**Public Defender**
**2024 Realignment Funding Request**
**Treatment Court Transportation Services**

## BACKGROUND

Treatment courts are the most successful intervention for people living with substance use and mental health disorders, by leading them out of the justice system and into lives of recovery, stability, well-being and self-sufficiency. Instead of punishment, people are offered treatment and compassion.

San Bernardino County Collaborative Treatment Courts are post-adjudication models. Individuals are accepted after being screened for eligibility and suitability, and enter a guilty plea. Accepted participant sentences are suspended while placed in a 12-month minimum, intensive outpatient program with community probation supervision. As a result, charges may be reduced after successful completion of the program. Graduation requirements vary, but typically involve completion of educational and job training, linked to resources for mental health and substance use recovery services.

Historically, treatment courts were located in the Rancho Cucamonga, Victorville, San Bernardino, and Joshua Tree courthouses. Once accepted, participants were placed into the treatment court geographically closest to where they reside.

## THE NEED

On February 6, 2023, the Superior Court of California, San Bernardino Justice Center (SBJC) moved its treatment courts to the Rancho Cucamonga District. This change impacts approximately 150 individuals already participating in SBJC treatment courts. Participants were required to find their own reliable method of transportation from SBJC to Rancho Cucamonga. Approximately 20-25 percent of these participants do not have reliable transportation, or previously relied on public transportation. Public transportation from SBJC to Rancho Cucamonga takes approximately 90 minutes travel time each direction.

## THE SOLUTION

The Department proposes to contract with a community-based organization to provide scheduled and safe transportation services for treatment court participants. The transportation service will take program participants from SBJC to the new treatment court location in Rancho Cucamonga and provide return transportation after participants attend court.

## ESTIMATED COSTS

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|---|---|
| Number of Participants | 36 |
| Weekly Charge | $100 |
| Weekly Transports per Year | 49 |
| **Total Estimated Costs** | **$176,400** |