



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Probation

**Subject:** Authorize Application to Proposition 47 Grant Program Cohort V

**Meeting Date:** May 20, 2025

**Formal Title:** Authorize grant application in the not-to-exceed amount of \$8 million to the California Board of State and Community Corrections Proposition 47 Grant Program, Cohort V, to enhance mental health, substance use disorder, and diversion services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system, and take related actions

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Authorize a grant application in the not-to-exceed amount of \$8 million to the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Proposition 47 Grant Program, Cohort V, to enhance mental health, substance use disorder, and diversion services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system; and
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the Chief Probation Officer to submit the grant application for this funding and sign the grant agreement with the BSCC, including any amendments thereof.

### **Executive Summary**

The Probation Department is requesting authorization to apply for the Proposition 47 Grant, Cohort V, to provide mental health, substance use disorder, and diversion services for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. In addition, Probation requests the Board's adoption of the attached resolution as part of the grant application packet.

### **Discussion**

The Proposition 47 Grant Program, Cohort V, will provide approximately \$127,000,000 for grant awards statewide. Requests are limited to two project categories: 1) Smaller Scope of up to \$2 million over the entire grant term; or 2) Larger Scope of more than \$2 million and up to \$8 million over the entire grant term. Probation will be submitting a proposal for the Larger Scope category.

The Proposition 47 Grant Program must be used for mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, diversion programs, or some combination thereof for people in the criminal justice system. Applicants are also encouraged to provide supplemental housing-related services and other community-based supportive services. Applicants must be public agencies and must subcontract a minimum of 50 percent of the total grant award to non-governmental community organizations in order to demonstrate a shared partnership rooted in community engagement and economic equity. Additional points are awarded for applicants that pass-through 60 percent or more of the funding.

Grant proposals are due June 23, 2025. Award notification is anticipated in July or August 2025 with grant term October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029. The grant term allows for a three-month start-up/implementation period, three calendar years of service delivery (2026, 2027, 2028) and a final data evaluation period in 2029.

This request is part of programmatic efforts to address mental health, substance use

disorder, and homelessness among individuals involved in the criminal justice system in Santa Cruz County by providing coordinated and accelerated access to assessments and services. The proposal being developed is a collaboration between county justice system partners and community-based organizations, to provide direct services, treatment services, training, and housing options.

Since 2019, funding awarded to Santa Cruz County under Cohort II has supported multiple local projects and services, including the Neighborhood Court program, court- and jail-based mental health and substance use disorder assessment, reentry navigation and peer navigator support, expanded substance use disorder treatment, bridge housing support, staff and community training, and comprehensive data collection and program evaluation. Additionally, Cohort III funding awarded to Santa Cruz County has fueled Coordinated Access for Empowering Success (CAFES), which targets individuals committing lower-level crimes who also face substance use or mental health challenges. This trauma-informed model enhances services via community organizations, restorative justice practices, and support for treatment and housing, with direct services available through February 2026. Statewide data showed that the services offered are effective at reducing recidivism, particularly for individuals receiving ongoing support rather than one-time interventions.

Santa Cruz County's Health Services Agency has received \$8 million in funding under Cohort IV, October 3, 2024 to June 1, 2028. The funding awarded is for RENEWPath (Reentry, Engagement, New beginning, Empowerment, Wellness), which supports individuals with Recovery Residence housing, co-occurring treatment and wraparound care coordination to support diversion from the criminal justice system and reduce recidivism.

Probation is proposing to pass through at least 50 percent, if not more, of the funds to non-governmental community organizations. This will include mental health and substance use disorder assessment and treatment, as well as support for housing, job development, education, and other social support services coordinated through the Probation Success Center. In addition, the grant proposes to fund 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) limited-term Probation position for grant management and fiscal processing; and 1.0 FTE limited-term District Attorney position to coordinate the Neighborhood Court program.

### **Financial Impact**

Probation will be submitting a proposal for the large scope with a minimum award amount of \$2 million and a maximum award amount of \$8 million. This grant requires that a minimum of 50 percent of grant funds pass through to non-governmental community organizations, with additional points awarded for higher percentages up to 70 percent. This grant application does not require a match or leveraged funding. If funded the maximum amount, this grant will fund 1.0 FTE Probation position and 1.0 FTE District Attorney position.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Operational Excellence

### **Submitted By:**

Fernando Giraldo, Chief Probation Officer

**Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

**Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.