



COUNTY OF SOLANO

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Transitional Supports for Youth in Probation

Solano Probation has identified several gaps in service delivery to include transitional services during probation supervision and/or upon exit from the juvenile justice system. The Department has approximately 225 youth under Probation jurisdiction, and serves an additional 200 youth through diversion programs. Below are some examples of the transitional supports that could benefit our youth. The supports are based on the 40 Developmental Assets for Youth. In terms of financial support, the Department is requesting a minimum of \$150,000.

1. **Professional/Business Attire:** Many of the youth the Probation Department are responsible for come from impoverished families or are exiting the criminal justice system and living on their own with little resources. By aiding youth in the purchase of clothing that can be used for job interviews, college presentations and other professional endeavors can enhance the chances of living a crime free life. Having the appropriate attire can make all the difference in a young person’s confidence and increase their success in securing their first job. A total of \$20,000 in funding is requested.
2. **Educational/Vocational Materials:** This would assist with the costs associated with educational and/or vocational materials such as text books, training materials, tools and clothing required by specific trades. The Department would like to expand the use of vocational training programs to include construction and welding. This assistance can assist in supporting a young person as they pursue their education or a new trade. A total of \$35,000 in funding is requested.
3. **Celebrations/Motivational Speakers/Challenge Day:** This would be used to assist in celebrations (decorations, certificates, refreshments, etc.), bringing well known motivational speakers to Solano County to speak with the youth and staff, and facilitating a Challenge Day Program to support the educational achievements of our youth and to provide motivation through those with life experience to encourage them to stay on the right path. The Challenge Day program is 6 ½ hours and takes place in a gym, assembly room, or large conference room. Challenge Day Leaders work to create trust and connection in the morning by helping participants step out of their comfort zones through music and games. Participants begin to recognize stereotypes and labels that exist among them, and are then willing to share and connect as human beings. During the afternoon, participants examine the impact that bullying, oppression and other forms of violence has on their lives and the lives of people around them. The celebrations,

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motivational speakers and Challenge Day would not only inspire and motivate the youth, but would also encourage, motivate, and educate staff. It is important to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of our youth. Providing certificates of achievement and certificates of completion for educational and vocational programs reinforce the positive accomplishments of the youth and it creates an opportunity for the community as a whole to celebrate in their success. A total of \$30,000 in funding is requested.

4. **Mentoring:** Often a youth exiting the criminal justice system loses one of the few positive roles modes, their probation officer. This would be used to provide the youth with a mentor and a means for the mentor and the youth to engage in pro-social activities. For example, if a youth was interested in cosmetology, the mentor could purchase make-up and other materials for them to use during their meetings. Other activities could include educational trips to include sporting events, museums, movies, college or vocational school tours. A total of \$20,000 in funding is requested.
5. **Other supports including assistance with housing (including security deposit), DMV drivers training, and purchasing a used car (especially for youth exiting foster care):** would be used to assist with housing, purchasing a car or costs associated with getting a driver's license which is an important component to aid the youth in being independent and self-sufficient upon their exit from the system. Probation youth often lack the network of supportive family or caring adults that would typically assist a young person with housing or the purchase of their first vehicle. As a result, these youths often lack a means of stable transportation, which limits them as they attempt to progress as a young adult. A total of \$30,000 in funding is requested.
6. **Research/Evaluation:** A small portion of the funding would be used to conduct process and outcome evaluations to measure the effectiveness of the programs that are being used. This would ensure that the programs and interventions that are being offered are not only evidence based/evidence informed, but are the correct supports (based on research) to provide a positive impact upon the youth to live a crime-free lifestyle. A total of \$15,000 in funding is requested.

