

December 1, 2021



To: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

From: Efrain Escobedo, VP of Public Policy and Civic Engagement

Re: Public–Private Partnership Grantmaking Budget Recommendation

Dear JJCC Members,

We are writing to encourage the JJCC to fully fund the requested \$9.7M for the public-private partnership grantmaking program. The fiscal year 2022-23 allocation will provide critical resources to support service-delivery grants and ongoing evaluation of program fidelity and impacts. We thank you for the visionary vote of the Council to support the creation and three-years of sustained funding for Ready to Rise (R2R). Your continued support in fiscal year 2022-23 is critical to continuing to sustain and expand the impact of funded organizations providing critical positive youth development supports to thousands of youth in Los Angeles County.

The current draft budget allocates \$5.8M to R2R. This amount represents a 40% decrease in funding. Unfortunately, such a decrease would result in less youth served and reduced program analysis and evaluation supports for funded organizations.

Since the launch of the public-private partnership in February 2019, the Ready to Rise initiative has grown tenfold—from a \$2.3 million pilot to a \$9.7 million multi-year grant initiative. Thanks to your support, R2R is serving as a fundamental building block to a community-centered positive youth development system—a critical alternative to harmful punishment and incarceration.

To date, R2R grantees have collectively served 14,082 unduplicated youth through deep and ongoing programming with nearly 400,000 programmatic touchpoints. Of these youth, approximately 80% identify as Black and Latinx and represent seven youth priority populations: LGBTQ+, justice-involved, foster, housing insecure, alternative/ continuation school, transition-aged, and/or gang-involved.

The California Community Foundation has facilitated timely and efficient programmatic grants to 49 youth-serving organizations, noting:

- 69% of R2R organizations are BIPOC-led;
- Over \$18.7 million in grant awards since July 2019; and
- 720 evaluation reports have been collected

Through R2R, many grantees have received county funds for the first time. R2R has provided a proof of concept of a third-party intermediary model that we hope will help to continue to guide the equitable and expedient transfer of public funds to community-based providers. R2R has also enabled many emerging nonprofits to evolve, as evidenced by the following:

- 18% of orgs have a budget of \$500,000 or less
- 29% of orgs have a budget of \$750,000 or less
- 35% of orgs have a budget of \$1 million or less
- 100% (3/3) have gained independent nonprofit status

Since their initial selection, R2R grantees have collectively experienced a 15% median increase in their organizational budgets. Allowing them to expand their reach and/or deepen their programming.

Reducing the annual budget from \$9.7 million to \$5.8 million would have a dramatic effect on the momentum of the collective impact model, as evidenced by the following projections:

- Approximately 5,000 fewer youth served in 2022/2023
- A 40% decline in the number of organizations supported by R2R; or
- A steep decline in the grant award amounts to continue to support 50 organizations

Currently, successful program management and administration requires 23% of the funding allocation. These costs support program data collection and evaluation, grants administration and management, as well as financial monitoring. R2R also provides individualized data training and technical assistance.

Thank you again for the continued support of the Ready to Rise public-private partnership. Our organization remains committed to continuing to support the partnership. R2R represents a bright and invaluable asset in the County's vision to strengthen more alternatives to incarceration. We look forward to working with the Council, the L.A. County Probation Department, and future R2R grantees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Efrain Escobedo', written in a cursive style.

Efrain Escobedo
VP, Public Policy and Civic Engagement
California Community Foundation

Cc: Jai Phillips, Program Officer, Youth Development

Attachment: 2020 Ready to Rise Annual Report