

**JJCC Meeting February 3, 2022**  
**Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail**  
**Agenda Item VII**

1. Kimberly Alvarado

Dear Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council,

My name is Kimberly Alvarado and I am the Digital Organizer with Eastside LEADS, InnerCity Struggle based in East Los Angeles and I am writing you to demand that 3rd party administrator (like a foundation) distribute the \$1.5 million so it gets to the ground for youth development. The guidelines passed for the 3rd party administrator say 50% of funds should be directed to CBOs with an annual budget of less than \$1.5 million; funds should be prioritized for CBOs in zip codes of specific economic disadvantage as well as those disproportionately impacted by LA County's carceral system. The Third Party Administrator must be accountable to an advisory board of impacted community members, including young people.

The \$1.5 million for *PHYSICAL* youth resource hubs should stay for that purpose! They should be distributed as grants to organizations already doing the work through a 3rd Party Administrator, using the guidelines that were passed.

With Eastside LEADS, we have been able support 100+ tenants with eviction defense in a span of 3 months. 90% of tenants had student youth members in their family homes. We are not the only org available in the Eastside, but working alongside other orgs in coalition we have been able to support youth in education, while restoring their environment. I also attended Downtown Magnets High School, this school supported us with so many creative measures that streamlined students to engineer innovative ideas. Please support the success of our youth and future health. Please push to allocate funding to groups that are passionate in supporting students and environmental wellness.

2. Zulema Paz

To whom it may concern,

My name is Zulema Paz and I'm the Clinical Case Manager for the Ready to Rise program at Southern California Crossroads. I provide mental health services (individual and family therapy, and case management services) to high school students in the Lynwood Unified School District. I'm writing to ask you to please reconsider cutting funds to the Ready to Rise grant as this may affect the effectiveness of delivering services. A 40% budget cut will mean that there is a high chance of letting go of staff and minimizing the probability of servicing a youth who is in need of service. Unfortunately, as you know, this past year has been difficult for students and their families due to covid. Most students and their families have a higher need for services, especially for mental health.

In addition, I have been able to witness how this program has helped students reach their full potential by obtaining higher grades, decreasing behavioral issues at school, graduating high school, attending college, and obtaining part-time employment. I believe as we move forward through this pandemic we will be able to celebrate resiliency by continuing to provide services with the Ready to Rise funds. I worry that without the proper funding students will be left behind and get labeled as the "problematic youth" at school without noticing that this youth had other issues that were not properly addressed.

3. Isidor Sesmas

Dear Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC),

I am writing to request that the JJJC fund Ready to Rise for \$9,700,000, without any reductions.

In just over two years Ready to Rise, an evaluated program has fortified the ecosystem of youth development opportunities throughout LA County, including parts of the County that need it most, such as my community and supporting the only Youth Development program that is focused on the Native and Indigenous Youth of Los Angeles County.

- Since 2018, Ready to Rise has provided resources and capacity building to 49 youth development organizations and supported nearly 12,000 youth as a result.
- Ready to Rise has been an equitable, efficient, and responsive vehicle for distributing public dollars and growing the organizational capacity of youth service providers in L.A. County as an alternative to relying on archaic, draconian forms of punishment
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- Ready to Rise grantees provide a variety of programs focused on educational attainment, leadership, workforce development, mentorship, arts, wellness, youth organizing and more. All grantees share a focus on youth development and a commitment to improving outcomes for Indigenous, Black and Brown youth.
- It is short-sighted to cut funding to an initiative that, even through COVID and the racial reckoning our country is undergoing, has proven to be successful and a model approach for other similar efforts.

The JJCC should NOT fund school-based probation again this year. Juvenile Probation already has a \$570 million budget. As the county moves towards a model of youth development and healing, JJCC dollars should follow that trend.

#### 4. Ruth Tyson

Move funding from school base to other programs is very telling that many on this board cares nothing about the gap that would exist. Many of these advocates on this board voted to get rid of the probation 236 program and there was gap left. No community program ever filled the gap leaving students and parents without any resources. It's sad that it's all about the money.