



*"Honoring The Belief That
People Can Change"*



FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE – November 4, 2020

Alameda County Probation Department Awarded \$3 Million for Innovative Reentry Practices through Bureau of Justice Assistance Fiscal Year 2020 Grant Programs

Oakland, CA – The Alameda County Probation Department (ACPD) received three awards totaling \$2,994,325 through the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 grant programs to implement innovative reentry practices for clients returning to Alameda County from jail or prison.

Two grants provide funding to expand and evaluate ACPD's Pathways Home initiative, which involves a partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to strengthen the reentry process for individuals returning home to Alameda County from state prison on post-release community supervision. The Pathways Home initiative involves four primary components: (1) case-planning video conferences conducted with clients before they are released from prison; (2) workbooks with valuable reentry information delivered to clients prior to their release; (3) virtual reality videos that allow clients to practice responses to challenging situations in safe, virtual environments; and (4) a mobile application called Vergil that helps clients track meetings with probation officers, court dates, and steps involved in achieving their case plan goals.

The first Pathways Home grant, funded through BJA's Fiscal Year (FY) 20 Innovations in Supervision grant program, will provide \$999,002 for ACPD to expand its implementation of the Vergil mobile application, developed by the behavioral science nonprofit ideas42. Vergil is currently being developed and will be available for use by ACPD clients in early 2021. Funding from this grant program will allow ACPD to expand usage of the application to more clients and conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate its effectiveness.

The second Pathways Home grant, funded through BJA's FY 20 Second Chance Act Evaluation Participation Support grant program, provides ACPD with \$800,000 to conduct a rigorous evaluation of all Pathways Home intervention components. In addition to \$800,000 in funding, the grant will provide access to an evaluation partner selected by the National Institute of Justice that will oversee and coordinate evaluation activities at each funded site. This evaluation support responds to a federal mandate outlined in the Second Chance Act Reauthorization Act of 2018 to evaluate Second Chance



CONTACT INFORMATION:
WENDY STILL, MAS
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER
ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
(510) 268-7233



*"Honoring The Belief That
People Can Change"*



Act grant-funded programs. Evaluation of Pathways Home program components will be designed and implemented by ACPD's research partners from UC Berkeley's School of Public Policy, Drs. Amy Lerman and Meredith Sadin. ACPD was one of only three awardees selected nationally to receive funding through this grant program.

The last grant, funded through BJA's FY20 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program grant program, awards \$1,195,323 for ACPD to develop a Residential Multi-Service Opportunity Center (RMSOC) that will provide substance use treatment and wrap-around recovery support for probation clients struggling with substance use disorders. The RMSOC will be a 30-bed site that provides transitional housing, on-site case management, evidence-based reentry programming, and navigation services that are responsive to each client's mental health and substance abuse treatment needs.

ACPD looks forward to using funding from these grant programs to strengthen reentry services and outcomes for probation clients over the next four years.

ACPD Media Contact: Jenny Linchey, MPH, Probation Specialist, jlinchey@acgov.org



CONTACT INFORMATION:
WENDY STILL, MAS
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER
ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
(510) 268-7233