



TO: Juvenile Defenders and Juvenile District Attorney System Partners
DATE: September 28, 2023
RE: Request for Interest to contract for technical assistance services relating to emerging policies and practices around the implementation of SB823

As a result of SB823, new practices and policies have emerged from the stakeholder partners that have become part of the court hearing process for youth committed to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs). Juvenile Defenders and District Attorney (DA) Offices are beginning to share what is working well in their jurisdictions and to identify strategies that assist in moving towards the best possible outcomes for the youth, crime victims/survivors, and the community. OYCR wants to support the exchange of information and to facilitate the ability for Juvenile Defenders and Juvenile DAs to assist in fulfilling the vision and mission of SB823.

As part of its statutory mandate to provide technical assistance (TA) and to identify and disseminate best practices to meet the varied needs of young people in the juvenile legal system, OYCR seeks to advance, develop, and support practices relating to the legal adversarial process of young people who qualify for commitment by the court to a SYTF, a new type of facility defined in Welf. & Inst. Code section 875. To that end, OYCR seeks to engage with prosecutors and defense attorneys to develop and disseminate emerging practices and TA related to topics including transfer decision-making by the DA, post adjudication hearings, participation in development of the Individual Rehabilitation Plans, crime victim/survivor voice, youth, and family voice, the 6-month reviews for youth in SYTF programs, and resources for supporting Less Restrictive Programs.

The intent is to build TA targeted at these partners based on the contractor's expertise. Contracts up to \$250,000 over a 2-year period will be available for such projects. To apply, an interested contractor should submit a letter of interest including the following:

- Name of entity or organization and its focus, and any specific individuals who would be undertaking the work.
- Background on the work the entity does related to youth who qualify for commitment to a SYTF, including qualifications to provide the proposed services.
- Project ideas for providing statewide TA and/or developing best practices, including topics covered, mode of dissemination (e.g. document, webinar, convening, training session), target audience (e.g. district attorneys, the juvenile defense bar).
- Justification of the need for proposed TA/best practices.
- Method of evaluation of project's statewide impact to advance SB823 priorities.
- A willingness to work with other awardees to develop joint training opportunities.
- Estimated budget, broken down by project (if there is more than one project).

Eligible contractors include:

- Professional or associational organizations for Juvenile Defenders and Juvenile DA participants.
- Individual County DA, County Public Defender and Alternate Defender Offices that are willing to train and provide TA to other counties throughout the State of California.

Topics of TA may include but are not limited to the following:

- Collaborative Court Models for SYTF cases.
- Retention of youth in the juvenile system instead of transfer to adult court.
- Ensuring that the right youth are placed at the SYTF and keeping youth in the least restrictive setting possible to avoid net-widening.
- Restorative justice and community restoration practices incorporated into the SYTF case process.
- Practices and protocols developed for case conferences prior to the 6-month reviews.
- Interdisciplinary/multi-systemic approaches to case management.
- Early identification of Native American youth and notice to their tribe.

Please submit letters of interest by October 31, 2023, to OYCR@chhs.ca.gov. Upon review of letters of interest, OYCR will invite selected entities to develop a scope of work and enter into contract negotiations.