

Alternatives to Incarceration

San Diego County Invests More Than \$220 Million Into Prevention, Diversion and Reentry Programs



Prevention, Diversion and Reentry

Juvenile Diversion Initiative - District Attorney program designed to keep youth out of the criminal justice system while addressing the cause 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.

Transitional Age Youth Diversion Initiative - District Attorney program for youth ages 18 to 23 to avoid barriers and impacts of justice system involvement for young people through engagement and partnership with community-based organizations. Program addresses root causes of criminal behavior and prevents further crime and victimization. Participants will address needs like substance use, mental health, housing, education, and employment so they can graduate and have convictions dismissed.

Mobile Crisis Response Teams - Provides in-person support to anyone experiencing a mental health, drug or alcohol related crisis as an alternative to a law enforcement response. Teams of clinicians, case managers and peers help people resolve a crisis and connect to ongoing care. New multi-jurisdictional agreement allows safety agencies to dispatch teams through 911 system.

Recovery Bridge Center Sobering Services - Alternative to hospital emergency departments and jails for acutely intoxicated people who don't need hospital care. Clients agree to enter Sobering Services instead of jail. Once they gain sobriety, they can be connected to programs.

Crisis Stabilization Units - offer services and therapeutic setting to people in mental health crisis instead of emergency departments or jail. When law enforcement is involved, this service enables the smoothest transition from an officer to people who can provide care. Units are in place in Oceanside, Vista, Escondido, and Chula Vista with plans to expand to the East County.

Community Justice Initiative - DA program for people charged with low-level, non-violent misdemeanors. People complete a 12-hour Cognitive Behavioral Therapy course and complete 4 hours of volunteer work at a non-profit. In exchange, their cases are dismissed prior to sentencing.

Homeless Court Pop-Up Resource Fairs - A collaborative partnership between the District Attorney, Public Defender, City Attorney, Superior Court, Dept. of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities and over 90 local homeless service public and non-profit agencies. The Pop-Up Courts are special court sessions held regularly at a hyper-local community sites, designed for homeless or at-risk-of-homelessness citizens to resolve misdemeanor and minor/traffic offenses. Once the participant has engaged with one of the service agencies present, they are counseled by the Public Defender and their low-level misdemeanor and infraction warrants/DMV holds are recalled, and barriers are removed.

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Homeless Enhanced Legal Program (HELP) - A pilot project of court intervention for justice involved individuals experiencing homelessness. This program is aimed at addressing the intersection of homelessness and public safety.

Probation Pretrial Services Program - for those accused of a crime who don't pose a threat to public safety. Clients are referred to the program by a judge. The program supports pretrial release from jail, monitoring and court date reminders. Needs will be addressed by peer support navigation, and community-based services while individuals attend court appearances to resolve cases. Most will check-in with Probation Department using a mobile app.

Holistic Services Unit - Public Defender's Office Program brings together clinicians, substance abuse assessors and housing navigators who assess and 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.

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.

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.

Behavioral Health 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, helping them move forward and achieve recovery goals. Upon completion, clients may have their case dismissed, charges reduced or probation terminated.

Reentry Services - Expanded services to reduce recidivism and increase public safety for people exiting custody with a history of behavioral health issues who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Clients are connected to services, including immediate temporary housing need.

Community Care Coordination Reentry Support - The County is connecting justice-involved individuals who have significant needs and who are reentering the community with care-based services such as housing, mental health treatment, substance use treatment, and connections to employment. Prop 47 money will be used to implement the Community Care Coordination Reentry Support program, which provides jail reentry services to up to 400 individuals transitioning to the community, with the help of a team of case managers and peer support specialists with lived experience.

Providing Access and Transforming Health Justice-Involved Program - The program supports efforts to increase Medi-Cal enrollment in jail and juvenile detention facilities as the first step to prepare for new programs and supportive services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries as part of a multi-year reform called "CalAIM." The goal of the program is to increase connections to healthcare and supportive services to improve the lives of justice involved individuals, including reducing hospital admissions, overdoses, homelessness, and recidivism.