

MARIN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Early Intervention Referral Network Services

And

Community Partner Program Support Program

RFP-PROB-2019-35

Administered by
MARIN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

DATE ISSUED: December 18, 2019

FIRST REVIEW: January 6, 2020

CLOSE DATE: March 27, 2020

Funding Timeline and Process

The Marin County Probation Department has reserved \$150,000 in Youth Reinvestment Grant Funds to be expended over the next three years. These funds will be used to support programs available to provide services to Youth referred through the Early Intervention Referral Network. Services to be funded include ones that are strengths-based focusing on the eliminating or reducing the common risk factors and/or increasing self-sufficiency and resilience factors for youth. Programs to be funded should help create a pro-social support network for youth and help create a larger community support structure.

- Funds are currently available, and proposals may be funded at any time.
- A first review of Proposals will occur the week of January 6, 2020.
- The County expects to provide written response to all proposers the week of January 13 outlining a more detailed review strategy and timeline based on the number and types of requests received

General Policies

The County assumes no obligation for any of the costs associated with proposal development, preparation and submission. This RFP is in no way an agreement, obligation or contract. Proposals will become the property of the County upon submission and may be subject to the terms of the Public Records Act, as required by law.

Funding may be provided based on a per referral basis or program donation for an anticipated number of referrals for existing programs. One-time funding for program enhancement, acquisition and expansion may also be available. The Marin County Probation Department reserves the right to work with each organization to refine cost proposals and reach agreement and may choose to reserve any portion of available funding for award at a future date and by a subsequent process.

To apply for this funding opportunity please use the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MARINYRG>

All interested parties should also complete the **Marin County Prevention Collaboration Survey** at the below link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SVVYNJW>. The Probation Department is working as part of the Collaboration committee and will be using the Community Resource Board being developed by that committee to create the Referral Portal.

Questions regarding the grant and process can be submitted via email to sklein@marincounty.org.

Early Intervention and Prevention Services Project Background

Like many counties, Marin has seen a deep decline in the number of juveniles entering the juvenile justice system. Less than one percent of the youth in Marin between the ages of 10-19 are under the supervision of the Marin County Probation Department (Probation Department) on any given day. A review of these youth on a map points out the disproportionate number that come from neighborhoods that are identified as predominantly low-income and Latino. These neighborhoods are known for their density and limited access to services and programs.

It is our belief that most youth who enter and penetrate the juvenile justice system had needs that were identified but not addressed at an earlier age. Inadequate health care, lack of parental oversight due to work demands and limited opportunity for positive pro-social activities have led youth from specific backgrounds and communities to be overrepresented in the juvenile justice system.

During community engagement processes, the Probation Department heard from youth and families that there is a lack of responsive and accessible programming. Sentiments included that available programming was not relevant to specific cultural needs and only accessible once a youth has entered the criminal justice system. Community Partners from our schools and local law enforcement agencies echoed the diminishing options for early intervention. Youth focus groups unearthed the litany of issues and experiences occurring at a young age and a need for resiliency development and positive options for youth throughout our larger community.

To help solve this, the Probation Department will be dedicating funding from the Youth Reinvestment Grant to fund an increase in the number of interventions and pro-social opportunities available to youth who are at risk of entering the system. It is our intention to use a portion of these funds to create a referral system to a network of funded programs and opportunities for youth identified by local law enforcement, school personnel and key community partners.

While this program is being coordinated by the Probation Department over 90% of the funding will be distributed to community-based organizations. Information on youth served collected by Probation will not include names and services are voluntary. Services would be available to youth exhibiting early risk factors and consequences of situations including:

- School aged youth exhibiting early signs of anti-social behavior and emotional factors;
- Low educational aspirations and low commitment and attachment to school;
- Engaging in or associating with negative peers and activities, exhibiting risky behavior or thinking patterns, lack of social competence; and
- Family/Household discord, exposure to violence/trauma, poverty and high conflict

We believe that stopping the pattern of disproportionate representation in the juvenile justice system takes a dual approach of risk reduction and promotion of protective factors. Positive youth development requires supportive adult-youth relationships and access to high quality, community-based services for youth and their families. It is our goal to support, coordinate and facilitate the connection of kids to existing services because if we can increase the availability of intervention programs and opportunities for pro-social activities and programming for at-risk youth, we can reduce the number of youth who enter the formal juvenile justice system.

Funding Opportunity

The Marin County Probation Department (Probation) is releasing this Request for Information (RFI) in an effort to obtain more information about programs available to youth in our community. Programs sought include those that provide pro-social opportunities, educational/vocational training, mental health/wellness support, restorative justice/diversion programs, mentoring and related programs aimed at supporting youth ages 8 – 22. Programs must have non-profit status to apply and be able to meet County insurance requirements if coming under contract. The information received will be used by Probation and our County partners in Health and Human Services, to create a broad portfolio of available services to serve youth in our community.

Services provided through the Early Intervention Referral Network will be strength-based, focused on reduction of risk and/or an increase in self-sufficiency. Programs to be funded should help create a pro-social support network for youth throughout our community. Funded programs are expected to provide the following types of services/activities for youth:

- Mentoring – Providing mentors to youth in need and developing youth into mentors for other youth to support their community and build resiliency;
- Restorative Justice – Conflict mediation, restorative circles, healing circles and youth court;
- Community Work/Volunteering – Facilitating civic engagement that increases skills, forms bonds and gives back;
- Employment Training/Internships – Vocational skill building, transitional employment and internships to provide pathways forward; and
- Pro-Social Outings and Adventures – Structured leisure time, that promotes positive interactions and exposure to experiences that expand their view of the world

Additionally, funds will be available to provide targeted intervention and needs for at-risk youth that can be met with contracted programming including:

- Removal of financial barriers to participate in school activities;
- Funding of critical care and personal items that would remove barriers to school attendance; and
- Enrollment in special activities, gym memberships and similar educational/vocational/physical programs that would provide targeted intervention and positive motivation to youth

Funding requests should fall into one of the following request areas:

- Fee for service
 - Agreed to payment invoiced, per referred client (no contract required)
 - Appropriate for organizations that have a set fee or sliding scale
 - Ability to begin receiving referrals through the portal
- Program Donation/Grant
 - One-time donation to offset the cost of an existing program that is providing opportunities to youth in our community
 - Ability to begin receiving referrals through the portal
 - Appropriate for organizations that run on fund-raising, small grants and community kindness and do not currently receive County funding

- Program Expansion
 - Intended for established programs that are in contract with the County
 - Must be able to expand referral capacity
 - Target population, need and availability of increased capacity required
- Program Enhancement
 - This category is intended to provide funding for one-time costs around staff training, special event support and acquisition of equipment that will advance the opportunities being afforded youth in the program

Application Process

Agencies should complete an application through the survey monkey link listed below. Agencies may apply for multiple funding requests, a separate application is required for each submission.

Agencies requesting a Program Expansion or Enhancement must also complete the Organization Financial Overview attachment available at the end of this document. The Financial Overview attachment should be emailed directly to Sklein@marincounty.org.