

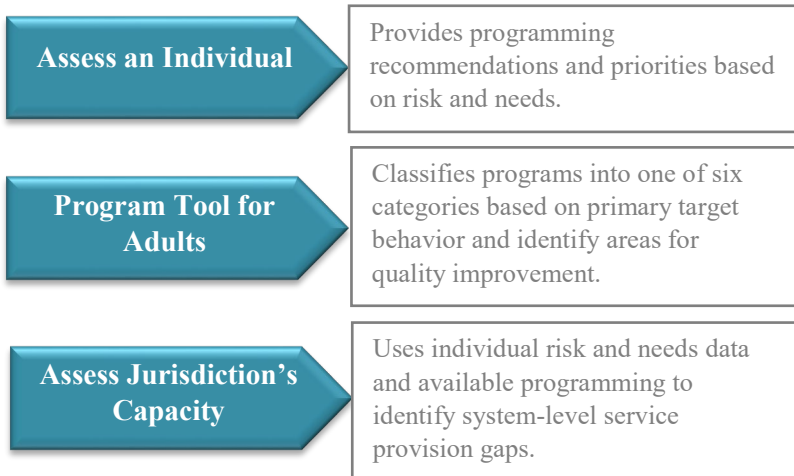


# The Risk Need Responsivity (RNR) Simulation Tool in Hidalgo County, TX: Jurisdictional Capacity



Hidalgo County, TX Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) began collaborating with George Mason University’s Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!) in 2012 to implement evidence-based supervision. Through this partnership, CSCD adopted two translational tools: Staff Undertaking Skills to Advance Innovation (SUSTAIN) and the Risk–Need-Responsivity (RNR) Simulation Tool.

The RNR Simulation Tool is a web-based, translational tool that aims to reduce recidivism and improve other individual outcomes by increasing treatment matching and program quality.



**CSCD first assessed their probationers’ needs and program availability in 2014 to determine how they could improve capacity to serve their population.**

## Six Program Tool Classification Groups

- Group A; Severe Substance Dependence: Treatment using cognitive restructuring techniques for those dependent on substances that tend to be "criminogenic" or lead to criminal behavior.
- Group B; Criminal Thinking/ Criminal Lifestyle: Programs focusing on cognitive restructuring around criminal thinking, especially cognitive behavioral treatment.
- Group C; Substance Abuse/ Mental Health: Programs focusing on improving management skills for those with substance abuse and/or mental health issues; some cognitive restructuring involved.
- Group D; Social/ Interpersonal Skills: Programs focusing on social and interpersonal skills, targeting multiple destabilizing issues.
- Group E; Life Skills: Programs focusing on life skills such as employment and financial stability.
- Group F; Other Services/ Controls: Few to no conditions with an emphasis punishment.

SUSTAIN is a supervision model that fosters knowledge and skill building about evidence-based practices via a web-based curriculum plus in-person coaching.

**CSCD began implementing SUSTAIN (previously SOARING2) in 2012 to train their supervision officers on the use of evidence-based practices. SUSTAIN is now part of their standard training for officers.**

<b>6</b> <b>Core Modules</b>	Module 1	Risk, Need, Responsivity
	Module 4	Motivation and Client Engagement
	Module 3	Case Planning
	Module 4	Problem Solving
	Module 5	Desistance
	Module 6	Criminal Lifestyle

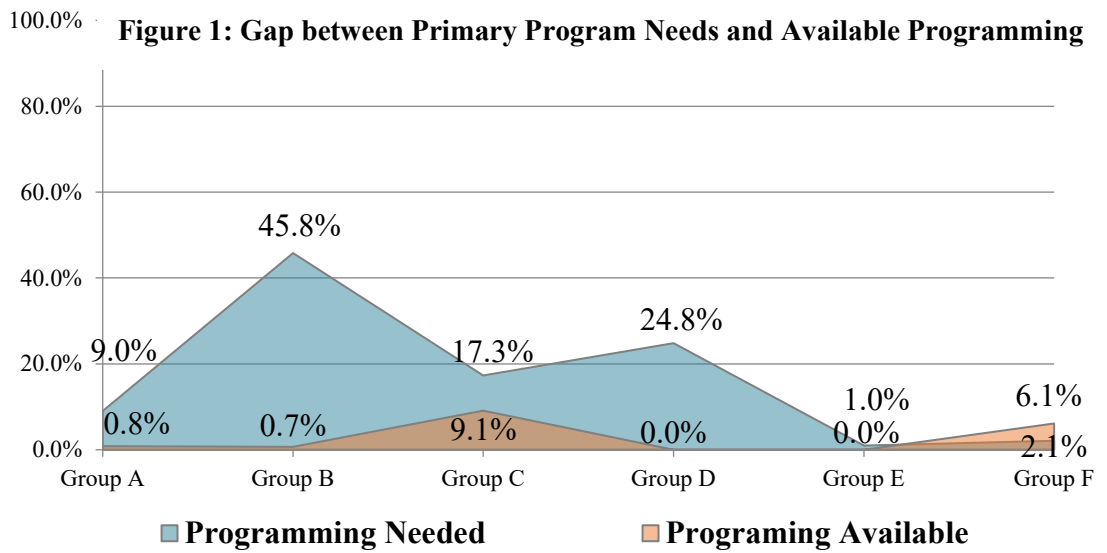
*Initial funding for these projects was provided to the Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!) through Bureau of Justice Assistance (2009-DG-BX-K026 and 2010-DG-BX-K077)*

CSCD more than doubled the amount of programming available to probationers between 2014 and 2018, greatly expanding their capacity to provide services to their probationers.

2014

10

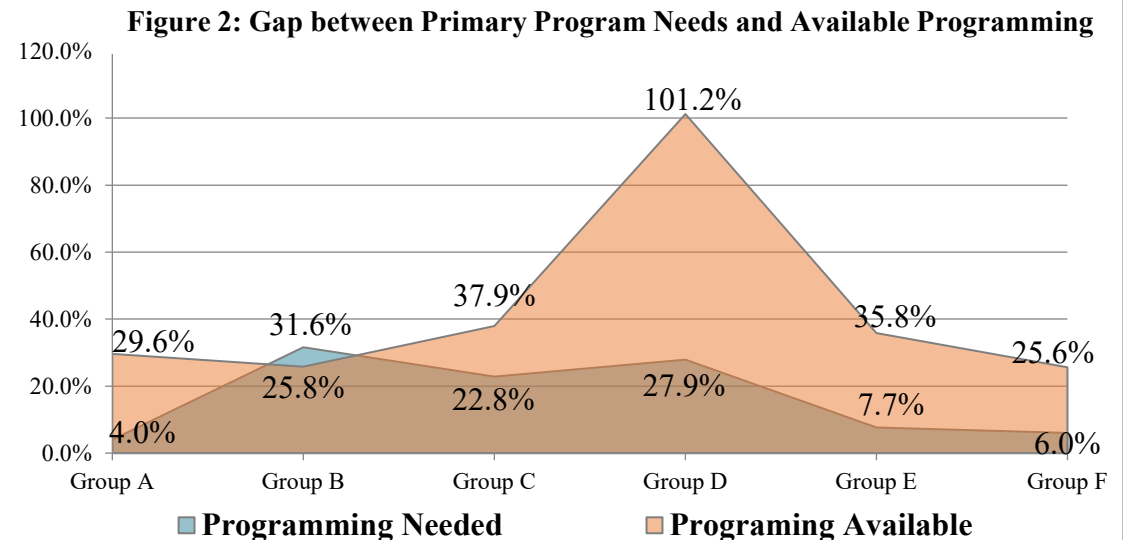
programs, with gaps in 5 out of the 6 categories



2018

23

programs, with gaps in 1 out of the 6 categories



**Primary Program Needs Explained**

The gap analyses show probationers’ primary needs only. Nearly all of these probationers have more needs not represented. **CSCD probationers have an average of 3-4 co-occurring needs** to be addressed during supervision. Over half have 3-5 needs to be addressed. For example, many of the individuals with a primary need in Group A or Group B also present with needs in the other categories (e.g., Group D; Social/ Interpersonal Skills) that officers need to address.

**Questions?**

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**Enhancing Direct Supervision to Address Complex Probationer Needs**

In the 2018 gap analyses results, direct supervision is a Group D program, accounting for the large increase in capacity. With direct supervision, CSCD has capacity slightly above their current population (101.2%). Without direct supervision, Group D capacity would be 0.6%. CSCD recognize that the majority of their probationers have multiple destabilizers and interpersonal needs, thus officers need to be able to address this on a large scale. The training that CSCD officers receive through SUSTAIN allows for quality supervision that rises to the level of direct service programming to address Group D needs.