



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Sheriff's Office



**Date:** December 8, 2015  
**Board Meeting Date:** December 15, 2015  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** John L. Maltbie, County Manager  
Michael Callagy, Deputy County Manager

**Subject:** Resolution authorizing the County Manager or his designee to apply for competitive funding under the auspices of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant through the Board of State and Community Corrections for the funding cycle of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the County Manager or his designee to apply for competitive funding under the auspices of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) through the Board of State and Community Corrections for the funding cycle of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 12, 2015, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) approved \$885,000 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (Byrne JAG) funding to San Mateo County for the period March 2015 to December 2015 for the implementation of a truancy prevention program in the City of East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park. Statistics show that the high school graduation rate for these areas stands at only 55 percent—a number much lower than any other part of the County—and that low graduation rates result in greater involvement with the criminal justice system.

**DISCUSSION:**

In April 2015, and using the awarded Byrne JAG grant, the County entered into a contract with Live In Peace to operate the Students With Amazing Goals, or SWAG, program. Live in Peace (LIP) is an East Palo Alto educational service non-profit with a mission to advance a culture of non-violence, healing and power. LIP helps youth to navigate educational and other barriers to a more peaceful and positive future. LIP's core programs include its Music Academy, Street Code Academy, and College Initiative.

The SWAG program is a comprehensive community-based multi-disciplinary program aimed at improving school attendance, increasing high school graduation rates, and creating pathways of success for at-risk high school youth through a reduction in juvenile truancy, delinquency and gang violence in East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of the City of Menlo Park. SWAG is overseen by the County Manager's Office (CMO) and located at 763 Green Street in East Palo Alto, a site formerly used as an alternative high school and owned by the Sequoia Union High School District. The "One Stop" multi-disciplinary SWAG program provides approximately 80 high school youth who are at-risk, truant or on probation with intensive case management and other educational and social supportive services to help them complete the educational credits needed to graduate, be on their way to graduation and improve school attendance. Finally, youth develop Life Plans to chart the course of future educational and/or employment goals. In addition to the grant funds described in this Memo, your Board awarded a total of \$350,000 in Measure A funding for the SWAG program for FYs 2015-16 and 2016-17.

The County's receipt of Byrne JAG grant monies for the term of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016 ("Year Two"), is contingent on the County's submission of reapplication materials and demonstration of progress against its program goals and strategies. The County submitted its reapplication materials for Year Two of the grant in October 2015 and was awarded \$832,817 for the above-referenced term. Funding for Year Two has been decreased by 6 percent due an overall reduction by the federal government in the State of California's annual allocation. The new Resolution fulfills the new Grant Agreement requirements for Year Two funding.

The County currently has a services agreement with Live in Peace with a term expiring on June 30, 2016. Such agreement provides for the utilization of up to \$800,000 in Year One Byrne JAG funding. The remaining \$85,000 in Year One funding is allocated to the John W. Gardner Center for Youth at Stanford University to conduct program analysis as required by the grant and to Harder & Company to assist with the development of a data collection system.

County Counsel has reviewed the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 of a Prosperous Community by providing the County's most at-risk youth with the intervention and supportive services they need to improve school attendance rates, graduate from high school and promote their success in life.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Allocation of Year Two funding of the Byrne JAG grant in the amount of \$832,817 will be determined upon the completion of the County's existing contract with Live in Peace and a review of their performance in Year One. Besides your Board's \$350,000 award of Measure A funding for SWAG, the County has no other financial obligations as part of the grant.