

# County of Santa Clara Probation Department Juvenile Services



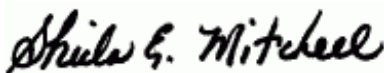
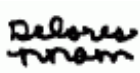
PRO05 051909

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DATE: May 19, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:    
Sheila E. Mitchell  
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FY 09 Local Youth Mentoring Initiative Grant Application

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Consider recommendations relating to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) FY 09 Local Youth Mentoring Initiative:

Possible action:

- a. Ratify grant application submitted by the Probation Department to the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FY 09 Local Youth Mentoring Initiative on April 20, 2009, thereby approving an intent to partner with Fresh Lifelines for Youth.
- b. Approve delegation of authority to the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, to submit Santa Clara County's Grant Application to the OJJDP relating to providing mentoring services in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for period July 1, 2009 through June 30 2013, accept grant funds, and negotiate, execute and terminate any necessary agreements, amendments, annual renewals or extensions through June 30, 2013, subject to review and approval as to form and legality by County Counsel, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on June 30, 2013.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no impact to the General Fund and there is no match required for this funding opportunity. Probation applied for the maximum grant award of \$500,000 over a four-year period. The grant announcement does not indicate when the funds will become available. In the event that grant funding is no longer available after the grant period, the Department will assess its existing programs to determine the feasibility of incorporating the Mentoring Program within its budget. The Mentoring Program will be deleted if the Department's budget is unable to sustain the program.

### **CONTRACT HISTORY**

There is no contract history associated with this application.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

On April 5, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a countywide process for grant applications. Requests for grant applications over \$250,000 must be made to the Board of Supervisors. Departments are required to seek retroactive approvals from the relevant approving authority when it had not been feasible to receive approval prior to applying for the grant. In this instance, due to the imposed time constraints for submission of the application, set by the funding agency, the Department was unable to seek prior approval.

The stated purposes of the ARRA: to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery; to assist those most impacted by the recession; to provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health; to invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits; and to stabilize State and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive State and local tax increases.

In an effort to reduce juvenile delinquency, violence, gang participation, school failure, and dropout rates, OJJDP issued a solicitation for the ARRA FY 09 Local Youth Mentoring Initiative to support local organizations that develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs leading to measurable, positive outcomes for at-risk youth. A 2000 national evaluation of OJJDP's mentoring program found significant reductions in risks involving aggressive behavior and delinquency, peer relationships, and mental health. Lessons learned from this evaluation have increased OJJDP's understanding of factors that are crucial to effective mentoring and of promising models and effective approaches to community collaboration.

The current grant application proposes a partnership between FLY and Probation. All contracts required to implement the partnership will be procured according to established County policies and procedures.

The proposed Mentoring Program will recruit volunteers to mentor Probation youth, with an emphasis on youth exiting the Enhanced Ranch Program. The County intends to increase the access youth have to a positive role model and increase the presence of someone the youth can relate to by expanding an already existing mentoring program. The Program will increase the engagement of youth in pro-social activities by a minimum of two hours per week and create a positive peer group for youth to associate with, with an emphasis that this routine consistently occur for at least 12 months.

The Mentoring Program will be developed based on a long term model that currently serves youth with substance abuse issues and will be expanded so that at least 40 mentors are recruited and trained within 10 weeks of the grant award. The mentors will receive three days of training in areas such as relationship development and local resources to help youth with education, job skills, and mental health counseling. Forty youth will be matched with mentors within three months of the grant award. The stakeholders will provide oversight by holding a weekly check-in conference to ensure that any delays are addressed immediately so the project can stay on track. Furthermore, the stakeholders will collect ARRA- and OJJDP-required data to track the relationships and their outcomes.

## **BACKGROUND**

The ARRA emphasizes accountability and transparency, which expands upon the Office of Juvenile Program's standard grant reporting requirements. In particular, section 1512 (c ) of the ARRA sets out detailed requirements for quarterly reports that must be submitted within 10 days of the end of each calendar quarter, starting July 10, 2009. Receipt of funds will be contingent on meeting the ARRA reporting requirements. The Department acknowledges this emphasis and commits itself to meeting the additional requirements of this grant. The Department has shared the appropriate documents with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations for posting to the County's website. If an award is received, the Department will advise the Office of the County Executive and share copies of its quarterly progress reports.

The Probation Department currently engages community based organizations to provide mentoring services for juveniles. Mentoring services are provided with funding Probation receives from the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, among other resources. FLY mentors youth with substance abuse issues. California Youth Outreach and Mexican American Community Services Agency provide mentoring services for early offenders in the Restorative Justice Program. A pilot mentoring program was established in 2008 wherein FLY mentors youth exiting the Enhanced Ranch Program.

The Mentoring Program proposed in the grant application has been in development with community based organizations since Spring, 2008. At that time, OJJDP announced a grant opportunity for applicants who demonstrated a partnership with community based organizations to jointly start or expand a mentoring program. Probation was contacted by a number of community based service providers and engaged in discussions with these providers, including Rebekah Children Services, FLY, Catholic Charities, Unity Care, the Third St. Community Center, and CrossCultural Community Services Center, to

design the program and partner with Probation to meet OJJDP guidelines. While it was clear that several of the organizations were capable of starting up a mentoring program, the feasibility was not certain. For example, Catholic Charities communicated to Probation that the grant amount was not sufficient to warrant its starting a new program. FLY was the only organization that already had experience matching mentors and mentees in a long-term relationship of one or more years, meeting one of the guidelines recommended by OJJDP. Subsequently, FLY was selected to partner with Probation in the grant application. The feedback from OJJDP on Probation's grant application was largely positive even though Probation was unsuccessful in securing the funds.

In March 2009, FLY and the City of Mountain View were in discussions about pursuing the current grant in partnership with Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC). Probation was initially invited to partner with the City, CHAC, and FLY. Ultimately, a decision was made for the application to be submitted by Probation so that services could be available to youth throughout the County; CHAC agreed that mentoring services would be best provided by FLY. The current proposal was developed based on feedback from OJJDP for the 2008 application, as well as on the refinements to mentoring services for Probation youth that Probation and community based providers began developing since Spring 2008.

The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) released a report of findings from a survey on the economic issues facing nonprofits in the current economic conditions. SVCN found that nearly 50% of community based organizations providing health and human services, including organizations that provide such services to Probation youth, reported that individual, corporate, and foundation donations have decreased. Probation is seeking to secure grant funds to augment current funding levels for Santa Clara County community based programs. The Mentoring Program, if awarded, will provide funding for two positions at a community based organization.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The County of Santa Clara will withdraw its grant application through the OJJDP FY09 Recovery Act Local Youth Mentoring Initiative.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Upon the Board of Supervisors' approval, the Clerk of the Board's Office is requested to send a certified copy of the transmittal as well as Keyboard notification of the completed process to Delores Nnam, Jackie Howe, and Jessie Fuentes of the Probation Department.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Grant Application for OJJDP

This attachment is on file with the  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
located at: 70 W. Hedding St.; San  
Jose, CA; East Wing; 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

OMB No. 1121-0323

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for funding under the OJJDP FY 09 Recovery Act Local Youth Mentoring Initiative.

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). As one of its many elements, the Recovery Act provides the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) with funding for grants to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring. DOJ is committed to working with our national, state, local and tribal partnerships to ensure this funding invests in the American workforce.

Specifically, under this solicitation, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will make awards to support local organizations that develop, implement, or expand local mentoring programs leading to measurable, positive outcomes for at-risk youth. This program furthers the Department's mission by enhancing the capacity of local mentoring programs to develop and implement mentoring strategies to reduce juvenile delinquency and prevent violence.

## OJJDP FY 09 Recovery Act Local Youth Mentoring Initiative

### Eligibility

(See "Eligibility," page 6)

### Deadline

Registration with the OJP Grants Management System (GMS) is required prior to application submission. Applicants must obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet prior to application submission. Applicants must register with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database.

(See "Deadline: Registration," page 5)

All applications are due by 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 20, 2009.

(See "Deadline: Application", page 5)