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Probation Department Awarded \$197K Federal Juvenile Justice Grant to Reduce Youth Offender Recidivism

Sacramento CA - The Sacramento County Probation Department has been awarded \$197,174 in Federal Title II Formula Block Grant funding to provide intensive community supervision and evidence-based Multisystemic Therapy services through the Sustaining Effective Treatment and Supervision program. The program is designed to fill an existing service gap for first time and early offenders, ages 11-14, who have been referred to Probation for a felony offense.

"An early onset felony is often an indicator of long-term criminal justice system involvement. It is our hope that early intervention with an evidence-based program will make a positive impact on the lives of these youth," said Chief Probation Officer, Don Meyer.

Youth in the program will receive intensive community supervision by a probation officer and evidence-based Multisystemic Therapy treatment services that have been shown to be effective in reducing recidivism and maximizing participants' ability to remain in their homes. The Multisystemic Therapy provider, River Oak Center for Children, will be working with the family to ensure their commitment to actively participate with the youth in the treatment process. The grant program will begin on January 1 and will operate through December 31, 2012.

Created as a result of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 2002, the Formula Grants program supports local efforts in planning, operating, and evaluating projects that prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system. Funding may also be used to aid intervention efforts with first-time and non-serious offenders through provision of services that maximize their chances for leading productive, successful lives.

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