

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Program Update

January 19, 2024



CARE Act: Sharing the Community Journey

- CARE: Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment
 - Senate Bill No. 1338 – Chaptered September 1, 2022 / Welfare and Institution Code section 5970(a).
 - 7 + 1 Cohort 1 counties implemented in 2023.
 - The heavy lift prior to October 1 implementation.
 - Providing Education and Information:
 - What CARE Act IS and IS NOT
 - Stakeholder collaboration internal and external
 - Continuing the conversation
 - Lessons Learned and Moving Forward

Judicial Council Updates

- Distribution of funding to courts
- Rules and forms
- Collect and report program data
- Coordinate with legal aid programs
- Training and technical assistance to courts

CARE Act Eligibility Criteria Video

CARE Act Eligibility Criteria

1. The program must be for post-secondary study.
2. The program must have a minimum of 12 credit hours and be a degree or certificate program.
3. The program must be currently operating and have a minimum of 12 credit hours.
 - It must be a degree or certificate program.
 - It must have a minimum of 12 credit hours.
 - It must have a minimum of 12 credit hours.
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4. The program must be currently operating and have a minimum of 12 credit hours.
5. All expenses of the following must be from the program's operating budget, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees, and other expenses.
 - Tuition and fees
 - Books and materials
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Personal expenses
 - Health care
 - Insurance
 - Other expenses
6. The program must be currently operating and have a minimum of 12 credit hours.
7. The program must be currently operating and have a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Superior Court of Orange County Updates

A. Pre-Implementation Date of October 1, 2023:

- True collaboration with all stakeholders
- Community engagement
- Self-Help and internal staff-training
- Substantive and procedural separation from criminal operations
- Cohort 1 regular meetings of judicial officers

Superior Court of Orange County

Updates (continued)

B. Post October 1, 2023:

- Number of petitions and breakdown
- Defining and communicating measures of success
- Limitations on eligibility not leading to perceived failure
- Empowering petitioners for the benefit of respondents

C. The Road Ahead:

- Continuing to educate and inform the impacted population
- Increasing engagement by qualifying agencies, institutions, and organizations
- In-custody respondents
- Preparing for impact of Senate Bill 43

Superior Court of San Diego County Updates

A. CARE Act Preparation for Successful Implementation:

- Form Stakeholder Implementation Teams: County and court members work collaboratively on policy, procedures, and practice.
- Schedule monthly meetings with implementation teams to develop action items, assign tasks, schedule completion dates, and track progress.
- Focus on Key Priorities: (SDSC key priorities)
 - Access to court process for all participants
 - Collaborative court model
 - Legal support for self help services and supportive decision-making
 - Proactive Community Outreach and Education: website, publications, media, and countywide press conference.

Superior Court of San Diego County

Updates (continued)

B. CARE Act Proceedings to Date:

- CARE Act petitions filed, prima facie determinations, and subsequent court hearings.
- Challenges to locating, assessing, and engaging respondents.
- CARE Agreement/CARE Plan – components.
- Building community connections for long-term support and services.

C. CARE Act – Building on Success and Moving Forward:

- Communicate successful CARE Act outcomes to build trust and increase participation.
- Expand CARE Act legal support services to our 13 neighborhood community centers.
- Target CARE Act community outreach and education to underutilized areas of the county.

Additional Information or Questions

- **CARE Act Resources**

- courts.ca.gov – [Adult Civil Mental Health Page](#)

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