
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 912
Author: Jones-Sawyer (D), et al.
Amended: 9/1/23 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: 5-0, 6/20/23
AYES: Wahab, Ochoa Bogh, Bradford, Skinner, Wiener

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 11-0, 7/12/23
AYES: Eggman, Nguyen, Glazer, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Limón, Menjivar, Roth,
Rubio, Wahab, Wiener
NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 9/1/23
AYES: Portantino, Jones, Ashby, Bradford, Seyarto, Wahab, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/30/23 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Strategic Anti-Violence Funding Efforts Act

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill re-establishes the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program to be administered by the Office of Youth and Community Restoration and revises components of the program, establishes the Violence Reduction Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ), and creates additional grant programs designed to improve the health and well-being of youth.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) Program within the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the purpose of granting funds, as specified. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1450.)

- 2) Requires that three percent of funds for the YRG be allocated to Indian tribes for the purpose of implementing diversion programs for Indian children that use trauma-informed, community-based, and health-based interventions. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1453, subd. (a).)
- 3) Requires that priority be given to diversion programs addressing the needs of Indian children who experience high rates of juvenile arrest, suicide, alcohol and substance abuse, and average high school graduation rates lower than 75 percent. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1453, subd. (b).)
- 4) Requires YRG funds to be allocated by the BSCC through a competitive grant process for the purpose of implementing trauma-informed diversion programs for youth. Provides that grants be awarded to a local governmental entity or nonprofit organization for no less \$50,000 and no more than \$2 million. Requires an applicant to provide at least a 25-percent cash or in-kind match to the grant, except as provided. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1458, subds. (a) & (b).)
- 5) Requires 90 percent of YRG funds awarded to a local government entity to pass through to community-based organizations to deliver services in underserved communities with high rates of youth arrests. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1458, subd. (b)(3).)
- 6) Requires services offered to youth be community based, evidence based, culturally relevant, and developmentally appropriate. Requires services to be located in communities of local jurisdictions with the high needs. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1458, subd. (b)(4).)
- 7) Provides that the BSCC is responsible for oversight and accountability of the YRG, including supporting grantee data collection, contracting with a research firm or university to conduct a statewide evaluation of the grant program, and assisting the research firm or university by providing relevant, existing data for the purposes of tracking outcomes. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 1459.)
- 8) Establishes the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) in the California Health and Human Services Agency with a mission to promote trauma responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support their successful transition to adulthood and help them become responsible, thriving, and engaged members of the community. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 2200, subds. (a) & (b).)
- 9) Moves all juvenile justice grant administration functions in the BSCC to the OYCR no later than January 1, 2025. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 2200, subd. (h).)

This bill:

- 1) Re-establishes the YRG program, makes changes to the existing grant program, and designates the OYCR to administer it.
- 2) Requires YRG funds to be allocated as follows:
 - a) Three percent for administrative costs.
 - b) \$500,000 for evaluation of the grant program.
 - c) \$500,000 for technical assistance to grantees.
 - d) Ten percent for Native American youth diversion programs.
 - e) All remaining funds to be used for youth diversion programs.
- 3) Includes the following definitions:
 - a) “Applicant” and “grantee” mean an eligible tribal government, tribal organization, or a nonprofit community-based organization that meets specified requirements.
 - b) “Area of high need” means either of the following: a city or a ZIP Code with rates of youth arrests that are higher than the county average, based on available arrest data; or a city or a ZIP Code with racial or ethnic disparities in youth arrests that are higher than their representation in the county population, as described by the applicant.
 - c) “Diversion” means a nonpunitive response to address a youth’s conduct without involving a youth formally in the juvenile justice system.
 - d) “Diversion program” means a program that promotes positive youth development by relying on responses that prevent a youth’s involvement or further involvement in the justice system.
 - e) “Mixed-delivery system” means a system of adolescent development and education support services delivered through a combination of programs, providers, and settings that include partnerships between community-based nonprofit organizations and public agencies and that is supported with a combination of public and private funds.

- f) “Referring agency” means organizations or agencies that may refer youth to diversion programs, including, but not limited to, education, law enforcement, child welfare, behavioral health, and public health entities.
 - g) “Trauma-informed” means an approach that involves an understanding of adverse childhood experiences and responding to symptoms of chronic interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress across the lifespan of an individual.
 - h) “Youth” means a person who is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
- 4) Requires that OYCR allocate YRG funds through a three-year competitive grant program for the purpose of implementing a mixed-delivery system of trauma-informed health and development diversion programs for youth.
 - 5) Outlines eligibility criteria to receive YRG funding, as specified.
 - 6) Requires grants awarded to be no less than \$50,000 and no more than \$2 million.
 - 7) Requires diversion services to be provided in communities described as areas with high needs. Requires services to be evidence based, trauma informed, culturally relevant, gender responsive, and developmentally appropriate.
 - 8) Requires applicants to have experience effectively serving populations of youth who are juvenile justice system-involved or at-risk of system involvement. Requires priority be given to organizations that employ people with lived experience as a youth in the juvenile justice system.
 - 9) Requires that diversion programs include alternatives to arrest, incarceration, and formal involvement with the justice system with priority given to programs that divert youth at the earliest possible point of involvement. Requires diversion programs to also include one or more of the following: educational services; career development services; mentoring services; behavioral health services, including substance use treatment; mental health services; housing services; personal development and leadership training services; or prosocial activities.
 - 10) Provides that the OYCR is responsible for the administration, oversight, and compliance of the YRG. Requires the OYCR to support grantee data collection and analysis, contract with a research firm or university to conduct a statewide evaluation of the program, and contract with a technical assistance provider to

support implementation of the program and to build capacity of grantee organizations. Specifies that \$500,000 must be set aside to contract with the researcher for evaluation and \$500,000 must be set aside to contract with the technical assistance provider.

- 11) Establishes a grant program, contingent on an appropriation, to be administered by the DOJ for the purpose of improving public safety and community health and well-being with a focus on communities that are impacted by violence and gang involvement.
- 12) Requires grants awarded to be used to support, expand, and replicate evidence-based, focused-deterrence collaborative programs that conduct outreach to targeted gangs and offer supportive services in order to preemptively reduce and eliminate violence and gang involvement. Requires the supportive services to include job training, health care, and crisis response to shootings and violence, among other services. Requires DOJ to give priority for funding to schools, community-based organizations, and nonprofit organizations.
- 13) Requires grants to be awarded on a competitive basis with preference to cities and local jurisdictions that are disproportionately impacted by violence and gang involvement.
- 14) Outlines the requirements for a grant application. Requires DOJ to give preference to applicants whose grant proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood of reducing the incidence of violence and gang involvement in the applicant's community, without contributing to mass incarceration.
- 15) Requires each city and other local jurisdiction that receives a grant to distribute no less than 50 percent of the grant funds to one or both of the following: community-based organizations, or public agencies or departments that are primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention.
- 16) Authorizes DOJ to use up to 7 percent of the funds appropriated for the program each year for the costs of administering the program.
- 17) Specifies other program requirements.
- 18) Requires the California Health and Human Services Agency, contingent on an appropriation, to administer a grant program to provide funding to local educational agencies, including charter schools, to implement evidence-based interventions for pupils impacted by trauma, and to an organization to study specified pupil outcomes, for the improvement in the health and well-being of the youth and school and community stability. Requires the agency to develop

an application process and criteria for funding, evaluate those applications, and develop a list of evidence-based interventions that local educational agencies receiving grants may implement, among other things.

- 19) Renames the Public School Health Center Support Program to the School-Based Health Center Support Program and makes numerous changes to the program, including its grant program.
- 20) Establishes a grant program to be administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation, contingent on an appropriation, for the purpose of awarding grants to local governments and community-based organizations to support existing and create new parks and recreation opportunities in order to create and enhance recreation- and health-based interventions for youth during peak times of violence. Outlines requirements in developing and implementing the grant program.

Background

Youth Reinvestment Grant Program

The Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) program was established in the 2018 Budget Act and a related trailer bill. The YRG program is aimed at diverting low-level offenders from initial contact with the juvenile justice system using approaches that are evidence-based, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate. When initially created, only California cities and counties were eligible to apply for grants. The applicant was required to designate a “lead public agency,” such as the applicant city or county, or a department or agency within the applicant’s jurisdiction, to receive 10% the funds and to coordinate with local law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, and nonprofit organizations to implement the local grant program. Applicants were required to pass through the remaining 90% of awarded funds to community-based organizations to deliver diversion programs to minors. (BSCC, *Youth Reinvestment Grant Frequently Asked Questions* <<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/YRG-FAQ-POSTED-3.5.19.pdf> [as of Jun. 13, 2023].)

AB 1454 (Jones-Sawyer, Chapter 584, Statutes 2019) revised the program to allow a non-profit organization to apply directly for a grant through the YRG program and increased the maximum grant amount from \$1 million to \$2 million. Examples of funded programs include a range of after-school and mentoring programs and a program that provides services to at-risk or justice-involved youth (such as a late-night sports league, case management, and mentorship).

All juvenile justice grant administration functions in the BSCC are required to move to the OYCR no later than January 1, 2025. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 2200, subd. (h).) This bill re-establishes the YRG program, designates the OYCR as the administrator of the program, and makes some changes to the existing grant program.

Violence Reduction Grant Program

In addition to the other grant programs created by this bill, this bill establishes a competitive grant program within DOJ to improve public safety and community health and well-being especially in communities impacted by violence and gang involvement. This bill requires grants awarded to be used to support, expand, and replicate evidence-based, focused-deterrence collaborative programs that conduct outreach to targeted gangs and offer supportive services in order to preemptively reduce and eliminate violence and gang involvement. This bill requires that the supportive services offered include job training, health care, and crisis response to shootings and violence, among other services. Schools, community-based organizations, and nonprofit organizations would be given preference for funding via the program but cities and local jurisdictions are also eligible to apply for grants.

This bill requires DOJ to give preference to applicants whose grant proposals demonstrate the greatest likelihood of reducing the incidence of violence and gang involvement in the applicant's community, without contributing to mass incarceration. A city or local jurisdiction that receives a grant would be required to distribute at least 50 percent of the grant funds to at least one community-based organization or public agency that is primarily dedicated to community safety or violence prevention.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.:Yes Local:No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- General Fund (GF) cost pressures, likely in the low hundreds of millions, to fund the various grant programs that would be established by this bill. In its original version, AB 912 would have appropriated \$235 million GF for these purposes. No funding has been included in the 2023-24 Budget Act for these grants.
- Ongoing, significant administration costs to each of the departments that would be responsible for the various grant programs that are created by AB 912, including the DOJ, the OYCR, the California Health and Human Services

Agency (HHS), the Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Department of Education (CDE), and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) (General Fund).

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/1/23)

California Alliance of Caregivers
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Children's Trust
California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health
California Faculty Association
California Public Defenders Association
California School-Age Consortium
California School-Based Health Alliance
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Centinela Youth Services
Children Now
Community Works
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Equality California
ExpandLA
Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Haywood Burns Institute
Kids in Common
LA Defensa
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Debra Duardo
Los Angeles Unified School District
March for Our Lives Action Fund
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
National Center for Lesbian Rights
Prosecutors Alliance California
Rising Communities
San Francisco Youth Commission
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition
Smart Justice California
Starting Over
T.H.E. Health and Wellness Centers
Women's Foundation California

Young Women's Freedom Center
Youth Alliance
Youth Mentoring Connection

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/1/23)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/30/23

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Juan Carrillo, Wendy Carrillo, Cervantes, Chen, Connolly, Megan Dahle, Davies, Dixon, Flora, Mike Fong, Vince Fong, Friedman, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Grayson, Haney, Hart, Holden, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Lee, Low, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mathis, McCarty, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Stephanie Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Jim Patterson, Joe Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Santiago, Schiavo, Soria, Ta, Ting, Valencia, Villapudua, Waldron, Wallis, Ward, Weber, Wicks, Wilson, Wood, Zbur, Rendon

NO VOTE RECORDED: Essayli, Lackey, Sanchez

Prepared by: Stephanie Jordan / PUB. S. /
9/2/23 16:58:17

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