

## **Section 1: Project Need**

**1.1.** San Francisco faces unique challenges with the impending closure of DJJ and realignment of DJJ functions back to local jurisdictions. Since 2019, San Francisco has been engaged in a robust local process to close our juvenile hall and reimagine what a non-institutional place of detention will look like for young people who require secure holding, primarily pre-adjudication. This local process now coincides with the statewide process of realigning DJJ functions to our county and demands that we be creative, thoughtful, and intentional in deciding what our full continuum of care looks like for young people in the juvenile justice system. We have recently added five new community member seats to the subcommittee of our Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council tasked with creating this continuum. As we are still engaged in our local planning process, our subcommittee members have decided to request that San Francisco enter the Deferred Spending Approval Process while we further develop our plan.

San Francisco historically has not had a high number of young people in DJJ facilities. In fact, between 2016-2020, San Francisco committed only 11 young people to DJJ. As we contemplate realignment today, San Francisco only has one young person committed to DJJ. Overwhelmingly, young people from San Francisco who are sent to DJJ are committed because their immediate sustained petition is serious and violent, or because that young person has a long history of serious and violent behaviors paired with failures in out of home placements. Young people are often 18 or older when they have been committed to DJJ and all of the last 11 commitments have been young men. Seven of the eleven young people committed to DJJ between 2016-2020 have been African-American, two have been Latinx, one is Pacific Islander, and one is white. Finally, most young people sent to DJJ from San Francisco stay at least two years. Based on recent trends, San Francisco must contemplate a continuum of care for a realigned population that is very small in number, made up primarily of transitional-aged youth, who come with serious histories and high needs, and need to transition into successful adulthood when they are released. Additionally, we must examine every decision and component of this continuum for these young people through a racial

equity lens as we see the stark racial disparities in the population of young people who have been sent to DJJ from San Francisco.

**1.2** Based on prior year commitment data, San Francisco anticipates having two commitments to our facility per year, with a maximum capacity of 6 at any given time, for an average length of stay of 28 months.

## **Section 2: Project Description**

**2.1.** Because San Francisco has historically low numbers of DJJ commitments, we are considering what it might look like to take a regional approach for young people the court commits to a long-term secure placement. We are considering the possibility of reopening our former juvenile ranch and offering it as a regional placement; we are considering sending our young people to one, or multiple, placements in the San Francisco Bay Area should that be a reasonable option; and, we are simultaneously considering all other possibilities brought to us by our subcommittee members. Because we have not yet made any interim or final decisions about the placement of these young people, we are requesting to undertake the Deferred Spending Approval Process.

**2.2.** Should we send our young people out of county, we may spend the Youth Programs & Facilities Grant on transportation to families to ensure that they have every opportunity to see their loved one. If we offer a space here in San Francisco, we will need to purchase program curriculum and associated staff training and technical assistance in order to ensure that our staff who have historically worked with young people under 18 for a short amount of time feel prepared to work in support of transitional-age youth for longer lengths of stay. We also recognize that holding this population locally in our juvenile hall, while it is open, would require some infrastructure and training adjustments that could be supported by this grant.

San Francisco will submit a finalized proposal to the BSCC no later than November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It is our intent that by then we will have a much clearer picture of what the future looks like for secure facilities and shifted continuums of care in San Francisco, as well as what is being offered around the region that may be a good fit for the realigned population in San Francisco.