrastructure needs of counties that can provide facility and treatment space for referrals from other counties that lack this local, specialized capacity.

Furthermore, most counties responding to the survey indicated that they have substantial infrastructure and improvement needs related to serving their locally retained population of realigned DJJ youth. Priorities noted by counties in this regard were: separation of youth by age, modified treatment space and specialized programming.

Based on the data collected, the working group proposes to develop an RFA to help address the above-noted highest-priority needs. Of the \$9.12 million available (after BSCC administrative cost), the RFA will make available a total of \$4 million for four projects (up to \$1 million each) to develop regional hubs to serve youth referred by other counties in the three high-needs areas noted above (females, sex offenders, seriously mentally ill). The intent is to award at least one project in each of the three high-needs categories. The remaining \$5.12 million will be distributed pro rata to all counties to support infrastructure and improvements needed to serve their in-county population of realigned youth.

In the event that we receive more than four applications to develop regional specialized treatment programs, a criticality rating will be used to assist the working group in selecting the applications to be funded. The criticality rating will be based on a formula designed to weigh key aspects of each proposed project using objective criteria that rely on information that will be requested through the application process. Examples of this objective criteria may include bed space available for out-of-county youth, number of counties from which youth will be accepted, and type or extent of specialized programming that will be available. Other pertinent criteria may be identified during the development of the RFA. The formula for the criticality rating will be included in the RFA materials for counties to consider.

Contingent on the Board's approval today, the working group will develop the RFA, which will be brought to the Board for approval at the April 8, 2021 meeting. Recommendations on awards to counties would be made at the June 10, 2021 meeting.

Recommendation/Action Needed

- 1) Delegate to the working group the development of the Youth Facilities Grant Program Request for Applications as described above to be brought back to the Board for approval and release at the April 8, 2021 board meeting.

Attachments

- C-1: SB823 Summary of Findings
- C-2: DJJ Population Overview 2020

Attachment C-1