

AB 1998 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

March 7, 2017

Technical Edits made on April 4, 2017

1. What is Assembly Bill (AB) 1998?

A. AB 1998 (Ch. 880, Statutes of 2016) is legislation that was enacted on September 30, 2016 and went into effect on January 1, 2017. This legislation makes important change to the planning and reporting requirements under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) programs. Most significantly, many of the requirements are now combined for the two programs.

2. What are the county responsibilities under AB 1998?

A. County responsibilities under AB 1998 remain much the same as they were previously but some things are simplified and much of the reporting will be consolidated. The most significant changes resulting from AB 1998 are:

- Beginning in 2018, annual plans due by May 1st for JJCPA and YOBG may be combined when submitted to the BSCC. These plans will describe all programs, placements, strategies, services, and system enhancements that will be supported with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the upcoming fiscal year. Counties are asked to provide their most up-to-date plans to the BSCC, and may use a template that the BSCC will provide for the separate or combined plans.
- Counties are no longer required to include a proposed budget in their annual plans.
- Annual plans no longer require Board of Supervisors approval.
- Annual plans will be posted to the BSCC website. The BSCC is no longer required to approve plans.
- Following a transition year in 2017, annual year-end reports for JJCPA and YOBG will be combined and will be due to the BSCC by October 1st of each year.
- Beginning October 1, 2017, annual year-end reports will describe programs, placements, services and system enhancements that were funded through either program during the preceding fiscal year, including identification of any programs that were co-funded by JJCPA and YOBG.
- In addition to expenditure information, annual year-end reports will include countywide figures for specified juvenile justice data elements available in existing statewide juvenile justice data systems. Reports will also include a summary or analysis of how grant funded programs have or may have contributed to or influenced the countywide data that is reported. These new reporting requirements will have counties report data on their entire juvenile justice population and provide information on how the use of JJCPA and YOBG funds has impacted the trends seen in that data.
- The current outcome reporting requirements for both JJCPA and YOBG will be replaced with the above described countywide data reporting.

3. What is the program called now that AB 1998 has been enacted?

A. The consolidated program will be referred to as the JJCPA-YOBG Program. Although the statutes keep JJCPA and YOBG largely separate, the BSCC is directed to “consolidate the form of submission” of the annual JJCPA and YOBG plans. Similarly, the BSCC is directed to specify an

annual year-end report format that “consolidates the report to be submitted pursuant to [JJCPA] with the annual report to be submitted to the board for the Youthful Offender Block Grant program.” Since most of the individual program elements remain intact, these programs will retain their individual names.

4. AB 1998 calls for a consolidated form of submission for the JJCPA and YOBG plans. Are counties required to submit one consolidated plan by May 1, 2017?

A. In this transition year, counties are asked to submit their current plans, updated to reflect any changes since they were developed and to prepare for the submission of a consolidated plan in 2018. However, counties may submit a consolidated plan in 2017 if they are able to do so. More specifically, for 2017, recognizing impacts to county capacity to undertake new planning activities and fully merge their JJCPA and YOBG plans, the BSCC is providing necessary flexibility as we move toward full implementation. For 2017, counties can comply with the new requirements by submitting (1) the latest version of their Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan which is required under JJCPA, (2) the latest version of their Juvenile Justice Development Plan which is required under YOBG, and/or (3) a combined plan template describing programs, services, etc. that is not included in the Plans referenced in #s 1 or 2 but that will now be supported with JJCPA and/or YOBG funding.

Counties that choose to satisfy the planning requirement for 2017 by submitting a previous plan should modify the plan to remove any program-related information that is no longer relevant. For example, if the most recent version of a county’s JJCPA plan indicates that Anger Management and Substance Abuse Prevention training will be provided but that is not going to be the case for the upcoming fiscal year (2017-18), then the information related to Anger Management and Substance Abuse Prevention training should be removed from the plan prior to submission.

5. If counties want to submit only one plan, is that allowed? If so, has the BSCC developed a template for that?

A. Although 2017 has been designated as a transition year, counties are encouraged to move forward with consolidation and submission of only one plan if they are in a position to do so. The BSCC is developing a template to help guide county development of a single, consolidated plan and that will be made available to all counties as soon as possible. Counties that want to begin working in that direction should keep in mind that AB 1998 combines the reporting requirements but does not fully combine the JJCPA and YOBG programs. The consolidated plan should include all of the components under each of the two programs. For JJCPA, refer to Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A) and for YOBG, refer to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a).

6. If counties submit the latest version of their Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (the JJCPA plan), the latest version of their Juvenile Justice Development Plan (the YOBG plan), and the combined template describing new activities to be funded by JJCPA and YOBG, will all three of these documents be posted on the BSCC website?

A. Yes, following the May 1st due date, and a reasonable review period the BSCC will post all plans that are submitted by counties. In some cases, that will include more than one document per county. The website will clearly identify individual or consolidated.

7. If our Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) has not been updated for many years, what should we submit? Similarly, if we are no longer doing any of the programs included in our most recent CMJJP or Juvenile Justice Development Plan (JJDP), what should we submit?

- A. *During 2017, a county that has not updated its CMJJP for many years may still submit its most recent version of the CMJJP; however, that CMJJP should be modified to remove program-related information that is no longer relevant. In this instance, the county could submit a combined plan template that describes all programs and services that will be funded through JJCPA in the upcoming fiscal year. Such a county would also submit the most recent version of its JJDP in order to have a complete plan submission.*

For counties that are no longer doing one or more of the programs or activities described in the most recent version of their CMJJP and/or JJDP, those plans can be modified to remove program-related information that is no longer relevant. Information on new programs or activities to be funded during the upcoming fiscal year, can either be added to the existing prior year plans or submit in a combined plan template.

Beginning in 2018, each county is encouraged to complete one, consolidated plan that contains a complete accounting of all JJCPA and YOBG activities planned for the upcoming fiscal year.

8. The combined plan template states that a plan needs to be submitted but does not specify what the plan must include. Part B on the template asks about new programs, strategies and system enhancements. Is this in addition to the plan or is it part of the plan?

- A. *In prior years, counties submitted annual Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plans for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act program, which are required to be reviewed annually and approved by each county's Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. Every participating county created a Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan in 2000 when JJCPA began. Since 2000, counties have been asked to submit an annual funding application that notes a county is either applying for continuation funding or substantive modification.*

Under the Youthful Offender Block Grant program, there are also annual plans to be submitted to the BSCC. In this case, they are called Juvenile Justice Development Plans and they have been submitted in their entirety each year since 2008.

Given the above, each participating county has previously completed both a Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan and a Juvenile Justice Development Plan. During 2017 only, counties can satisfy the bulk of the requirements of AB 1998, by simply sending in the most recent version of each of these Plans. To satisfy the remaining requirements of AB 1998, counties would just complete the template for anything that is not already included in one of the existing Plans.

For a county that is doing something different with its JJCPA funding than is reflected in its most recent Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan, Part I of the template can be used to describe only those new activities. For a county that is doing something different with its YOBG funding than is reflected in its most recent Juvenile Justice Development Plan, Part II of the template can be used to describe only those new activities. Counties that are planning to continue funding the same programs, services, etc. as are reflected in the most recent versions of its Plans, do not need to submit either Part I or Part II of the template. For those counties that are making changes, some may complete only Part I, some may complete only Part II, and others may complete both Part I and Part II.

In summary, for any given county a complete plan during the transition year could include either of the following:

- The most recent Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan + the most recent Juvenile Justice Development Plan; or,*
- The most recent Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan + the most recent Juvenile Justice Development Plan + a completed template (Part I and/or II).*

9. What if our county no longer has a copy of the full Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP)?

- A. *Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) requires that counties have a CMJJP developed by the local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. If you do not have a CMJJP, please review Government Code Sections 30061(b)(4)(A) & (B) which describe what is required to be included in these plans.*

Given that one consolidated JJCPA-YOBG plan will be submitted beginning in May 2018, any county that must develop a new CMJJP is encouraged to do so with an eye toward the consolidated plan that will be due next year. This suggestion is intended to help counties avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort next year.

10. Where can I find the form(s) to be completed for the JJCPA-YOBG Plan?

- A. *All forms can be found on the BSCC website by going to http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cppgrantfundedprograms.php and selecting “Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act-Youthful Offender Block Grant” from the list of programs and then scrolling down to the bulleted list and selecting the document linked to the bullet “JJCPA-YOBG Plan template.” The forms indicate where information is to be entered. On Parts I and II, the text boxes will expand to allow you to enter as much information as you need.*

To download the forms, open the document as described above and then select “Save As” to save a copy to your computer. Please use the naming convention “County name fiscal year JJCPA-YOBG.”

*Naming convention example: **Sacramento 2017-18 JJCPA-YOBG***

11. Who must develop and approve county JJCPA-YOBG Plans?

- A. *Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) specifies that each county’s Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) shall review and update the JJCPA component of the plan. The JJCC is the entity legally mandated to develop these JJCPA components. The YOBG component of the plan is not required to be developed by the JJCC.*

Beginning in 2018, the JJCPA-YOBG Plans will be fully consolidated; however, based on the unique attributes of each program, it will continue to be the case that JJCC involvement is only required on the JJCPA component of the plans.

Counties are not required to obtain Board of Supervisor approval on any part of the JJCPA-YOBG Plans. In addition, the BSCC no longer approves these plans.

12. When are the completed JJCPA-YOBG Plans, including the Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plans (CMJJP), and the Juvenile Justice Development Plans (JJDPs) due to the BSCC?

- A. *Plans are due to the BSCC by May 1st of each year. For example, the plans for fiscal year 2017-18 are due by May 1, 2017.*

Given that 2017 is a transition year, the plan requirements are different this year than they will be in future years. For 2017, a complete plan package could include either of the following:

- *The most recent Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan and the most recent Juvenile Justice Development Plan; or,*
- *The most recent Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan, the most recent Juvenile Justice Development Plan, and a completed template (Part I and/or II).*

13. What can JJCPA funds be used for?

- A. *JJCPA expenditures are to be based on a local juvenile justice action strategy that provides for a continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency and demonstrates a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. Therefore, JJCPA funds can be used for programs and approaches that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing delinquency and addressing juvenile crime for any elements of response to juvenile crime and delinquency, including prevention, intervention, suppression, and incapacitation. These specifications can be found in Government Code sections 30061(b)(4)(A) & (B).*

14. What can YOBG funds be used for?

- A. *The purpose of YOBG funding is to enhance the capacity of local communities to implement an effective continuum of response to juvenile crime and delinquency. As such, these funds can be used to enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, drug and alcohol, and other county departments to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services to youthful offenders who are no longer eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice and now must be supervised locally. These specifications can be found in Welfare & Institutions Code sections 1950 & 1951(b).*

15. Do JJCPA funds still need to be used on programs and practices that are supported by demonstrated effectiveness data?

- A. *Yes. Although the BSCC's role in reviewing and approving the demonstrated effectiveness data has been eliminated, counties are still responsible for ensuring that these funds are used to support "programs and approaches that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing delinquency and addressing juvenile crime..." This requirement can be found in Government Code section 30061(b)(4)(B)(i).*

16. When will counties know their allocation amounts?

- A. *County allocation amounts are determined as part of the annual state budget process. Each year, a new state budget is enacted on or about July 1st. Based on the enacted budget, the Department of Finance prepares an allocation schedule that specifies a county-by-county distribution percentage that will be applied to all available funding for JJCPA and YOBG.*

Typically, the allocation schedule is completed in August or September and is then sent to the State Controller's Office (SCO). Once SCO receives the allocation schedule, they begin their process to disburse funds directly to the counties, which generally begins in September.

The SCO website hosts a wealth of information regarding JJCPA and YOBG. For questions regarding the allocation schedule, payment amounts or release dates, program growth funds, and much more, counties are encouraged to visit the SCO website at:

http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_local_apportionments.html

17. Does a modification need to be submitted if a county wants to fund something that was not included in the JJCPA-YOBG Plan submitted to the BSCC?

- A. *No, modifications are not required for JJCPA or YOBG. When the year-end expenditure report is submitted in October that should be a complete and accurate reflection of what was actually implemented during the preceding fiscal year. Thus, the BSCC would effectively receive notification at the time such report is received. Similarly, a county should also include the new program or activity in the next year's plan to the extent that it will be continued into the following fiscal year.*

18. What should be included within the annual year-end reports for JJCPA & YOBG?

- A. *Annual year-end reports for JJCPA-YOBG will describe programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements that were funded through either program during the preceding fiscal year, including identification of any programs that are co-funded by JJCPA and YOBG. Reports will include line item budget detail for all program, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements that were funded.*

In addition, annual year-end reports will include countywide figures for specified juvenile justice data elements available in existing statewide juvenile justice data systems. Reports will also include a summary description or analysis of how grant funded programs have or may have contributed to the countywide data that is reported.

The BSCC will be developing a data and expense reporting format for counties to use. That format will be released to counties as soon as it is complete.

19. When are the annual year-end reports due back to the BSCC?

- A. *The completed year-end reports are due back to the BSCC by October 1st of every year. For example, the reports for fiscal year 2016-17 are due by October 1, 2017.*

The BSCC will be developing a data and expense reporting format for counties to use. That format will be released to counties as soon as it is complete.

20. What are the BSCC's responsibilities under AB 1998?

- A. *The BSCC receives all county plans submitted pursuant to AB 1998. The BSCC also receives all county year-end reports submitted pursuant to AB 1998. In the case of the year-end reports, the BSCC is directed to make all report information available on its website. For JJCPA, this web posting must occur within 45 days of report submittal.*

By March 1st of each year, the BSCC must prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature that includes details as to how the counties spent their JJCPA and YOBG funds. This report must also summarize countywide trend data and any other pertinent information submitted by counties indicating how the programs, strategies, or system enhancements have or may have contributed to, or influenced, the trends identified.

AB 1998 gives the BSCC authority to monitor YOBG-related forms, documents and information submitted by counties and provide technical assistance on YOBG implementation.

21. Where do I send all the forms once they are completed?

A. *All documentation for the JJCPA-YOBG Program should be sent to:*

JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov.

22. Where can I obtain more information about AB 1998?

A. *You can use the link below to access the full text of AB 1998.*

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1998

23. Who should I contact if I have questions?

A. *You may contact Field Representative Kimberly Bushard by phone at 916-324-0999 or by e-mail at kimberly.bushard@bscc.ca.gov.*