



California Community Reinvestment Grants Program Application Full Report

| Applicant Information | | |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Applicant Organization's Legal Name: | | |
| Applicant Organization Type: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based Nonprofit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Local Health Department | | |
| Is this a Collaborative Application? | | |
| If this is a Collaborative Application, how many partners are in the collaboration, including the Lead Applicant? | | |
| Federal Employer Identification Number: | | |
| Secretary of State Entity Number: | | |
| Year Organization Established: | | |
| Registry of Charitable Trust Registration Number: | | |
| Average Annual Total Revenue for the Last Three Tax Years: | | |
| Physical Address in California | | |
| Address Line 1: | | |
| Address Line 2: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip Code: |
| Payment Address (if different than Physical Address) | | |
| Address Line 1: | | |
| Address Line 2: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip Code: |
| | | |
| Geographic Eligibility | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible County <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible Census Tracts | | |
| Eligible county: | | |
| Using the CalCRG Program Census Tracts map, enter the census tract(s) of the service area: | | |

Proposal Summary

Funding Category or Categories (select at least one)

- Job Placement
- Mental Health Treatment
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- System Navigation Services
- Legal Services to Address Barriers to Reentry
- Linkages to Medical Care

Total Amount Requested:

Of the Total Amount Requested, how much is budgeted for the Lead Applicant?

Funding Category or Categories provided by Lead Applicant (select at least one)

- Job Placement
- Mental Health Treatment
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
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Proposal Summary

Please provide a 1-2 sentence summary of the services proposed in each funding category selected above and a brief overview of how the grant funds requested will be used, including the projected number of individuals to be served in each funding category selected above.

Systems Navigation

We will assess 40 incarcerated individuals each month in the Fresno County Jail (FCJ) prior to their release for barriers to system navigation services that impact their economic, physical, and emotional wellbeing. At least 15 formerly incarcerated individuals each month will receive navigation services to avoid homelessness through placement in temporary shelters or subsidized housing or to support enrollment in school or college. Grant funds will be used to:

- Establish a HIPAA compliant referral and communication network based on inmate-patient consent, and to hire a 1.5 FTE systems navigator to work in the FCJ who will link inmate-patients with referral sources. Services useful for reentering society, in particular, finding and qualifying for subsidized housing, and enrolling in a school or college will be prioritized.
- Grant funds will also be used to support 1.5 FTE navigators to work with formerly incarcerated individuals upon release from FCJ or the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to follow through and support referrals to avoid homelessness and support enrollment in school or college.
- Referrals for eligible services available within Fresno County Departments of Behavioral Health and Social Services will also be prioritized including mental health case management, substance use, and aiding populations to understand and use available entitlement benefits.

Linkage to Medical Care

We will assess 20 incarcerated individuals each month who are prescribed medications for chronic medical conditions in FCJ prior to their release for barriers to linkages to medical care. At least 10 formerly incarcerated individuals each month who are prescribed medications for chronic medical conditions will be scheduled with a primary care provider within two weeks of release from either FCJ or CDCR. Grant funds will be used to:

- establish a HIPAA compliant referral and communication network based on inmate-patient consent linked to medical providers in the community.
- hire a full-time systems navigator who will support a primary care referral network with a focus on scheduling formerly incarcerated individuals on chronic medications from FCJ or CDCR with federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics, and
- a part-time medical consultant to assist in directing individuals served to the most appropriate medical provider.

COMPETENCIES AND EXPERIENCE

1. What is your organization's mission and core competencies?

The Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) is the health authority for the County, and its fifteen incorporated cities, under the leadership of David Pomaville, Director, and Rais Vohra, MD, MPH, Health Officer. The mission of FCDPH is the promotion, preservation, and protection of the community's health. We accomplish this by identifying community health needs, assuring the availability of quality health services, and providing effective leadership in developing public health policies. We are committed to working in partnership with our communities to eliminate health disparities.

Fresno, one of the poorest counties in California, is sometimes referred to as "the Appalachia of the West." Social determinants impact health care and health status and manifest as health inequities. Poor health indices in Fresno County are driven by the region's socioeconomic and environmental conditions that demand interventions from multi-sector partners with aligned priorities and strategies. Previous countywide assessments involving community members, health care providers, community-based organizations (CBOs), academic experts, and community leaders attest to the concentrated poverty in the county and its impact on community health. The health challenges are far beyond what anyone organization can address. FCDPH has developed competencies in partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) health care providers and other governmental agencies. This proposal is an example of how FCDPH collaborates with CBOs, in this case, to address the health and human service challenges faced by those impacted by the war on drugs (WoD).

2. How is your organization suited to address the needs of your priority population?

FCDPH is directly involved in ensuring the health of individuals who are incarcerated in the Fresno County Jail (FCJ). During the COVID-19 pandemic, FCDPH met regularly with the FCJ Sheriff's office, and Wellpath (contracted agency that provides medical services to individuals incarcerated in FCJ) to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the jail facility. Another FCDPH partner is the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). DBH contracts for mental health and substance use disorder services in FCJ and provides a wide array of outpatient behavioral health services across the community and has partnered with homeless service providers and shelters to address the housing insecurity that many formerly incarcerated individuals experience. Other key Fresno County department partners including Probation and the Department of Social Services (DSS) collaborate on important transition programs that will be enhanced by the peer mentor navigators supported by this proposal. DSS and The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program provides 48 months of cash aid assistance to families with 24 months of Welfare to Work services that provide individuals with vocational training, education, job skills enhancement, and direct job placements with supportive services. DSS also supports pre-release online applications and paper applications submitted by program technicians on behalf of FCJ inmates.

FCDPH also has extensive experience collaborating with CBO's and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). FCDPH is a key participant in a weekly COVID-19 call with CBOs, providing updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies to reduce COVID-19 transmission.

3. Describe your organization's experience providing services in your community/service area, and how those relate to the proposed services in this grant application

One key to a successful transition and navigation program is the ability to share confidential information with stakeholders. FCDPH worked with FCJ and DSS to create a HIPAA-compliant system for FCJ inmate-patients requiring hospitalization. FCDPH will be evaluating this system, as well as the linkage established between Transitions Network Clinic with CDCR, to communicate information from the peer mentor navigators identifying health and human services needs in FCJ pre-release, to mental health and substance use issues to services offered through DBH, to DSS for assessment for entitlement programs, and to the CBOs and FQHCs and the peer mentors providing navigation services upon the incarcerated individuals' release.

DBH is a critical Fresno County department involved in the development and preparation of this proposal. DBH funds a related navigation program in Fresno County known as the Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP). MAP supports individuals with needs across multiple life domains, including housing insecurity, by providing linkages to the services which can meet those needs. DBH, the Fresno County Administrative Office (CAO), and FCDPH have taken additional steps during the COVID-19 pandemic to support individuals with housing insecurity and homelessness. FCDPH is an integral part of this collaboration and has spearheaded COVID-19 testing and screening at each of the homeless shelters. Our collaborator, State Center Community College Foundation (SCCCF) also has navigation experience through its Rising Scholars program that uses peer mentors to place formerly incarcerated individuals in college programs and support them during their time in college.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS FROM THE WAR ON DRUGS (WOD)

4. How has the geographical area your organization is proposing to serve with the grant funds requested been disproportionality impacted by the WoD?

FCDPH is directly involved in ensuring the health of individuals who are incarcerated in the Fresno County Jail (FCJ). During the COVID-19 pandemic, FCDPH met regularly with the FCJ Sheriff's office, and Wellpath (contracted agency that provides medical services to individuals incarcerated in FCJ) to limit the spread of COVID-19 within the jail facility. Another FCDPH partner is the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). DBH contracts for mental health and substance use disorder services in FCJ and provides a wide array of outpatient behavioral health services across the community and has partnered with homeless service providers and shelters to address the housing insecurity that many formerly incarcerated individuals experience. Other key Fresno County department partners including Probation and the Department of Social Services (DSS) collaborate on important transition programs that will be enhanced by the peer mentor navigators supported by this proposal. DSS and The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program provides 48 months of cash aid assistance to families with 24 months of Welfare to Work services that provide individuals with vocational training, education, job skills enhancement, and direct job placements with supportive services. DSS also supports pre-release online applications and paper applications

submitted by program technicians on behalf of FCJ inmates.

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5. How have the individuals your organization is proposing to serve with the grant funds requested been disproportionately impacted by the WoD?

Incarceration and involvement in the justice system is inherently disruptive. Access to employment and education is cut off. Social support systems are severed. Upon their release, incarcerated individuals face the prospect of rebuilding their lives from the ground up. Basic needs such as food and shelter become immediate concerns. Most will lose their medical insurance since MediCal ends when an individual is incarcerated. This is of particular concern for those who are taking medications for chronic medical conditions. They will receive a 14 day supply of medications upon release and an additional prescription for 30 days. But if they have no insurance it will be difficult to pay for the prescription or see a health care provider in a timely manner.

The Probation Dept. performs a validated risk assessment on its adult population called the STRONG (Static Risk Assessment/Offender Needs Guide). A cumulative summary in 2020 of the "offender criminogenic needs" for the adult supervision population indicates the top 4 are aggression, employment, alcohol/drugs, and employment. Importantly, many individuals also do not know how to access services. Without support in navigating the healthcare and social services systems, they often fall through the gap between the jail and any eligible services they qualify for.

Although Wellpath is responsible to develop an aftercare plan, they are not funded for services outside of the institution. FCDPH with the strong support of DBH, DSS, the FCJ Captain and Probation, and in collaboration with the SCCC peer mentor program is well-positioned to establish navigation services that can link incarcerated individuals to the medical, social services, and educational opportunities they will need upon release.

6. Describe the characteristics of the major populations or clients that your organization has served historically, particularly in the past year. Include information about their demographics, social and economic wellbeing, and family or individual challenges.

Fresno County is a large, sprawling county. Its population is rapidly growing, is younger, poorer, less educated, more diverse, and has higher rates of unemployment than the state and country. Fresno County is a leading agricultural region but 60% of its population lives in the City of Fresno.

2020 has been a year like no other in our lifetime. To meet the overwhelming and ever-changing public health challenges created by COVID-19, FCDPH has coordinated the response for the county. This includes designing and implementing testing and contact tracing programs targeting low-income communities identified through the health equity project, as well as coordinating weekly calls with stakeholders from other Fresno County departments, the City of Fresno, health care providers, and schools. This experience has fortified linkages with the FQHCs and CBOs. Meanwhile, other public health crises have emerged that have demanded time and attention, in particular the fires that have

decimated forests and communities in the foothills and mountains of Fresno County. COVID-19 has adversely impacted poor and underserved communities that are disproportionately represented in the FCJ population.

Because of the ongoing public health emergency, FCDPH has been forced to shift resources away from programs addressing needs in underserved communities such as HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, black infant health, and high-risk perinatal services to the pandemic. Public health nursing has been hard hit as nurses have been pressed into leading COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing efforts. FCDPH is anxious to resume these services and is actively backfilling COVID-19 positions so that these programs can again become fully operational.

Contact Information

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Relationship: Applicant or employee of applicant

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Collaborative Application Partners

Partner Organization Legal Name: State Center Community College Foundation

Partner Organization Type: Community-based Nonprofit

Amount budgeted for partner: \$450,000

Physical Address in California for this partner: 1171 Fulton Street 2nd Floor, Fresno, CA 93721

Funding Categories:

- System Navigation Services
- Linkages to Medical Care

Federal Employer Identification Number: 77-0190269

Secretary of State Entity Number: C1589845

Year Organization Established: 1987

Registry of Charitable Trust Registration Number: 68934

Average Annual Total Revenue for the Last Three Tax Years: Greater than \$2 Million per Tax Year

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COMPETENCIES AND EXPERIENCE

1.What is this partner organization's mission and core competencies?

The SCCC Foundation will act as the Community Based Organization (partner), supporting the fiscal accountability of the Rising Scholars program, which is housed at Fresno City College (FCC) campus. As California's first community college, FCC provides quality, innovative educational programs and support services directed toward the enhancement of student success, lifelong learning, and the economic, social, and cultural development of our students and region. As educational leaders in the community, FCC faculty, staff, and students engage in partnerships to transform lives through education. Consistent with their mission and vision, the FCC Rising Scholars program specifically focuses on providing services to support formerly incarcerated community college students. The Rising Scholars program utilizes peer mentors and ancillary services to provide peer-to-peer support and outreach, transitional materials, and academic counseling services to decrease barriers to success both in community college and in life.

2.How is this partner organization suited to address the needs of its priority population?

Fresno City College (FCC) is located in the center of Fresno, the fifth-largest city in California, and in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, which is one of the most racially and ethnically diverse regions in the state. The community college service area faces systemic challenges of unemployment, endemic poverty, and low levels of educational attainment, and these factors are especially dismal for formerly incarcerated people of which the majority are Black or African American and Hispanic/Latinx. These demographic and disparate characteristics underscore the importance of FCC as a viable pathway to a better quality of life and social mobility for formerly incarcerated students. What is more, FCC is an open-access institution and serves as the primary pathway to postsecondary education for Black or African American and Hispanic/Latinx people who historically and currently are disproportionately and dismally impacted by the WoD. Consequently, FCC and Rising Scholars program is uniquely poised to redress educational outcome disparities that plague this population by providing a welcoming,

affirming, and validating experience and pathway guidance while mitigating barriers.

3. Describe this partner organization's experience providing services in its community/service area, and how those relate to the proposed services in this grant application

Fresno City College (FCC) has a wealth of experience providing educational and social services to the community it serves. The college has been able to collaborate and secure funds to provide mental health services, housing services, food services, student support services, and job placement services to the community. Although the FCC Rising Scholars program provides services to help foster the success of formerly incarcerated community college students, they are limited in the number of students they can serve due to programming and budgetary constraints. Currently, the Rising Scholars program has two .25 FTE counselors and two peer-mentors who are supervised by the Director of Student Equity and Success. CalCRG grant funding will allow the Rising Scholars program to enhance services to formerly incarcerated community college students as well as to expand services to include the broader population of formerly incarcerated individuals in Fresno County by hiring additional peer mentors. These peer mentors will work in FCJ to identify educational, health, and human service needs before release, while additional peer mentors will work with formerly incarcerated individuals when they are released to perform the systems and medical linkage services envisioned in this proposal while fostering the educational success and overall wellbeing of those attending Fresno City College.

COMMUNITY IMPACTS FROM THE WAR ON DRUGS (WOD)

4. How has the geographical area this partner organization is proposing to serve with the grant funds requested been disproportionality impacted by the WoD?

Fresno City College (FCC), located in the heart of Central California, is home to a high number of probation caseload adults (8,676) and a juvenile youth system with a confinement rate of 55% higher than the state average. In 2016 and 2017, respectively, 602 and 498 people were released from prison into Fresno County. A research study printed by the local newspaper, The Fresno Bee, linked Fresno's poverty to its high crime rate and disparities in educational attainment. Reentry numbers into Fresno County, combined with state laws, confirm the increasing need for community college reentry programs that focus on academic success and credentials that lead to a better quality of life and social mobility. The sheer number of local adults and youth in need of an alternative option for their future is significant.

5. How have the individuals this partner organization is proposing to serve with the grant funds requested been disproportionately impacted by the WoD?

Fresno City College (FCC) serves a large number of students of color, 59% Hispanic/Latinx, 5% Black, and 12% Asian/Pacific Islander. Also, the majority of the students (n=73%) are from low-income communities. Research demonstrates that the WoD has created significant systematic barriers for individuals of color and low socioeconomic status (Boghossian, 2020; Koch et al., 2016).

The City of Fresno and its surrounding areas are no different than the rest of the country. Unemployment plagues the area, and low-socio economics is a major barrier to the advancement of the communities FCC serves. Given the current situation with COVID-19, FCC students have seen a major shift in substance abuse and mental health co-occurring disorders. FCC's goal will be to work with County Public Health and other community services organizations to address barriers related to incarceration, mental and physical health, and food and housing insecurities to ensure the success of students in and out of the classroom. Education is one of the only routes to a stable, successful, and sustainable life for individuals and communities affected by the WoD. Fresno City College will help shape the way for individuals to be readily employable soon after they complete their certificates/degrees.

6. Describe the characteristics of the major populations or clients that this partner organization has served historically, particularly in the past year. Include information about their demographics, social and economic wellbeing, and family or individual challenges.

Fresno City College serves a very diverse population. However, the largest populations that are being served reflect the community as a whole. The makeup of Fresno City College is 59% Hispanic/Latinx, 20% White, 12% Asian, 5% Black, 3% multi-ethnicity, and 1% unknown. The community in the City of Fresno is 50% Hispanic/Latinx and 30% of the population falls under the low-income, poverty guidelines. Fresno City College is unique in that 73% are considered from lower-socioeconomic communities. It is estimated that the FCC campus provides educational services to over 700 formerly incarcerated individuals each year. In serving this population of students, they have found that many suffer from mental health concerns, high-unemployment, and substance abuse co-occurring disorders. They have also found that many struggle to find meaningful employment and therefore struggle with housing and food insecurities. The proposed systems navigation and medical linkage services will be a lifeline for our students, as well as the broader population of incarcerated individuals who will be served by this proposed program.