

Name: Miguel Dominguez
Item Number: Agenda item 5b
December 3, 2021

To the members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC),

My name is Miguel Dominguez and I am currently the Director of Education & Youth Policy at Community Coalition which is based in South Los Angeles.

I am writing as a representative of the Community Coalition to ask that you fully fund Ready to Rise with \$9 million to sustain and expand efforts that have demonstrated great success and impact in being able to support over 14,000 young people throughout LA County.

As a recipient of the Ready to Rise initiative, our organization has been able to serve high need Black and Brown youth from South LA over the last year as they faced an unprecedented crisis brought on by COVID-19, which has disproportionately impacted their education and wellbeing on multiple fronts. Our organization has been able to provide leadership development, wellness workshops, and academic support to over 200 students in South LA. It is important now more than ever to continue to invest in efforts such as Ready to Rise as we continue to do the hard work with the community to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on young people over the last two years.

Additionally, we are asking that the JJCC not allocate any funds to school-based probation. Community members have made it clear that we need to move away from criminalizing and policing students and fund investments that help young people thrive. Community Coalition, in alliance with other community-based organizations, worked with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to move funds away from policing to invest into efforts such as Black Student Achievement. This is an example of the type of investments we need to be making into young people and the JJCC has an opportunity to support these community-based efforts and the movement to end the criminalization of Black and Brown youth by ending the \$4.4 million currently being allocated to school-based probation and instead fund youth development efforts.

We urge you to fully fund the Ready to Rise initiative and to end the investment into school-based probation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miguel Dominguez
Director of Education & Youth Policy
Community Coalition

