

Alternatives to Incarceration | \$232.3 Million

San Diego County invests more than \$232 million in Prevention, Diversion, and Reentry programs. Below are some program highlights in order of the sequential intercept model. The model identifies six key points before or within the criminal justice system when individuals may be connected to social, behavioral health, or medical services to reduce the likelihood of future justice involvement.

Public Safety Group (PSG): \$88M; Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA): \$144.3M



Intercept 0 - Crisis Lines and Community Services

Mobile Crisis Response Teams (44 Teams)

Provide over 5,000 community-based interventions regionwide to anyone experiencing a mental health, drug, or alcohol-related crisis as an alternative to law enforcement response. Teams of clinicians, case managers, and peers help people resolve a crisis and connect them to ongoing care. Multi-jurisdictional agreement allows safety agencies to dispatch teams through 911 system. (Part of HHSA's overall investment of \$144.3M)

Homeless Court Pop-Up Resource Fairs - A partnership between the District Attorney, Public Defender, City Attorney, Superior Court, Dept. of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, and over 90 local homeless service providers, these twice-monthly Pop-Up Courts are special court sessions held in the community for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to resolve misdemeanors and minor/traffic offenses. After engaging with one of the service agencies, they are counseled by a Public Defender, their low-level misdemeanor and infraction warrants/DMV holds are recalled, and barriers to receiving employment, housing, and other supportive services are removed. (PSG: \$0.7M)

Intercept 1 – Law Enforcement

Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs) - Offer services in a therapeutic setting to people in mental health crisis instead of emergency departments or jail. When law enforcement is involved, this service enables a smooth transition from an officer to care providers. A CSU for youth is located in Hillcrest, and adults CSUs are in Oceanside, Vista, Escondido, Midway and Chula Vista with plans to expand to East County in 2025. (Part of HHSA's overall investment of \$144.3M)

Juvenile Diversion Initiative - District Attorney program designed to keep youth under 18 out of the juvenile justice system while addressing the root causes of harmful behavior. Youth facing charges are given the option to participate in diversion to avoid charges as an alternative to prosecution and to avoid future negative outcomes. (PSG: \$2.0M)

Sobering Services - Alternative to hospital emergency rooms and jails for acutely intoxicated people who do not need hospital care. Clients agree to enter Sobering Services instead of jail. While at the Recovery and Bridge Center, clients who need further treatment and supportive services are connected to programs. (Part of HHSA's overall investment of \$144.3M)

Intercept 2 – Initial Court Hearings

Pretrial Services Programs - For those accused of a crime who do not pose a threat to public safety. Clients are referred to the program by a judge. The Probation Department supports pretrial release from jail, monitoring, and court date reminders. Most check in with their Probation Officer using a mobile app. The Public Defender's Pretrial Advocacy and Community Connections team supports clients by assessing their needs, connecting them to services in the community, and supporting them to resolve their criminal cases. (PSG: \$31.6M)

Community Justice Initiative - In this District Attorney program for individuals charged with low-level, nonviolent misdemeanors, people complete a 12-hour Cognitive Behavioral Therapy course and complete four hours of volunteer work at a nonprofit. In exchange, their cases are dismissed prior to sentencing. (PSG: \$0.3M)

Intercept 3 – Jails and Courts, *continued on p. 2*

Transitional Age Youth Diversion Initiative - District Attorney program for young adults ages 18 to 24 to address impacts of justice system involvement through partnership with community organizations. The program addresses root causes of criminal behavior and prevents further crime and victimization. Participants address needs like substance use, mental health, housing, education, and employment so they can graduate and have convictions dismissed. (PSG: \$2.0M)



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Intercept 3 – Jails and Courts, *continued from p. 1*

Holistic Services Unit - Public Defender program brings together clinicians, substance use counselors, and housing navigators who assist clients. The unit helps defense attorneys present a full picture of a client’s underlying issues and advocate for case resolutions that include alternatives to incarceration, such as participation in community-based treatment and housing assistance. A “holistic defense” can help address the roots of justice involvement and reduce the likelihood of future arrests. (PSG: \$3.3M)

Collaborative Courts - Drug Court, Mandatory Supervision Court, Homeless Court, Reentry Court, and Veterans Court address a person's needs with community programs and encouragement in a non-traditional courtroom setting. (Part of HHSA’s overall ATI investment of \$144.3M)

Behavioral Health Court - Specialty collaborative court for people whose justice involvement is linked to mental illness. Clients receive treatment, support, and housing in lieu of custody. Services allow clients to live in the community while achieving recovery goals. Upon completion, clients may have their case dismissed, charges reduced, or probation terminated. (Part of HHSA’s overall investment of \$144.3M)

Intercept 4 - Reentry

Reentry Services Enhancements - Expanded services to increase public safety and reduce recidivism for people exiting custody with a history of health issues and who may be homeless or at-risk. Clients are connected to services, including transportation to immediate housing after jail. This year, the Sheriff’s Department and HHSA will partner to establish a Transitions Clinic pilot program in up to two primary care clinics, following an evidence-based national model. Each clinic will connect a Community Health Worker (CHW) with incarceration lived experience with justice-involved clients to build rapport and provide mentorship both before and after release from San Diego County jails. CHWs empower justice-involved clients to connect to needed health and social services in the community upon reentry (PSG: \$2.3M; HHSA: \$550K)

Community Care Coordination Reentry Support (C3RES) - The County is connecting justice-involved individuals who have significant needs with housing, behavioral health treatment, medical care, and connections to wraparound services upon release from jail. Prop 47 funding supports the C3RES program, which serves up to 400 people reentering the community with the help of a team of case managers and peer support specialists. A new care coordination program will engage people in the community who have repeated low-level charges but no jail reentry period to connect to programs. (PSG: \$0.26M; Sheriff: \$0.19M; HHSA: \$3.2M)

Medi-Cal Transformation Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved Capacity Building Program - The Medi-Cal Transformation Justice-Involved Initiative requires new efforts to increase Medi-Cal enrollment in California state prisons, county jails and youth detention facilities. This initiative requires counties to enroll incarcerated people in Medi-Cal, link them to behavioral health services upon release, and provide 90 days of pre-release health and behavioral health services. The increased connections to medical, behavioral health, and supportive services are expected to improve the lives of justice-involved individuals reentering the community while reducing hospital admissions, overdoses, homelessness, and recidivism. (\$16.8M State-funded across Sheriff: \$8.5M, Probation: \$3.25, and HHSA: \$5.05M)

Intercept 5 – Community Corrections

Mobile Probation Services - Two new Mobile Probation Service Centers are being built to support clients with limited transportation options, such as homeless individuals living in shelters or clients without cars in rural parts of the county. Probation clients will use mobile centers to find help with basic needs, referrals to treatment and supportive programs, access to laptops, and video conferencing portals to interact with care coordinators, supportive programs, or the court. Providing services to clients closer to where they live will help people complete their probation requirements and access needed services. The mobile units will be ready in early 2025. (PSG: \$1.2M; Note: not budgeted in FY 24-25, but a carryforward from FY 23-24)

Fresh Start - Public Defender’s Office program to help people with a criminal record reduce felony convictions to misdemeanors, dismiss or expunge criminal records, or get a Certificate of Rehabilitation from the court which shows a person has been rehabilitated and may lead to improved job or housing opportunities. (PSG: \$2.6M)