



***NEWS FROM:***  
***Department of Human Services***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Sara Bedford**  
**(510) 238-6794**

**Oakland Awarded More Than \$3 Million in Violence Prevention Grants**  
*Measure Y Programs Receive Federal Recognition and Leverage New Dollars*

*Oakland, CA*—The innovative violence prevention work in Oakland under Measure Y is garnering national recognition from the federal government and beyond, as demonstrated by the City of Oakland’s recent receipt of two grant awards and a third partnership grant with Alameda County Probation. Measure Y funds served as vital leverage to secure each of these unique funding opportunities.

**1. Oakland Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Grant: \$2.2 million**

The City of Oakland received a Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration grant for \$2.2 million over three years (Oct 2010-Sept 2013) from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Oakland is one of only four cities in the nation to receive this prestigious grant.

The three main goals of this grant, which replicates the nationally recognized Ceasefire model are: (1) to provide alternatives to violence when gangs and individuals in the community are making risky behavior decisions through street outreach, case management, crisis response, intervening before retaliation, connection to education, and employment and training opportunities; (2) to change community norms regarding violence through a public education campaign, targeted community organizing, and mobilizing clergy to plan vigils and other activities; and (3) to increase awareness of the perceived risks and costs of involvement in violence among high-risk young people through public education and a call-in strategy targeting young people involved with guns with a message of strong sanctions for future violence.

Oakland's replication and adaptation of the Ceasefire model builds on the current Measure Y network of services. More specifically, it: (1) expands the current Measure Y street outreach program to serve more neighborhoods; (2) increases the coordination, enforcement and service provision among the systems – juvenile justice, school, police, social services – that touch high-risk youth; (3) “calls in” violent offenders to offer services to turn their lives around and communicate severe sanctions for not doing so; (4) responds quickly and compassionately to shootings/killings in order to prevent retaliations, and (5) initiates a public education campaign and expands clergy/community engagement in these violence prevention efforts.

The unique partners in this ambitious project include the City of Oakland's Department of Human Services, Oakland Police Department, Oakland Community Organizations, Alameda County Probation, California Parole Department, US Attorney's Office of Northern District of California, Alameda County District Attorney's Office, Healthy Oakland, California Youth Outreach, and various community-based and faith-based agencies.

## **2. A Second Chance Act Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration: \$750,000**

The City of Oakland's Department of Human Services received a Second Chance Juvenile Reentry Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for further development of the Measure Y juvenile justice center strategy designed to ensure Oakland youth are reconnected with school immediately upon release from juvenile detention. The grant provides \$750,000 for one year (Oct 2010– Sept 2011).

This project leverages significant resources to expand a strong network of public partners and community agencies to support Oakland youth in quickly getting back into school, being successful in school, and helping families support their children in completing probation. Building on the current Measure Y strategy and the County's Transition Center, this project targets a population of 355 Oakland youth, ages 12-18, and their families at the Juvenile Justice Center who face the most significant challenges to successful reentry and provides them with a seamless network of community and public agency support.

Through the development of a highly innovative, community-based reentry system, the program seeks to achieve a fifty percent (50%) reduction in recidivism. Community-based case managers promote school attendance, academic progress, family support, and employment by providing intensive wraparound services. Case managers also collaborate with the Probation Department to support youth's successful completion of Court Orders and their disengagement from the juvenile justice system. The Oakland Unified School District supports an enrollment specialist and special education assessment staff, partially funded by Measure Y, at the Juvenile Justice Center to ensure youth are appropriately and quickly placed back into school. The current strategy has already reduced the number of days to re-enrollment from more than eight days before the project started to just one day for youth enrolled in the program. This new grant will help to expand this work by serving more youth, providing key probation and school district assessment support, and intensifying the quality of training and support youth-serving staff receive.

The collaborative partners include the City of Oakland's Department of Human Services, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Oakland Unified School District, Alameda County Probation, Alameda County Office of Education, Children's Hospital and Research Center, community-based service providers, and employment providers.

## **3. Second Chance Act Adult Offender Reentry Grant: \$750,000**

Alameda County's Probation Department spearheaded a multi-agency collaboration, which includes the City of Oakland's Department of Human Services and Alameda County Community Action Agency, to support the reentry of young men and women into Alameda County from Santa Rita Jail. The grant from the Department of Justice provides \$750,000 for one year to intensify the reentry planning and support services available. For the City of Oakland's Department of Human Services, this allows for the expansion of the Measure Y-funded Project Choice program, providing intensive reentry coaching and employment supports for young men and women returning home from Santa Rita jail. Project Choice has been providing services in San Quentin State Prison and state juvenile facilities in Stockton since 2003 and has been shown to be effective in significantly reducing recidivism among its participants. City staff have long wanted to expand this proven program to serve Oakland residents incarcerated in Santa Rita Jail, and this grant provides that opportunity.

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