



## Participatory Budgeting (PB) Cycle 7 Proposal Decision

### Background

PB was put on hold as of March 2020. The Cycle 7 PB vote did not occur as planned given the high reliance on in-person outreach efforts for community engagement.

As of January 2021, the PB Steering Committee is considering how to proceed with Cycle 7 voting. They will be reviewing the Cycle 7 proposals at the March Steering Committee meeting and deciding on the next steps, including which proposals to include in the Cycle 7 vote given the decrease in allocated program funds. A request was made to reach out to all budget delegates to ask if they would like to update their proposal, have it considered in Cycle 8, or withdraw it. The PBSC will use this information to inform their decision-making.

### Instructions

Please complete the form indicating your preference in moving forward with your proposal and submit it by February 8, 2021.

Please email [Felicia.Flores@cityofvallejo.net](mailto:Felicia.Flores@cityofvallejo.net) with any questions.

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Proposal Name: Reentry Program for Offenders

Budget Delegates

Mark Carter, Maryann Buggs

Implementing Partner

Solano County Probation Department's Center for Positive Change (CPC)

Our team would like to:

- Update our proposal and submit it by March 5<sup>th</sup> for consideration in Cycle 7
- Have our proposal be considered for Cycle 8
- Withdraw our proposal

Comments

Will incorporate a statement on the implementing partners workplace guideline in response to the Coronavirus disease.

**Project Title**

Reentry Program for Offenders

**Total Budget**

\$53000

**Name**

Mark Carter

Maryann Buggs

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Type of project**

Program

**Detailed Project Description**

The Solano County Probation Department's Center for Positive Change (CPC) Vallejo serves Vallejo community members who are reentering or reengaging with their communities after a period of incarceration or other formal involvement in the criminal justice system.

CPCs are multi-disciplinary, one-stop treatment and services sites that support clients under Probation supervision with an array of evidence-based services. These services are designed to reduce the likelihood of the individual's further involvement in the criminal justice system and enhance prosocial community connections. Probation partners with community-based agencies and treatment providers to create co-located comprehensive team models. Services are primarily delivered at two centers located in Fairfield and Vallejo.

Emerging research indicates that culturally relevant, experiential, strength based and culture validating programming is effective in engaging younger males in treatment. H.E.A.T. is a therapy program designed for males aged 16 to 29 who are involved in the criminal justice system. H.E.A.T. — which stands for Habilitation, Empowerment and Accountability Therapy — applies a holistic, culturally relevant and responsive, strength-based model that emphasizes a positive and engaging approach to treatment. H.E.A.T. links current life experiences, culture, and historical family and community values to prosocial principles, thus helping participants connect personal beliefs to motivation for behavior change.

This 9-month curriculum is targeted to younger men who have been failing in traditional interventions in criminal justice programs (e.g., pre-release, community supervision, and problem-solving courts). It is directed at Black males and other young men who are involved in the criminal justice system with drug abuse issues and affiliate with this culture. It is universally applicable to disenfranchised groups of young men. To additionally address differences in ages and development, we propose three program cohorts of 15-20 clients each. One cohort would serve clients 25 and older. The second cohort would target the 18-24 population and the third,

the 16-19 population. Placement of 18- and 19-year-old clients in cohorts two or three would be based on the client's developmental level and Probation Officer recommendation. We do expect some attrition and because H.E.A.T. is designed as a semi-open program model, new participants may join the program up until the third quarter.

Statistically, adult males in the criminal justice system are at most risk when they are between the ages of 18 and 29. Administered with each individual probation client, our evidence-based and validated risk and needs assessments show locally that this age group is most likely to commit new crimes. Risk assessments gauge the likelihood of reoffense by looking at past behavior and other static risk factors. Needs assessments identify the dynamic or changeable areas of a person's life that can be addressed and reduce the likelihood of additional criminal behavior. The dynamic domains that contribute to criminal behavior are called criminogenic needs. Examples of criminogenic needs include: antisocial peer groups, lack of formal education, substance abuse, and antisocial cognition patterns. The H.E.A.T. program holistically explores the eight top criminogenic risk areas and we will measure reduction of risk utilizing a pre and post score of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI), the validated assessment tool used by the Solano County Probation Department.

During the funding period, the project will serve a minimum of 60 male residents of Vallejo who are currently on formal supervision and are assessed at a high risk to recidivate and cause harm to the community.

Recruitment and eligibility for this program is assigned to clients who have been assessed as having a high risk to offend. Males under high risk and high need Probation Supervision who are participating in services at the Vallejo Center for Positive Change (CPC) are eligible for program participation and will be registered for the HEAT Program via referral from their Probation Officer and their CPC Case Manager. All participants are residents of Vallejo. "High need" refers to a variety of factors that marginalize Vallejo citizens, such as poverty, lack of education, homelessness, poor work history, substance abuse, and behavioral issues. High risk/high need probation clients experience multiple risk factors, not just one or two, therefore, virtually all clients of the CPC fall into a lower income category and they also experience a myriad of other socioeconomic challenges.

**Pandemic Response:**

Clients and prospective providers/trainers while in the building during the pandemic will use standard safety practices - masks, distance, sanitizing, and handwashing. If needed, the implementing partner will train facilitators remotely and plan for a site visit later. The implementing partner has internally developed a culturally relevant/co-occurring treatment group to support the pandemic's effort.

### **Why is this project needed**

Justice involved individuals face tremendous barriers upon release from custody and unless they have support and services, they will likely return to incarceration. There is a direct impact on society when people on supervision have services that help them transition back to society. Expanding current services, especially for those at highest risk of reoffending is the intent of this proposal.

The need is that the current increase in inmates being released has increased faster than support services have increased. There is a direct impact on society when people on probation have services that help them transition back to society. The result of this program will make a significant reduction in the recidivism rate. Since there are several programs in place that while successful, lack the funding necessary, this will expand current programs.

The highest concentrations of the targeted population served by Solano County Probation are in the cities of Vallejo and Fairfield. A majority of clients at high risk to reoffend and recidivate are male, with 64 percent of the males being people of color. While that disparity is high throughout the County, Vallejo's CPC current male client population is 77% people of color, and 50% African American. This program will intensify treatment dosage, which leads to lower recidivism rates, and engage male clients in an evidence informed and culturally relevant way.

While recidivism rates among Solano County Probation clients have steadily declined in recent years, mostly due to changes in supervision, fidelity in treatment programs, and reforms in the criminal justice system as a whole, the target population, 18–29-year-old males on formal supervision remain at the highest risk of recidivism. The target population is also the costliest to the community and to the justice system, as their criminal behavior tends to be more frequent and more likely to be serious or violent.

### **How will the project address or solve the need**

Through successful partnerships with the state and other public and private agencies, reentry programs provide services to get justice involved individuals the tools they need to rebuild their lives: job training, transitional housing, GED classes, mentoring, transportation funding, work-appropriate clothing, drug treatment, identification, legal support, health services and assistance with job placement. And, reentry programs do this for a fraction of the cost of incarceration, while doing more to rehabilitate individuals.

Research demonstrates that a higher risk offender population requires between 200 and 300 dosage hours of treatment and skill building programming that follows a Risk, Need, and Responsivity evidence-based framework in order to realize reductions in recidivism. This program will increase intensity of programming (hours participating), address several issues that are linked directly to recidivism, and it will be delivered in a cultural and age responsive manner. Expected outcomes include a reduction in substance use among the target population, an increase in program participation rates, and a reduction of probation violations. We will also measure the statistically validated risk assessment score and expect a 10% reduction in overall risk of recidivism for clients who complete the program.

**Describe in detail how residents, visitors, groups, communities, geographic areas, or the City of Vallejo will benefit from this project?**

Public Safety is the primary mission of the Solano County Probation Department. Providing services and treatment that is proven to reduce the incidents of criminal behavior has an immediate impact on the safety of everyone in the City of Vallejo. A longer view of expected outcomes include improving family stability, increasing the number of productive and prosocial residents and decreasing victimization.

**Direct Beneficiaries:**

- Successful reentry programs give justice involved individuals' opportunities to support themselves through legitimate and productive work, reducing recidivism and improving public safe Improved community integration and relationships
- Residents and graduates of Vallejo benefit when the health of the community improves.
- Vallejo residents will see and experience a change of perception of how the city is addressing safety.
- The community benefits when service and agency interventions relax ever-growing safety and health concerns identified offenders.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:**

- City, County, State, neighborhoods, and citizens
- The financial burden on city services, emergency services, court services, and the community demonstrate the greatest social and economic impact of reducing recidivism can be met by providing basic support, paths to reentry, and continued treatment and training options.

**Potential Challenges and Obstacles**

The Centers for Positive Change operate strength based, motivational enhancement and rewards/incentive driven programming services that focus on engaging clients, rather than forcing them to participate. While we are confident that we will engage clients in this unique program, it remains the primary challenge. A significant impact on removing the engagement barrier comes from ensuring clients are regularly rewarded and incentivized for positive behavior as they demonstrate it, meaning immediately. From a basic needs perspective, it is also critical to ensure clients have food readily available. Both food and incentive items are important to this proposal and are included in the budget request.

Another challenge is ensuring fidelity to program delivery. We are proposing 4 follow up coaching and fidelity monitoring sessions for each cohort of the 9-month program. As noted above, attrition for a variety of reasons is expected and facilitating a partially open program model is ideal to overcome some of those challenges.

Criteria for recruitment and eligibility for this program require participants have an assessed risk level of high to very high. Males under high risk and high need Probation Supervision who are participating in services at the Vallejo Center for Positive Change (CPC) are eligible for program participation and will be registered for the HEAT Program via referral from their Probation Officer and their CPC Case Manager. All participants are residents of Vallejo. “High need” refers to a variety of factors that marginalize participants such as poverty, lack of education, homelessness, poor work history, substance abuse, and behavioral issues. High risk/high need probation clients experience multiple risk factors, not just one or two, therefore, virtually all clients of the CPC fall into a lower income category and they also experience a myriad of other socioeconomic challenges

**Who will implement the project?**

Solano County Probation Department

**Where will the project be implemented?**

Solano County Probation Department - Fairfield and Vallejo

**Project Budget**

See attachment: [Reentry Program - Budget and Timeline]

**Project timeline**

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## Project Budget

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Onsite 3 Day Staff Training by developers of HEAT Program.	10 Probation and CBO Partner staff.	13,000
Onsite 3 Day Staff Training by developers of HEAT Program.	Training materials	1,000
Onsite 3 Day Staff Training by developers of HEAT Program.	Training supplies	1,000
Onsite Fidelity and Quality Control Coaching by Program Developers	4 onsite Coaching and Feedback sessions to ensure program implementation fidelity	12,800
Program Implementation - 50 adult clients, 25 youth clients	Workbooks, Supplies, Incentives, Transportation, Service and Advocacy Projects, Completion Ceremonies.	25,500
		Total: <b>53,300</b>
In Kind Contributions including Probation Staff and Program Manager	Data Collection, administration, coordination, sites, program delivery	16,000

## Project timeline

The project will begin July 1, 2020, or as soon as the contract with the City of Vallejo is completed, and will continue over a one year period. Activities for each quarter are detailed below.

ACTIVITY	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
07/01/2020 Upon award, enter into a contract agreement with Heat Time, a non-profit social justice organization and developer of the H.E.A.T. Program. Identify outcome measures and begin design of evaluation plan.			?	
07/15/2020 Schedule 3 Day Train the Facilitator Class for 10 staff and or community partners			?	

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07/30/2020 Identify staff to be trained as facilitators			?	
09/15/2020 Heat Time staff conducts training			?	
09/30/2020 Probation Management identifies lead facilitator for the pilot 9 month program H.E.A.T.			?	
10/1/2020 Marketing and Client Engagement via flyers, presentations and conversations with clients				?
10/15/2020 Begin 9 month H.E.A.T. Program with Probation Clients.				?
10/30/2020 Schedule with Heat Time 3-4 on site, at least quarterly, Coaching and Fidelity sessions for Program Facilitators.				?
11/1/2020 Finalize outcome measure and evaluation plan.				?
06/30/2021 Program Completion and Graduation Ceremony		?		

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