

NAPA COUNTY
RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT ON
HITTING THE RESET BUTTON; ADDRESSING GANGS IN NAPA COUNTY

AUGUST 6, 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 5. By September 30, 2024, the Napa County Board of Supervisors and Napa City Council identify financial resources to support community efforts to help families in need.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The recommendation has been implemented.

In addition to implementing the recommendation, further analysis is required. Throughout the year, Napa County and the State of California may develop additional financial resources to support families in need.

Below is a current list of resources available to help families:

- CalWORKS: Temporary Cash assistance to eligible families with or expecting children
- General Assistance: Short-term financial assistance in the form of a loan for low-income residents without children
- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI): Cash assistance for aged, blind, or disabled non-citizens who are not eligible for SSI/SSP solely due to their immigration status
- Medi-Cal: Medical assistance program for low-income individuals that offers free or low-cost health coverage for children and adults
- Covered California: For persons not eligible to Medi-Cal, there is financial assistance through Covered California
- County Medical Services Program: Limited-term health coverage for uninsured low-income adults between ages 21-64 who are not eligible for Medi-Cal or Covered California
- CalFresh: Supplemental monthly food benefits to assist low-income households
- CalWORKS Housing Program: Assists CalWORKS families that are homeless or at risk of losing their housing, obtain sustainable housing
- Bringing Families Home: Assists Child Welfare Services families that are homeless or at risk of losing their housing to obtain sustainable housing
- WIC: Nutrition program that helps individuals who are pregnant and/or have children up to age 5
- Refugee Cash Assistance: Refugee Cash Assistance is available to certain groups and is available for up to 12-months from date of admission to the U.S.
- CalFresh Market Match: Doubles benefits with using CalFresh at local Farmers Markets
- Food Banks: The CANV Food Banks provides nutritious food to low-income individuals throughout Napa County
- Free Produce Markets: Free produce markets at various locations throughout the month providing farm fresh produce
- CANV Silver Fox: Provides food to low-income residents over 60 years of age
- Meals-On-Wheels: Delivers meals to homebound seniors
- Congregate Lunch Sites: Napa Senior Center, South Napa Shelter, and the Salvation Army provide congregate lunch and/or grab and go meals on various days
- Napa County Resource Guide 2023: Community Resources available to workers to provide customers as needed

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Grand Jury's points regarding the impact of poverty as a significant factor influencing gang activity. Further work is needed to partner with local municipalities on housing, public safety support and addressing issues such as stress and poverty to help families create a welcoming and safe environment free of gang activity.

The Board of Supervisors commends the Grand Jury for its work. However, the Board would like to note that the report did not appear to include interviews with current or former gang members. Individuals with lived experience with gangs could have provided valuable insights into addressing this ongoing community concern.

The Board of Supervisors would also like to request that Grand Jury's reports note the source of their facts. While the Board understands the confidentiality of Grand Jury interviews, the sources of the Grand Jury's facts can be useful to further understanding the report's subject matter.

Recommendation 6: Beginning July 1, 2024, the Napa County Board of Supervisors and Napa City Council support legislation to roll back decriminalizing drug and theft crime.

Response, Board of Supervisors: The recommendation requires further analysis.

The Board took several positions in support of legislation to increase penalties for the possession or distribution of fentanyl in 2023. In December 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted a legislative and regulatory platform setting its priorities for 2024. In addition to emphasizing the protection of victims' rights, the Board focused on youthful offenders: "Napa County supports the overarching goal of providing early interventions to reduce the causes of crime among individuals under the age of 26. The County should nonetheless retain local authority to impose appropriate consequences when early interventions prove ineffective." This language covers the recommendation specific to drug and theft crimes and other legislation addressing youth crime and reducing repeated instances of victimization, including by theft.

For 2024 and into the future, implementation of this recommendation will require ongoing analysis of existing and future legislation. Based on the Board's direction set forth above, staff currently track proposals related to theft and drug crimes introduced in the Legislature. The legislative process in California is ongoing for the 2024 session. Staff continue to analyze relevant measures based on Board direction and provide updates to the Board as appropriate. The Board will consider this analysis when formally taking positions on legislation relevant to decriminalization drug and theft crimes.

Further analysis of proposed measures will be required to implement this recommendation. For this reason, the Board anticipates retaining similar language in future legislative and regulatory platforms. The Board and staff will monitor future legislative proposals related to the decriminalization of drug and theft crime, conduct analysis, hear staff recommendations, and take positions as it finds appropriate.

Recommendation 9: By December 31, 2025, the Napa County Sheriff, City of Napa Police Department, City of St. Helena Police Department, City of Calistoga Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, and the Napa County Probation Department create an integrated data collection system to improve the efficiency of trend monitoring associated with gangs and gang crimes.

Response, Napa County Probation Department: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

While Napa County Probation is dedicated to community safety and rehabilitation of offenders, legislative changes have shifted the landscape of data collection specific to gang activity. These changes include the dissolution of the CALGangs data system in 2017 with the passage of AB 90. In addition to dissolving CALGangs, AB 90 imposed increased restrictions and limitations on data collection. An integrated data system, as recommended, is subject to the provisions of Penal Code Section 186.34(a)(4) and Part 23 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulation, which aim to ensure the protection of constitutional rights (civil rights and civil liberties) and further an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy. The current laws and regulations require significant costly systems and procedural burdens that would be challenging to implement.

Napa County is unique in its collaboration between departments. Our law enforcement departments have built solid relationships over time that allow for effective communication and partnerships. Napa County Probation has a dedicated gang officer in both its adult and juvenile probation units, focusing on the accountability and rehabilitation of known gang offenders. These officers work in concert with local law enforcement regularly to share information, address issues and concerns that arise, and communicate about trends in gang activity. The Napa County Probation Department is grateful to our local law enforcement agencies, who regularly collaborate and participate in fieldwork with probation officers to enhance community safety as it relates to gang activity.

The Board of Supervisors agree with the Chief Probation Officer.