

Community Corrections Partnership

Request for Identification of Programs/Needs to be funded with available AB 109 funds

The purpose of this proposal is to identify programs/needs that your department/agency is requesting be funded with available AB 109 funds. If a program is selected for funding, Fresno County Purchasing requirements will need to be followed in the awarding of contracts associated with the program. Therefore if a contract with a community based organization (CBO) or vendor is required for a program, the above process will need to be completed in order to select a CBO or vendor. In addition, once the CCP has selected proposals for funding, the CCP Plan may be required to be updated and brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The Board of Supervisors will also be required to approve increases in appropriations and/or County personnel associated with the proposal.

Please provide the following information associated with your program funding request (Please limit your response to each item to one page using 12 point font and being double spaced):

1. Program Name:

Evidence Based Supervision: Supervising Ratios: General caseloads 50:1; Specialized caseloads 35:1.

2. Name of Department/Agency submitting request:

Fresno County Probation Department

3. Contact person, email and phone number:

Mike Elliott, melliott@co.fresno.ca.us, Fresno County Probation Department;
559-600-1297

4. Need for the Program

The Fresno County Probation Department was designated by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors as the Supervising County Agency for the Post Release Community Supervision program pursuant to AB 109. At that time, a supervision ratio of 1:50 offenders per officer was set.

As we move towards our fifth year of supervising these realigned offenders the Fresno County Probation Department continues to strive to reduce caseloads to fully engage Evidenced Based (Supervision) Principles. According to CPOC data dated February 2015, Fresno County continues to have higher release rates of PRCS offenders and higher MS sentencings than comparable counties.

During previous budget meetings the CCP has added numerous positions, both sworn and professional in order to bring the supervision ratios in line with the expected and required supervision plan for the Fresno County Probation Department as approved by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP).

General Caseloads: the department is requesting to add officers to our current compliment of staff supervising General Caseloads which will bring us in line with the 1:50 ratio as identified in the AB 109 Implementation Plan 2014 – 3rd Update.

Specialized Caseloads: The department is requesting to take into account the enhanced supervision needs of three separate designated types of offender: Domestic Violence, Sex Offender and Mental Health. We are proposing to move away from strictly caseload standard model of supervision and move towards creating a workload standard that is based on the number of offenders an officer can effectively supervise. Our proposed workload standard for the designated specialized caseloads is 1:35.

Through researching numerous publications and contacting probation departments throughout the state we have determined, as the American Probation and Parole

Associations (APPA) concluded that searching, "for the single magic number for the optimal caseload size is futile, due to the diversity in local expectations for their community correctional systems, organizational structures, local judicial decision making, and varying offender risks and needs." Based on our experience with these three classifications of offender over the previous four years of realignment; and during the previous decades of supervising 1203 offenders with the same controlling offense, we come to our recommendation of 35 offenders to one officer.

The department is aware that this plan would necessitate a modification to the current Implementation Plan (2014, 3rd Update). We would cite page three, paragraph one as justification for our new workload for caseload standards, "the plan continues to undergo modifications to increase and maximize the effective investments of the criminal justice resources in evidence-based correctional sanctions and program for public safety."

There are currently 1754 PRCS/MS cases of which 450 are specialized cases identified above. In order to meet the 50 offenders to one deputy probation officer for general caseloads and 35 offenders to one deputy probation officer for specialized caseloads, a total of 42 deputy probation officers are needed, which includes 3 previously approved lead officers. The AB 109 Supervision units currently have 32 officers and therefore, a total of 10 additional officers are being requested.

5. Program Description/Design

Through the application and funding of the proposed positions, a fourth AB 109 supervision unit will be created. This will consist of one Probation Services Manager (PSM), three Deputy Probation Officers IV's, seven Deputy Probation Officer I-III's, two Probation Technicians, and one Office Assistant.

6. Identify area of CCP plan where this program is referenced or should be added

Page 14 of the Public Safety Realignment Act AB 109 Implementation Plan 2011 for the County of Fresno sets the supervision level at 1:50 officer to offenders. The Probation department is asking to continue to follow this supervision level for Generalized Caseloads. The department is asking to modify the supervision standards to 1:35 officer to offenders for offenses involving Domestic Violence, significant Mental Health issues and Sex Offenders.

7. Program Budget – complete attached line item and budget summary forms including identification of staff

Attached.