



## CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Robert Fisher, Acting City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Laurie Sampson, Assistant City Manager  
Jeff Platt, Director of Homeless Services

**MEETING DATE:** February 25, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Review of Agreement with the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the Proposition 47 Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Grant Program

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and file.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In April 2024, the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) released Proposition 47 Grant Program: Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act Cohort 4 Request for Proposals (RFP). Approved by voters in 2014, the purpose of these grant funds is to provide mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, diversion programs for people in the criminal justice system with an emphasis on programs that reduce recidivism of people convicted of less serious crimes and those with substance abuse and mental health problems. Additional priorities include housing-related assistance and community-based supportive services such as job skills training, case management and civil legal services.

The grant solicitation required that at least fifty percent of the funds be used to contract with community-based organizations (CBOs) in order to provide services to a target population of adults who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense and with a history of mental health issues or substance use disorders. Applicants must submit programs for consideration which leverage existing partnerships and funds in order to partner with local non-profits for service delivery.

Some of the guiding principles of the Prop 47 Grant Program are as follows:

-Define target populations that are:

- Traditionally underserved or inappropriately served through mental health and substance use disorder service providers, or
- Overrepresented within the criminal justice system, or Experiencing or at risk for homelessness

-Expand and improve on efforts to divert individuals away from criminal justice involvement through increased diversion programs and improved behavioral health services or community support

-Encourage community engagement, where members of the community participate in the identifying, informing, and shaping of policies, goals, services, and solutions

-Collect program data and measure/evaluate outcomes and publish and share information

On June 10, 2024, the City submitted a grant application to the Prop 47 Grant Program, with a \$6,990,541 funding request for the Banning Re-Entry & Community Safety Project (Project). The Project aims to reduce recidivism of formerly incarcerated individuals by addressing substance abuse and

mental health disorders, homelessness and other factors.

Over a 3-year period, the Project will provide full wraparound services to approx. 900 recently released inmates from the Larry J. Smith Correctional Facility and will:

1. Integrate project navigators into prison pre-release planning;
2. Provide a "warm handoff" when inmates are released to coordinate services;
3. Connect clients with housing, substance abuse, and mental health services as soon as they are released and provide intense navigation and follow-up; and
4. Provide housing, workforce training, jobs, and other support.

The City of Banning will partner with Smith Correctional Facility and three community-based organizations (CBOs) - 1) North Shore Community Church  
2) Step Up On Second, and  
3) Salvation Army - to implement the proposed project.

A Local Advisory Committee will meet monthly, guide project implementation and provide direction for the duration of the grant. Representatives include: a City Council member, City staff (City Manager's office & Homeless Services), Banning PD, Riverside County Fifth District Supervisor's office, Smith Correctional Facility (County Sheriff), North Shore Community Church, Step Up on Second, and Salvation Army.

The Project includes funding for both a grant-mandated Project Monitor/Evaluator contract for the entire grant period (3 years) and an external Financial/Compliance Audit at the conclusion of the grant. Inmates that are released with the intent to access this program may have to be housed for a very short period of time before they can enter the proposed programs. Housing for this program is not long term, nor permanent. It may be one night or up to 10 days.

On October 3, 2024, the BSCC Board adopted the funding recommendations for the Proposition 47 Grant Program. The City's application was ranked #1 in the Large Scope category and was awarded the entire \$6,990,541 funding request.

The current City Grants policy requires permission to apply for grants from the City Council if, 1) The grant program requires it, or 2) There is a cash match requirement. The City Manager gave direction to submit an application for the Prop 47 grant (which does not have a cash match, nor require City Council approval to apply). On October 22, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution 2024-167, approving the California Board of State and Community Corrections Proposition 47 Grant Program: Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act Cohort 4. With a vote of 4-0-1 (Minjares absent).

A press conference was held at City Hall earlier that day, attended by City Council and all project partners and covered by local media, with a news segment airing on KESQ. Photos, videos and the news segment were shared with BSCC Prop 47 grant staff. A grant agreement was executed with the State upon receipt of Resolution 2024-167. An attempt to rescind the grant award could result in a negative standing with the BSCC and jeopardize any future attempts at securing public safety grant funding.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

The City is home to the 1,600-bed Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility (County Jail), which is the County of Riverside Sheriff Department's largest facility. Statistics received from County staff revealed approximately 50,000 inmates rotate through the Banning facility alone. While inmates (adult men and women) at the County Jail do receive re-entry planning services prior to release, the County Jail does not provide post-release services, leaving many vulnerable inmates released to the streets of Banning without stable housing or necessary mental health and substance abuse services.

Without robust re-entry services, many formerly incarcerated individuals wind up homeless on Banning's

streets or in encampments adjacent to downtown Banning. The 2022 Point in Time Count recorded 38% of Banning's homeless population are formerly incarcerated individuals, and more than 35% struggle with substance abuse and mental health disorders. Banning Police Department reports that between October 2022 to October 2023 the police department responded to 1,569 calls relating to transient disturbances.

The Banning Re-Entry & Community Safety Project will address the following three primary needs:

1. High recidivism rates
2. Lack of coordinated and proactive immediate and long-term services for releasees
3. Establishing coordination between the County Jail and service providers

1. High recidivism rates. The recidivism rate among individuals released from Riverside County Jails (daily population 36,086) between 2017-2019 is high: 41.9%. (Source: CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) This recidivism rate includes all arrests for misdemeanors, felonies, warrants, and technical violations (both formal supervision and court summary cases) over a three-year period.

2. Lack of immediate and long-term releasee services. Currently, there are no "warm hand-off" services provided to inmates once they leave the County Jail. While still incarcerated, the County Jail offers pre-release guidance to prepare individuals for release. However, once they are released, there is a disconnect. There are no navigators to assist releasees with making connections to housing, food, and mental health and substance abuse services. The net result is that former inmates are released and often find their way to Banning's streets or homeless encampments and are then highly vulnerable to crime and relapses to substance use and mental health issues.

3. Establishing coordination between County Jail and service providers. The core of the proposed project will provide a 'warm hand-off' to ensure clients released from the County Jail receive immediate basic needs like transportation, shelter, food, and clothing, which will reduce the temptation to engage in criminal activity to address these needs. Then, once stabilized, the project will provide housing, mental health and substance use disorder services, and job readiness services to clients using navigators to help releasees find their way. The Project will be limited to serving only non-violent offenders, pre-screened by County Jail staff.

According to the BSCC, a comprehensive evaluation of the Prop 47 grant program suggests participants who received services are substantially less likely to recidivate compared to those traditionally incarcerated in California. A copy of the Proposition 47 Cohort 2 Final Evaluation Report is available at [www.bscc.ca.gov](http://www.bscc.ca.gov).

#### **SUMMARY:**

The City of Banning has struggled for many years to grapple with an increasing homeless and criminal element that exists in the Downtown and surrounding areas. As a Disadvantaged Community, the City lacks the funding and resources necessary to adequately and proactively address this serious issue. With the commitment of our CBOs/non-profits (North Shore Community Church, Step-Up On Second and Salvation Army) and partnership from the County Sheriff and Smith Correctional Facility staff, County 5th District Supervisor's Office, Banning PD and other stakeholders, this Prop 47 grant funding will be transformative for our Community.

Due to the Governor's proposed FY2026 budget, our pending grant application for \$1.48M in additional homeless funding from the CA Encampment Resolution Funding program has been frozen. If the Governor's budget recommendations are adopted as is, new requirements to apply will include:

- a. Compliant Housing Element (compliant)
- b. Local Encampment Policy consistent with State guidance (non-compliant)
- c. Agencies with Pro-Housing Designation are prioritized (non-compliant)

The City has obligated/expended all previous homeless grant funding and does not have any other current homeless grant funding options. If the City were to apply for & receive any funding from the County--including Continuum of Care-- we will be required to accept and provide services for additional

homeless countywide.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Prop 47 grant program does not require a local match. It is anticipated that Project success achieved by diverting/decreasing homelessness and crime in the surrounding community will result in decreased General Fund expenditures (Police, Code Enforcement, Homeless Services) over the grant performance period (3 years).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Rescinding Resolution 2024-167 will result in some inmates from the Larry D Correctional Facility continuing to add to the homeless in the City of Banning. It may impact the City's ability to compete for future grants provided by the State.

**BUDGETED?:**

No

**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [1. Prop-47-Cohort-4-Budget-Attachment-Banning.pdf](#)
2. [2. Grant Policy B-25.pdf](#)
3. [3. Resolution No. 2024-167.pdf](#)
4. [4. Prop 47 Grant Press Release Photo.pdf](#)
5. [5. 2024 Prop 47 Grant Agreement\\_City of Banning\\_BSCC 1315-24.pdf](#)