



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

ANISH P. MAHAJAN, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

GARY TSAI, M.D.
Bureau Director
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau
1000 South Fremont Avenue, Building A-9 East, 3rd Floor, Box 34
Alhambra, California 91803
TEL (626) 299-4101 • FAX (626) 458-7637

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

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SAPC INFORMATION NOTICE 25-17

December 16, 2025

TO: SAPC Contracted Youth Services Providers

FROM: Gary Tsai, M.D., Bureau Director 
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau

SUBJECT: **Reimagining Youth Substance Use Disorder Engagement (RYSE) INITIATIVE – PILLAR II: Update the Program (RYSE-UP)**

The RYSE Initiative aims to transform youth substance use disorder (SUD) services by engaging youth providers and clients to identify ways to reimagine youth engagement and tailor service to enhance engagement and retention. The RYSE Initiative strives to take an innovative and different approach to better engage youth in SUD services.

The Department of Public Health’s Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau (SAPC) supports the RYSE Initiative through the following four (4) key pillars:

- I. **Reimagining Environments for SUD Engagement and Treatment (RESET)**
Funds: SAPC funding to support SUD care setting improvements and create more engaging and welcoming spaces for youth SUD treatment services; see [SAPC IN 25-06](#).
- II. **Update the Program (RYSE-UP):** Supports SUD program, services, and activity enhancements that increase youth engagement and retention.
- III. **Field-Based Services (FBS) Enhanced Benefit:** Provides an additional 10 percent reimbursement on approved claims to support the delivery of youth SUD services through FBS; see [SAPC IN 25-09](#).

- IV. **Youth Listening Sessions:** Sessions convened by SAPC to hear directly from youth and providers to inform the change process being implemented through the RYSE Initiative.

This Information Notice launches the RYSE-UP (Pillar II) program, which supports youth providers in designing and implementing program updates that strengthen youth motivation and participation in SUD treatment services.

Eligibility

Funds will be available to SAPC-contracted youth SUD treatment providers.

Total Funding Allocation

Funds are allocated at the provider agency level based on the number of youth-serving sites. Youth contracted providers will receive \$75,000 per site.

RYSE-UP Fund Guidelines and Allowable Uses

Youth-Centered Infrastructure Investments: Key Insights from Listening Sessions

Between March and May 2025, SAPC conducted listening sessions with youth with lived experience. Participants highlighted several factors that would support their engagement in treatment, including but not limited to:

- Support related to career planning and financial stability
- Non-monetary incentives such as snacks and meals
- Fun, social activities like game nights, music, art, and sports

Improving Support for Treatment Retention

Youth identified several factors that would help keep them engaged in SUD treatment, including but are not limited to:

- Implementing life skills and practical education that enhances youth experiences
- Tailoring treatment to so it is individualized and specific to each youth
- Offering incentives, such as gift cards, movie tickets, recreational activities or field trips, to motivate continued participation

Based on the listening sessions, **Table I** includes a preliminary list of possible implementation ideas and allowable uses of funds. These examples are not exhaustive; providers may propose additional concepts for approval by SAPC through the RYSE-UP Project Approval Form.

TABLE I

Expense Type	Examples
<p>Contracted Staff/Professional to Conduct Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring professionals or specialists to deliver topical programming of interest (art instructors, coaches, therapists, cultural educators) • Guest speakers for career or motivational sessions (tech, design, fashion, media, trades) • Career counselors, college advisors and job readiness trainers • Wellness instructors (yoga, mindfulness, nutritionists, self-care, stress management workshops) • Mentorship programs from individuals with lived experience • Instructors or guest speakers to lead workshops budgeting, resume building, and job applications
<p>Costs for Skill-Building and Recreational Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplies to conduct skill-building workshops (such as woodworking, textile or jewelry making, ceramics, coding, computer building, and related creative skills) • Recognition and non-monetary incentives for participation in workshops (rewards, certificates) • Recreational and community-building activities (movie nights, sports viewing, gaming or karaoke nights, themed book clubs, BBQs, bonfires, and arts showcases)
<p>Events/Trips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickets for youth and staff for field trips/outings (museums, theaters, studios, historic sites, sports games, six flags) • Outdoor recreation and learning (beach trips, hiking, camping) • Transportation and mileage for program-related outings • Logistical expenses (permits, parking)
<p>Marketing, Outreach and Long-Term Sustainability*</p> <p><i>*Must not be more than 15% of total proposal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of outreach materials (flyers, posters, brochures) • Social media engagement (TikTok, Instagram, YouTube) • School-based outreach (assemblies, after-school events, tabling) • Branding and promotional materials for youth campaigns

Implementation Expectations

Providers must invest RYSE-UP funds in sustainable, cost-effective services and activities that meaningfully engage youth. Providers must also:

- Establish clear organizational controls, including written policies and procedures.
- Establish clearly defined staff roles and responsibilities for RYSE implementation.
- Ensure accountability to prevent project delays, cost overruns, or failure to deliver.

RYSE-UP funds may be used in conjunction with other youth-focused initiatives, such as RESET and BRIDGE (Building Relationships, Inspiring Development, Growing Engagement) funds. However, RYSE-UP funds may not be used to duplicate or supplant activities already funded through RESET, BRIDGE, or other funding streams such as the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS).

Approval and Reimbursement Process

1. Attachment I – RYSE-UP Project Approval Form

- a. Complete and submit the RYSE-UP Project Approval Form (Attachment I) and email to SAPC Systems of Care Youth Services Unit at DPH-SAPC-YSU@ph.lacounty.gov.
- b. To ensure organizational responsibility, the form must be signed by the provider Executive Director, or designee.
- c. Designate a Project Manager responsible for overseeing project development and serving as the primary point of contact to address any SAPC-related questions or concerns.
- d. SAPC will process the RYSE-UP Project Form and return the signed RYSE-UP Project Approval Form back to the Contracted Youth provider.
- e. Only expenses included in the plan and incurred after the plan has been approved by SAPC will be eligible for reimbursement.

2. Attachment II – RYSE-UP Project Start-up Funds Invoice

- a. Submit the RYSE Project Start-up Funds Invoice once products and services have been provided, purchased and completed.
- b. Attach supporting documentation (e.g., receipts, contracted staff invoices, proof of payment, contracts).
- c. Invoice Submission Deadlines
 - i. Final invoice deadline: The final invoice must be submitted no later than **July 10, 2026**.
 - ii. Monthly processing cutoff: Invoices submitted on or before the 10th of each month will be processed for payment within the same month.

- iii. Late monthly submissions: Invoices submitted after the 10th will be processed in the following month.
- d. Compile supporting documentation to confirm the use of funds (e.g., receipts, invoices, canceled checks).
- e. All attachments and supporting documentation must be submitted to the SAPC Systems of Care Youth Services Unit at DPH-SAPC-YSU@ph.lacounty.gov.

SAPC will closely monitor the progress of proposed projects and funding utilization. Provider agencies participating in the RYSE Initiative are expected to continuously demonstrate progress towards the completion of their projects. Providers must invoice for at least the following percentages of their allocated amount by the deadlines listed below.

Funding Utilization	Deadline
25%	February 28, 2026
50%	April 30, 2026

If SAPC determines that there is not significant progress towards the utilization of funds for this project, SAPC reserves the right to decrease or terminate funding.

Program Timeline and Invoicing Deadlines

- **Program Launch:** December 23, 2025
- **Plan Submission Deadline:** January 30, 2026
- **Project Completion Deadline:** June 30, 2026
- **Final Invoicing Deadline:** July 10, 2026

Effective Period

This guidance will be effective from the release of this Informational Notice until July 31, 2026.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional questions or requests, please contact: DPH-SAPC-YSU@ph.lacounty.gov.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – RYSE-UP Project Approval Form
Attachment II – RYSE-UP Project Start-up Funds Invoice

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