



## Treatment Providers

and the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act  
A California Voter Initiative — November 2000

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will greatly expand resources for drug treatment in California. The initiative creates the Substance Abuse Treatment Fund, which will be overseen by the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP). Upon passage of this Act, \$60 million will be appropriated to the Substance Abuse Treatment Fund from the General Fund for the final six months of the 2000-2001 fiscal year. An additional \$120 million will be appropriated during each of the five subsequent fiscal years, concluding in 2005-2006. The initiative stipulates that these funds cannot take the place of funds from any existing mechanism used to provide substance abuse treatment, but rather must serve as *additional* resources for drug treatment.

The Substance Abuse Treatment Fund will be allocated to the counties to cover the costs of placing persons diverted out of the criminal justice system under this Act into community-based drug treatment programs. Community-based treatment may include, but is not limited to, in- or out-patient services, vocational training, educational services, and maintenance therapies. The allocation process to the counties will be based on a fair and equitable distribution formula to be defined by ADP after passage. Allocation decision factors include per capita arrests for controlled substance possession violations, treatment bed availability, and individual offender needs. Under any scenario, this will mean considerable new resources for every community to spend on providing drug treatment. The State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs may also use a portion of the fund to pay for direct contracts with drug treatment service providers in counties where it has been determined that such services are not adequately available.

Non-violent, low-level drug offenders who meet the criteria for diversion under this Act will be given probation by the court. The treatment provider designated by the court to best meet the needs of the individual offender — now client — will then create a treatment regimen that will become the conditions of that individual's probation.

If the treatment provider determines that the client is not responding to the specific treatment regimen, they suggest a new treatment program and ask the probation department to move the court to modify the terms of probation to ensure that the client receives the alternate program. However, if at any point the drug treatment provider notifies the probation department that the client is unamenable to all forms of drug treatment, the probation department may move the court to revoke probation. Once the treatment provider has determined that their client has successfully completed the treatment regimen, the provider will report back to the probation department that the treatment-related conditions of probation have been met. At any point thereafter, the offender may apply directly to the court for expungement of his or her record.

**The cost of treating approximately 150,000 people was \$209 million, which saved California taxpayers about \$1.5 billion.**

— General Report, CALDATA, '94

**The level of criminal activity declined by two-thirds from before treatment to after treatment.**

— General Report, CALDATA, '94

All research references are available upon request.

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