



*Sonoma County
Legal Services Foundation*

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UPSTREAM RESOLUTION of ALIGNMENT
Aligning Sonoma County Legal Services Foundation's
Practices and Activities
With the Upstream Investments Initiative

RESOLUTION of Sonoma County Legal Services Foundation

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is sponsoring a community-wide strategic initiative called Upstream Investments with the following mission: To facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments vision for all residents of Sonoma County is that poverty is eliminated and all people have an equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative is designed to target the following factors:

Social and economic factors

Poverty and racial/ethnic disparities
Community conditions
Public opinion, public policy, and laws

Family and individual factors

Family dysfunction
Negative peer influences
Early antisocial behavior

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to promote four community goals:

1. The whole community is engaged in supporting the healthy development of children.
2. Community members have access to education and training and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.
3. All community members are well sheltered, safe, and socially supported.
4. Sonoma County has a thriving diverse economy that produces economic security for all.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to expand funding for Model Upstream Programs and also seeks to promote organizational practices that support the Upstream Vision.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Strategic Initiative promotes the implementation of outcomes-based practices including Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices, and Emerging Practices.

WHEREAS, Twenty-two indicators of success will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 12. Improved higher education |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 13. Improved housing affordability |
| 3. Reduced youth drug use | 14. Reduced homelessness |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 6. Reduced teen births | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 7. Reduced obesity | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 8. Improved pre-school attendance | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 9. Improved 3 rd grade reading | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 10. Improved 3 rd grade math | 21. Reduced unemployment |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 22. Improved health insurance rates |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Sonoma County Legal Services Foundation shares the Upstream Investments mission, goals, commitment to improving the indicators of success, and vision and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

Our mission is to provide affordable access to justice to families and individuals involved with that system or encountering legal problems, and to provide opportunities for attorneys to serve the community. This mission is expressed through providing legal information, resources, and services to lower-income members of the community, supervised visitation for families in family and dependency court proceedings, and prevention education to youth about legal issues, civil society, and violence prevention. These services are intended to enhance community development by preventing and reducing further legal problems with family conflict, debt, housing, employment, and criminal issues, and to promote healthy parenting, an understanding of rights and responsibilities in a civil society, and economic stability.

Agency services directly address the following Upstream Indicators:

1. Reduced child maltreatment, 17. Reduced domestic violence, 19. Improved youth connectedness, and 20. Reduced poverty.
2. Services may also have an impact on the following indicators: 4. Reduced youth depression, 14. Reduced homelessness, 15 & 16. Reduced juvenile and adult arrests, and 18. Reduced gang membership.

The agency is submitting its programs to the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs within the year.

Approximately half of the organization's resources and programs are dedicated to Upstream investments.

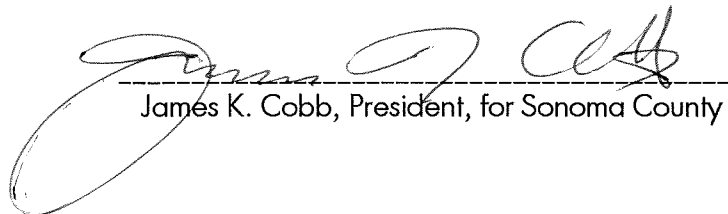
The agency's practices reflect Upstream principles in its policies and procedures, including protecting children and domestic violence victims from further harm, ensuring clients participate in substance abuse and batterers' treatment programs, and collaboration with other service and enforcement agencies. In resource deployment, clients at risk of violence receive the highest priority for services, and the agency also directs resources towards prevention and education. The agency works with a number of supervision providers who reflect program commitments to diversity and professionalism. Attorneys working with the agency help lower-income clients in order to assist with their understanding of the system and their ability to help themselves, and prevent or reduce further problems.

The agency works with other agencies that promote Upstream goals. It has a contract to provide Supervised Visitation to client families of Family, Youth & Children's Services. It has worked with agencies on the current Upstream Resolution list such as California Parenting Institute, COTS, First 5, Living Room, Verity, and YWCA

The organization will add a link to its website to Upstream and will identify Upstream alignment in its program materials.

Approved and adopted the 9th day of April 2011. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Sonoma County Legal Services Foundation

Following Roll Call Vote: Ayes: ___ 6 ___
 Nos: _____
 Absent: _____



James K. Cobb, President, for Sonoma County Legal Services Foundation