



Justice Services Department

A photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked in a circle on a wooden table. The hands are wearing various colored sleeves (brown, maroon, dark brown, light blue, green, grey). In the background, there are papers with charts and graphs, and a laptop is partially visible on the right.

Youth LIFT Partnership Program

Our Mission

**Strengthening children,
families, individuals and
communities to be safe,
healthy, and thriving through
comprehensive social services.**



LIFT

Overview



LIFT

LEAD. INSPIRE. FOCUS. TRANSFORM.

is a diversion program aimed at diverting youth ages 12–18 from initial or subsequent contact with the juvenile justice system using approaches that are evidence-based, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate.

Goals & Objectives



To reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system



By reducing formal processing of citations, diversion programs attempt to reduce entrance into the juvenile justice system, effectively reducing system costs, delinquency and recidivism while increasing public safety.

Three Tier Referral System

The referral system includes a 3-tier system for pre-charge diversion that uses proven, evidence-based practices for assessment, treatment, and community referrals to assist youth in developing healthy coping skills, improve their emotional and behavioral engagement with law enforcement.

Three Tier Referral System

Tier ONE

Warn and Release

This first Tier uses minimal intervention, involving police officer warning or encouragement, and aiding the youth at arriving at a safe place. Most first time and low-level offenses will fall into this tier and help avoid net widening.

Tier TWO

No Conditions

Oxnard PD, school staff, and the community have the opportunity to refer youth to Interface for services on a voluntary basis. No citation is written. School Services can be in lieu of suspension.

Tier THREE

Conditions and or Services

An Officer determines that a citation is warranted, and the youth must complete or be connected to services from Interface Children & Family Services.

Services Offered



- Needs Assessment
- Comprehensive Case Management
- Community Referrals
- Evidence-Based Journaling
- 1:1 Mentoring
- Educational Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Mental Health Referrals
- Conflict Resolution Skills Development

Current LIFT Programming FY 24–25

- OJJDP grant–*Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence* aka LEAP
- Expands services into three Oxnard middle schools
- Includes Family Engagement
- Schools included:
 - Pacifica HS
 - Oxnard HS
 - Channel Islands HS
 - Del Sol HS
 - R.J. Frank Academy
 - Dr. Manuel M. Lopez Academy
 - Fremont Academy

Countywide Need

VCPA estimates on average 1,500 citations are given to youth each year in Ventura County*



- Approximately 60% of those citations are eligible for diversion

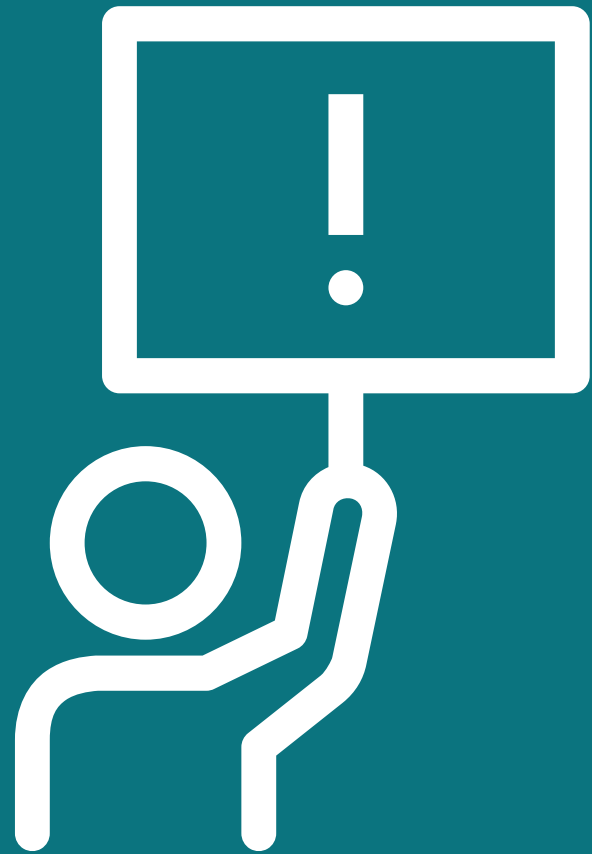
*Excluding City of Oxnard which currently refers independent of VCPA

Local Suspension Rates

School Name	2023 Suspension Rate (State Avg 3.5)	# of Students/School	# of Students Suspended
Renaissance High School	18.4	141	76
Frontier High School	15	528	79
Conejo Valley High School	9.4	160	15
Apollo High School	8.7	208	18
Sierra High School	7.9	127	10
Ventura High School	6.2	2,195	136
Hueneme HS	6.2	2,436	151
Fillmore HS	6	1,124	67
Royal HS	5.6	2,082	116
Santa Paula HS	5.3	1,770	93
Santa Paula High School	5.3	1,770	93
Thousand Oaks HS	4.9	1,831	90
Rio Mesa HS	4.6	2,374	109
Simi Valley HS	4.4	2,019	89
Pacific High School	4.3	282	12
Moorpark HS	3.8	1,883	86
Adolfo Camarillo HS	3.5	2,000	70
Santa Susana HS	2.4	1,125	27
Nordhoff High School	2.4	696	16
Buena High School	1.4	1,800	25
Rancho Campana HS	1.3	861	12
Total Students Suspended			2,863

Data obtained from California Schools Dashboard 10.1.2024 *List of schools not currently served by LIFT

Addressing the Need



Interface proposes a countywide expansion of diversion and prevention programming that will build upon the framework and success of the LIFT Youth Partnership.

This project will be a collaboration between Interface, VCPA, local law enforcement agencies, and county and city school districts.

Key Features



- Trauma-Informed Case Management
- Summer Programming
- Youth Advisory Group
- Family Engagement Opportunities
- Collaboration & TA for Local Law Enforcement Officers & SROs
- In-lieu of Suspension Alternatives
- Evidence-Based Programming
- Program Evaluation

Tier 2 & 3 Referrals

Goal: To reduce the number of youth entering the criminal justice system through the establishment of a countywide Tier 2&3 referral system.

- Referrals will be accepted from both law enforcement and school personnel in lieu of citations or suspensions.
- Services will be available for delivery on school campuses and community-based locations.
- 100% of Tier 3 clients will receive needs assessments, case management, mentoring, and Evidence-Based Programming, community referrals, and diversion opportunities.

Scope of Work

Estimated Number of Youth to be served annually once fully implemented:

- Tier 2: Up to 500
- Tier 3: Up to 950

Includes comprehensive needs assessment, individualized case management, mentorship, follow up, family engagement, psychoeducation, restorative practices and community referrals utilizing a suite of evidence-based programs.

Evidence Based Programming



- **Seeking Safety**
- **Restorative Justice Practices**
- **Motivational Interviewing**
- **Triple P Positive Parenting**
- **A Window Between Worlds**
- **The Change Companies Interactive Journaling**
- **Other programming based on client needs**

Budget

- Year 1: **\$1.4 million**
 - includes first 3-months of program start up activities
- Year 2: **\$1.6 million**
 - full implementation

Budget Request Year 1

Salaries and Benefits:

\$925,154

Operating Costs:

\$155,859

Program Expenses:

\$139,000

Indirect Costs:

\$173,713

Total Program Cost: \$1,393,726

(New full-time staff allocated at 80% for year 1 to allow for recruitment and training)

Budget Request Year 2

Salaries and Benefits:

\$1,075,653

Operating Costs:

\$178,647

Program Expenses:

\$145,600

Indirect Costs:

\$199,338

Total Program Cost: \$1,599,238

(New full-time staff allocated at 80% for year 1 to allow for recruitment and training)

Program Personnel

- (1) Program Manager
- (8) Full time Case Managers
- (3) Full time Program Leads
- (3) Full time Family Care Coordinators
- (1) Part time Group Facilitator
- Administrative Support Staff & Management

Other Costs

Operating Expenses:

Rent, phones, office supplies, postage, insurance, equipment lease, computers/IT, software programs

Program Expenses:

Client Incentives and Program Activities

Transportation (vehicle lease x2/maintenance/staff mileage)

Client Expenses (basic needs, emergency needs)

Program Supplies (EBP journals, staff recruitment, professional staff training, client incentives)

15 % Indirect

Cost Benefit

\$1,000,000/950 youth = \$1,053 investment per youth per year!

(Based on Tier 3 referrals only)

vs.

- **Cost of incarceration in VC Juvenile Facility:** Approximately \$716* per youth per day. *FY17–18 costs. Does not include legal expenses.
- **Loss of school revenue due to suspension:** \$120 per student per day suspended. Approximately 1,072 students were suspended for one or more days in SY 2022/2023.

*https://bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/FINAL_BSCC-Youth-Cost-Report-FY17_18.pdf



Year One Proposed Referral Expansion

- **Tier 3 Referrals Countywide**

- Oxnard Police Department
- Ventura County Probation Agency

- **Tier 2 Referrals**

- Oxnard Police Department
- Ventura County Probation Agency
- Community
- Schools
 - Existing MOU with Oxnard Unified HS District
 - Letter of Intent from Ventura Unified School District
 - Letter of Intent from VCOE

Year One Proposed Service Sites

Oxnard Unified High School District:

- Rio Mesa High School
- Frontier High School
- Hueneme High school
- Adolfo Camarillo High School
- Rancho Campana High School

VCOE:

- Gateway
- Odyssey

Ventura Unified School District:

- Ventura High School
- Buena High School
- Pacific High School

Year Two Proposed Referral Expansion

- **Tier 3 Referrals Countywide**

- Oxnard Police Department
- Ventura County Probation Agency
- Other Law Enforcement Agencies in Ventura County

- **Tier 2 Referrals**

- Oxnard Police Department
- Ventura County Probation Agency
- Other Law Enforcement Agencies
- Community
- East County & Conejo Valley Schools
 - Creating MOUs to work with schools in Fillmore, Santa Paula, Moorpark, Simi Valley and Conejo Valley

Year Two Proposed Service Sites

Conejo Valley Unified School District:

- Thousand Oaks High School
- Conejo Valley High School

Fillmore Unified School District:

- Fillmore High School
- Sierra High School

Santa Paula Unified School District:

- Santa Paula High School
- Renaissance High School

Simi Valley Unified School District:

- Simi Valley High School
- Santa Susana High School
- Royal High School
- Apollo High School

Importance of LIFT Programming

LIFT services address all five priority areas listed in the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Plan

- **Prevention & Early Intervention**
- **Emotional & Behavioral Well Being**
- **Family Support**
- **Prosocial & Skill Building**
- **Coordinated Systems Approach**

Questions



Deirdre Smith
Director of Justice Services
805-981-6995
dsmith@icfs.org