



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Funding Programs To Benefit At-Risk Youth**

Every year, the state of California gives Los Angeles County an average of \$28.1 million under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) to pay for mental health screenings and treatment, substance abuse intervention, after-school enrichment, school- or housing-based supervision, a Special Needs Court, and other programs to help reduce crime and delinquency among at-risk youth.

Most of that allocation has been expended, but \$21.7 million in savings has accumulated since the fiscal year 2010-2011.

This past Tuesday, the board approved a motion by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Sheila Kuehl directing the county Chief Executive Office and Probation Department to prepare for the immediate allocation of \$1 million from the JJCPA fund to pay for critical programs and services delivered by community-based organizations in each supervisorial district.

“We should make the most of resources set aside to help at-risk youth, juvenile offenders and their families, so the county can continue to lower the arrest and incarceration rates of children,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

Despite the decrease of juvenile arrests in recent years, there are still more than 650 youth detained in the county’s juvenile halls.

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