

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Category II: Providing for Funding of Neighborhood Probation and Parole Officers

Statement of the Problem

Picture this: A Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) has to wait for a Sheriff's Detective so she can get a ride in a patrol car to do her probation checks. Back at the station, the same Deputy Probation Officer has to wait till a computer is available to be able to access the department's database and do her research on probationers. Imagine how much more effective and efficient this officer would be if she had a patrol car at her disposal and a computer that is always available for her use?

The City of Santa Clarita is located 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. With an estimated population of 180,000, it is the fourth largest city in the county and the 24th largest city in the State of California. Over the past ten years, Santa Clarita's population has continued to steadily increase. From 2000 to 2007, population grew by 17.9 percent, twice the growth experienced in all of Los Angeles County.

The City of Santa Clarita contracts with the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services in the 52-square-mile-City. The City also contracts with the County of Los Angeles Probation Department for one armed Probation Officer to provide specialized prevention and intervention services to the City. This DPO serves a suppression role in the community and works closely with the Sheriff, handling problematic probationers and concentrating on repeat offenders. She is out in the community conducting random probation compliance searches of probationers' residences, vehicles, and of their person. As a result, she can detain, arrest, and violate probationers based on what is located during these searches.

However, because of limited resources, neither the City nor the Probation Department can provide the DPO with a car and a computer. Without these essential tools, the DPO becomes less effective and, if this continues, the City could potentially withdraw funding for the position. Without her own patrol vehicle, the DPO is held back from doing more searches because she has to wait for a vehicle and a detective to drive her to a location. Most of the contacts she goes out on are the subjects the Sheriff are looking at specifically for current cases. A number of probationers are not contacted because of the lack of mobility on the DPO's part. This creates a setting of freedom for these subjects to commit crimes, which the Sheriff has seen when they are arrested and they were not on the Sheriff's radar. This vehicle purchase is absolutely essential to enhance the effectiveness of the DPO and encourage the City to retain the position.

In addition, a computer for the DPO connected to the Sheriff's Department's network will allow the DPO more computer time for her research on probationers. As it is now, the DPO has to wait for a detective to leave his desk for her to be able to use a computer. The DPO spends 20 to 30 percent of her time checking probationers' status and updating their files, and a dedicated computer will allow her to make the best use of her time.

The absence of a patrol car and dedicated computer does not only impact the DPO's capacity but the Sheriff's as well. Having the equipment will also allow the Sheriff to maximize their own time since the DPO can do her probation searches independent of the Sheriff.

Program Design and Implementation

The proposed I.P.O.C.E. (Increasing Probation Officer Contacts and Enforcement) is meant to increase the DPO's effectiveness and, thereby, preserve the job. By leveraging the City's General Fund budget for the DPO position with stimulus grant funding for necessary

equipment, the City will be inclined to retain the DPO's job. The City of Santa Clarita contracts for a Deputy Probation Officer to help curb criminal and gang activities and improve public safety. The City's contract for law enforcement services with the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department requires probation/intervention services at times to assist in reducing incidents of truancy and other serious behavioral problems. The DPO provides specialized probation services for the City, including probation searches, conducting crisis counseling in individual and group settings with referred students; serving as representative of the Probation Department on the School Attendance Review Board (S.A.R.B.); and providing on-site attendance in schools when behavior problems arise.

The DPO works very closely with the Sheriff, particularly with the station's COBRA unit, which is responsible for investigating all crimes perpetrated by juveniles and gangs in the City. This is most helpful since most of the current local gang members are either on probation or were on probation at one time. Because the DPO has the authority to enter the house, the Probation Officer is instrumental in following through when the Sheriff has someone detained and there is activity that can lead them back to the detainee's home. The Probation Officer also has access to probationers' files and can help with their identity, current address of record, and what they are on probation for.

This proposal for vehicle and computer purchase will significantly impact the effectiveness of the City's Probation Officer and create efficiencies to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system. The DPO does not have her own caseload and can conduct random probation compliance searches of probationers as needed by the Sheriff. Because of this ability and flexibility, she helps reduce the average caseload of the regular DPOs and frees them up so that they are able to handle other probation cases. A vehicle will give the DPO freedom to do

more probation checks and allow a 50-percent increase in contact with probationers in the City. Program activities will include probation patrols, probation searches, probationer contacts, community contacts, and the resulting arrests or detentions. These activities will be tracked on a regular basis to measure the change in the DPO's capacity as a result of the equipment purchases through this grant.

The patrol car will enable the DPO to do more probation checks and contacts with probationers in the City of Santa Clarita. The four-door sedan will include such enhancements as lights, siren, trunk package, and screen between the front and back seats. Other features include power windows and door locks that are inoperable from the rear doors, rear windows operable from the front panel and only one-third down, and radio interference suppression package.

The computer system will allow the DPO to access critical information about probationers, and will include databases for arrest records, juvenile information, weapons, vehicles, etc. It will be connected to the Sheriff's network and has access to the Sheriff's databases. Programs include the Justice Data Interface Controller System (JDIC), Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCRS), and California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS).

The City will coordinate with the Probation Department on the vehicle purchase, and with the Sheriff's Department on the computer purchase. All three agencies will work closely to ensure that these equipment purchases serve the needs of the DPO.

Capabilities/Competencies

The City of Santa Clarita has been successfully implementing Department of Justice grants, from the old Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) to the current Justice

Assistance Grants (JAG). The City continues to ensure contract compliance and has been successfully administering grant-funded programs in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department and community organizations.

These grant-funded programs include: frontline law enforcement funded by the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) from the State of California; traffic safety programs and DUI enforcement from the California Office of Traffic Safety; employment and job training programs funded by the Workforce Investment Act; youth support and intervention programs funded in the past by the California Board of Corrections' Juvenile Accountability Block Grant.

Other grants handled by the City include: Department of Transportation - Safe Routes to School, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program, and Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ); Housing & Urban Development (HUD) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - various transit projects.

This grant will be administered by the Community Services (CS) Analyst in close coordination with the DPO and Sheriff's Station staff. The CS Analyst has been successfully managing and administering the City's non-recovery JAG grants and other federal and state public safety/law enforcement grants. She has attended DOJ/OJP's Regional Financial Management Training Seminars twice and is well-versed with the documentation, record-keeping, and reporting processes required by the agency.

The incumbent DPO has been employed by the County of Los Angeles for 13 years. She had been an armed DPO in the Special Enforcement Operations Bureau for six years, and has been assigned to gang units conducting suppression activities with the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. To become armed, the DPO had to

attend another academy in addition to the training all DPOs receive. As an armed DPO working under the title of Special Enforcement Operations, she focuses her suppression efforts on high-risk offenders on probation, including gang members, in order to get guns off the streets.

The City of Santa Clarita's accounting system will ensure that funds from any award under the JAG Recovery Act are not commingled with funds from any other source. Separate expenditure and income accounts specific to this JAG competitive grant will be established to ensure that drawdown and grant expenditures are tracked, accounted for and reported on separately from all other funds, including DOJ grant funds from non-Recovery Act grants. In the same manner, specific outcomes and benefits attributable to the use of JAG Recovery Act funds will be monitored, recorded, and reported separately.

Impact/Outcomes and Evaluation/Plan for Collecting Data for Performance Measures

The program's effectiveness will be demonstrated by an increase in the DPO's efficiency and success, ultimately resulting in a decrease in recidivism and in crimes committed by probationers in the City of Santa Clarita. This translates to reduced incarceration and a lesser burden on both the criminal justice system and society.

Job preservation is the overall goal of this proposal. Providing the DPO with the proposed patrol vehicle and computer will enable her to increase her capacity and do her job more effectively. This would ensure continued funding for this Probation position.

Monthly reports on various probation operations/activities, such as probation searches, probation contacts, violations, warrants, and arrests will be used as benchmark to measure the change in the DPO's capacity. Baseline data from April to June will be used and compared to quarterly statistics obtained after the proposed patrol car and computer are in place.

Performance Measure	Data to be Collected	Data Collection Method	Data Assessment/ Analysis	Reporting Process
Number of jobs retained due to Recovery Act funding	The preservation of the Deputy Probation Officer's job is the primary goal of this proposal. Providing her with the patrol car and computer through this grant will allow for increased effectiveness and efficiency, thereby, encouraging the City of Santa Clarita to continue funding the position through its General Fund.			
Percent of essential services maintained without disruption	Probation searches; Operations planned; Probationer contacts; Community contacts; Arrests-open charges; Arrests-probation violations; Non-detained probation violations; Warrants sought; Warrants apprehended.	Will use monthly D.I.S.A.R.M. * statistics submitted by DPO to the County of Los Angeles Probation Department. <i>*D.I.S.A.R.M. - Developing Increased Safety through Arms Reduction Management</i>	City's Community Services (CS) Analyst will compare and analyze monthly statistics compiled by the DPO.	DPO will gather and compile monthly statistics, and send reports to the City's CS Analyst.
Percent increase of essential services	Probation searches; Operations planned; Probationer contacts; Community contacts; Arrests-open charges; Arrests-probation violations; Non-detained probation violations; Warrants sought; Warrants apprehended.	Will use monthly D.I.S.A.R.M. * statistics submitted by DPO to the County of Los Angeles Probation Department.	CS Analyst will compare and analyze monthly statistics compiled by the DPO.	DPO will gather and compile monthly statistics, and send reports to the City's CS Analyst.
Number of collaborative partnerships established to avoid reductions in essential services and duplication	Task force activities between the Probation Officer and Sheriff; Post-operation reports.	DPO/Sheriff will complete post-operation reports (submitted to the Captain) and give a copy to the CS Analyst.	CS Analyst will compare and analyze post-operation reports and corresponding statistics.	CS Analyst will obtain a copy of post-operation reports submitted to the Sheriff's Captain.

Performance Measure	Data to be Collected	Data Collection Method	Data Assessment/ Analysis	Reporting Process
Percent reduction in average caseload of community correctional officers in agency	The City DPO does not have a regular caseload like other Probation Officers. Her flexibility helps reduce the average caseload of the regular DPOs and frees them up so they are able to handle other cases. The reduction in the average caseload of the other DPOs is difficult to measure under this grant as regular DPOs are independent of the City. However, this could be measured indirectly as the inverse effect of the City DPO's increased activities and enforcement.			
Percent of units that report increased efficiency.	Deputy Probation Officer's increased efficiency.	Will utilize same data collected for the D.I.S.A.R.M. reports mentioned above.	CS Analyst will compare and analyze monthly statistics compiled by the DPO.	DPO will gather monthly statistics and send reports to the CS Analyst.