



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PROBATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES YOUTH REINVESTMENT GRANT**

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)-** On Friday, June 14, 2019 the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) announced the selection of the County of Santa Barbara Probation Department as a recipient of the Youth Reinvestment Grant. The Probation Department was one of 30 awarded programs to receive funding for strategies designed to prevent local youth from entering the justice system or from furthering their involvement in it. Locally, the Probation Department hopes to divert an estimated 800 youth through collaboration with law enforcement, schools and the community over the course of the 4-year \$795,000 grant. The Youth Reinvestment Grant Program was established in the 2018 State Budget Act for evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally relevant diversion programs, especially those serving communities with high rates of arrests that are racially disproportionate.

Chief Probation Officer Tanja Heitman commented, “The Santa Barbara County Probation Department is pleased to have been selected to receive a Youth Reinvestment Grant. This will greatly enhance our ability to divert youth away from the juvenile justice system while providing evidence-based, trauma-informed, culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate treatment options in partnership with the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Our youth deserve to be provided with proven programs and strategies that will assist them in avoiding criminal justice involvement and this grant gives us the opportunity to expand those local interventions. We are investing local matching funds to make this possible because we are committed to initiatives which seek to improve outcomes for the youth throughout our county.”

For more information about the County of Santa Barbara Probation Department, go to [www.sbprobation.org](http://www.sbprobation.org).

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