

Program # 50024 - Juvenile Latino Shelter Beds

Version 7/05/2006 s

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: New Program
Related Programs: 50015, 50017, 50023A, 50023B

Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Thach Nguyen

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Latino males 12-18 years old are held in detention at disproportionately high rates in part because they lack supervised housing in the community. The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) proposes a cheaper, more effective option: contract for short-term (30 day) shelter care and staff to link them to services for 30 youth each year.

Program Description

Research shows that detained youth are more likely to commit new crimes. For this reason, DCJ detains youth only when objective criteria indicate public safety is at risk. In FY 2005, DCJ detained 44 Latino youth in spite of the risk criteria, often because youth were undocumented and lacked stable housing to which they could be released. This rate was 7% higher than for White youth, and 13% more than for African-American youth (who have access to shelter care like that proposed here). To address these barriers and invest safety dollars in less costly alternatives to detention (a shelter bed costs \$120 a day, while a detention bed costs \$215), DCJ would contract with a community provider for 5 shelter beds for Latino males 12-18 awaiting trial and permanent placements. Young males could stay for up to 28 days, participate in structured activities, and have staff link them to health care, employment, and school, as well as cultural education and Latino role models.

Program Justification

This program enables the juvenile justice system to hold juvenile offenders accountable, while assuring that they receive fair and equitable treatment. With these beds, fewer Latino youth have to be detained simply because culturally appropriate alternatives do not exist. In addition, this program is cost-effective and research-based because it reserves \$215/day detention beds for the highest risk youth and provides culturally-specific shelter and services. Research indicates that culturally specific programs produce better outcomes for youth of color. However, no Latino-focused shelter care currently exists in the county. This program fills that void.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY04-05)	Current Year Purchased (FY05-06)	Current Year Estimate (FY05-06)	Next Year Offer (FY06-07)
Output	Number of youth served by program.	0	0	0	30
Outcome	Percent of youth who did not recidivate while in the program.	0%	0%	0%	70%
Output	Percent of youth awaiting trial who appear for court hearings.	0%	0%	0%	70%

Performance Measure - Description

Recidivism is measured by new criminal referral.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2006	2006	2007	2007
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$219,000	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$219,000	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$10,505	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$10,950	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$21,455	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$240,455	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$240,455	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was:
New program for 2007