

**if** INTERFACE  
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

**LIFT Youth  
Partnership  
Program**

LEAD  
INSPIRE  
FOCUS  
TRANSFORM

JUSTICE  
SERVICES

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MISSION STATEMENT:

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

**if**  
INTERFACE  
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

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## INTRODUCTION TO LIFT

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

This program targets underserved communities in the Oxnard area in partnership with the Oxnard Police Department (OPD), Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA) and five Oxnard area high schools.

The goal is to provide diversion and alternative-sanction programs that include mentorship, case management with linkage to community resources, academic- and vocational-education services, and linkage to mental health services.

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## LIFT FUNDING

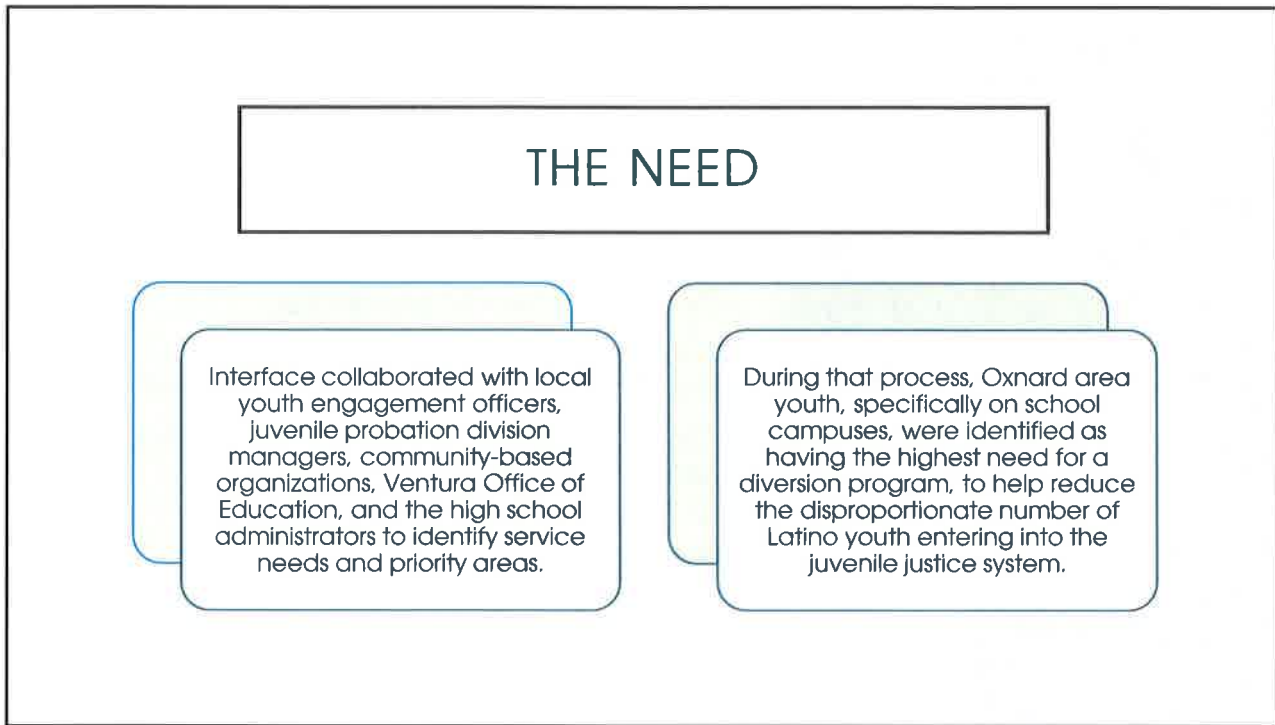
3-year award funded by the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).  
7/1/20- 6/30/23\*

Interface is actively seeking funding to sustain the program and requests gap funding to carry LIFT through the first six months of FY 23/24.

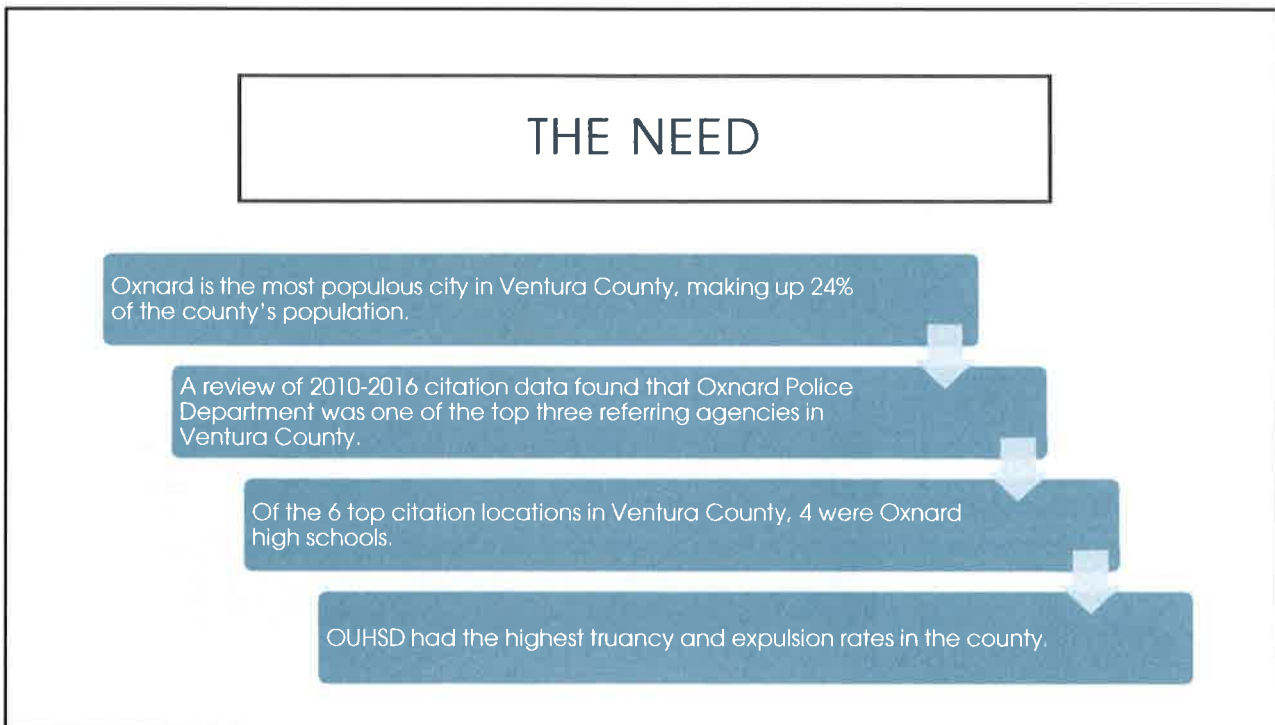
Interface has submitted a proposal to the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for a youth violence prevention grant that would continue services. If awarded, services would begin early 2024.

\* Due to the COVID-19 restrictions program launch was delayed. First referral received 3/21/21.

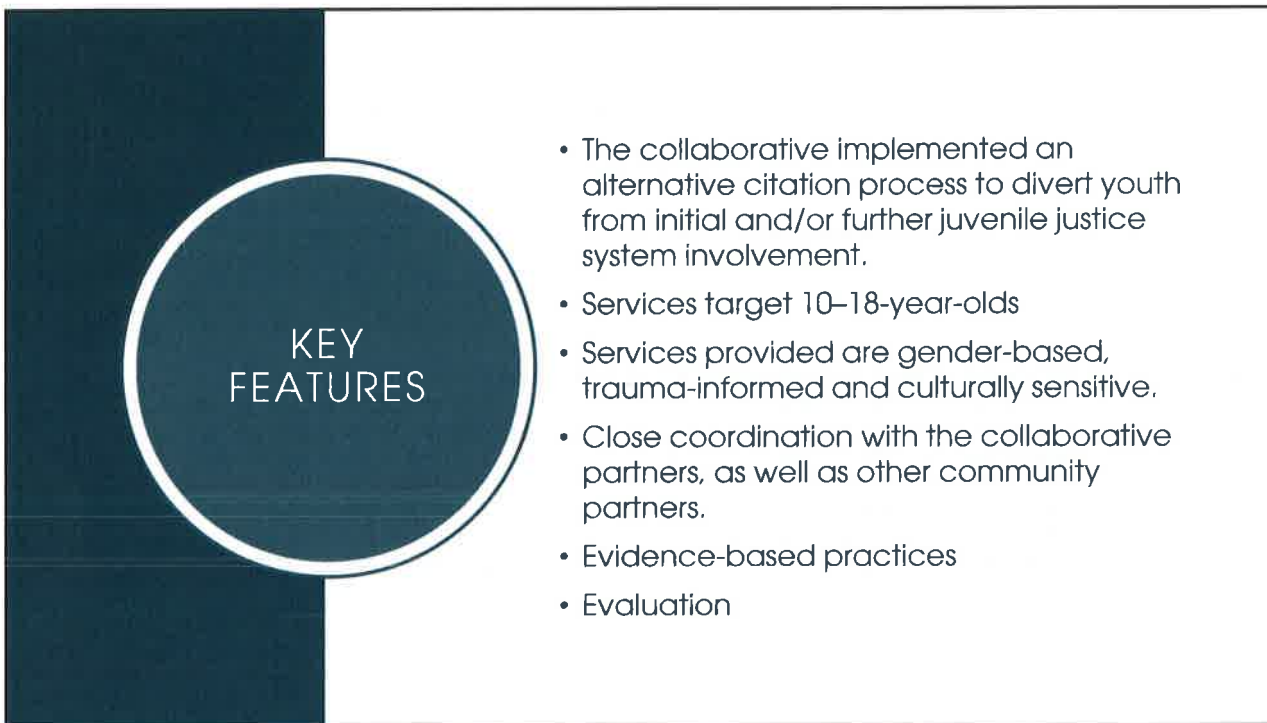
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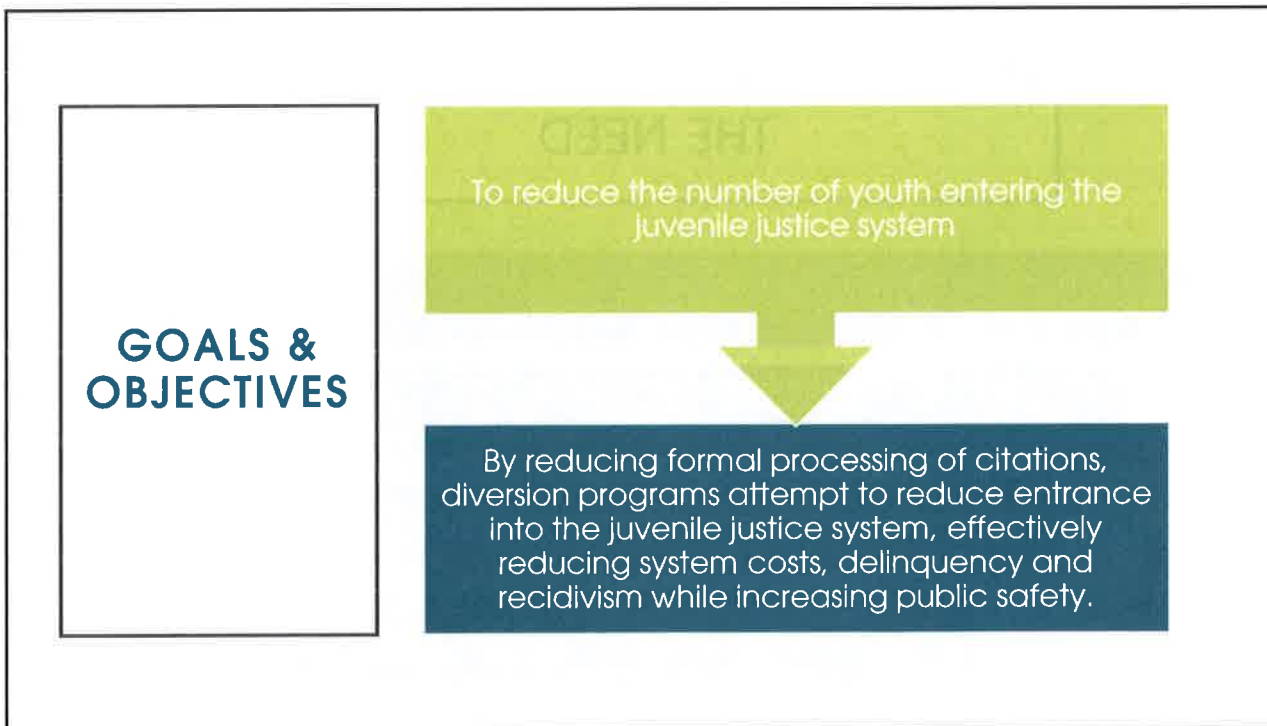
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**KEY FEATURES**

- The collaborative implemented an alternative citation process to divert youth from initial and/or further juvenile justice system involvement.
- Services target 10–18-year-olds
- Services provided are gender-based, trauma-informed and culturally sensitive.
- Close coordination with the collaborative partners, as well as other community partners.
- Evidence-based practices
- Evaluation

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**GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

**THE NEED**  
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.

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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 health, and prevent further engagement with law enforcement.

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- **Tier 1:** Warn and release.
- **Tier 2:** No probation conditions.
- **Tier 3:** Probation conditions. OPD determines a citation is warranted and the youth must fulfill certain conditions (restitution, community service, etc.) and/or be referred to Interface and other support services that range from skill building to substance abuse treatment. *Examples of Tier 3 offenses: Theft of moderate-high value property, vandalism/graffiti with moderate-high value property damage and possession of marijuana.*

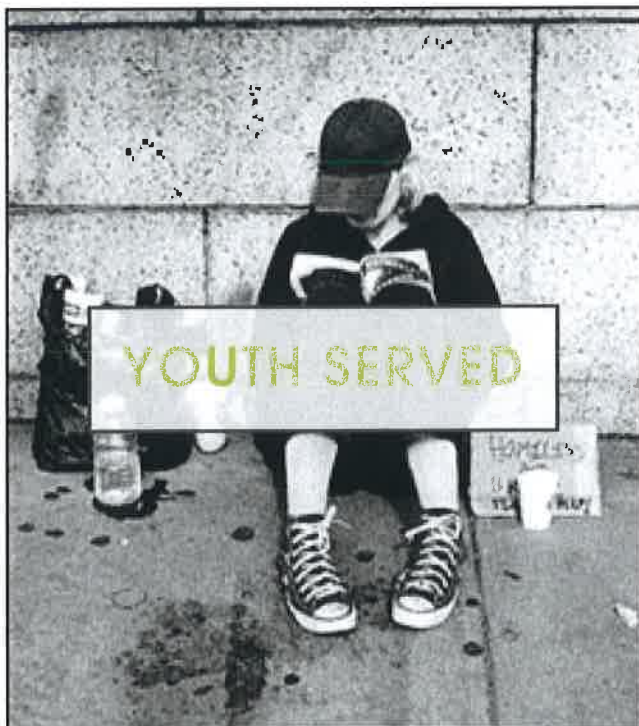
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## SCHOOL-BASED REFERRALS

- LIFT is offered at five Oxnard area High Schools.
- LIFT staff are integrated into the Wellness Centers at Pacifica, Channel Islands, Hueneme, and Frontier High Schools.
- Staff collaborate with Wellness Center Coordinators and school administrators for referrals and follow up.



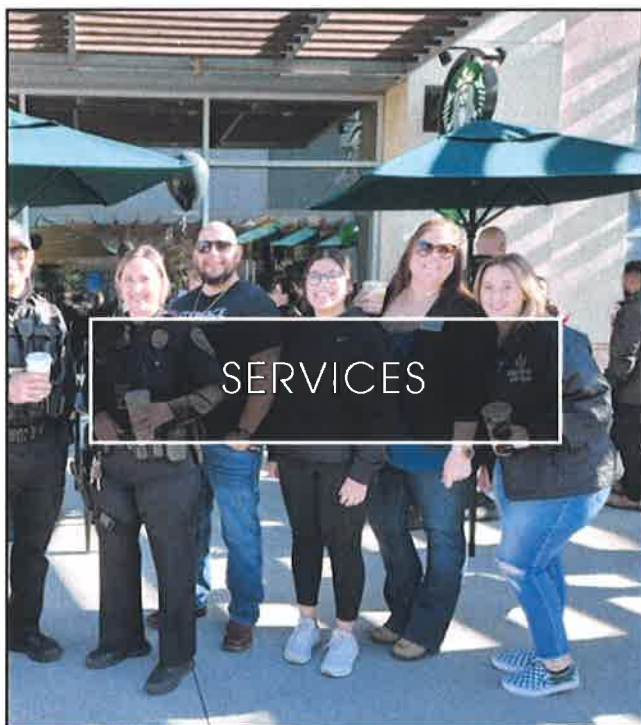
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- LIFT received **426** Tier 2 and Tier 3 referrals from law enforcement and school partners.\*
  - **330** from Oxnard Police Department (Tier 2- 253; Tier 3-140)
  - **96** school-based (Tier 2)
- **176** of the 426 turned into intakes

\*Reporting period 1/1/21-6/27/23

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All referred youth are eligible for the range of services such as case management, which includes a centralized intake, comprehensive needs assessments, services navigation, and monitoring of youth involvement from enrollment, through service participation, and six (6) months post program completion.

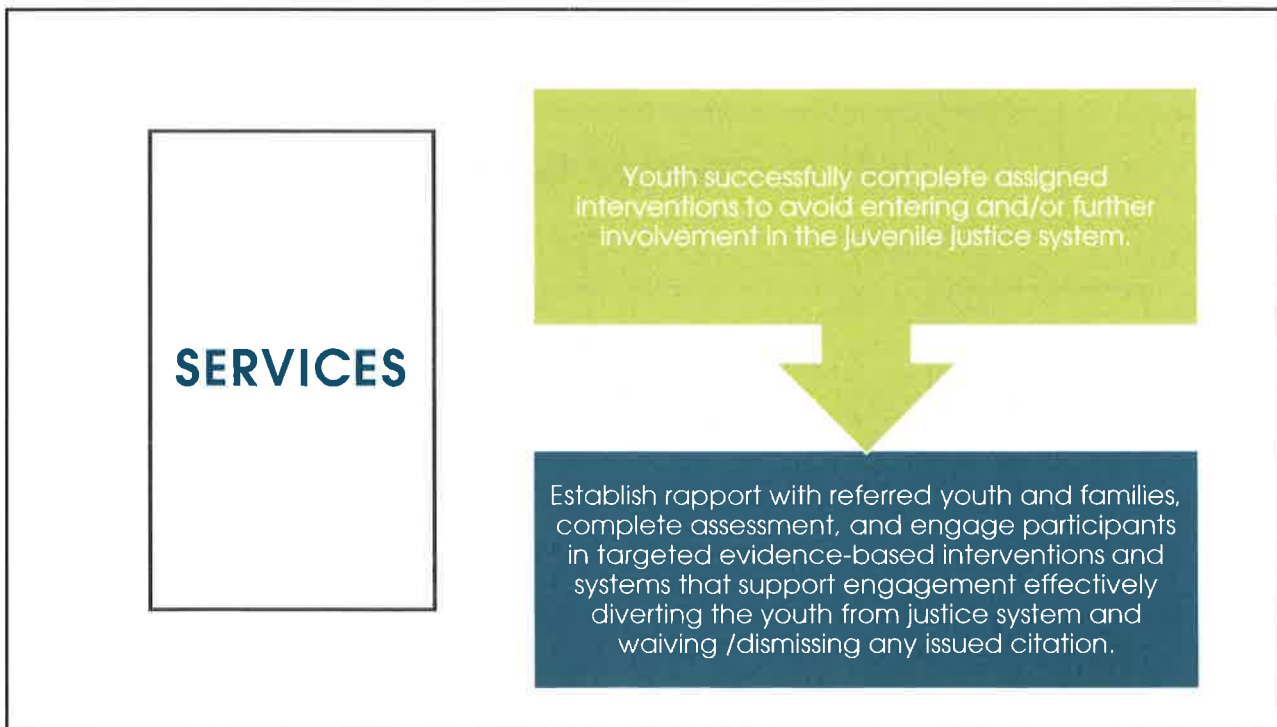


Evidence-based programming includes: Interactive Journaling, Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, case management and assessment and referrals to other supportive services including mental health counseling.

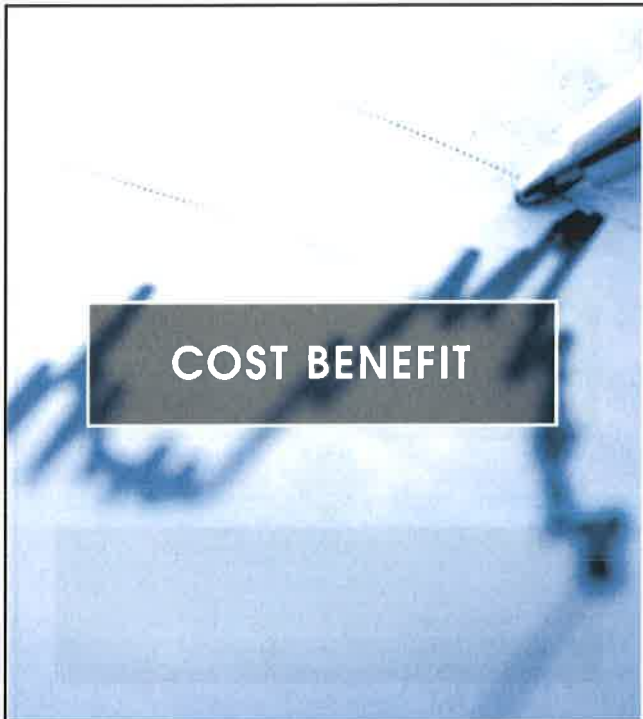


These interventions have resulted in fewer youths receiving citations and decreased the number of youths being referred to probation, thereby reducing the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

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**COST BENEFIT**

In a report titled "Average Daily Cost to House Youth in Detention Facilities," Board of State and Community Corrections estimated that in FY 17-18 the cost to detain youth was \$716 per day.

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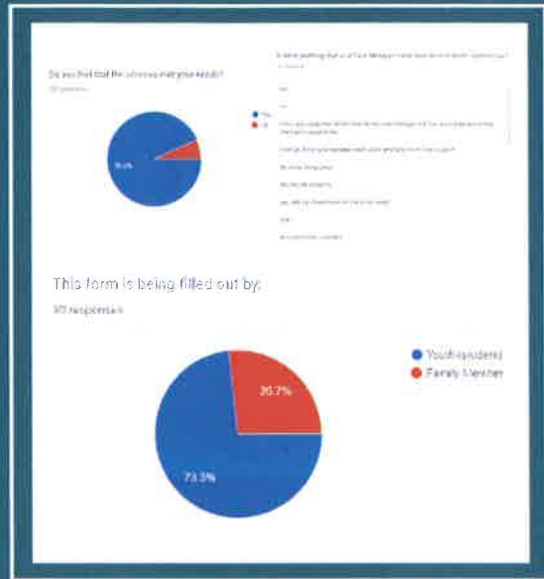
**LIFT PROGRAM IMPACT**

<p><b>176</b> youth received individualized case management, community referrals, and mentorship.</p>	<p><b>132</b> youth successfully completed services and 61 were diverted from the Juvenile Justice System.*</p> <p>*61- Tier 3 71- Tier 2</p>	<p><b>140</b> Tier 3 Referrals (OPD): <b>52%</b> accepted LIFT services <b>82%</b> of citations given to LIFT clients who actively participated in services were dismissed.</p>
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- **Student Surveys from LIFT Partner High Schools May 2023**
- **N= 30**



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**CLIENT STORY**

"K" was suspended within the first three weeks of school after she was caught drinking on the way to school with a group of girls. All 3 of them were referred to LIFT. The Case Manager helped one student get transferred to Condor, and another to Vista Real; however, "K" stayed because independent studies wasn't the right fit for her.

When "K" was first referred, she was failing half of her classes and had no interest in attending school. After meeting face to face with her mother and "K", we all managed to get on the same page and co-created a plan for her. Since then, "K" has stayed out of trouble, earned a 3.3 last semester, and the Case Manager helped her sign up for college courses for this summer at Oxnard College. The CM encouraged her to try out for volleyball, and she is also going to try and become a "wellness peer" at Pacifica for next year.

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Community Support



**Pacifica High School**  
*Established in 1854, the original and oldest*  
1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Mar 4, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the LIFT (Lead Support Team Transition) program that Interface facilitates on the Pacifica High School campus. The program works to provide strategies and resources for youth in our community who are at increased risk for negative behaviors such as drugs and alcohol use, crime.

The LIFT program has been a huge help to our campus in building rapport in students who have not been at all forward in the program. The program focuses heavily on culturally relevant positive practices and provides our students with opportunities to open and reflect.

As an administrator I consistently refer students to the LIFT program and I do not know what I would do without it. Students I "referred" communicate how our "change the habit" use in questions, or a student more "lead support" called that a consequence. This is where LIFT is so valuable to us - we are able to help students in need rather than our campus a "reactive" school or campus. The LIFT program provides opportunities instead of taking them away.

Our own representative Lead Support Team is an integral part of our campus community in addition to working one-on-one with our students, the program offers tools and strategies to take control of their lives and make better decisions. The work with outside agencies to get our students the things and at which facilities they need for things like food and more goals setting them up for future success.

Lifters is a tremendous for our students and an incredible resource to our students' future and school team. Our school community would greatly benefit from a continued partnership with the LIFT program and with Vets Village.



Allison Heckerly  
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 Pacifica High School  
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 Oxnard, CA 91324  
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Community Support

*"The Oxnard Police Department is grateful to collaborate with Interface in the Youth LIFT partnership program. As the primary referral source for LIFT, we understand the importance of advocacy for youth facing adversity in our schools, and in our community. LIFT provides vital opportunities of earlier intervention and positive engagement that individuals may not have otherwise received."*

**-Sgt. Hannah Estrada,  
Oxnard Police Department**

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## FUNDING NEEDS

Final Year of LIFT Grant from BSCC	Funding Gap	Future Options
Funding for services ends June 30, 2023	Current LIFT expenses total approximately \$15,000/month  Seeking \$90k in funding to help sustain the program through the first half of FY 23-24.	Interface has applied for funding through the OJJDP. Award notification anticipated in the fall. Currently looking for additional funding opportunities through grants and other sources.

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QUESTIONS??

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