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AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 22, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 1998

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2495

Introduced by Assembly Member Prenter
(Principal coauthor: Senator Costa)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Granlund and Ortiz)
(Coauthor: Senator Schiff)

February 20, 1998

An act to amend Section 647a of the Penal Code, and to add Article 5.4 (commencing with Section 1790) to Chapter 1 of Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to the Runaway Youth and Families in Crisis Project.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2495, as amended, Prenter. Runaway Youth and Families in Crisis Project.

Existing law provides various services and programs for runaway and homeless youth, as specified.

This bill would create the Runaway Youth and Families in Crisis Project by establishing 6 pilot projects involving private, nonprofit organizations in the ~~Counties of Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Solano, and the~~

~~City and County of San Francisco~~ *San Joaquin Central Valley, in the northern region of California, and in the southern region of California,* for a period of no less than 3 years. The bill would require the Office of Criminal Justice Planning to prepare and disseminate a request for proposals to prospective grantees, as specified, *establish specific criteria for grant awards,* and would require applicants to identify measurable outcomes in their applications, including the number of clients *to be* served and the percentage *to be* successfully returned to the home of a parent or guardian or to an alternate living condition. ~~Priority-Preference~~ would be required to be given to organizations with existing facilities *servicing runaway youth or families in crisis for at least 3 years, among other factors.* *The bill would require organizations to contribute a local match of at least 15% in cash or in-kind contributions.*

The bill would also authorize peace officers, as defined, to transport a runaway youth or youth in crisis to the nearest runaway shelter provided the youth agrees to the transportation, and would require projects to notify parents that their children are staying at the project site consistent with state and federal parent notification requirements.

This bill would provide for the project to be funded by an amount appropriated in the *annual* Budget Act ~~of 1998,~~ however, no applicant would be permitted to receive a grant greater than the total amount of funds appropriated in the Budget Act minus the 3% for the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, divided by the total number of counties participating in the project. The bill would further provide that the amount transferred each year to the Office of Criminal Justice Planning be used for the purpose of funding, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting to the Legislature on the results of the pilot projects, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 647a of the Penal Code is
2 amended to read:



1 647a. (a) Any peace officer, as defined in subdivision
2 (a) of Section 830.1 or Section 830.31, 830.32, or 830.33,
3 may transport any person, as quickly as is feasible, to the
4 nearest homeless shelter, or any runaway youth or youth
5 in crisis to the nearest runaway shelter, if the officer
6 inquires whether the person desires the transportation,
7 and the person does not object to the transportation. Any
8 officer exercising due care and precaution shall not be
9 liable for any damages or injury incurred during
10 transportation.

11 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this
12 section shall become operative in a county only if the
13 board of supervisors adopts the provisions of this section
14 by ordinance. The ordinance shall include a provision
15 requiring peace officers to determine the availability of
16 space at the nearest homeless or runaway shelter prior to
17 transporting any person.

18 SEC. 2. Article 5.4 (commencing with Section 1790)
19 is added to Chapter 1 of Division 2.5 of the Welfare and
20 Institutions Code, to read:

21

22 Article 5.4. Runaway Youth and Families in Crisis
23 Project
24

25 1790. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
26 following:

27 (a) A tremendous percentage of juveniles who
28 commit status offenses including, but not limited to,
29 running away, school truancy and incorrigibility,
30 ultimately enter the juvenile justice system for
31 subsequently engaging in delinquent, otherwise criminal
32 behavior.

33 (b) In 1990, it was estimated that 48,629 youths ran
34 away from their homes in California.

35 (c) In 1989, 776 runaway youths served by 33 nonprofit
36 youth-runaway shelters in California, surveyed during a
37 one-month period, identified one or more of the following
38 as a problem:
39



1	(1) Family crisis	73%
2	(2) School problems	63%
3	(3) Victims of crime/abuse	57%
4	(4) Homeless/runaway	55%
5	(5) Substance abuse	43%
6	(6) Delinquent behavior	26%
7	(7) Other	9%

8
9 (d) It is estimated that 43 emergency shelters
10 presently serve runaway youths as well as homeless
11 youths and adults in California.

12 (e) It is estimated that 10 transitional living facilities
13 are operated presently in California to provide youths
14 with independent living skills, employment skills, and
15 home responsibilities.

16 (f) It is conservatively projected that by the year 2000
17 there will be a deficit of 1,222 emergency shelter beds and
18 930 long-term beds statewide.

19 (g) Resources for runaway, homeless, and at-risk
20 youth and their families are severely inadequate to meet
21 their needs.

22 (h) The Counties of Fresno, Sacramento, San
23 Bernardino, and Solano either (1) do not provide
24 temporary or long-term shelter services or family crises
25 services to runaway, homeless, and nonrunaway youth, or
26 (2) do provide such services but at levels which
27 substantially fail to meet the need.

28 The purpose of this chapter, therefore, is to establish
29 three-year pilot projects in ~~the Counties of Fresno, Los~~
30 ~~Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Solano, and~~
31 ~~the City and County of San Francisco~~ *San Joaquin Central*
32 *Valley, in the northern region of California, and in the*
33 *southern region of California,* whereby each project will
34 provide temporary shelter services, transitional living
35 shelter services, and low-cost family crisis resolution
36 services based on a sliding fee scale to runaway youth,
37 nonrunaway youth, and their working families. It is the
38 intent of this chapter that services will be provided to
39 prevent at-risk youth from engaging in delinquent and
40 criminal behavior and to reduce the numbers of at-risk



1 families from engaging in neglectful, abusive, and
2 criminal behavior.

3 1791. Each Runaway Youth and Families in Crisis
4 Project established under this chapter shall provide
5 services which shall include, but not be limited to, all of
6 the following:

7 (a) Temporary shelter and related services to
8 runaway youth. The services shall include:

9 (1) Food and access to overnight shelter for no more
10 than 14 days.

11 (2) Counseling and referrals to services which address
12 immediate emotional needs or problems.

13 (3) Screening for basic health needs and referral to
14 public and private health providers for health care.
15 Shelters that are not equipped to house a youth with
16 substance abuse problems shall refer that youth to an
17 appropriate clinic or facility. The shelter shall monitor the
18 youth's progress and assist the youth with services upon
19 his or her release from the substance abuse facility.

20 (4) Long-term planning so that the youth may be
21 returned to the home of the parent or guardian under
22 conditions which favor long-term reunification with the
23 family, or so the youth can be suitably placed in a situation
24 outside of the parental or guardian home when such
25 reunification is not possible.

26 (5) Outreach services and activities to locate runaway
27 youth and to link them with project services.

28 (b) Family crisis resolution services to runaway and
29 nonrunaway youth and their families which shall include:

30 (1) Parent training.

31 (2) Family counseling.

32 (3) Services designed to reunify youth and their
33 families.

34 (4) Referral to other services offered in the
35 community by public and private agencies.

36 (5) Long-term planning so that the youth may be
37 returned to the home of the parent or guardian under
38 conditions which favor long-term reunification with the
39 family, or so the youth can be suitably placed in a situation



1 outside of the parental or guardian home when such
2 reunification is not possible.

3 (6) Followup services to ensure that the return to the
4 parent or guardian or the placement outside of the
5 parental or guardian home is stable.

6 (7) Outreach services and activities to locate runaway
7 and nonrunaway youth and to link them with project
8 services.

9 (c) Transitional living services shall include:

10 (1) Long-term shelter.

11 (2) Independent living skill services.

12 (3) Preemployment and employment skills training.

13 (4) Home responsibilities training.

14 (d) Where appropriate and necessary, some of the
15 services identified under this section must also be
16 provided in the local community and in the home of
17 project clients. Projects shall notify parents that their
18 children are staying at a project site consistent with state
19 and federal parent notification requirements.

20 1792. (a) A Runaway Youth and Families in Crisis
21 Project shall be established ~~in the Counties of Fresno, Los~~
22 ~~Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Solano and~~
23 ~~the City and County of San Francisco~~ *one or more*
24 *counties in the San Joaquin Central Valley, in one or more*
25 *counties in the northern region of California, and in one*
26 *or more counties in the southern region of California.*
27 Each project may have one central location, or more than
28 one site, in order to effectively serve the target
29 population.

30 (b) The Office of Criminal Justice Planning shall
31 prepare and disseminate a request for proposals to
32 prospective grantees under this chapter within four
33 months after this chapter has been approved and enacted
34 by the Legislature. The Office of Criminal Justice
35 Planning shall enter into grant award agreements for a
36 period of no less than three years, and the operation of
37 projects shall begin no later than four months after grant
38 award agreements are entered into between the Office
39 of Criminal Justice Planning and the grantee. *Grants shall*
40 *be awarded based on the quality of the proposal, the*



1 *documented need for services in regard to runaway*
2 *youth, and to organizations, as specified in subdivision (d)*
3 *of this section, in localities that receive a*
4 *disproportionately low share of existing federal and state*
5 *support for youth shelter programs.*

6 (c) The Office of Criminal Justice Planning shall
7 require applicants to identify, in their applications,
8 measurable outcomes by which the Office of Criminal
9 Justice Planning will measure the success of the
10 applicant's project. These measurable outcomes shall
11 include, but not be limited to, the number of clients
12 served and the percentage of clients who are successfully
13 returned to the home of a parent or guardian or to an
14 alternate living condition when reunification is not
15 possible.

16 (d) Only private, nonprofit organizations shall be
17 eligible to apply for funds under this chapter to operate
18 a Runaway Youth and Families in Crisis Project, *and these*
19 *organizations shall be required to annually contribute a*
20 *local match of at least 15 percent in cash or in-kind*
21 *contribution to the project during the term of the grant*
22 *award agreement.* Preference shall be given to
23 organizations that demonstrate a record of providing
24 effective services to runaway youth or families in crisis *for*
25 *at least three years*, successfully operating a youth shelter
26 *for runaway and homeless youth*, or successfully
27 operating a transitional living facility *for runaway and*
28 *homeless youth who do not receive transitional living*
29 *services through the juvenile justice system.* Additional
30 weight shall also be given to those organizations that
31 demonstrate a history of collaborating with other
32 agencies and individuals in providing such services.
33 Priority shall be given to organizations with existing
34 facilities. ~~In addition, preference shall be given to~~
35 ~~organizations that annually contribute increasing levels~~
36 ~~of resources, that may include in-kind contributions, to~~
37 ~~the project during the term of the grant award~~
38 ~~agreement.~~ Preference shall also be given to
39 organizations that demonstrate the ability to
40 progressively decrease their reliance on resources



1 provided under this chapter and to operate this project
2 beyond the period that the organization receives funds
3 under this chapter.

4 1793. The Office of Criminal Justice Planning shall
5 monitor and evaluate the six projects established under
6 this chapter, and shall report to the Legislature after the
7 first and third year of the program's operation the results
8 of its evaluation. In addition, each project shall be
9 responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of their
10 respective programs and services.

11 SEC. 3. Funding for the Runaway Youth and Families
12 in Crisis Project shall be provided ~~from an amount~~
13 ~~appropriated in the Budget Act of 1998 to the extent~~
14 ~~funds are made available in the annual Budget Act,~~ and
15 up to 3 percent of ~~the amount appropriated in the Budget~~
16 ~~Act that amount~~ shall be transferred each year to the
17 Office of Criminal Justice Planning, upon the approval of
18 the Director of Finance, for expenditure as necessary to
19 administer, monitor, evaluate, and report the results of
20 this project. ~~No more than one qualified applicant from~~
21 ~~each of the six counties shall receive a grant under this~~
22 ~~section.~~ No applicant shall receive a grant under this
23 section in an amount that exceeds the total amount of
24 funds appropriated in the *annual* Budget Act for this
25 project, minus the 3 percent for the Office of Criminal
26 Justice Planning, divided by the number of counties
27 participating in the project.

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29 CORRECTIONS
30 Digest — Page 2.

31 Text — Page 4.

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