

YOUTHFUL OFFENDER BLOCK GRANT (YOBG)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (updated July 2014)

Q: What is the purpose of YOBG funding?

A: Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1951(b); allocations from the Youthful Offender Block Grant shall 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. Counties, in expending the YOBG allocation, shall provide all necessary services related to the custody and parole of those offenders subject to the YOBG legislation, i.e., those who can no longer be committed to the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice.

Q: What is the Funding Mechanism for YOBG?

A: As a result of Public Safety Realignment 2011, the funding mechanism for YOBG changed. Instead of four equal installments out of the General Fund, counties now receive a percentage of all revenue deposited into the Youthful Offender Block Grant Subaccount of the County Local Revenue Fund 2011. Following enactment of the State budget each year, those percentages are developed into an allocation schedule by the Department of Finance. YOBG funds are then disbursed, according to the allocation schedule, from the State Controller's Office on a monthly basis.

Q: When will I know the estimated allocation amount for next?

A: The Department of Finance does not prepare the allocation schedule until after the State budget is enacted each year. Once developed, the allocation schedule shows the percentage each county receive from the Youthful Offender Block Grant Subaccount of the County Local Revenue Fund 2011. It is important for counties to keep in mind that the annual YOBG funding application should not be based on the allocation amount but rather on the amount that you actually expect to spend during the next year. That amount could include funds carried over from prior years' allocations.

Q: Where can counties get information on allocation amounts paid out?

A: The YOBG allocation schedule and individual remittances are accessible on the California State Controller's Office (SCO)'s website at http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_payments_youth_.html.

Q: What reporting requirements do counties have under YOBG?

A: By May 1st of each year, each county must prepare, and submit to the BSCC for approval, a Juvenile Justice Development Plan (JJDP) on its proposed YOBG expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition, each county must, by October 1 of each year, submit an annual report to the BSCC on its utilization of the block grant funds in the preceding fiscal year and a report on performance outcomes for the preceding fiscal year.

Q: What is required to be reported in a Juvenile Justice Development Plan?

A: A description of the programs, placements, services, or strategies to be funded by the block grant allocation pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code 1961, including but not limited to, the programs, tools, and strategies outlined in Welfare & Institutions Code 1960.

Q: What are counties required to include in the Actual Expenditure reports due each October?

A: A description of the programs, placements, services, and strategies supported by block grant funds in the preceding fiscal year, and a line-item accounting of all the county's expenditures of block grant funds for the preceding fiscal year.

Q: What are YOBG Performance Outcomes?

A: Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(c), all California counties must report annually to the BSCC on performance outcomes related to YOBG. Each county reports on a random sample of youth who most likely would have been candidates for referral to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to enactment of YOBG – namely, felony adjudicated youth. Consequently, BSCC is responsible for collecting data for a minimum of 1,000 felony adjudicated youth statewide, with the number of youth sampled from each county based on each county's prorated share of the statewide YOBG fund allocation.

Q: What must counties do if they want to change the expenditure plan submitted prior to the start of each fiscal year?

A: Since State law give counties broad flexibility for spending YOBG funds, mid-year adjustments are not required. However, in completing the Actual Expenditure Report each October, counties are required to provide budget and narrative descriptions for how they actually spent their YOBG funds, including an explanation of any variance from the expenditure plan originally submitted.

Q: Can YOBG funds be used to serve youthful offenders over the age of 17?

A: According to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 607, juvenile court jurisdiction ends at age 21 for youth committed to county custody. Therefore, YOBG funds can be used to serve realigned youth up to age 21 as long as they are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.