

Richmond Questions

1. What steps will be taken to increase access for community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide services in the County jail facilities?

The Sheriff's Office is hiring an AB 109 Inmate Services Specialist to increase access while ensuring staff, inmate, and service provider safety. All providers will be subject to the Sheriff's Office clearance process.

2. What steps are being take to increase the ability of grassroots community-based organizations who are connected to the reentry population to provide services?

A series of meetings, facilitated by Further The Work, are being held to help organizations develop collaborative proposals in West County and to help have more conversations about the proposals: what it takes to be a good Lead agency and what it takes to be a good partner.

Information about upcoming meetings is available on the AB 109 Community Programs webpage: www.cccounty.us/AB109CommunityPrograms. In addition, the County Office of Education is hosting a collaboration meeting on Wednesday, April 3, to address collaboration in Central and East County. See the flyer advertising the meeting on the AB 109 Community Programs webpage.

3. One thing that Alameda County is doing is setting aside \$2 Million in funding for "Innovations" to assist smaller capacity organizations (start-ups, organizations that have not been funded before) with providing reentry services. Is Contra Costa County doing something similar?

Not at this time. Alameda County defines an innovative project as a short-term project that contributes to learning, rather than having a primary focus on providing a service. In Contra Costa County, we are concentrating on service delivery at this point. And while start-up organizations are not specifically identified for funding in the Contra Costa County AB 109 Community Programs RFP process, they are not excluded either.

4. Do you have numbers on transitional age youth in West County?

Not presently, but we will try to obtain those numbers, if they are available. The demographics of the AB 109 population are included in the RFPs, and they do include information about transitional age youth in the AB 109 population but it is not broken down by region.

5. Can a Richmond-based program provide services in Central County? Is it necessary to include transportation costs in the proposal?

Yes, an agency based in one region can provide services in another region. However, the provider should be able to ensure accessibility of services such as offering transportation between sites to ensure participation of the AB 109 population.

6. Can the proposal show that qualifications and capacities are being provided by organizations other than the Lead, in a collaborative proposal?

Yes. The Lead Agency does not need to have all the qualifications and capacities within its own organization but can supplement with agency partnerships.

7. If an agency is applying to deliver services in all three regions, can you submit one application or are three separate proposals required?

If you intend to provide services in more than one region for a specific RFP category such as employment only one application is required. Be sure to clearly identify how you intend to deliver services in each region.

8. Has the County identified the members of the Review Panels?

Yes. The four Review Panels have been established and will consist of the following members:

- 1. Chief of Probation (with Todd Billeci, Director of Field Operations, filling in for scheduled absences)
- 2. Lara DeLaney representing the CAO's office
- 3. Nikolas Klein, AB 109 Program Manager in Sonoma County and Stephan Betz, Assistant Director of Solano County Health and Social Services. (Proposals will be divided between these representatives.)
- 4. Research professionals from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (4 professionals to address each of the RFP subject areas)
- 5. Jerry Elster from "All of Us or None," representing a Formerly Incarcerated Person
- 6. For "Employment Support and Placement Services": Bill Heiser, Director of California, Center for Employment Opportunities.

For "Short and Long-Term Housing Access": Lavonna Martin, Acting Director, Homeless Programs, Behavioral Health Division of Health Services. Joseph Villareal, Executive Director, Contra Costa Housing Authority (*alternate*)

For "Peer and Mentoring Services": Pat Mims, Manager at Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR)

For "Planning for (3) Reentry Resource Centers": Charles Turner, Manager of the Oakland Private Industry Council. Wendy Therrian, Workforce Services Director

9. For the Reentry Resource Center One-stop planning process, can the consultant provide three examples of prior comparable planning processes including examples from outside the county?

Yes, any examples of prior planning processes would be reviewed in the bidder's experience section.

10. If audited financials are several hundred pages is it possible to include a link to the financial statement in lieu of attaching a copy?

A link to online posting of the audited financial statement is allowable if a summary is provided along with the link.

11. Can the audited financial statement requirement be waived to allow smaller providers to be competitive? The requirement restricts participation and is a high cost for smaller organizations. Is it possible to include a preference for audited financials and still allow for alternative financial statements to be provided?

This issue will be raised with the County Administrator to make a determination.

12. Answer to audit question possible sooner, than later? Several agencies claim they will file a protest based upon the audit requirement, as it can restrict competition. Concern for alienation.

This issue will receive prompt attention by the County Administrator.

13. Is the audit required of the lead agency only?

Yes, if a lead agency meets minimum requirements, sub-contractors of the lead agency are not required to have audited financial statements.

14. The RFP instructions indicate the due date for proposals is Friday, April 15. However, April 15 is a Monday. What is the due date?

The due date is Monday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. An Amendment will include that correction.

15. Will FAQs be posted that contain the questions of the Bidders Conference, and if so, when will they be posted?

Yes, the questions and answers from the Bidders Conference will be included in an Addendum, which will be posted by April 1. Any questions received after that until the question deadline, Monday, April 8 will be posted on the webpage as well.

16. For each of the different services for which the RFPs were issued, has the County made any decisions about how to divide the services/contracts?

No, the decision about how many different contracts to award will depend on the service proposals received and the quality of service proposals.

17. How much of the proposal can be budgeted for administrative costs?

Administrative costs are limited to 15%.

18. How many past contracts and grants should be included (in Form 4)?

Highlight key contracts/grants within past 5 years that are relevant to services proposed and the target population.

19. Does the form related to contracts and grants (Form 4) disqualify start-ups?

No, start-ups are not disqualified. However, the County is looking to contract with service providers who have experience working with the formerly incarcerated population.

20. Will the PowerPoint presentation be made available?

Yes. Please refer to the www.cccounty.us/AB109CommunityPrograms page.

21. Is it possible to obtain the list of everyone here and contact information?

Yes. We will send it out and post it on the webpage as well.

22. If the primary outcome is for employment, can an organization tailor a proposal to a specific service and not collaborate?

Yes, agencies are not required to have collaborative proposals but they are encouraged due to the limited amount of dollars. There is a clear intent to leverage the services resources.

23. Is there anything in the demographics that indicates the number of people needing ESL services?

The Probation Department has been able to identify a total of 5 who would possibly benefit from this service, at this point in time.

24. Should employment services be linked with Reentry Resource Centers?

Employment service providers will receive appropriate referrals from Reentry Resource Centers when they are implemented. In the proposals, organizations may express an intention to participate in the implementation of the Reentry Resource Centers.

25. Is there any preference or prioritization for organizations that participate in the Planning process to be included in Implementation of the Resource Centers?

Implementation will have to take results of planning process forward. But no determination has been made to prioritize the organizations that participate in the Planning process for Implementation resources.

26. There seems to be a lot of emphasis on cost reimbursement contract requirement, as opposed to fee for service.

Both payment provisions are available in the County's contracting process. The details would be worked out with the contractor.

27. Are you planning to go out with new RFPs next fiscal year, or will this be similar to CDBG grants that are 3-5 year contracts with no idea as yet about the amount of funds available in the future?

Because the County does not know what the permanent formula will be for AB 109 funds for FY 14-15 and onward, no decision has been made as yet regarding a separate RFP process for future fiscal years or the continuation of contracts. The Board of Supervisors will have to make that decision. In addition, the effectiveness of service delivery will have to be determined before decisions are made.

28. The Rating Sheet doesn't prioritize engaging people "where they are at." It only assigns 10 points out of 100 for "responsivity." We would ask that you reconsider this aspect.

The observation is noted.

29. Regarding fee for services, allocation of costs, can an organization provide a fee for services based proposal (e.g., case management) instead of the full line item budget proposal requested in the RFP? For example, if we provide services for 250 clients, we would have a comprehensive service proposal/scope of work for those clients, not a line item budget.

The RFP requires a line-item budget. Contracts can be reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis, but a line-item budget that shows all costs related to service provision is a requirement.

30. If an organization is intending to submit a proposal with collaborative partners, are all the collaborators required to attend the Bidders Conference, or is it just the lead agency?

Just the lead agency submitting the proposal is required to attend the Bidders Conference.

Pittsburg Questions

1. Will the PowerPoint presentation be made available?

Yes. It will be posted on the webpage for AB 109 Community Programs information.

2. The pre-release involvement with Probation... How is that being facilitated? How do you partner-up with folks doing pre-release work? How can there be more engagement around the pre-release opportunities?

There are organizations/agencies already providing services in the jail which have that pre-release contact, and you would address your partnership (or your intentionality for partnership) with those organizations/agencies that have clearance through the Sheriff's Office to work in the jails, including the Probation Department staff.

There are two levels to the question. The first is being able to get access to the folks in the jails through the Sheriff's Office, and then a level of coordination with Probation. In some ways, this is uncharted territory. While the "jail to community" model is an important evidence-based approach we want to foster and encourage in Contra Costa, it hasn't been the norm. So this is about breaking ground. It's important to demonstrate the willingness to have the collaborations and the intentionality to have the collaborations in the future.

3. Do you have demographics about the percentage of AB 109 clients who may be veterans?

Probation has not tracked these numbers to date, but linkage to Veterans Administration (VA) resources, the Department of Rehabilitation, etc., are encouraged to enhance available services. Probation has added this component to their database recently and will have better information about particular demographics in the future.

4. Does a history of collaboration with victim services show collaboration with justice systems partners?

Yes.

5. Is the RFP process or a piece of this program targeted to serve youth coming out of the juvenile system (CYA/DJJ commitments)?

Public Safety Realignment is focused on adults coming out of state prisons and offenders sentenced to County jail facilities/ County Probation.

6. When and by whom was the decision made to bifurcate the Planning and Implementation proposals for the Reentry Resource One-stop Centers?

This decision was made by the Public Protection Committee of the Board of Supervisors at the March 8 meeting.

7. How many agencies will be invited for interviews?

The number of agencies interviewed may depend on the number of proposal received. It is likely to be the top 3 proposals.

8. Does the audit requirement apply only to the lead agency?

Yes, the requirement applies only to the lead agency; subcontractors would not be required to provide a copy of an audit or an audited financial statement.

9. If the agency is a for-profit and does not have a Board of Directors, will that be taken into consideration with respect to Form #2?

Yes, it will be.

10. Can you talk more about the training requirements or training opportunities available for service providers?

One of the focuses will be around trauma informed models. We are also looking to focus on evidence-based practices and the factors of recidivism. Trainings offered by our community partners will also be encouraged. No defined curriculum has been developed as yet.

11. Does the 15% cap on administrative costs apply to subcontractor billing, so is there an overall cap of 15% on administrative costs?

Yes. The overall cap for administrative costs is 15%.

12. Are separate proposals required for multiple regions?

No, agencies are not required to submit separate proposals to address services in different regions. Separate proposals are only required for the different service areas offered in the 4 separate RFPs.

13. If an agency is not a non-profit, how does the audit requirement apply? How does it relate to the Planning RFP?

The audit requirement applies to all agencies, whether for or non-profit. Any change to this requirement will be posted to the website.

14. What is the anticipated timeline for a Planning proposal?

We anticipate that the Planning processes would take no longer than 6 months. Please include a timeline in your proposal.

15. Is there an update on the Antioch City Council resolution that was proposing a moratorium on providers in Antioch?

It is our understanding that the Antioch City Council passed an emergency temporary ordinance, which is in place for 45 days, requires that new providers of mentoring, housing assistance, job training and other services for the AB 109 population not currently located in Antioch obtain conditional use permits and locate in areas zoned for business and professional services. During that 45 days, the City will move to amend its zoning code so they can have more regulatory authority over where in the City services are provided.

Martinez RFP Questions

1. Is the \$4 million for the program available for one year or multiple years?

This funding corresponds to one fiscal year. There are no guarantees of funding in future years.

2. What was the rationale for the \$4 million for the Community Programs (out of the \$19 million for AB 109)?

The Community Corrections Partnership made the recommendation on the amount to the Board of Supervisors, drawing on the advice and input of the Community Advisory Board regarding the allocations. Of course, there is more need for services than funding provided, but it's a start.

3. Will this funding help with the problem of placing the formerly incarcerated who may have mental illness in housing? It's been my experience that housing facilities do not want to take these individuals because of their licensing issues.

Yes, this program is trying to address some of those challenges. We can't solve all the challenges with this amount of funding, but we're hoping to make in-roads.

4. What is the total number of parolees and AB 109 people that we're dealing with?

See the demographics in the RFP. The AB 109 population is a piece of the total number of people reentering the community from incarceration. There are over 3500 people on adult supervision with the Probation Department. That number doesn't include folks on parole or Court Probation, the numbers of which we do not presently have.

5. What is the name of the program that is being used in Probation for behavioral change? Where was it developed?

"Thinking For a Change (T4C)" is the program that is being used currently for the AB 109 population as well as for the Second Chance Act population. It is being used all over the country, apparently to great success. T4C developers include Barry Glick, Ph.D.; Jack Bush, Ph.D.; and Juliana Taymans, Ph.D. in cooperation with the National Institute of Corrections.

6. Is the contractor required to undertake their own internal evaluation or will they be responding to the evaluation undertaken by the County?

The County will be developing a comprehensive data and evaluation plan. Contractors will be required to maintain data systems to collect and report any data requested.

7. What is the County's program evaluation process and is the process open to contractors?

The process is a collaborative team approach and will be determined when the contractors are brought on board. Case coordination is contemplated similar to the Second Chance project. The County has a goal of ensuring transparency and inclusion in the process.

8. One-stop centers already exist in the County. Are you suggesting that these One-Stop centers are not completely focused on employment but, rather, would provide a full complement of services to this community?

Yes, that is correct. The Reentry Resource Centers are intended to offer more comprehensive reentry related services to the AB 109 population and case management of service provision.

9. So the Reentry Resource Center RFP is not being released at this time? Is that what I heard you say?

The "Implementation" related RFP is not being released at this time. However, the "Planning" for the Reentry Resource Centers RFP is. After discussion at Public Protection Committee, the direction was to break the two components out separately.

10. With regard to Housing services, are agencies required to provide all of the possible services?

No, agencies are not required to provide all services themselves but are encouraged to provide linkages to partner agencies that provide complimentary services in the continuum of service delivery.

11. Are there guidelines or policies related to drugs and alcohol in housing?

The County is not establishing guidelines or policies through this specific process. However, a sober living environment to address addiction issues is encouraged.

12. Why is Implementation for the One-stop Reentry Resource Centers separated from this process?

The importance of a robust, comprehensive planning process that is responsive to each region of the community was prioritized.

13. Does this process include transitional aged youth?

Yes.

14. Is it appropriate to consider linkages (in proposals) with the existing Onestop Centers since the Reentry Resource Centers have not been established?

Yes.

15. Is there an external clock that is ticking that is driving the process to get these funds to the contract process? The contracts will run in FY 13-14 and yet these are FY 12-13 funds. If you are doing collaborations, the proposals may have to be vetted through several organizations; it seems to be a compressed time period especially during spring break.

The process it took to develop the Operational Plan for the expenditure of the funds and then get an approved FY 12-13 budget from the Board of Supervisors has contributed to the timeframe we are operating under presently.

16. Regarding letters of support, if a letter of support is on the agenda to be approved at a meeting of the Board of Directors after April 15, will you accept that letter?

Yes, if it signed by the Executive Director.

17. How many AB 109ers have children? How many women do we have in the Central and East County with children and their ages?

We currently are not tracking women with children and their ages. However, we currently have 45 active women between PRCS and 1170(h). Based on an initial assessment, we were able to identify 20 of the women with children. We do not know the ages of these children.