



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R 24-0177  
APR 17 2024

**REPORT RE:**

**EXISTING PROGRAMS AND DATA WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
THAT FOCUS ON PROACTIVE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION TO PREEMPT  
CRIMES BEING COMMITTED AND/OR DIVERT CASES FROM THE COURT**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Council File No. 23-0488

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits this report, requested by the City Council, requesting this Office to do the following:

- 1) Identify and provide any available data pertaining to “[a]ll existing programs within the City Attorney’s Office that focus on proactive outreach and education to preempt crimes being committed and/or divert cases from the court and carceral systems”; and
- 2) With the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, identify any available grant opportunities “that could be used to create additional programs to proactively educate and to divert from the court and carceral systems.”



## Introduction

Through its Outreach & Restorative Justice Unit, this Office is actively engaged in a robust system of restorative and collaborative justice that focuses on early intervention deemed to be “preemptive” and/or “diversionary,” educating offenders and diverting cases away from the traditional criminal process. This report will demonstrate the commitment of this Office to programs designed to engage those who are most vulnerable to the criminal justice system, address the underlying drivers associated with crime, and, ultimately, reduce negative contacts with law enforcement altogether.

This Office, however, also recognizes that restorative and collaborative strategies should not be limited to early intervention but expanded and appropriately applied throughout the criminal justice continuum. Accordingly, this report will identify not only programs that focus on education and early intervention but on those programs addressing intervention points throughout the criminal justice process, with the goal of promoting better outcomes in restoring individuals, restoring communities, and reducing recidivism. Key intervention points include: (1) prevention; (2) pre-arrest and pre-filing; (3) post-filing; and (4) post-adjudication. Moreover, this report will identify and describe programs with services that may overlap or be applicable to multiple intervention points. Lastly, this report will identify any available grants that may be available to create additional educational and diversionary programs.

## Existing City Attorney Programs

### Prevention

The first intervention point along the criminal justice continuum is prevention. Programs dedicated to prevention are striving to educate and assist those who are at risk, preempting crimes from being committed in the first place, and eliminating the need for a law enforcement response altogether. The programs focused on early intervention and prevention are set forth below and include the following: Children Exposed to Violence Unit, Dispute Resolution Program, Diversion Outreach & Opportunities for Recovery, Victim’s Assistance Program, and the Tobacco Enforcement Operations.

#### 1) Children Exposed to Violence Unit

The Children Exposed to Violence Unit (CEV Unit) is a trauma-informed partnership led by this Office that includes the renowned Children’s Institute and the Los Angeles Police Department’s (LAPD’s) Community Safety Partnership Bureau. Additional community partners include the City of Los Angeles Housing Authority, schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District, intervention workers, community leaders, and clergy.

Operating under the premise that if children hear or see violence, they too are victims, the CEV Unit supports children from the time a violent crime is committed. The CEV unit responds within the first 24 hours of a violent incident, addressing the event and any other trauma a child may endure due to community and in-home violence, assessing the needs of children and/or their parents, and connecting them to trauma-informed supportive services. Recognizing the causal link between the exposure to violence and learning, health, emotional, and behavioral issues, the CEV Unit's early intervention successfully mitigates these negative outcomes caused by trauma.

### Participation & Outcome Analysis

Between 2020-2022, over 637 families and 1205 children have been referred for mental health, crisis counseling, and other treatment services as a result of this program's collaborative efforts. Over 637 children have received either short or long-term mental health or therapeutic services. The overwhelming majority of the recipients of services are from underserved and minority communities.

#### 2) Dispute Resolution Program

The Dispute Resolution Program (DRP) provides voluntary, confidential mediation services at no cost to the residents and businesses of Los Angeles. Integral to DRP's success is its involvement with the community and its enlistment of qualified volunteers. DRP partners with the community by offering a 40-hour Dispute Resolution Program Act mediation training at no cost to those interested in learning valuable skills in communication, conflict de-escalation, conciliation, and mediation. Relying upon volunteers dedicated to resolving disputes within their communities before those disputes escalate, each mediation is tailored to the parties' specific issues and goals. For over 30 years, this award-winning program has provided an alternative to the more traditional complaint process and, as set forth in more detail below, handles both community mediation and public safety mediation.

The broad scope of community mediation brings people together to resolve issues and conflicts that may arise in the landlord/tenant, neighbor, family/domestic, consumer/merchant, and business relationships. Through this process, a neutral mediator assists disputing parties in resolving conflict through specialized communication and negotiation techniques. By contrast, public safety mediation serves as an alternative to the traditional complaint investigation procedure and is done in collaboration with LAPD's Community-Police Unification Program and the Los Angeles Fire Department's Community Mediation Program. Public safety mediation typically involves complaints of discourteous behavior or biases and is resolved with the goal of building understanding and transforming the relationship between public safety officers and the communities they serve.

### Participation & Outcome Analysis

Dispute Resolution has provided over 1,656 residents with conflict resolution and peace-building services for the past three years. During this period, the program has also trained and engaged 144 community members as volunteer mediators.

#### 3) Diversion, Outreach & Opportunities for Recovery

The Los Angeles Diversion, Outreach, and Opportunities for Recovery program (LA DOOR) is a comprehensive, health-focused, preventative approach to addiction that proactively engages individuals who are at an elevated risk of misdemeanor prosecution related to substance use, mental illness, or homelessness. More specifically, funded by grants from Proposition 47, LA DOOR is a multidisciplinary social services team that targets areas experiencing high levels of homelessness, drug use, and mental illness; and offers substance use treatment, mental health support, physical healthcare, and case management. In most cases, services are rendered prior to any law enforcement intervention. In addition to these preventative and proactive outreach services, LA DOOR also provides pre-booking diversion to participants on eligible Proposition 47 drug arrests during the pre-arrest, pre-filing intervention point on the criminal justice continuum. Participants who opt for pre-booking diversion can take advantage of LA DOOR services instead of having their arrest processed or a criminal complaint filed.

In order to perform this consistent and quality wrap-around care, this Office partners with the SSG Project 180 for its outreach and intensive outpatient case management services, West Angeles Community Development Corporation for transitional housing, and the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office for addressing participants' legal barriers. This collaboration, along with the peer-led mobile outreach services, drop-in centers, and an expanding network of provider relationships, all contribute to the successful prevention and intervention that LA DOOR provides.

### Participation & Outcome Analysis

Through its peer-led mobile outreach services, drop-in centers, and network of provider relationships, the LA DOOR model has provided consistent wrap-around care for over 160 diversion participants between 2018 and 2023. During this time, nearly 1,484 points of service were provided by LA DOOR via the following topics of care: (1) Group Treatment Sessions; (2) Psychiatric Services; (3) Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services; (4) Basic Necessities and Food Assistance; (5) Vital Documents and Benefits Obtained; (6) Medical Services; (7) CES Surveys Conducted; (8) Housing Linkages; and (9) Legal Support Services. Of these 160 diversion participants, 110 utilized LA DOOR resources prior to law enforcement intervention.

4) Victim Assistance Program

The Victim Assistance Program (VAP) was created to protect victims' rights while providing services that meet the unique needs of those impacted by crime. The program assists victims and family members recover from trauma suffered due to crime. Those crimes include domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse, robbery, assault, hate crimes, human trafficking, rape, arson, driving under the influence, hit and run, and homicides. The services offered by VAP include, but are not limited to, the following: crisis intervention; referrals to victim service agencies; assistance with filing an application to the state Victim Compensation Board; and emergency assistance for out-of-pocket medical, wage loss, relocation, and funeral and burial expenses.

Participation & Outcome Analysis

On average, the VAP serves almost 17,000 victims per year. Thousands of referrals to victim service agencies, along with assistance in filing for medical, wage loss, relocation, and funeral and burial expenses are facilitated through the program every year.

5) Tobacco Enforcement Operations

The Tobacco Enforcement Operations (TEO) unit is tasked with reducing underage tobacco use and is responsible for developing citywide tobacco-control policies and outreach. To reduce underage tobacco use, TEO develops youth-focused initiatives, such as Decreasing Adolescent Tobacco Access (DATA) and Responsible Retailer, and regularly collaborates with schools in order to keep cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products away from minors. The DATA initiative, for example, has led to a comprehensive vaping awareness campaign and an increase in compliance checks conducted by TEO investigators while, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the County Department of Public Health, the Responsible Retailer initiative educates retailers about tobacco laws and responsible retail practices when selling tobacco products. Lastly, TEO educates parents, teachers, retailers, and law enforcement about the negative health impacts of tobacco use, and shares strategies to reduce youth access.

Participation & Outcome Analysis

As part of the pre-investigation outreach efforts, TEO, along with LAPD, conducts in-person retailer site visits to make sure retailers are properly informed of applicable laws and to provide guidance on best practices to avoid violations. Following these outreach efforts, TEO investigators conduct compliance checks to identify any retailers that sell to youth. If a violation is discovered, the offender is eligible for pre-filing diversion through the Neighborhood Justice Program (NJP) and will be required to attend a tobacco education course led by LAPD. From 2019 through 2023 TEO has

referred 414 first-time offenders to NJP, which is explained in more detail in section 11 below.

TEO also administers the City's Tobacco Retailer's Permit program, which includes the enforcement of the administrative penalty process and permit suspensions for noncompliant retailers. The number of permit suspensions is as follows:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>30-Day Suspensions</b>	<b>90-Day Suspensions</b>	<b>120-Day Suspensions</b>	<b>Total by FY</b>
<b>FY19</b>	43	7	0	<b>50</b>
<b>FY20</b>	59	10	0	<b>69</b>
<b>FY21</b>	35	7	0	<b>42</b>
<b>FY22</b>	68	4	0	<b>72</b>
<b>FY23</b>	79	3	0	<b>82</b>
<b>FY24</b>	38	2	0	<b>40</b>
<b>TOTAL SUSPENSIONS FY 19 - FY 24</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total: 355</b>

Prior to the start of a permit suspension, TEO conducts a pre-suspension compliance conference, reminding the retailer of the upcoming suspension and providing additional direction to the retailer regarding what needs to be done in order to be brought into compliance (such as the posting of their Notice of Suspension sign, removal of tobacco products from public view, etc.). TEO has participated in 284 pre-suspension compliance conferences which equates to approximately 80 percent of retailers who have had their permit suspended and are subsequently brought into compliance.

#### Pre-Arrest & Pre-Filing

The pre-arrest and pre-filing intervention point refers to programs that are offered at the point law enforcement initially responds to a crime or programs that begin once a misdemeanor referral is presented to this Office for filing consideration. Attempting to divert cases away from the court system, these programs provide an alternative to traditional misdemeanor prosecution and include the following: LA DOOR, City Attorney Hearing Program, Neighborhood Justice Program, and Administrative Citation Enforcement Program.

6) LA DOOR

LA DOOR, explained in more detail in section 3 above, provides pre-booking diversion to participants on eligible Proposition 47 drug arrests. Even if arrested, however, a participant who qualifies and opts for diversion can take advantage of LA DOOR services instead of having a criminal complaint filed.

Participation & Outcome Analysis

The LA DOOR model has provided consistent wrap-around care for over 160 diversion participants between 2018 and 2023. Of the 160 diversion participants, 50 utilized LA DOOR services after contact with law enforcement but prior to a misdemeanor conviction being secured. The LA DOOR participants, after having contact with law enforcement, were received into the program from the following sources:

- i) Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), a LA County program, referred 29 participants to LA DOOR. ATI permits arrested individuals with eligible charges to enroll for LA DOOR diversion in lieu of a criminal filing.
- ii) Rapid Diversion Program (RDP), explained in more detail in section 14, below, referred 18 participants to LA DOOR. RDP, is a court linkage program in which RDP staff links enrollees to other agencies, such as LA DOOR, for services.
- iii) Return For Court (RFC), a pilot program developed by LA DOOR in 2022, referred 3 participants to LA DOOR. RFC was performed in collaboration with LAPD's Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) and permitted DREs to cite and release non-violent drug offenders and refer those offenders to LA DOOR.

7) City Attorney Hearing Program

Established in 1974, the City Attorney Hearings Program (CAH Program) is a free-of-charge diversion and social-service referral program that offers a second chance for an eligible individual who faces potential misdemeanor charges. A City Attorney Hearing is an informal proceeding in which each participant has an opportunity to address and potentially resolve their case with a Hearing Officer instead of resolving their case in a courtroom. The CAH Program may include the Hearing Officer advising a participant of the nature of their offenses and the potential serious criminal consequences should their behavior be repeated. In many instances, the CAH Program also provides an opportunity for a victim to be heard and be provided appropriate victim information and resources without having to participate in formal court proceedings. Lastly, the CAH Program attempts to achieve compliance with various

code requirements in cases referred by City agencies after previous attempts at obtaining compliance have been ineffective.

Participation & Outcome Analysis

Since 2018, the CAH Program has received nearly 46,000 referrals and conducted over 33,500 hearings. As set forth in the chart below, approximately 73 percent of all referrals to the CAH Program result in an informal hearing as an alternative to the filing of criminal charges.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>REFERRALS</b>	<b>HEARINGS</b>	<b>SUCCESS RATE</b>
2018	7813	5227	67%
2019	8883	6058	68%
2020	8149	5990	74%
2021	6237	4736	76%
2022	7613	5950	78%
2023	7144	5635	79%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	45839	33,596	73%

8) Neighborhood Justice Program

Developed in 2014, the Neighborhood Justice Program (NJP Program) is a neighborhood-focused restorative justice program that addresses the root causes of criminal behavior and reduces recidivism while enhancing community relationships and engagement. Beginning as a pre-filing alternative to criminal prosecution, the NJP Program has expanded to include eligible cases in which a criminal complaint has already been filed (post-filing). The NJP Program allows the participant to take responsibility for their crime while avoiding the long-term consequences of having a criminal record. Subject to prosecutorial discretion, all misdemeanor charges are eligible for the NJP Program with the exception of those arrested for charges related to gangs, guns, driving offenses, drugs, sexual abuse, and domestic violence.

The NJP Program consists of trained volunteers called “panelists” who meet on a weekly basis throughout the City and directly engage with participants. During this engagement, the NJP panelists will discuss with the participant the crime that was committed, the reasons for the crime, and the harm it caused. Victims of the crime are also invited to contribute to the dialogue. Working together with the participant, the NJP panelists will then discuss what consequences are appropriate given the crime and the

harm caused. These consequences are then reframed as obligations that the participant must complete in order to ensure that the criminal case will not be filed (if pre-filing) or that the case will be dismissed (if post-filing). These obligations can include community service, a letter of apology, restitution, or specific classes tailored to the crime that was committed in order to provide the participant with the tools necessary to avoid contact with law enforcement in the future. If a participant fails to complete the obligations imposed by the NJP Program, the case is returned for filing consideration (if pre-filing) or returned to court for prosecution (if post-filing).

#### Participation & Outcome Analysis

Since the program's inception in 2014, Neighborhood Justice has had over 8,028 cases referred, of which 4,949 agreed to participate in the program. Of those, 92 percent completed the program. In the last three years, 1,878 cases were referred to NJP, of which 1,163 individuals agreed to participate. The recidivism rate for participants who have completed the program has consistently held steady at five percent since the inception of the program in 2014.

#### 9) Administrative Citation Enforcement Program

The Administrative Citation Enforcement Program (ACE Program) is a non-criminal approach to nuisance abatement and quality of life offenses. The ACE Program implements an administrative fine process in order to address violations of the Los Angeles Municipal Code as an alternative to misdemeanor prosecution. An administrative citation issued via the ACE Program results in an administrative fine being levied and does not result in a criminal record, probation, or the threat of jail. Moreover, administrative citations issued through the ACE Program not only provide the violator due process but are processed by the City of Los Angeles, not the courts. The ACE Program is currently utilized by LAPD, Department of Animal Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Street Services, the Housing Department, and the Department of Building and Safety. Coordinated by this Office, the ACE Program expeditiously addresses non-violent municipal code violations, improves conditions in the community, and reduces the number of criminal cases in court.

#### Participation & Outcome Analysis

Since the program's inception in 2015, the ACE Program has issued approximately 77,132 administrative citations. The following chart represents the status of administrative citations received between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. The chart identifies the issuing department, indicates how many citations were issued, how many administrative hearings were conducted, and how many ace citations were referred to other programs.

<b>Issuing Department/Agency</b>	<b>ACE Citations Issued</b>	<b>ACE Hearings Conducted</b>	<b>HEART Referrals</b>	<b>NJP Referrals</b>
Los Angeles Police Dept.	3868	19	127	4
Dept. of Parks and Recreation	224	6	4	1
Bureau of Street Services	2488	7	0	0
Dept. of Animal Services	1074	2	0	0
Dept. of Building and Safety	25	6	0	0
Housing Department	5	0	0	0

Post-filing

“Post-filing” refers to those diversion programs available to qualified individuals after criminal charges are filed but before a criminal court pronounces judgment and imposes a sentence. These programs provide an alternative to a criminal sentence which may often include probation, incarceration, and a criminal record. The post-filing diversion programs include the following: Prostitution Diversion Program; Neighborhood Justice Program; Transitional Aged Youth Diversion Program; and the Rapid Diversion Program.

10) Prostitution Diversion Program

The Prostitution Diversion Program (PDP) is a post-filing diversion program for qualified individuals who have been arrested and charged for a prostitution-related offense that did not involve minors. Applicable to both those who receive compensation, as well as those who provide compensation to engage in prostitution, PDP allows a defendant to enter into a one-year educational program that teaches the individual about the dangers of prostitution and the harm it causes. Working in conjunction with Journey Out, those who receive compensation for prostitution, agree to complete either an 8-session or 18-session program and, if necessary, are offered wrap-around services and referrals to help those transition out of sex work. Those who offer to provide compensation for prostitution, on the other hand, are required to attend an 8-hour class that discusses health issues related to sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS prevention and education, and the deleterious effects of prostitution on the local community. If the participants successfully complete the PDP obligations, the

criminal case will be dismissed, and the individual will avoid a criminal conviction, probation, and/or incarceration.

Participation & Outcome Analysis

Since 2018, approximately 62 percent of defendants who are eligible for PDP have successfully completed the program and had their criminal case dismissed. The below chart indicates the annual volume and success rates of PDP.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>PDP ELIGIBLE</b>	<b>PDP COMPLETIONS</b>	<b>SUCCESS RATE</b>
2018	547	417	76%
2019	472	348	73%
2020	193	97	50%
2021	174	82	47%
2022	125	42	34%
2023	76	4	5%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	1587	990	62%

11) Neighborhood Justice Program

The NJP Program, explained in more detail in section 8 above, is a pre-filing diversion program that recently expanded in 2020 to include eligible cases in which a criminal complaint has already been filed. Expanding this diversionary opportunity to a later point in the criminal justice continuum, after a case is filed, requires the participant to waive time for trial, take responsibility, participate in the restorative justice panel, and fulfill mandated obligations. Upon successful completion, the criminal case is dismissed and the individual will avoid a criminal conviction, probation, and/or incarceration.

Participation & Outcome Analysis

Since the expansion of the NJP Program in 2020, the program has received 175 post-filing referrals from the criminal courts. Successful completion of the NJP Program resulted in those criminal cases being dismissed.

12) Transitional Aged Youth Diversion Program

The Transitional Aged Youth Diversion Program (TDP) is a services-centered diversion program for persons between the ages of 18-25 who have been charged with

petty theft, non-domestic violence vandalism and or trespass, public intoxication, and disturbing the peace. This Office, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, the Alternate Public Defender, and the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) identifies candidates who need special services given their situation as developing young adults coming from underserved communities. Prior to entering a plea on their criminal case, the selected candidate must agree to waive time for arraignment, accept the terms of the program, and be assigned a case manager. To successfully complete the terms of the program, the candidate must enter into a contract, regularly check in with their case manager, enroll in an academic program or obtain employment, engage in civic engagement, complete other restorative terms, and come to court for progress reports. Upon successful completion, the criminal case will be dismissed and the individual will avoid a criminal conviction, probation, and/or incarceration.

#### Participation & Outcome Analysis

A total of 81 participants between the ages of 18-25 were referred to Transition Age Youth Diversion since the program's inception in 2019. To date, 42 participants have graduated, while four have not, and there are currently 35 open cases.

#### 13) Community United for Resolution & Empowerment Program

Created in 2010, the Community United for Resolution & Empowerment Program (CURE Program) is a form of collaborative justice designed to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism among young adults between the ages of 18-25 who have committed non-violent gang-related misdemeanor offenses or who exhibit risk factors predictive of gang membership. This Office, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, the Alternate Public Defender, and CRCD identify eligible participants and, in lieu of being sentenced by the court, participants agree to waive time for sentencing and complete an eighteen-month supervised program that emphasizes education, vocational skills and job readiness.

The CURE Program becomes available to a defendant once a qualifying defendant pleads guilty or no contest. At this stage, the prosecutor and the defense attorney will review the case, along with the defendant's criminal history, to determine whether the eligibility requirements for the Cure Program are met. Once approved, the CRCD will assist each participant in creating an individualized intervention plan that may include the following: obtaining a high school diploma or GED; receiving mental health counseling; attending a substance abuse program; housing assistance; and job assistance. CRCD will also provide progress reports to the court ensuring each participant is accountable. If the participant successfully completes the program, the criminal case will be dismissed or the criminal charge may be reduced.

#### Participation & Outcome Analysis

Since its inception, the CURE Program has had 135 participants. Out of the 135 participants, 50 successfully completed the program, resulting in their criminal cases being dismissed. Nine participants successfully completed the program, resulting in the reduction of criminal charges. Lastly, 76 participants failed to successfully complete the program, which resulted in those participants being sentenced on the original charge to which the participant pled.

#### 14) Rapid Diversion Program

The Rapid Diversion Program (RDP) expedites the evaluation of defendants who have been charged with an offense and suffer from mental illness in order to determine whether those defendants meet the requirements of the mental health diversion statutes as set forth in Penal Code sections 1001.35 and 1001.36. Funded with a grant from the MacArthur Foundation and led by the Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, RDP is a collaborative effort whose goal is to efficiently and effectively address the root causes of behavior through mental health services and treatment as opposed to incarceration. RDP relies upon a Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health expert to evaluate a defendant who has been charged with particular crimes and, if appropriate, recommend the defendant for diversion prior to the defendant entering a plea. As part of the diversion, the defendant will receive mental health services and/or treatment, and if the defendant is successful in completing the terms of diversion, the case will be dismissed.

This alternative to probation and incarceration yields the following benefits: reduces pretrial incarceration rates for those suffering from mental illness; decreases the costs related to the incarceration of those suffering from mental illness; increases service linkage rates for those defendants suffering from mental illness; and, ultimately, lowers recidivism rates for those suffering from mental illness.

#### Participation & Outcome Analysis

Since the inception of the program, 5,150 candidates have been screened from seven court locations throughout the County. Of the seven locations, this Office reviews RDP cases from the following courthouses: Clara Shortridge Foltz, Airport, Long Beach, San Fernando and Van Nuys. There have been over 1,750 diversions granted throughout the County and 500 graduations. Currently, 67 percent of the participants are on track to graduate. The recidivism rate for participants who have completed the program has consistently stayed at 5 percent since the inception of the program in 2019.

### Post-Adjudication

“Post-Adjudication” refers to those programs that are available to qualifying individuals who have already proceeded through the criminal process and are now dealing with the collateral consequences that have resulted. Post-Adjudication programs are focused on assisting individuals whose criminal history has become an impediment to securing housing or employment opportunities. These programs include the following: Homeless Engagement and Response Team: and Operation Clean Slate.

#### 15) Homeless Engagement and Response Team

This Office’s Homeless Engagement and Response Team (HEART) administers a criminal record clearing program for people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. HEART works in direct partnership with the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office to administer the Los Angeles Homeless Court Program. On a regular basis, the HEART team deploys to parks, shelters, service providers, and libraries to host mobile legal clinics -- essentially bringing the court to the streets. HEART assists participants in resolving infraction citations for minor violations and provides onsite resources that pertain to housing, benefits, drug treatment, medical care, and job training. In exchange for this service engagement, HEART will request the Los Angeles Superior Court to dismiss open infractions, suspend outstanding fines and fees, recall any associated warrants, and lift associated driver’s license suspensions.

Once termed Operation Clean Slate (OCS), HEART also works with service providers to identify unhoused clients who have open misdemeanors. If this is the case, the HEART team will work collaboratively to resolve any open misdemeanors with the intention of reducing criminal records if the clients continue working with their service providers to move out of homelessness. By removing impediments such as a pending criminal case that make acquiring housing or gaining employment difficult, the participant is able to overcome their housing and employment challenges with a clean slate.

#### Participation & Outcome Analysis

For the 12-month period ending in June 2023, HEART has received more than 1,400 applications for infraction relief. Approved applicants had approximately 2,000 infraction tickets cleared by the Court, which included suspending more than \$1 million in fines/fees. Moreover, HEART received and provided relief to 28 administrative citations issued through the ACE Program and received 134 referrals that originated from the NJP Program.

Potential Grant Opportunities

On September 28, 2023, this Office began initial conversations with the City Administrative Officer on identifying grant opportunities that would support the City Council's motion in creating additional programs to proactively educate and to divert individuals from the court and carceral systems. Over half of the programs detailed above have received and are currently receiving grant funds from the Federal, State, County, or some combination thereof, to administer these programs to the residents of the City. At the time of writing, there are currently no open solicitations at the Federal, State, or County levels that relate to this motion. However, it is anticipated that solicitations relating to this motion will become available within the next few months.

This Office has a dedicated Grant Unit that is currently staffed by one full-time personnel member who is monitoring and responding to grant solicitations throughout the year. The Grant Unit evaluates various solicitations for eligibility, feasibility and when applicable, applies for funding when it is determined that the grant will support the mission and vision of the Office. Since May 2023, the Office has reviewed over 50 solicitations and has submitted nine requests for funding that meet the scope of this motion. Of the nine requests for funding submissions, the Office has been awarded \$8.6 million from six funding requests. This Office is currently awaiting award notification for two requests and were unsuccessful in receiving grant funding for another request.

This Office is also expanding the Grant Unit by dedicating an additional full-time staff member to assist in the monitoring and responding to grant solicitations. This additional assistance will enable the Office to increase the number of responses related to this motion.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney Travis Austin at (818) 374-6801. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By *Denise C. Mills*  
DENISE C. MILLS  
Chief Deputy City Attorney

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