

Humboldt County RFA- Youth Programs and Facilities Grant Program (Part B funding)

Section 1: Project Need

The Humboldt County Juvenile Hall is a secure 30 bed facility located at 2006 Harrison Avenue, Eureka, California. It is laid out with the sleeping rooms opening onto a large shared rectangular living space. Classrooms, dining area, and programming rooms are accessible from the common area.

The detained youth in the hall range from ages 12 to 18. They include youth freshly arrested for alleged criminal behavior and wards pending disposition, placement or serving a commitment. Detained youth, regardless of their status, congregate as they attend school, participate in programming, share meals, and recreate.

In light of SB 823, Humboldt County plans to improve its infrastructure to better serve those youth locally who were previously sent to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Humboldt County currently has resources that can be utilized to provide enhanced programming space needed to address the educational, medical, and behavioral health needs of this population.

Humboldt County's intent for creating a secure youth treatment program (SYTP) locally is to try to reduce the amount of youth who are transferred into the adult criminal justice system. Another benefit of establishing an SYTP locally is having the ability to keep youth closer to their families and communities as they receive age-appropriate treatment.

The SYTP will change the profile of the youth housed in the juvenile hall. It will include a small number, perhaps 1 to 5 individuals, who are serving lengthy sentences, and whose age could be as high as 25. Based on prior (DJJ) commitments from Humboldt County, it is expected they will have extensive criminal histories and a high degree of complex trauma. The introduction of older more criminally sophisticated youth with significant service and security needs is a cause for concern as it relates to the younger detained youth. In addition, the SYTP youth will have unique program and treatment requirements that will benefit from a distinct secure treatment space.

In addition to the Juvenile Hall, Humboldt County has a second juvenile detention facility located directly adjacent to the Juvenile Hall called the Regional Facility. The building, constructed in 1997, is a separate secure 18 bed facility, with program space, and classroom. It housed a locked treatment program for probation wards. The Regional Facility was closed in 2019 due to declining numbers, and the program it housed was consolidated into the main juvenile hall.

The Humboldt County SYTP intends to utilize this space to provide programming, to youth committed to the program, that maintains trauma-informed, culturally relevant and gender appropriate services. It will also serve a distinct residential space if and when the number of SYTP youth grows. For this to be feasible, the facility will need to be able to be electronically controlled from the juvenile hall control room. This will allow youth and staff movement between the two facilities. This capacity currently does not exist and Humboldt County intends to use the grant funds to link the second building to central control.

Section 2: Project Description

Humboldt County will contract with a vendor to install a security touch screen in the Juvenile Hall control room that will remotely operate the doors in the Regional Facility. This will require installation of physical equipment, programming, and testing. This will allow Probation staff to observe, operate, and move youth and staff back and forth between the Juvenile Hall and Regional Facility for enhanced programming, recreation, and vocational training opportunities.

The estimate for the equipment, labor, and installation is \$34,067.64. This quote is valid for thirty days. Because the approval process for the grant will take longer than 30 days, Humboldt County will be proceeding with the *Deferred Spending Approval Process* as outlined on page 30 of the RFA and requesting \$47,086 in grant funding. Upon grant award, the County will receive an updated quote and proceed with securing a contract with the vendor and submitting a modified application to The Board of State and Community Corrections with an updated project budget. It is anticipated that this could be done by the end of the county's first quarter, September 30, 2021.

