



START-Community Overview

The START-Community Program provides community-based, supervised, non-custodial residential treatment services to non-violent, non-serious, and non-sexual (N3) female and male inmates (clients) who have a minimum of ninety (90) days left of on their sentence and who volunteer to participate in a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment program while they serve out the remainder of their sentence in a residential treatment facility. All clients participating in the START-Community Program remain under the supervision of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) using a Global Positioning System electronic monitoring device worn for the duration of the client's ninety (90) day residential treatment.

Goal

Prevent offender recidivism by effectively providing in-custody START individuals with a warm hand off to SUD community-based residential treatment.

Target Population

The target population is comprised of male and female inmates who meet the following criteria:

- Clients with a history of drug and/or alcohol usage and/or drug related charges for eligibility.
- N3 classification.
- No past violent, sexual, or arson charges.
- 18 years or older.
- No medical or psychiatric conditions that require medications prior to release.¹
- Have a minimum of 90 days left on their sentence and no pending court cases².
- Clients with less than 90 days may be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis.
- Received clearance from the LASD Community-Based Alternatives to Custody (CBAC) Division for electronic monitoring in a residential SUD treatment program.

Data Collection Requirements

- CENS and START-Community treatment providers are required to utilize the Treatment, Court, Probation eXchange System to enter all clients' data, such as treatment admission, progress reporting, and discharge.

START-Community Program Services

LASD utilizes the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions assessment tool to screen prospective clients that are suitable for release into a supervised, non-custodial setting as an alternative to incarceration. Eligible clients receive SUD treatment program in lieu of incarceration.

START-Community residential services are available to Medi-Cal eligible and enrolled criminal justice involved individuals, non-Drug Medi-Cal services are reimbursed with AB 109 funding. Residential treatment services (ASAM 3.1, 3.3, and 3.5) are 24-hour non-medical short-term rehabilitation services for clients who have a SUD diagnosis. START-Community clients may be authorized for ninety (90) calendar days, with one 30 calendar day residential treatment extension based on medical necessity. Upon completion of their jail sentence, clients will have an option of continuing with additional treatment services, the client's continued participation in treatment would be voluntary.

Referral Process

- Individuals suitable for release into a supervised non-custodial setting are identified and assessed by LASD staff for START-Community Program;
- CENS counselor co-located at designated County jails conduct on-site American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Triage Tool (ATT) screening to determine the provisional SUD level of care;
- If treatment is needed, CENS will make the appropriate referral into a community-based residential treatment facility;
- START SUD residential treatment facility must have proper documentation from CENS to process an admission for a client;
- Clients are transported by LASD to the SUD residential treatment facility; and
- For clients who screen negative for SUD, CENS staff refers clients back to LASD.

¹ If the client requires medical or psychiatric services that are beyond the scope of the residential treatment providers ability, the client may be returned to LASD custody to be treated within the County Jail.

² Clients that may be sentenced on a separate charge not suitable for START-Community as the target population are those eligible for completing their jail sentence in the community.