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**Building Hope for Rural Counties-Glenn County Community Re-Entry Work (C.R.E.W.) Program Receives “Most Innovative Program of the Year” Award in California.**

Willows, CA – The California State Association of Counties have selected the Glenn County Community Re-Entry Work Program (CREW) as the most innovative government program in the state for 2012. The coveted award will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, October 30th, at 9:30AM in the Board Chambers at 525 W. Sycamore in Willows.

The State of California’s 2011 Public Safety Realignment Legislation (Assembly Bill 109) mandates returning non-violent parolees and prisoners from the state correctional system to the county level. For rural counties with fewer resources and support networks, this presents considerable challenges for impacted communities. The CSAC award demonstrates how CREW serves as an example of multiple service resources working together effectively to address such difficult issues as prisoner realignment. Community Corrections Partnership Board member and Board of Supervisors Vice-Chair John Viegas noted, “I am very proud of every one of the county employees involved and the CCP Board for thinking of this innovative way to deal with recidivism within our county and a program that can be replicated in any county. Glenn County employees and the citizens should be proud of our county for being selected for this prestigious award by beating out 220 other submissions from all 58 counties.”

CREW was conceived to address these challenges collaboratively, bringing together county Social Services, Community Services, Law Enforcement, Behavioral Health, and Education, with the primary goal assisting the re-entry population in returning to the community. This includes help with stable housing and food, as well as providing job counseling, work site placement, attaining education, treatment and case management, in order to help them return to the workforce.

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The strength of CREW lies in the collaboration of multiple teams to integrate services. County agencies and community-based services recognize the potential impact to the entire community, and have pulled together to build capacity, and to create opportunities for participants to return to their communities. The approach creates a minimum savings of $3 for every tax dollar spent and reduces impacts of recidivism in the local jail.

“The creation of the CREW program is proof that inter-agency collaboration with a focus on investing in people can only make our community a better place.  Historically, individuals released from the State Prison System were afforded few, if any resources to change their lives in a meaningful way.  In Glenn County we have created an environment for people to make positive changes for the betterment of themselves, their families and our community.”- Brandon Thompson, Glenn County Chief Probation Officer.

Of the 10 participants in CREW pilot as of June 2012, eight had completed successfully, 50% of the participants becoming gainfully employed, and 20% were in the process of starting their own businesses. California’s recidivism rate is approximately 65%, the highest rate in the country. The CREW program has had an 80% success rate with the re-entry population. There was only a 20% recidivism rate during the pilot program and even these folks have become gainfully employed, which was a welcome success.

“In this time of diminishing resources and increased demands, Glenn County has once again demonstrated its ability to resolve the most serious of issues facing local government by finding the better way. This award is symbolic of the can do spirit of our citizens and the unrelenting commitment of the employees who serve them. I am extremely proud of all county employees, the success of our AB109 participants, and the communities that we serve,” stated Scott Gruendl, Director of the Glenn County Human Resource and Health Services Agency who submitted the documentation for the CSAC Innovation Award.

Websites: [www.hra.co.glenn.ca.us](http://www.hra.co.glenn.ca.us) or [www.cgtcap.org](http://www.cgtcap.org)

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