

Sierra Health Foundation's Positive Youth Justice Initiative

FACT SHEET ▪ JANUARY 2014

The Positive Youth Justice Initiative is an innovative approach to transform California's juvenile justice system. The focus is to improve the lives of *crossover youth* — young people who have experienced documented neglect, abuse and/or trauma, have a history in the child welfare and foster care system, and who currently are engaged in the juvenile justice system.

The initiative is supporting counties throughout California to design and implement a series of reforms grounded in the principle of positive youth development, which recognizes that crossover youth have the potential to thrive and contribute as valuable members of their communities when they are equipped with the right supports. In each county, a partnership of public agencies, nonprofits and community leaders are working together to change how their local juvenile justice system views, screens and provides services to youth and their families.

Positive Youth Justice Initiative partners are fundamentally redefining the purpose and approach of how the juvenile justice system operates to be better equipped to serve the state's most vulnerable youth and help them to have a healthy transition into adulthood.

Positive Youth Justice Initiative Implementation Grantees

Alameda County Probation Department
San Diego County Probation Department

San Joaquin County Probation Department
Vallejo City Unified School District (Solano County)

These four counties each will receive \$400,000 grants over two years to implement their juvenile justice reform plans. Grantees receive expert **technical assistance** to assist in the integration, adoption and implementation of the initiative's four design elements: ***Investing in Youth, Treating Trauma, Changing Systems*** and ***Providing Wraparound Services***. Grantees will be supported throughout the initiative by significant investment in policy, communications and evaluation to ensure lessons learned and the initiative's impact have the broadest possible reach into the juvenile justice field.

Learn more at www.shfcenter.org/pyji

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