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FACT SHEET

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Parolee Reentry Court Program

California initiated the Parolee Reentry Court Program in 2009 in an effort to reduce recidivism, parole revocation, and reincarceration among parolees. This innovative program provides \$9.5 million for the implementation or enhancement of up to seven reentry courts throughout the state. The programs must use collaborative court models and employ evidence-based practices and services.

Background

California Senate Bill X3 18 and the 2009–2010 Budget Act establish the program, authorize parole agents to refer parolees with a history of substance abuse or mental illness who have violated their parole conditions to the Parolee Reentry Court Program, and grant the court team authority over parolee supervision. The reentry court teams are authorized to determine the appropriate conditions of parole, order rehabilitation and treatment services to be provided, determine appropriate incentives, order appropriate sanctions, lift parole holds, and hear and determine appropriate responses to alleged violations.

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), in partnership with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), solicited proposals from qualified award applicants. The following superior courts were awarded Reentry Court Program Grants: Alameda, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara.

Collaborative Court Model

Local reentry court teams will be modeled after collaborative justice court programs, such as drug and mental health courts, and will incorporate the 11 Guiding Principles of Collaborative Justice Courts identified by the Judicial Council of California's Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee. Such guiding principles include integrating services with justice system processing; using ongoing judicial interaction with participants; using a less adversarial, team-based approach; incorporating graduated sanctions and incentives; and using evaluation to monitor effectiveness. Research has shown that drug and mental health courts reduce recidivism and save resources in the criminal justice system.

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