

PANDEMIC TOOLKIT:

RESOURCES FROM THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN CONFINEMENT FACILITIES



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



COVID-19 Detection and Mitigation in Confinement Facilities
Training and Technical Assistance Center



Purpose

The purpose of the **Pandemic Toolkit ("Toolkit")** is to provide guidance and an archive of resources on the effective management and mitigation of infectious airborne disease within confinement settings. This Toolkit will help confinement facilities:

1. Prioritize the health and safety of incarcerated individuals and confinement staff by offering strategies for infection prevention and control.
2. Equip confinement facilities with the necessary tools and protocols to minimize the spread of infectious disease among residents and personnel of confinement facilities.
3. Aide in the planning for quick and efficient responses to pandemic outbreaks within confinement facilities, including staff, facility, and resident management, testing, quarantine, isolation, and medical care, and population reduction.

Methodology

The resources in this Toolkit have been compiled from public resources

- Local, state, and federal confinement agencies
- Local, state, and federal public health organizations
- National-level confinement associations

All resources have been vetted by confinement leaders and health experts associated with the BJA COVID-19 Detection and Mitigation in Confinement Facilities (CDMCF) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Center.

How to Use This Toolkit



CLICK HERE TO NAVIGATE

- Buttons with this location icon enable you to navigate through the toolkit.



CONCEPT AREAS

- Buttons with this bookmark icon direct you to specific concept areas.

The icons below will be located throughout the toolkit to identify resource types.



Guidance Documents



Education /Training



Flyers



Checklists and Forms



Policies, Procedures, and Protocols



Toolkit Organization

This toolkit is organized into three key domains:

- Operations
- Intervention Strategies
- Population Reduction

The information within these domains will help confinement facilities to sustain an effective response to COVID-19 and future pandemic events.



Toolkit Home Page

Click on an element below to learn more about each concept area and access additional resources for COVID-19 preparedness and response in confinement settings.



[Operations](#)



[Intervention Strategies](#)



[Population Reduction](#)



[Additional General Resources](#)

SECTION 1

OPERATIONS



[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



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Operations

These resources focus on managing the impact of COVID-19 on confinement facility operations. This concept area is divided into three sub-domains:



[Staff](#)



[Facility Management](#)



[Resident Management](#)



Staff

The health and safety of staff in confinement facilities is a priority due to their critical role in maintaining institutional operations and safety, especially during an infectious disease outbreak.

[Staffing Shortages](#)[Staff COVID-19 Screening](#)[Staff Training](#)[Staff Wellness](#)



Staffing Shortages



Staffing shortages resulting from COVID-19 exposure can adversely impact a confinement facility's ability to protect the health and safety of their residents and staff. The following resources provide guidance on strategies to mitigate staffing shortages, which can help maintain confinement operations during COVID-19 outbreaks.



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 STAFFING SHORTAGE RETURN TO WORK
GUIDANCE**



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES: STAFFING GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL
ADMINISTRATORS**



**TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION:
STAFFING CONTINGENCY CHECKLIST**



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL
STAFFING SHORTAGES**





Staff Training



Training confinement facility staff before, during, and after an infectious disease outbreak is critical for safeguarding the health and well-being of staff, incarcerated populations, and the community. The following training tools help increase health and safety awareness for staff with potential exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 disease.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES: COVID-19 RESPONSE TRAINING TOOL



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: COVID-19 INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL TRAIN-THE-TRAINER TRAINING



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES: BUILDING PROGRAMS TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM COVID-19 TRAINING TOOL



CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH: COVID-19 PREVENTION TRAINING





Staff COVID-19 Screening



Confinement facility staff screening during a pandemic is a vital tool for early detection, infection control, and the overall safety of staff, residents, and the community. The following guidance can be used to support staff screening and COVID-19 detection within confinement facilities.



**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION:
COVID-19 CONTROL AND PREVENTION GUIDANCE**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 RETURN TO WORK GUIDANCE**





Staff Wellness



Access to staff wellness programming and tools is critical to ensuring that corrections professionals have the skills and abilities necessary to cope with the challenges of a pandemic, maintain safety within facilities, and protect public health. The following resources can support assessment of staff wellness needs during COVID-19 response operations.



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TEAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, REHABILITATION AND REENTRY: EMPLOYEE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN



AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION: RESOURCE GUIDE AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR REOPENING A DETENTION CENTER UNDER COVID-19





Facility Management



[Visitation Policies](#)



[Environmental Cleaning](#)



[Space Management](#)

Facility management during COVID-19 is vital for disease control, public health, inmate welfare, staff safety, legal and ethical considerations, and resource allocation.





Visitation Policies

Visitation policies are essential to prevent disease introduction, protect the well-being of individuals inside the facility, ensure staff safety, meet legal and ethical obligations, and manage resources effectively while safeguarding public health.



[Legal Visits](#)



[Social Visits](#)





Legal Visits



Access to legal counsel is an essential element to ensuring fairness and confidential communications in the justice system. The following resources can be used to help support decision-making about legal counsel policies within confinement facilities.



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS: MODIFIED MEDICAL STAY-IN-PLACE
TIMELINE**



**PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS:
COVID-19 REOPENING TRANSITION PLAN**





Social Visits

It is important to consider how a COVID-19 outbreak might impact visitation policies. The following resources provide guidance on visitation protocols, which help to ensure access to social visits in a safe manner.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION: COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR VISITORS



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH: GUIDANCE FOR VISITATION AT CORRECTIONAL AND DETENTION CENTERS



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: VISITATION RULES & INFORMATION





Environmental Cleaning



[Cleaning](#)



[Ventilation](#)



[Laundry](#)

Certified cleaning protocols help facilities to maintain specific standards set to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Environmental cleaning is crucial for removing pathogens, breaking the chain of transmission, preventing cross contamination, reducing disease reservoirs, and supporting outbreak control.





Cleaning



Regularly cleaning surfaces helps prevent the spread of pathogens that make people sick and causes disease, such as COVID-19. The following resources provide policy and guidance on cleaning and disinfection protocols in confinement settings.



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
POLICY ON SANITATION HYGIENE**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
GUIDANCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING (P. 16)**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
POLICY ON SANITATION AND INSPECTION**



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
GUIDANCE ON CLEANING AND DISINFECTING**





Ventilation



Airborne viral particles spread between people more readily indoors than outdoors. Confinement facilities should adopt protective indoor ventilation practices and ventilation system upgrades to increase the delivery of clean air and reduce potential airborne viral contaminants, like SARS-CoV-2. The following resources provide guidance on ventilation in buildings and recommendations to reduce infectious aerosol exposure.



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
GUIDANCE ON VENTILATION IN BUILDINGS**



**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING
AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS: GUIDANCE ON
REDUCING AIRBORNE INFECTIOUS AEROSOL
EXPOSURE**





Laundry

Washing clothes and linens safely is particularly important in confinement settings where the risk of exposure to infectious diseases is high. The following resources provide guidance on laundry management practice within confinement facilities, which could be used to help mitigate COVID-19.



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
GUIDANCE ON LINEN AND LAUNDRY MANAGEMENT**



**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
FACILITY GUIDELINES (P. 9)**





Space Management



Space management in confinement facilities is critical during an infectious disease outbreak to enable social distancing, isolation, and quarantine, thereby protecting inmate and staff well-being. The following recommendations cover strategies toward reducing the resident population and restricting movement within facilities while effectively utilizing limited physical space.



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: MEDICAL ISOLATION STRATEGIES FOR COVID-19 CASES



COUNCIL OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS: IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN: RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR SHERIFFS AND JAILS





Resident Management



[Transportation](#)



[Daily Activities](#)

Confinement facilities face unique challenges in controlling the spread of infectious diseases because of crowded, shared environments and the potential introduction of virus by staff and new intakes. Prudent resident management within confinement and detention facilities is critical to protecting incarcerated and detained persons, staff, and communities to which they return.





Transportation



The risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission increases with the complexity of movement, whether intersystem or medical transfers, court appearances, or new intakes. The following guidance resources can help confinement facilities address the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission during transit and protect the inmate population, facility staff, and communities at large.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION: COVID-19 SCREENING AND TESTING MATRIX FOR PATIENT MOVEMENT



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: INFECTION PREVENTION PRACTICES FOR DETAINEE TRANSFERS



FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS: GUIDANCE ON INMATE MOVEMENT





Daily Activities



[Resident Activity](#)



[Movements/ Callouts](#)

Daily activities in confinement facilities can provide multiple points of vulnerability for the spread of infectious disease due to the space limitations and the number of individuals at these facilities. Facilities should modify programs and plans consistent with their institutional resources (including physical space).





Resident Activity



Work and resident programming are essential functions in confinement facilities. Due to the close proximity of residents within congregate settings, measures must be taken to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission during group activities. Facilities should strive to ensure residents' safe participation in work, work-release programs, as well as in educational and/or recreational activities available within confinement and detention facilities.



**PHILADELPHIA DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS:
COVID-19 REOPENING TRANSITION PLAN**



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS: MODIFIED MEDICAL STAY-IN-PLACE
POLICY**



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
COVID-19 OUTBREAKS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
WITH WORK-RELEASE PROGRAMS**





Movement/Callouts



It is important to make prompt modifications to institutional procedures to continue to effectively manage COVID-19 spread. Limiting resident movement within and outside the facilities is vital to controlling the rate of infection. The following guidelines can help with developing modified protocols for resident movement within and outside facilities.



**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 FACILITY OPERATIONS PLAN**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
GUIDELINE FOR INFIRMARY VISITS**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
GUIDELINE FOR IN-PERSON MARRIAGE IN PRISONS**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
GUIDELINE FOR FUNERAL TRIPS AND DEATHBED VISITS**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
GUIDELINE FOR PRISON OUTDOOR EVENT PROCEDURES**

SECTION 2

Intervention Strategies



[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



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Intervention Strategies

The following resources are focused on the infection control procedures and medical care that is required to detect, treat and prevent further spread of an infectious disease.



[Prevention](#)



[Detection](#)



[Mitigation](#)



[Mental Health Impact of the Pandemic](#)



Prevention

Prevention measures disrupt the chain of transmission, preventing further spread of infectious diseases in confinement facilities and the general community. The following areas are key when implementing prevention efforts.

[Masking](#)[Personal Protective Equipment](#)[Social Distancing](#)[Vaccination](#)



Personal Protective Equipment



Personal protective equipment (PPE) helps to protect individuals from harmful infectious particles. Due to the higher risk of spread of virus in the confinement environment, the proper use of PPE is crucial to minimizing the spread of the disease. The following resources can be used to train staff and inmates on the proper use of PPE.



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
DONNING N95 RESPIRATOR DEMO VIDEO**



**TORONTO PARAMEDIC SERVICES:
DONNING AND DOFFING PPE DEMO VIDEO**



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
DOFFING N95 RESPIRATOR DEMO VIDEO**



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
FACIAL HAIR FLYER**



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
DOFFING GLOVES DEMO VIDEO**

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



Personal Protective Equipment



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, California Correctional Healthcare Services, and Washington State Department of Corrections created the following resources to outline guidance for the appropriate and contextual use of personal protective equipment.



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION: PPE GUIDANCE**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
PPE GUIDANCE**



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:
PPE GUIDANCE**





Masking

Masking is a critical public health tool that helps prevent transmission and reduces the chance of spreading COVID-19 within confinement facilities. Although masking is challenging to implement in confinement environment, accurate and easily comprehensible guidance on masking is important for the adoption of the practice by residents, staff, and facility visitors.



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
IMPROVE HOW YOUR MASK PROTECTS YOU FLYER**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
ROUTINE MASKING GUIDANCE**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
IMPROVE HOW YOUR MASK PROTECTS YOU FLYER
(SPANISH VERSION)**





Social Distancing



Social Distancing is a very effective preventative measure during an infectious disease outbreak, like COVID-19; however, it is challenging to implement in confinement settings. Modifications to facility operations are necessary to address congregation and may require a creative approach. Resources can include flyers and educational posters in common areas on the importance of social distancing and various options that can help.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
SOCIAL DISTANCING AND BED POSITION FOR
RESIDENTIAL AND CONGREGATE SETTINGS**



**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 INFECTION CONTROL PROTOCOLS**





Vaccination



Vaccination is an effective strategy to prevent and mitigate infectious diseases, including COVID-19 disease. The following resources provide education on the COVID-19 vaccines, which can be used to support confinement facility staff and inmate buy-in and education.



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
TWO ROADS - THE COVID-19 VACCINE**



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 VACCINATION GUIDE BROCHURE**



**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:
PRIDE AT WORK - COVID-19 VACCINE EDITION**





Detection

Accurate viral detection is the first step in managing and containing COVID-19 within facilities. Testing plays an important role in the rapid identification and isolation of confirmed cases to reduce further spread of COVID-19 infection.

[Confirmed Cases](#)[Testing and Contact Tracing](#)[Wastewater Testing](#)



Testing and Contact Tracing



Due to the unique challenges in confinement facilities, different testing strategies must be implemented. Once a case is identified through testing, contact tracing is essential to help identify, assess, and manage the spread of COVID-19. Reporting confirmed cases to local/ state health department is critical in containing the disease in community at large. The following resources provide guidance and a mapping guide to help standardize data collection for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.



**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:
COVID-19 FACILITY TESTING FAQs**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS: COVID-19 SCREENING, TESTING,
AND INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINE**



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION: COVID-19 TESTING AND SCREENING
MATRIX FOR PATIENT MOVEMENT**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
MAPPING GUIDELINES**





Wastewater Testing



Wastewater testing in confinement facilities is an important tool for early detection, outbreak prevention, resource allocation, and public health surveillance during infectious disease outbreaks, like COVID-19. It enhances the facility's ability to respond effectively, protect both - residents and the broader community - from a severe illness and potential outbreak.



TULANE UNIVERSITY: TARGETED WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE OF SARS-COV-2 ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK DETECTION AND MITIGATION





Confirmed Cases



Early identification and reporting of a confirmed COVID-19 positive resident can lead to prevention of further transmission. The following resources provide information on standardizing case reporting, supporting contact tracing, and communicating outcomes to stakeholders. Reporting confirmed cases to local/ state health department is critical in containing the disease in community at large.



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
CLINICAL CHECKLIST FOR COVID-19**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
MAPPING GUIDELINES**





Mitigation

Mitigation efforts include the early identification and reporting of cases and physical interventions to disrupt the chain of transmission. The following areas are key when implementing mitigation efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

[Cohorting](#)[Clusters and Outbreaks](#)[Quarantine and Isolation](#)



Cohorting



Cohorting is the placement of patients or residents exposed to or infected with the same laboratory confirmed pathogen in the same inpatient room or geographic area. Studies show this works to effectively reduce the severity of an outbreak. The following resource outlines the considerations, benefits, and guidelines for cohorting patients.



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:
COHORTING FOR CONTAINMENT SEMINAR**





Quarantine and Isolation



Quarantine and isolation are effective strategies for COVID-19 mitigation. However, due to the unique challenges in confinement facilities, implementing quarantine and isolation guidelines may be difficult, and it will look different from facility to facility. The following guidance documents can help with the development of guidelines and checklists for potential, suspected and confirmed cases.



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES: QUARANTINE
GUIDANCE FOR DETAINEES**



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES: MEDICAL ISOLATION OF DETAINEES
WITH CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED COVID-19**





Clusters and Outbreaks



Clusters and outbreaks in confinement facilities can become unmanageable due to the day to day and physical constraints of these settings. The following resources for both prisons and community confinement facilities can assist in identifying clusters or outbreaks and mitigating further spread of COVID-19.



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 CLUSTER AND OUTBREAK CHECKLIST**





Mental Health Impact



Addressing the mental health needs of residents during COVID-19 outbreaks is not only essential for their well-being but also for the overall safety and security of confinement facilities. The following resources provide guidelines and health screenings to address mental health concerns in confinement facilities.



BJA CDMCF TTA CENTER: COVID-19 PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING SCREENING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLNESS COVID SCREENING TOOLS



BJA CDMCF TTA CENTER: COVID-19 MEDICAL RESTRICTION – ISOLATION RESOURCE GUIDELINES



SECTION 3

POPULATION REDUCTION



[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



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Population Reduction



Several jurisdictions developed and implemented new policies and procedures aimed at reducing their confinement populations and evaluative data is becoming available. Click on each publication below to learn how implementing population reduction can mitigate the spread of infectious diseases, like COVID-19, by reducing an individual's risk and opportunities for exposure.



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS: SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF
COVID-19 POPULATION REDUCTION**



**NATIONAL ACADEMIES: DECARCERATING
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES DURING COVID-19**



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
EVALUATION OF THE EXPANDED WORK RELEASE
PROGRAM**



[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



Population Reduction



Compassionate release programs were used as a tool to aid in population reduction during the COVID-19 response. These resources can help with expanding current programs and provide the confinement facility administration with the assurance that they have implemented the necessary measures to safeguard the health of both released residents and the broader community.



FAMM: COMPASSIONATE RELEASE IN LOUISIANA



URBAN INSTITUTE: EXPANDING COMPASSIONATE RELEASE DURING COVID-19



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
RELEASING INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS FROM
ISOLATION TO THE COMMUNITY CHECKLIST**

SECTION 4

ADDITIONAL GENERAL RESOURCES



[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE](#)



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General Response



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN**



**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 ACTION PLAN**



**HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY:
COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 GUIDANCE**



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN**



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
SAFE START PLAN**



**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:
STATEWIDE COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY
PLAN**



**CORRECTIONAL LEADERS ASSOCIATION:
CORRECTIONS RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**



CALIFORNIA SMARTER PLAN