



IMPERIAL COUNTY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL  
(JJCC)

**2024 / 2025**

**DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PLAN**

JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION ACT (JJCPA) /  
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER BLOCK GRANT (YOBG)





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## Introduction – Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was passed in 2000 and allowed California to take significant steps towards sweeping reform of juvenile justice practices across the state. In 2007, the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) restricted State level commitment to youth who committed the most serious offenses, commonly referred to as “707(b)” offenses after the Welfare and Institutions Code section.

As a result, non-707(b) offenders who might have been committed to a State facility in previous years are to be served at the local level using community resources and programs with the belief that remaining closer to their families and communities would support positive outcomes. The YOBG authorized State funding to counties to offset the cost of providing these resources and programs to youth, consistent with an annual plan submitted by counties to the State.

The JJCPA is a collaboration between the State, local agencies and stakeholders. Local officials and stakeholders determine where to direct resources through an interagency planning process. The State Controller’s Office distributes the appropriated JJCPA funds to counties based on population. Local agencies and community-based organizations deliver the services.

Through these reform efforts, local jurisdictions have been provided funding to support initiatives and strategies that target juvenile crime and delinquency, juvenile offenders and at-risk youth. Over the past decade, juvenile justice has continued to evolve and has experienced numerous improvements. The field has embraced evidence-based practices and focuses on the delivery of treatment and other services to improve youth and system outcomes. Accurate and timely data have become a priority and are required to ensure interventions and operations reflect evidence-based practices and are aligned with rehabilitative goals.

Imperial County has a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code 749.22. The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is an established, multiagency committee that develops and implements a continuum of county-based responses to juvenile crime.

# Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Members

*The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council includes the following members:*



**DAN PRINCE**  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER  
(CHAIR)



**FRED MIRAMONTES**  
SHERIFF



**GEORGE MARQUEZ**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**BEN SALORIO**  
PUBLIC DEFENDER



**PAULA LLANAS**  
DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES



**JIMMY DURAN**  
CITY OF BRAWLEY, CHIEF  
OF POLICE



**MICHAEL KELLEY**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,  
DISTRICT 3



IMPERIAL COUNTY  
**Behavioral Health Services**  
MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY  
*Hope, Wellness and Recovery*

**LETICIA PLANCARTE-GARCIA**  
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH SERVICES



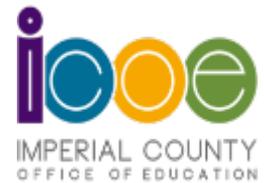
**CHERYL VIEGAS-WALKER**  
CITY OF EL CENTRO,  
MAYOR (RETIRED).



**PATRICIA URENA**  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
COMMISSION CHAIR.



**TODD FINNELL**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SCHOOLS



**MONALISA VITELA**  
SENIOR DIRECTOR,  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

## Overview

In an effort to encourage coordination and collaboration among the various local agencies serving at-risk youth and young offenders, the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) advises county Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCC) to update and refine the county's juvenile justice plan each year. This document will provide an overview of JJCPA and YOBG, goals and objectives for the coming year, and strategies that will be deployed.

### Assembly Bill (AB) 1998 Consolidation

AB 1998 combined reporting requirements for the JJCPA and the YOBG programs. As of January 1, 2018, counties may submit a consolidated annual plan describing the programs, placements, strategies, services, and system enhancements supported by either JJCPA or YOBG funding.

### Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

In order to implement evidence-based practices, the Imperial County Probation Department recognized this effort would encompass new and innovative practices. Through this funding, the Probation Department continues to collaborate with Rite Track Youth Services for young people at risk of being removed from their homes and sent to placement and for those individuals returning from placement and reintegrating into the community. An allocation of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funds helps to support probation supervision of juvenile probationers with the intent of reducing recidivism and ensuring that evidence-based probation supervision practices will improve public safety outcomes among juvenile probationers.

### Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

Through this funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections of California, the Imperial County Probation Department is able to provide necessary and effective services to youth by keeping juvenile offenders close to their families and communities and to enhance public safety. Additionally, contracts have been implemented with Behavioral Health Services to provide psychiatric assessments and counseling of minors in Juvenile Hall. This funding has allowed for the development of an evidence-based risk assessment program for all juveniles and supports diversion programs such as the Community Work Service (CWS) Program, the Police Athletic League/Sheriff's Athletic League, the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Juvenile Hall Garden of Dreams, the Imperial County Youth Summit, Keeping Youth on Track Education Safety (KYOTES), and Project ASPIRE.

## Imperial County – JJCPA/YOGB

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to utilize JJCPA/YOGB funding to invest in programs and services that target at-risk youth within our community. This continued investment has shown significant progress towards reducing juvenile involvement with the justice system, as juvenile arrests have had a continued decrease in comparison to previous years' reported figures.

Programs such as the Sheriff's Office and El Centro Police Department's recreational athletic leagues, the KYOTES motorbike program, and our Youth Summit are continuing to engage community youth in a manner that keeps them informed, active, and healthy, both physically and mentally. These programs reduce risk factors that could lead them to become directly involved with our juvenile justice system. The Department also continues to invest in justice involved youth through Rite Track's Evening Learning Center (ELC) and Mentoring & Tracking Programs, which work diligently to ensure that referred youth can find success in obtaining higher education, employment, and develop skills that they can use throughout their lives.

For youth within the Juvenile Hall, the Probation Department uses JJCPA/YOGB funds to ensure that they are engaged in a meaningful way through programs such as the Garden of Dreams and the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. Additionally, if a youth is committed to the Imperial County Juvenile Hall Secure Track program, the Department has developed a rehabilitative treatment program to service this population. These programs help youth develop skills and relationships that they can build upon as they transition from the Juvenile Hall back to the community.

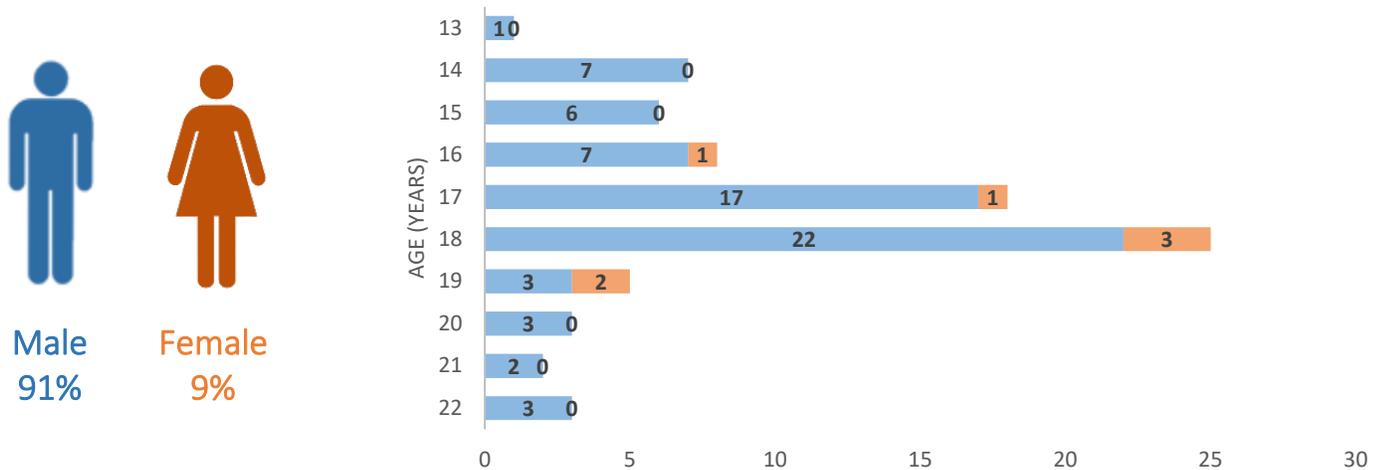
The Probation Department continued to be active and involved with our local community through its participation and support of events such as Career Fairs, the annual Children's Fair, and Shop with a Cop. In addition, the Department expanded Project ASPIRE to additional sites within the county and continued to keep youth ages 9-13 in our community engaged in positive prosocial activities. The Probation Department will continue to utilize these events and services to keep our community safe, informed, and engaged in supportive and impactful ways.

# Imperial County – Juvenile Supervision Population

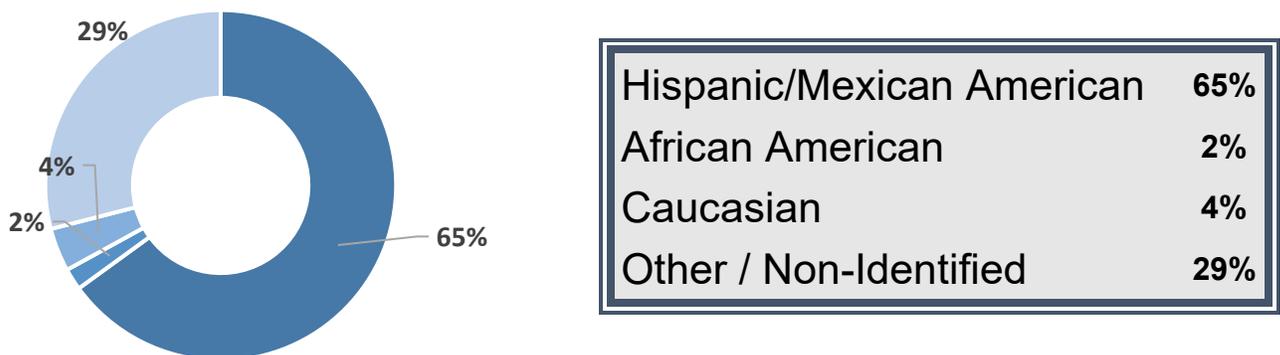
The Imperial County Probation Department’s Juvenile Supervision Unit provides a wide range of services to juvenile offenders that include Intake Services, Investigation Services, Community Supervision Services, and Placement Services. The Probation Department’s use of effective strategies and programs continues to have a positive impact on the juvenile supervision population. At the end of FY 2023-24, the Probation Department reported 105 Juveniles under supervision and as of April 15, 2024, the Probation Department is supervising 78 individuals, including eight Secure Track youth housed in the Juvenile Hall.

*Below are juvenile supervision population breakdowns as of April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024\*:*

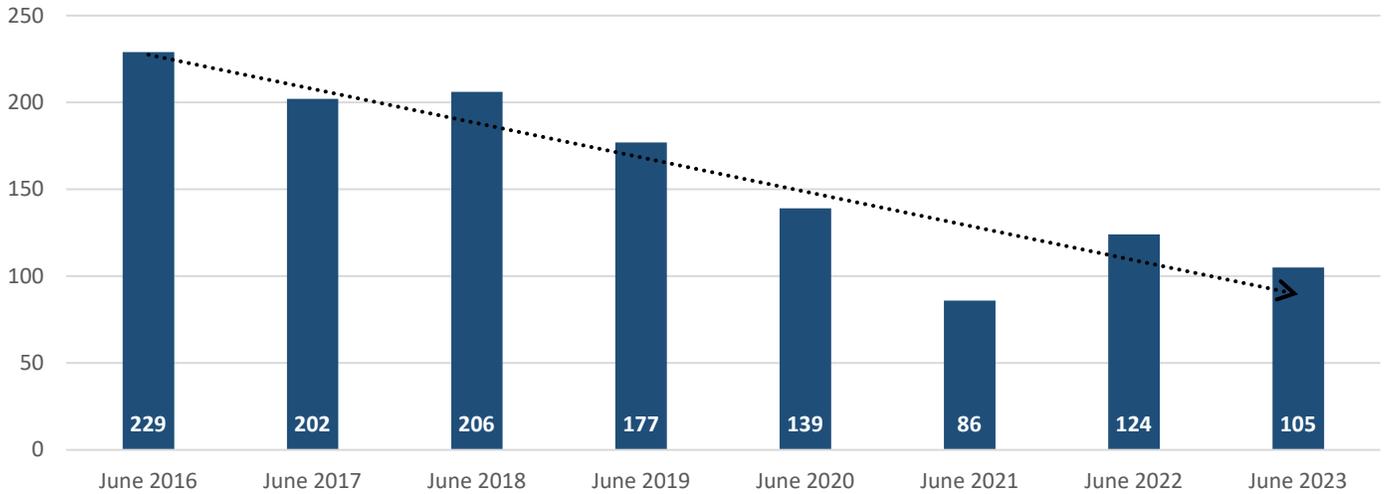
## Imperial County Probation Department – Age / Sex Breakdown of Current Juvenile Population:



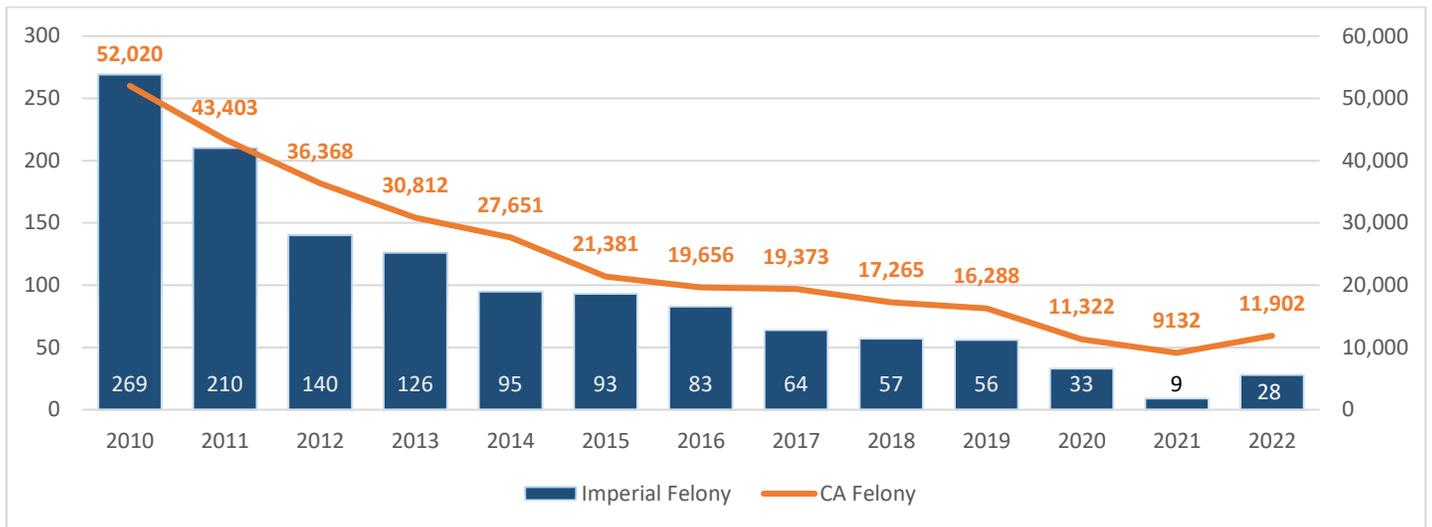
## Imperial County Probation Department – Race Breakdown of Current Juvenile Population:



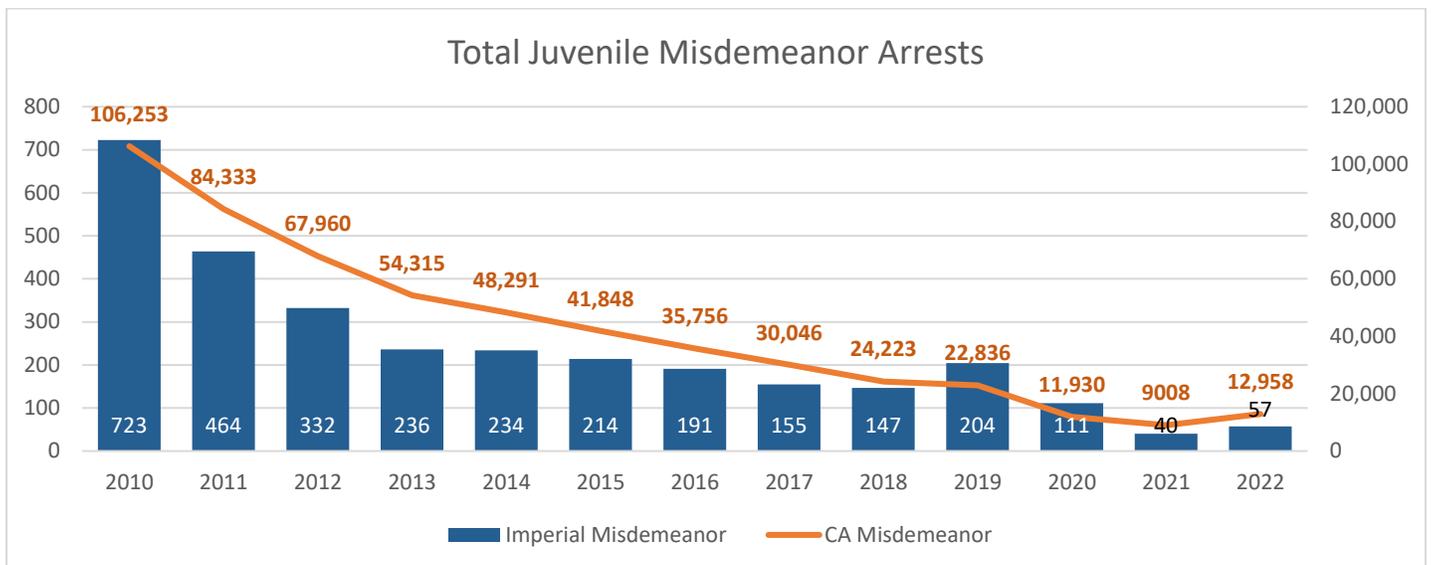
**Imperial County Probation Department – Juvenile Supervision Population 2016 - 2023**



**Juvenile Felony Arrests: California vs Imperial County (2010-2022)\***



**Juvenile Misdemeanor Arrests: California vs Imperial County (2010-2022)\***



## Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy – Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A)

### A. Assessment of Existing Services

#### Rite Track Youth Services

Rite Track Youth Services is a community-based organization that provides a wide array of effective services for teens that are supported by research and evidence-based practices. Rite Track's mission is to teach youth the skills they need to succeed and to guide them in a positive direction by providing a continuum of services that include the **Evening Learning Center (ELC)** and the **Mentoring and Tracking Program**, which have been in operation for over a decade since the programs first began operating in 2009.



The ELC is a joint effort between Rite Track Youth Services and the Imperial County Probation Department, as well as the Juvenile Court of Imperial County. Through a collaboration with Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers and Schools (ATCS) and the Imperial County Probation Department, Rite Track also operates the **Proud Parenting Program**. This program is designed to teach pro-social parenting skills and anger management skills to 50 at-risk teen parents using a validated parenting curriculum.

In 2023, in support of the Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan and implementation of Senate Bill 823-DJJ Realignment Implementation, Rite Track Youth Services expanded their services to include males and females ages 14 up to 25, who have been adjudicated as a ward of the court; where the court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable. This included youth committed to Imperial County Juvenile Hall (ICJH) for long-term correctional care and services. Under the new Secure Track program, eight youth will have access to Rite Track services while incarcerated at ICJH.

In 2023, Rite Track welcomed 73 new youth into their programming. Of these, 14 youth were enrolled into the Evening Learning Center (ELC), 26 youth enrolled into the Mentoring & Tracking Program (MT), 7 youth enrolled into the Secure Track Program (ST) and 26 young parents enrolled into the Proud Parenting Program. In addition to the new enrollments, Rite Track continued to provide

services to 74 youth carried over from the 2022 year. Overall Rite Track provided services to 147 youth in 2023.

### **The Juan Ulloa Evening Learning Center (ELC)**

The Juan Ulloa Evening Learning Center is a diversion and conflict resolution focused program designed to support youth between the ages of 11 to 18 who have or had contact with the juvenile justice system.

In 2023, 15 youth were referred to the Evening Learning Center by the Imperial County Probation Department, with 93% resulting in enrollment into the program. Throughout 2023, the Evening Learning Center provided services to 31 students with 17 of those students being carried over from the previous year. Additionally, in 2023, the Evening Learning Center had 19 total program exits, with 11 participants successfully completing the program, six neutrally exiting the program, and two youth exiting due to higher level of care needs.

#### **Program Models**

Built as a trauma focused and responsive approach, the ELC provides three program models to meet the diverse needs of the youth. Through the initial referral, youth are assessed and assigned to a program that the Rite Track Student Support Team (SST) believes the youth will benefit from with multiple factors such as age, risk-level, home setting, academics and acute behavioral issues taken into consideration to determine which program youth are placed in.

##### **❖ Six-Month Program**

The six-month program is Rite Track's most comprehensive program as it allows Rite Track staff and youth to work on their individual goals for an extended period. Youth enrolled into this model usually present high acute behavioral issues, have committed a serious offense or are repeat offenders.

##### **❖ Three-Month Program**

The three-month program is similar to the six-month program, with an exception for the length of stay and youth enrolled into this program are expected to meet the same requirements youth in the six-month program would complete. Youth can be offered this alternative program to help reduce age-mixing of youth that are approaching their 18th birthday or to provide an alternative for youth that have been unsuccessful in completing the six-month program model.

### ❖ **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Focused Program**

The CBT focused program is a three-month program that focuses on providing youth access to CBT groups offered Monday through Wednesday. Youth who are enrolled in this program are considered low risk youth that do not display high acute behavioral issues.

### **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Groups**

Rite Track operates utilizing best practices and evidence-based programming; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is the therapeutic milieu utilized by the Evening Learning Center and in 2023, Rite Track students completed 2,290 dosage hours of cognitive based interventions. Rite Track utilizes the following treatment groups:

- ❖ Thinking for a Change (English & Spanish)
- ❖ Aggression Replacement Training
- ❖ Seeking Safety
- ❖ CBT for Substance Abuse
- ❖ Positive Skill Development
- ❖ Life Skills

### **Community Service**

Rite Track Youth Services currently utilizes a “Restorative Solutions” model, which emphasizes repairing the harm students have caused by giving back to the community, with hours varying between 25 -100 hours, depending on the students’ disposition or school requirements. For 2023, ELC youth completed a total of 372 hours of community service by assisting with events such as the 2023 Youth Summit and the El Centro Children’s Fair.

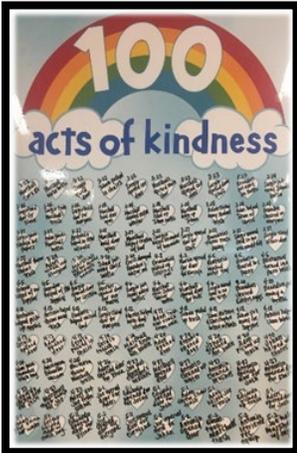
### **Learning through the Arts**



Through a robust mix of art styles and activities, Rite Track provides youth with the opportunity to explore their emotions, understand conflicts or feelings that are causing them distress, and use art to help find solutions to those issues.

The goal of art therapy is to improve and restore the youth’s functioning to gain a sense of personal wellbeing while providing them an additional and safe outlet for self-expression. In 2023, Rite Track encouraged youth to participate in art projects that focused on diversity, national holidays, and traditions through a quarterly art competition.

### 100 Acts of Kindness



To increase feelings of gratitude and contribute to a positive environment, the ELC launched its 100 Acts of Kindness challenge. Through this challenge youth are encouraged to contribute to their community and peers by lending a helping hand and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. Youth take turns being the Kindness Captain and will have the ability to select where they would like to celebrate their 100 acts of kindness. Through this simple act, youth feel empowered, in control of their own actions, help encourage others to be kind and contribute to a positive program culture. Some of the acts include helping a fellow peer with their homework, helping staff with clean up and passing dinner out or simply holding the door for someone, or showing genuine gratitude.

### Celebrations and Outings



Rite Track recognizes that celebrations and outings are an important means to motivate students and provide them with opportunities they may otherwise not experience. In 2023, youth participated in field trips to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert, The VIP Cinemas in Yuma, Arizona, and to local movie theatres and restaurants. In addition, Rite Track continues to acknowledge and recognize students as they excel through the program through Student of the

Month, Most Improved, and Perfect Attendance awards.

### Parenting Classes

In 2023, Rite Track continued to provide parents of teens with support through parenting workshops, which include six evidence-based sessions of the Active Parenting of Teens curriculum, where Rite Track parents and guardians strengthen and enhance their parenting skills and are given the opportunity to build spaces where they feel supported and validated by other parents who may be undergoing similar challenges. A total of thirty-six hours of sessions were rendered and nine parents received their certificates of completion in 2023.

### Juan Ulloa Scholarship

This year Rite Track awarded the first *Juan Ulloa Scholarship* to a student that had successfully completed the ELC program and began attending the local community college. Present, past, and future Rite Track students who apply for this scholarship can earn between \$500 to \$1000 towards their vocational, college or university tuition if they meet the minimum requirements and are chosen to receive the scholarship.



### Case Management Services

The ELC strives to provide strong support systems for students by tailoring services to meet their specific needs using the 30-day Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment. Service Coordinators can assess the youths' barriers or setbacks that may be currently affecting them and focus on obstacles that are important to the youth that require immediate attention. The youth work alongside the Rite Track team to develop an individualized service plan where the youth identify short- and long-term goals they wish to accomplish while enrolled in the ELC. Their goals are measured and monitored by their assigned case manager on a weekly basis and all accomplishments and progress made are rewarded through a rewards system that includes snacks and treats from local businesses, gift cards, and Rite Track clothing. In 2023, the ELC provided 248 incentives for youth reaching their short-term goals and 52 gift cards for youth reaching their long-term goals.

### Urinalysis Test (UAs)

To support the youth's sobriety, all ELC youth are required to submit a weekly urinalysis test which are administered by ELC staff who screens for abnormalities and chemicals such as Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), Methamphetamines (M-AMP), Benzodiazepines (BZO), Cocaine (COC), and Opiates (OPI). Results are reported to the youth's Probation Officer and when a youth tests positive, additional sanctions and/or referral for Substance Abuse Treatment is made to a community partner. In 2023, ELC staff administered 448 drug screens, with 268 testing positive for THC, 4 for Cocaine, 3 for BZOs, and 2 for M-AMP.

## Rite Track – Mentoring and Tracking Program



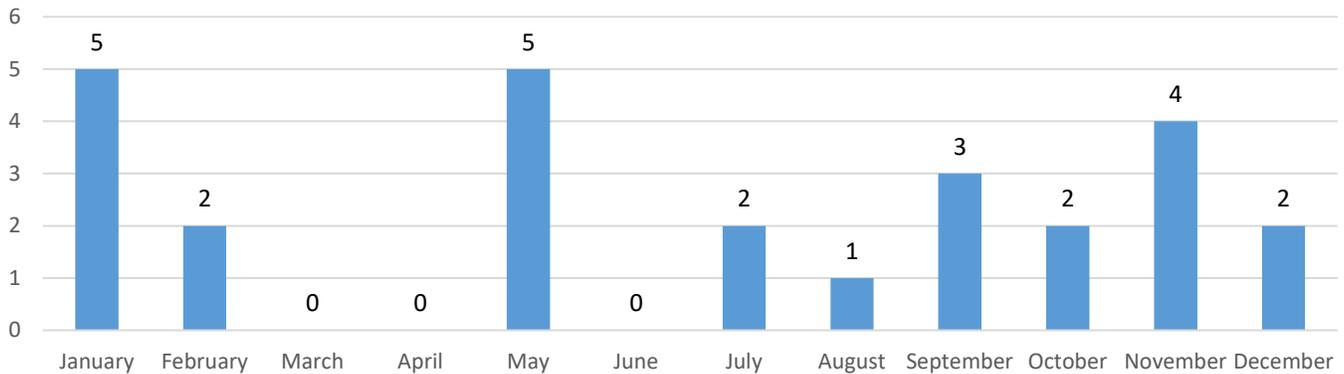
Rite Track’s Mentoring and Tracking (MT) Program is a diversion and mentoring focused program designed to support youth between the ages of 11 to 21 who have or had contact with the juvenile justice system or are presenting negative behaviors that could lead to justice involvement. Through MT services, youth have access to individualized risk assessments, case management services, individualized service plans, pro-social activities, life skills workshops, academic support and advocacy, court support and advocacy,

and access to community service and individual therapy sessions with an on-site clinician. In 2023, the MT program welcomed 26 new students and along with the 31 students from the previous year, provided services to a total of 57 students throughout the year. Additionally, the Mentoring and Tracking program had 19 successful exits, 6 neutral exits, and 5 exited due to need of higher care.

Mentors interact with youth through various methods and youth may meet with their mentor at their homes, school sites, public settings and within the Rite Track office. MT Services include crisis interventions, job readiness, educational assistance, court support, service tracking, phone “check-ins,” in-person contacts and family reunification services. In addition to mentoring services, youth have access to supportive services which include obtaining their California ID, driving permit, drivers’ licenses, assistance with academic enrollment, post-secondary education exploration, FAFSA support, pro-social outings, and life skills workshops.

Over the course of 2023, Mentoring and Tracking made over 2,764 telephone calls, 1,256 field/home visits, contacted Probation Officers 321 times, attended over 16 academic meetings, attended 55 court hearings, provided 16 family interventions, and administered 124 urine analysis.

### M&T Enrollments 2023



### Supportive Services

To help promote positive youth outcomes, the MT program provides opportunities, fosters positive relationships and gives youth the additional support that is needed to help prevent “risk-like” behaviors. Through supportive services, MT youth have access to immediate support such as work permits, transportation services, assistance with school supplies, clothing, vocational clothing, post-secondary education support, copies of birth certificates and assistance in obtaining their driver's license. In 2023, the MT program provided over 652 supportive services.

### Mentee and Mentor Activities



A main driver for the MT program’s success is due to the development of strong and supportive relationships built between the mentor and mentee. Mentors are equipped with trauma informed and response tools to provide constructive feedback and provide youth with advocacy and the skills necessary to thrive. In addition, mentors develop opportunities for youth to connect with other youth through program outings and activities.

In 2023, the MT program organized a robust mix of workshops and outings, which included field trips to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Springs, Boomers in Vista California and participating in the Youth Summit where they had the opportunity to meet celebrity Joseph Lucero.

### Celebrating Culture Diversity

Giving youth the ability to celebrate their diverse cultural backgrounds gives them the space to use their social-emotional learning skills and develop skills to empower themselves and have a better

understanding of equity and inclusion. This year MT youth participated in several art projects in celebration of Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Dia De Los Muertos.

### Gender Specific Activities

During the Summer, MT hosted a “Safe Dates” workshop where female youth had the opportunity to learn about dating safety and how to end cycles of violence. In addition, youth participated in workshops focused on empowerment, managing their emotions and self-care.

### Holidays & Celebrations

Celebrating students and keeping up with traditions is a core value of Mentoring and Tracking. In 2023, MT celebrated youths’ birthdays with gift cards and personalized cakes. During holidays like Easter, Valentines, Thanksgiving and Christmas, students receive holiday grams and gifts. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, several families were provided a full meal basket to inspire Positive Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACES). Additionally, Rite Track hosted a Recognition Ceremony in honor of youth who successfully completed the program and met significant milestones.

## **Rite Track – Proud Parenting Program**



In collaboration with Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers and Schools (ROPATCS), Rite Track continues to serve young parents between 14 to 24 years of age through Proud Parenting (PP). The Proud Parenting program operates out of the Rite Track facility and is designed to increase participants’ parenting success, while decreasing the risk of further or future involvement with the Juvenile Justice and/or Child Protective Services systems. In addition to helping young parents enhance

their parenting skills, PP offers a workforce component where parents can enhance their workforce skills and increase their opportunities for employment.

In 2023, Proud Parenting welcomed 26 young parents between the ages 14-24 who were interested in enhancing their parenting skills. To increase cohort participation and make sessions more attainable to young parents, 16 sessions were offered via zoom. The facility was also available for in-person sessions whereas students were offered transportation support to and from the facility.

During this year, 24 participants exited the program with 18 exiting the program successfully as they completed their individual service plans, and six participants exiting the program neutrally due to no longer being interested in services and/or personal challenges.

## Evidence Based Services

To support young parents and enhance their parenting, anger reduction and workforce skills, Proud Parenting operates utilizing the following best practices and evidence-based programming.

### Making Parenting A Pleasure

This is an evidence-based program designed to assist highly stressed parents and greatly reduce the risk of neglect and child abuse in young and expectant parents of children ages 0-8 years old. Twelve discussion-based sessions educate participants regarding multiple facets of parenting and empower participants to discuss barriers, values, and objectives central to their parenting.

### Anger Replacement Training (ART)

ART is a research-based approach to improve social skill competence, moral reasoning, better manage anger and reduce aggressive behavior. The curriculum includes skill-streaming, which is designed to teach a broad curriculum of prosocial behavior, anger control training, and moral reasoning training, to help motivate youth to employ newly learned pro-social skills.

### Active Parenting: First Five Years



This program addresses basic skills for new parents and caregivers as well as early childhood training. The flexible program design allows for delivery of 1, 3, or 4 sessions. Sessions focus on parenting skills, nonviolent discipline, childhood mental development, the power of encouragement, engagement, and preparation for school.

In 2023, Proud Parenting conducted over 249 sessions of Making Parenting A Pleasure, whereas 22 young parents received their certificates of completion. Based on the results gathered through the parents pre- and post-test, 100% of parents demonstrated to have increased their overall knowledge by 36.8% in subjects related to direct parenting skills.

### Workforce Services

Parents have access to the **RISEUP** training and credentialing program and through this service, parents learn the fundamentals of the customer services and sales industry. This curriculum is industry recognized and was developed in collaboration with more than twenty retailers including Walmart, Macy's, The Home Depot, Burlington Stores, and Nordstrom with accreditation administered by the

National Retail Federation. Parents who successfully pass the training receive certification and linkage to employment.

In addition to the accreditation support, young parents will be able to receive assistance with job applications, job linkage, resume and cover letter building, interview preparation and transportation support to and from interviews and job searching. The goal of these services is to help promote healthy families by stabilizing parents' financial statuses and end system support. In 2023, PP provided twenty-five hours of work readiness to include job searching and resume building.

### **Program Activities**

Through an array of supportive services and activities, PP provides a place where children and parents can increase their child-parent bonds. This year, PP held workshops and site activities that included a Mother's Day brunch, Father's Day luncheon, self-care workshops, Fall Festival, Thanksgiving luncheon and the Christmas Adopt- a -Family event.

### **Parent Support Groups**



This year, PP noticed a great need for additional support systems with many parents reported to have experienced mental health issues related to depression, anxiety, and feelings of loneliness. As additional support, PP formed parent support groups where parents had the opportunity to share their experiences with other parents and develop

friendships. Through these groups, parents expressed they improved their mental health, learned to lean on one another for support and improved their social skills.

### **Supportive Services**

Proud Parenting looks for unique ways to provide participants with additional supportive services to help mitigate some of the obstacles that youth may face. In 2023, PP provided over 178 supportive services. Some of the additional supportive services provided included diapers, formula, clothing, shoes, supplies for school, interview clothing, car seats, attaining childcare services and transportation to the DMV and doctor appointments.

## Secure Track Youth Program



In support of the Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment plan and implementation of Senate Bill 823 DJJ Realignment Implementation, Rite Track established a Secure Track (ST) program aimed to serve males and females between 14 and 25 years old, who have been committed to Imperial County Juvenile Hall (ICJH) for longer-

term correctional care and services. Secure Track's services align with youths individualized case plans that include intervention programming, family-centered diversion services, cognitive behavioral therapy, mentoring services, workforce training, linkage to employment and transitioning services.

The Secure Track's program services operate utilizing best practices and evidence-based trauma informed practices. Through support, structure and supervision of youth, Rite Track worked with the Probation Department and partnering agencies to help reduce risk behaviors, prepare the youth for reunification with family members, transitioning back to their community and prepare for the workforce.

### Case Management and Mentoring Services

Utilizing the Rite Track case management model, youth enrolled in Secure Track have access to unique mentoring services and community resources/knowledge. Secure Track youth are linked with a RT mentor who provides them with individual case management services and provides court support, participates in Multi-Disciplinary Student Team (MDST), Child and Family Team (CFTs) meetings and prepares the youth for their release from ICJH.

This 2023 year, ST welcomed seven youth who received services while in custody at ICJH. Two youth were released during this program year and went on to receive post-release follow up services.

### Workforce Services

To assist ST youth in establishing financial stability through employment, Secure Track youth will have access to the RISEUP program, a customer service and sales curriculum, as they prepare for their release from ICJH. RISEUP is designed to help youth take their first steps toward promising careers and advancement in the retail industry regardless of their educational backgrounds or economic means. RISEUP provides youth with a three year accreditation that covers retail basic knowledge to advanced selling skills and helps job seekers get the skills they need to secure jobs in retail.

In 2023, two ST youth earned the opportunity to leave ICJH and job search within their community and one youth received their RISEUP 4-year certification in Customers Service and Sales. Through this hands-on approach youth were provided the proper work force attire and taken to multiple job sites to apply for employment.

### Group Based Workshops

Through group-based learning experiences, Secure Track youth build self-confidence and strong relationships among their fellow peers and mentor. Some of the group-based activities offered to ST youth this year included holiday art projects, art collage projects, and tie dye activities. In addition to the activities, ST youth and RT staff made sure to celebrate important milestones such as ST youth birthdays and traditional holiday meals.

### Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Through CBT treatment groups, offered at ICJH twice a week, Secure Track youth gain valuable skills to help improve their quality of life and have access to over 90 sessions of CBT through the following curriculums:

- ❖ Anger Replacement Training (ART)
- ❖ Seeking Safety
- ❖ Thinking for a Change (T4C)
- ❖ Safe Dates

In 2023, 170 hours of CBT were rendered to ST youth while detained at the Imperial County Juvenile Hall where four youth received their certificate of completion for successfully completing ART and T4C.



### Transitioning/Post-Release Services

Youth who are released from ICJH receive up to six-months of post release follow up. During these follow ups, ST youth received bi-weekly home visits and weekly phone calls from their mentor. In 2023, two youth successfully enrolled into community college. Both youths received assistance with their FAFSA applications and support from their mentor when meeting with their academic counselors.

### Supportive Services

To help promote positive youth outcomes and encourage ST youth to participate in program activities, the ST program provides behavior modification incentives and supportive services. Through supportive services, ST youth have access to immediate support such as but not limited to; transportation services, assistance with school supplies, clothing, vocational clothing, post-secondary education support, copies of birth certificates and assistance in obtaining their driver's license. In 2023, a total of ninety-

nine (99) supportive services were rendered to ST youth within the ICJH setting. The top three supportive services provided included 40% behavior modification incentives, 25% meals and 21% additional job- related support.

### **Rite Track – Moving into 2024**



Moving into 2024, Rite Track has been engaged by the Probation Department to implement the Ending Girls Incarceration (ELLAS) Program. This is part of a larger partnership between the department, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration and Vera Institute.

In addition, Rite Track will continue to search for new opportunities to improve the quality of care of the youth being served and hope to expand services to serve youth as an Enhanced Care Management (ECM) through the CalAIM initiative.

### **Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS)**



Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) continues to partner with the Probation Department to provide behavioral health services to meet the needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Both agencies recognize the importance of addressing the mental health and substance use challenges that many young individuals face while navigating the justice system.

Through a variety of services and supports offered by the Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Services unit and the Adolescent Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program, these young individuals receive comprehensive services and support which aim to improve their overall well-being and outcomes.

### **Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Services**

The Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Services division is designed to meet the needs of Imperial County youth and young adults between the ages of 12 and 25 years old. All services provided through YAYA services are integrated, individualized, and developed to promote individual and family centered recovery, resiliency, and wellness. YAYA services consist of Anxiety and Depression clinics, Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs, the Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHLPP), Juvenile Hall Services, and the Holistic Outreach Prevention

and Engagement (HOPE) Project. The YAYA outpatient clinics and programs provide a wide array of services that include the following:

- ❖ Assessment
- ❖ Individual / Group Counseling
- ❖ Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Medication Support
- ❖ Mental Health Services / Individual
- ❖ Therapy / Family Therapy
- ❖ Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- ❖ Targeted Case Management
- ❖ Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)
- ❖ Rehabilitation
- ❖ Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS)

Services at the YAYA programs focus on the implementation of evidence-based practices by therapists and mental health rehabilitation technicians. These practices have been proven effective in targeting specific mental health disorders and promoting recovery. The models used in YAYA services include:

- ❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ Cognitive Processing Therapy
- ❖ Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ Parent Research Achieve & Excel through Empowerment Strategies (PRAXES)
- ❖ Motivational Interviewing
- ❖ Dialectical Behavior Therapy
- ❖ Interpersonal Psychotherapy

#### **YAYA – Anxiety and Depression Clinics**

The Anxiety and Depression clinics serves individuals 14 to 25 years old who are exhibiting signs of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder and who may also have a co-occurring substance use disorder. The focus of treatment is therapy and when needed, medication support and/or mental health rehabilitation technician services.

#### **Full Service Partnership Program**

This program serves individuals 12 to 25 years old who are exhibiting symptoms of a psychotic disorder, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, major depression with suicidal thoughts/actions and/or oppositional defiant disorder. Services include a full range of integrated community services and supports, which include direct delivery and use of available community resources. The services provided include individual case management, rehabilitative services, “wrap-like” services, crisis response, alternative to juvenile hall, home and community re-entry from juvenile hall, youth and parent mentoring, supported employment or education, transportation, housing assistance, benefit acquisition, and respite care.

In addition to traditional mental health services, individuals are provided with supportive services or linkage to agencies in order to meet their individual needs. Based on the individual's needs, linkage to the following services is provided:

- ❖ Education
- ❖ Employment & Vocational Training
- ❖ Financial Aid Services
- ❖ Socialization Activities
- ❖ Housing & Independent Living Assistance
- ❖ Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- ❖ Physical Health Services
- ❖ Fitness Program
- ❖ Peer Support
- ❖ Family Education Support Groups

### Young Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHLP)

The Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHLP) provides a combination of mental health and educational services to adolescents enrolled in high school whose emotional/behavioral disturbances prevent them from learning and functioning in a regular classroom setting. The program is designed to provide group interventions to youth who have symptoms of anger, distress, depression and/or anxiety and with severe impairment in their life functioning. Youth in the AHLP program may also require medication treatment and frequent monitoring to address their behavioral health symptoms and assist with their desired recovery. The goals of the AHLP program consist of the following:

- ❖ Treat and stabilize acute, brief emotional and behavioral disorders, which may otherwise require inpatient care.
- ❖ Alleviate serious behavioral excesses or deficits which interfere with personal, family, and social functioning.
- ❖ Provide a structure and supportive environment that serves as transition between the school and outpatient services.
- ❖ Provide comprehensive, multi-disciplinary assessment as a basis for creating psychosocial and behavioral treatment plans.
- ❖ Treat and stabilize acute, brief emotional and behavioral disorders, which may otherwise require inpatient care.

### **Behavioral Health Services in Juvenile Hall**

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) provides specialty mental health services to high-risk youth who are detained at the Juvenile Hall facility and that meet medical necessity. All incarcerated youth are screened for potential mental health issues by Juvenile Hall staff at the point of admission

using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2). If a need for mental health services is identified, Juvenile Hall staff completes a referral to Imperial County Behavioral Health Services.

All youth referred to Imperial County Behavioral Health Services receive a comprehensive initial assessment by a clinician who makes treatment recommendations. Referrals to ICBHS can also be initiated by juvenile hall staff, Probation Officers, or nursing staff at any time during a youth's stay at Juvenile Hall if mental health needs are identified after the youth's admission or if a youth requests services. During 2023, ICBHS Juvenile Hall Services received 120 referrals and provided the following services:

- ❖ Mental Health Services
- ❖ Individual Therapy
- ❖ Targeted Case Management
- ❖ Medication Support

Part-time psychiatrists provide psychiatric services, medication, and support services to youth at Juvenile Hall. Services include psychiatric evaluations and medication management. ICBHS therapists are also on-call after hours, on weekends and holidays to conduct crisis interventions for those youth who present risk of harm to self or others.

The role of the on-call therapist is to conduct a risk assessment and provide interventions geared towards reducing the potential to harm. The therapist works closely with Juvenile Hall staff to determine the appropriate supervision level for the youth and coordinate further mental health treatment when necessary.

### Holistic Outreach Prevention and Engagement (HOPE) Project

The Holistic Outreach Prevention & Engagement (HOPE) Program provides a holistic approach to outreach activities and treatment services. Two key elements of the HOPE Program are the integration of peer support specialists and the inclusion of wellness activities. Individuals ages 13-25 are referred to the HOPE Program after experiencing a psychiatric emergency.

The HOPE staff provide outreach and engagement, mental health services, and linkage to wellness activities. The wellness activities are tailored to the participants' needs and interests, resulting in better quality of care and thereby motivating participants to access services and remain in treatment.

### **Adolescent Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program**

The Adolescent SUD Treatment Program provides professional services to youth ages 12 to 21 who are diagnosed with a wide range of SUD conditions or who present a risk of developing a SUD. Adolescent SUD Treatment Program provides a full continuum of care modeled by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

All youth referred to the SUD treatment program receive an assessment utilizing the ASAM criteria to determine the appropriate level of care. Based on individual needs and ongoing assessment, youth in care can transition to higher or lower levels of care throughout the course of treatment. Outpatient and intensive outpatient services are provided at the outpatient SUD clinics located in the cities of El Centro and Calexico, at 10 local high schools, and at juvenile hall for youth who are detained. Residential treatment services are provided at the out-of-county contracted facility.

The SUD Adolescent Treatment programs focus on utilizing the following evidence-based practices:

- ❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ MATRIX Model
- ❖ Seeking Safety
- ❖ Cognitive Processing Therapy
- ❖ Moral Reconciliation Therapy
- ❖ Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ Motivational Interviewing
- ❖ Contingency Management

### **Outpatient Services and Intensive Outpatient Services:**

Consists of a maximum of 6 hours per week for outpatient services and maximum 19 hours per week of any of the following treatment components:

- ❖ Assessment
- ❖ Care Coordination
- ❖ Individual and Group Counseling
- ❖ Family Therapy
- ❖ Medication Services
- ❖ Patient Education
- ❖ Recovery Services
- ❖ Treatment and Discharge Planning
- ❖ Crisis Intervention Services

### **Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT):**

This includes prescribing, administering, dispensing, ordering, monitoring, and/or managing all FDA approved medications used for MAT to treat opioid, alcohol and other substance use disorders. MAT may be provided in clinical or non-clinical settings and can be delivered as a standalone service or as a service delivered as part of a level of care.

### **Residential Treatment Services:**

Residential Treatment Services is a 24/7 non-medical, short-term residential program that provides rehabilitation services to youths with a SUD diagnosis. These services are provided by a contracted out-of-county provider. Residential treatment Services are delivered to youths when medically necessary in a short-term residential program corresponding to at least one of the following levels:

- ❖ ASAM Level 3.1 – Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Services
- ❖ ASAM Levels 3.5 – Clinically Managed High Intensity Residential Services

### Alcohol and Drug Prevention Services

SUD Adolescent Treatment programs provide prevention and outreach services to youth, families and community members all across Imperial County. The goal of the Alcohol and Drug Prevention program is to provide education and resources for the prevention of substance use in the adolescent population. Outreach activities focus on identifying individuals in need of substance use treatment and linking them to services. Priority is placed on at-risk environments and priority populations that include youth in the foster care and juvenile justice system, Native American communities, LGBTQ2+ population, youth living with co-occurring mental health and SUD, youth experiencing truancy and other behavioral health issues. The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Services include the following components:

- ❖ Information Dissemination: This strategy is geared toward bringing awareness and knowledge of the nature and extent of alcohol, and drug use, abuse and the effects on individuals, families, and communities. It also provides knowledge and awareness of available prevention programs and services. ICBHS will continue to actively participate in community events throughout Imperial County where resources can be disseminated to assist individuals, families, and the community in accessing services.
- ❖ Education: Activities under this strategy aim to affect critical life and social skills, including decision-making, refusal skills, critical analysis, and systematic judgment abilities. Education strategy is provided in school settings utilizing the evidence-based model that addresses the areas of need identified in the development of the Strategic Prevention Plan. ICBHS will continue to utilize, Too Good for Drugs mode, which has been well accepted throughout Imperial County school districts.
- ❖ Community Based Services: This strategy aims to enhance the ability of the community to effectively provide prevention services for alcohol and drug use. Activities in this strategy include organizing, planning, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of services implementation, inter-agency collaboration, coalition building and networking. ICBHS hosts quarterly coalition meetings where members of the community attend. Additionally, school meetings are held to collaborate and establish partnerships as well as interagency collaboration to assess community needs.

### SUD Services - Juvenile Hall

The Adolescent SUD Treatment program provides services that include individual and group counseling to youth detained at the juvenile hall facility. Services are provided by a SUD counselor or therapist who conducts a thorough screening and assessment to determine the youth's treatment needs. Services at juvenile hall include counseling, care coordination, and prevention services.

Furthermore, MAT and medication services are provided by psychiatrists specializing in addiction medicine for youth with opioid use disorder and other SUDs. Upon the youths' release from juvenile hall, they are linked to the outpatient SUD Treatment programs, in which they will be assessed to determine the appropriate level of care for ongoing treatment.

## Imperial County Department of Social Services (DSS)

The Department of Social Services (DSS) continues to work collaboratively with the Probation Department in providing services to youth in foster care through the Independent Living Program, Transitional Housing, Wraparound Services, and the Assembly Bill 12 (AB12) Program.

The Department of Social Services also coordinates with the Probation Department for the funds it receives for financial reimbursements of programs and services that benefit delinquent youth.



## Wraparound Program



Wraparound was implemented in 1997 pursuant to Senate Bill (SB 163). This legislation allowed California counties to pilot the Wraparound process using non-federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care dollars to provide children and families with family-based service alternatives to group home care. As

a result of SB 163, the Department of Social Services in partnership with the Probation Department, Behavioral Health, and the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) met for the purpose of planning and implementing a Wraparound Program. In 2011, the Imperial County Wraparound Plan was approved by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and the California Department of Social Services and Imperial County began serving dependents and wards.

The program is intended to allow children to live and grow up in a safe, stable, permanent family environment. For children and families in the foster care system, the Wraparound works to:

- ❖ Enhance strengths by creating a strength-based intervention plan with a child and family team;
- ❖ Promote youth and parent involvement with family voice, choice, and preference;
- ❖ Use community-based services;
- ❖ Create independence and stability;
- ❖ Provide services that fit a child and family's identified needs, culture, and preferences;
- ❖ Create one plan to coordinate responses in all life domains; and
- ❖ Focus on achieving positive goals.

Wraparound is a strengths-based planning process that occurs in a team setting to engage with children, youth, and their families. Wraparound allows the Probation Department to provide a variety of services to eligible children at risk of being removed from their home and placed in congregate care. Wraparound is also a team-driven process with a focus on building individual and family strengths to help families achieve positive goals and improve well-being. A Child and Family Team (CFT) is formed and works directly with the youth's family to help identify their needs and strengths. The Team develops an individualized service plan that describes specific strategies for meeting the needs identified by the family and reflects the child and family's culture and preferences.

Prior to a youth entering the Wraparound Program, their case is brought before the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) and Interagency Placement Committee (IPC). During this meeting, the MDST/IPC members discuss the youth's needs and services, which would best benefit the youth and their family. The MDST/IPC must vote to approve a youth into the Wraparound program and once approved, the youth's case is transferred to a WRAP officer. While in WRAP, the youth and their family participate in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. CFT meetings are generally scheduled on a quarterly basis; however, they may also occur as often as needed. The Wraparound Officer maintains continual communication with the client and their family to stabilize the youth's living environment. Wraparound officers work closely with the family to ensure their participation in rehabilitative programs, to ensure that the youth remain in compliance with their terms and conditions of probation, and to provide additional supports to strengthen the family. In addition, Wraparound officers have the unique ability to utilize foster care maintenance payment to assist the youth and their family with additional services and/or needs.

Wraparound currently provides intensive community-based services to 14 youth and their families. The utilization of Wraparound services has been an effective tool in preserving families through the following services:

- ❖ Multi-Disciplinary Services Team (MDST) Meetings
- ❖ Child Family Team Meetings (CFT)
- ❖ Individualized/Family Case Management
- ❖ Provides intensive, individualized treatment planning to youth and their families
- ❖ Family Centered / Family Voice and Choice / Needs Driven
- ❖ Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Transportation to and from services, school, appointments
- ❖ Provide recreational opportunities
- ❖ Strengths-Based Level of Care
- ❖ 24/7 Availability of Probation Officer
- ❖ Rent / Utility assistance
- ❖ Intensive supervision and family contact
- ❖ Collaborative Team approach
- ❖ Case Planning
- ❖ Mentoring
- ❖ Grocery / Clothes / Furniture Assistance

- ❖ Assist with Employment linkage and resume building
- ❖ Attendance at Individualized Educational Plan meeting
- ❖ Act as liaison between families and other agencies
- ❖ Attendance at Student Study Team meetings

## Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE)

Imperial County Office of Education maintains three academies and one Court School, Del Rio Academy, Valley Academy, Calexico Academy, and Esther Huff that specifically target at-risk youth who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Esther Huff School is located at Juvenile Hall and provides educational services to detained offenders and tailors courses specific to the needs of each student. A Probation Officer works in collaboration with the three academy schools and is present at the schools throughout the week to assist with in reducing school truancy and delinquency. Probation Officers provide intensive supervision to youth on their caseload whose lack of attendance may lead to a School Attendance Review Board Hearing.



The schools provide pre and post assessments that are completed upon enrollment and discharge to measure academic progress, maintain, and develop individual education plans as necessary. ICOE also maintains a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), which provides services for truants and high-risk students.

## Approach to Facilitate Collaboration

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to facilitate collaboration between Imperial County agencies by providing referrals to programs and services to ensure at-risk youth are being given the opportunity to receive rehabilitative services. In addition, Probation Officers remain in constant contact with the programs and services staff, the participating clients, and the client's families to track clients' progress and make modifications to the clients' rehabilitation plan as necessary. Probation Officers also provide transportation for clients to participate in programs if needed. Additionally, the Imperial County Probation Department continues to utilize the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) meetings, Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) meetings, and Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings when necessary to ensure all involved agencies meet at the same time to work in collaboration to assist the youth in meeting his/her rehabilitative goals.

## B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council remains committed to promoting public safety and improving the quality of life for the youth and families that encounter the Juvenile Justice System.

*The JJCC has three upcoming projects that focus on these goals:*

### **Project A.S.P.I.R.E (After School Programming Integrating Recreation and Education)**



The Probation Department, in partnership with County Parks and Recreation developed an after-school and Saturday programming for youth in outlying areas of Imperial County. The Imperial County Probation Department utilizes Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds to provide youth within underserved areas of our community with opportunities for structured, supervised, and pro-social activities after school and on the weekends.

In February 2022, Project ASPIRE opened its first program site in the City of Westmorland, CA, which, to date, services 12 youth between the ages of 9 and 13. Since its launch Project ASPIRE has launched two additional sites located in the City of Heber and Niland. Like the Westmorland site, Project ASPIRE's Heber site and Niland site services youth between the ages of 9 and 13, with a current enrollment of 12. Project ASPIRE operates three times per week, at their respective sites, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Youth participants have been recruited through city events and community outreach.

Project ASPIRE has worked in collaboration with community agencies to provide presentations to youth regarding the dangers of drugs and alcohol, identifying and reporting bullying and cyberbullying, building healthy habits and self-wellness. In addition, all three sites receive an hour of cultural enrichment programming every week from the Imperial Valley Desert Museum's "History on the Go!"

Program where youth learned about our desert region, vegetation and indigenous populations while engaging in hands-on activities related to the lesson.

Most recently, Project ASPIRE has partnered with California State Parks to provide ongoing programming to youth at all three program sites. Not only will youth learn about geology, ecology, history, safety, plants, and wildlife, these lessons will enable youth to meet the necessary requirements to become a Junior Ranger.

Additionally, youth at Project ASPIRE's Westmorland site continue to work alongside a master gardener to plant and maintain a garden and, in Winter 2023, with the assistance of the master gardener, youth in Niland began their garden giving youth at both sites an opportunity to learn horticulture skills and discuss healthy-eating habits.

As in years past, youth from all program sites are offered the opportunity to participate in overnight summer camp through a partnership with the YMCA of San Diego. During the summer, Project ASPIRE youth and staff attend a week-long camping experience filled with adventure, fun, and friendships with activities that include horsemanship, archery, swimming, climbing, crafts, canoeing, among other activities which allow the youth to experience laughter, leadership, and build lifelong memories. Youth also participated in field trips to Universal Studios, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, Palm Springs Ariel Tramway and various Imperial County community fairs, parades and events.

Project ASPIRE Youth Service Specialists continue to work with youth housed at the Imperial County Juvenile Hall and the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home five days per week for approximately three hours per day. The staff provide services similar to those offered at their afterschool sites and strive to serve these youth in a supportive role while providing educational and recreational activities, arts and crafts, and cultural enrichment activities.

Creating additional prevention-related programs under Probation's umbrella is a critical aspect in reinforcing the JJCC's role in delivering children's services countywide. Identifying new partners and enhancing existing relationships in both the public and private sector to promote evidence-based approaches and facilitate positive youth development is a key component of this project.

**SB 823 – Project Phoenix**

On September 30, 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 823 to eventually eliminate California's state operated network of juvenile justice facilities. The last remaining facilities were closed in June of 2023, realigning these services to the counties.

SB 823 also established a Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program to fund county-based custody, care, and supervision of youth who would have otherwise been eligible for commitment to state facilities.

Pursuant to the legislation, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has appointed a SB 823 Subcommittee that identified critical elements for Imperial County's SB 823 Plan.

Currently, the Imperial County Juvenile Hall houses eight youth who have been committed to the Secure Track Program named Project Phoenix. Youth participate in programming provided by the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, the Juvenile Hall's Garden of Dreams program, Imperial Valley Public Arts mural project, and Positive Engagement Team (PET) program. The Probation Department continues to research additional workforce development programming that can be implemented for youth approaching their re-entry phase. In addition, these individuals are currently being provided with the following services:

- ❖ High school courses through Esther Huff School, as well as higher education courses through Imperial Valley College
- ❖ Building Healthy Relationships and Self-Empowerment classes provided by the SDSU Prison Education Project
- ❖ Mental health and substance use disorder services through Imperial County Behavioral Health.
- ❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy provided by Imperial County Probation Officers
- ❖ Anger Replacement Therapy (ART) and Parenting classes through Rite Track Youth Services
- ❖ Life coaching services that support youth in meeting their education, career pathway, and life goals through the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP)
- ❖ Mentorship, Re-entry Services and Post Release Services through Rite Track Youth services
- ❖ Tutoring and Mentorship services delivered by a State of California-credentialed teacher.
- ❖ Work Experience through Imperial County Sheriff's Office Print Shop
- ❖ Work Experience through Imperial County Sheriff's Office Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team (OHVEST)

## Juvenile Hall – Capital Improvement Projects

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to monitor areas of the Juvenile Hall where improvements to the facility can be implemented so that youth housed in custody will have space for additional recreational activities. Juvenile detention centers can be a challenging environment for youth, and spending time outdoors can help alleviate stress and anxiety they may be experiencing. Additionally, outdoor activities can provide an opportunity for physical exercise, which can be crucial for their health and development. These improvements will be essential in promoting the physical and mental well-being of young people housed in the facility. The most recent project involved the juvenile hall's basketball court, which was repaved, repainted, and new basketball hoops were installed. In conjunction with this project, sod was laid close to the basketball court to provide a softer, more inviting space.

## C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

The Imperial County Probation Department implements a several different strategies in response to juvenile crime and delinquency as a means to decrease crime within our community and model graduated responses for at-risk juvenile offenders.

Youth referred for first-time minor offenses who meet the program's criteria may participate in the Community Work Service (CWS) Program. These youth are screened by a Probation Officer and recommended for inclusion and youth accepted into the program must complete community work service hours in lieu of fines or as an alternative to the filing of a petition with the juvenile court. Additionally, at the completion of their Community Work Service Program commitment, youth are required to submit an essay that details the experiences gained through the program. The Probation Department identifies the work sites and provides direct supervision to the offenders participating in the program. The Community Work Service Program is utilized to offer young people an opportunity to perform public service projects, which benefit communities, neighborhoods, charitable organizations, local schools, and other agencies throughout the Imperial Valley.

Another strategy offered by Imperial County Probation Department is Project S.T.A.R, which funds a Probation Officer assigned to the three different alternative schools maintained by the Imperial County Office of Education. The Probation Officer, along with school personnel, identifies students who are chronic truants and makes referrals to the S.T.A.R Program. The Probation Officer participates in the initial screening of each case and makes appropriate referrals for drug counseling, anger management or behavioral health services. In addition, the Probation Officer attends school related meetings, such

as Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Student Support Team (SST), and School Attendance Review Board (SARB), on behalf of the Probation Department. Since the return of in person classes, the Probation Officer has returned to the associated schools and has been providing in-person services.

For juveniles that have been placed on probation, there are evidence-based strategies Probation Officers utilize, including Motivational Interviewing (MI), a person-centered strategy used to elicit patient motivation to change a specific negative behavior. This technique engages the youth and elicits change-talk, which evokes motivation to make positive changes. An additional evidence-based strategy Probation Officers utilize is an assessment tool to determine the youth's criminogenic needs and risk to re-offend. Probation Officers interview the youth and their family and input information into the assessment tool, which will provide the Probation Officer with risk factors and protective factors. The Probation Officer, in collaboration with the youth and their family, will develop a case plan to best map the youth's rehabilitation process. The case plan is then updated every six months, or sooner, should the minor's goals and needs change.

Additionally, juveniles already placed on probation may be referred to Rite Track's Evening Learning Center or Mentoring and Tracking Program based on the assessed level of needs of the client. The Probation Department assigns a Probation Officer to assist youth referred to the Evening Learning Center and to ensure that the Probation Department and Rite Track staff work collaboratively to properly service the needs of all youth within the program. The youth referred to the program have varying criminogenic risk factors and, through the Noble Risk Assessment and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment, Rite Track is able to determine the specific needs of each youth, which results in an individualized case plan. Additionally, the Evening Learning Center provides the following Cognitive-Based Groups: Aggression Replacement Therapy, Thinking for a Change, Cultural Enrichment, Healthy Relationships, Seeking Safety, and Social Awareness. The Mentoring and Tracking Program attempts to reduce the risk of re-entry into the juvenile justice system by partnering the participants of the program with mentors who work closely with the youth and their families during their time in the program. Rite Track also offers monthly "Mentoring Mixers," where participants gather once a month and work on their social skills through a series of self-development workshops and peer-to-peer counseling.

Another prevention approach for probation youth is utilizing Electronic Monitoring to combat juvenile crime and delinquency. Electronic Monitoring is used as a means of intervention to mitigate recidivism and violations of probation. The minor is supervised in the community with electronic monitoring to ensure he or she fulfills the requirements of release from detention including curfew and, in certain

circumstances, staying away from a victim's places of residence. The minor may also be subjected to inclusion and exclusion zones.

Imperial County is also utilizing Project ASPIRE to engage children, ages 9 – 13, in underserved areas of our community with supervised, pro-social activities, educational services, cultural services, recreational activities and field trips. Project ASPIRE aims to provide participants with knowledge, experiences and skills to aid in the success of their future endeavors.

High-risk youth, including those in need of Wraparound Services or those at risk of being placed in out of county residential treatment facilities, are referred to the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) and Interagency Placement Committee (IPC). The meetings with the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team and Interagency Placement Committee are intended to ensure that the circumstances impacting the child and family, especially those related to the potential strengths and needs, are fully identified and considered in formulating recommendations related to the youth's case. The Multi-Disciplinary Service Team and Interagency Placement Committee meetings consist of representatives from the Imperial County Probation Department, Imperial County Department of Social Services, Imperial County Behavioral Health Services, Imperial County Office of Education, and Rite Track Youth Services. Additionally, the children, parents, and other community organizations, such as CASA and the Regional Center, participate in these meetings on an as-needed basis. The Multi-Disciplinary Service Team and Interagency Placement Committee Meetings are held weekly, or as needed, to review high-risk cases and determine the best rehabilitative and/or placement option for the client; agencies are able to begin the referral process for a client once meetings are completed.

Juvenile offenders may also be placed in the Wraparound Program, a program that was created collaboratively by the Imperial County Probation Department, Imperial County Behavioral Health and Imperial County Department of Social Services. Wraparound has been proven to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement and lower the rate of recidivism by bringing individuals, agencies and the community together as the decision-making team with the central focus being to meet the needs of the child and family. Wraparound Officers provide intensive, individualized treatment planning and supervision to youth and their families. Further, Wraparound officers coordinate all initial and follow-up Child and Family Team meetings for their clients, which serve as a critical point of communication for all individuals and agencies involved in the youth's life.

If youth on probation do not follow their probation terms and conditions and pose a danger to themselves and/or the community, they may be detained at Juvenile Hall. The youth's Probation Officer

will meet with them while in custody to review and update their case plan, discuss the reason they are in custody, and make additional referrals to services to ensure the length of time in custody is minimized. Should a client on probation exhaust all services and are unable to maintain themselves within their home and community in a safe manner, the Probation Department will recommend that the client continue with rehabilitative services in an out-of-home placement.

Additionally, if a youth commits a 707(b) offense and the Court determines a less restrictive disposition is unsuitable, that youth will be committed to Imperial County Juvenile Hall Secure Track. With the implementation of SB 823, the Imperial County Probation Department has developed a rehabilitative treatment program to serve this population at Imperial County Juvenile Hall.

## D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has made updates and revisions to its Delinquency Prevention Plan for 2024/2025 consisting of:

### ❖ **Updates to statistics for Imperial County Probation Department Juvenile Supervision:**

- Current Population Statistics
- Population Trend Statistics
- Felony / Misdemeanor Arrest Statistics
- Probation Referrals Statistics
- Referral Disposition Statistics

### ❖ **Updates to existing services:**

- Rite Track Youth Services for SB 823 Youth
- Imperial County Behavioral Health Services for Juveniles & SB 823 Youth
- Wraparound Program
- Police & Sheriff Athletic Leagues
- Youth Summit 2024
- Imperial Valley Desert Museum Projects
- Community Work Service Program
- Boys and Girls Club Imperial Valley

### ❖ **Updating focus areas and goals for the Juvenile Justice Commission**

### ❖ **Revisions and updates to the Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

### ❖ **Updates regarding JJCPA and YOBG budgets for the upcoming fiscal year**

The Probation Department and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council will continue to explore and develop new programs and services that can better service the youth of Imperial County. The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council remains committed to providing annual updates to the Board of State and Community Corrections for California to demonstrate the successes and accomplishments of its funded programming and practices throughout the Imperial County.

## Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) – Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)

### A. Information Sharing and Data Collection

The Imperial County Probation Department utilizes information systems to facilitate data sharing across agencies within the county to promote successful juvenile justice programs and strategies. The Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) and Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) Meetings allow county agencies to work together to share information and data on cases to ensure that all circumstances impacting the youth and family, especially those related to the potential strengths and needs, are fully identified and considered in formulating recommendations related to the youth's case.

Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CMS/CWS) is software utilized by the Probation Department, the Department of Social Services, and Public Health to input information for youth in foster care placement. The information inputted into the CWS/CMS database consists of the child's referral history, demographics, as well as past and current placement history to ensure that all agencies have access to vital information to make better-informed decisions. Information within the CWS/CMS database is submitted to the State of California, and it is utilized to determine the amount of funding provided to agencies that service foster youth within the Imperial County.

Rite Track also provides in-depth activity reports regarding their clients to Probation Officers, so that they can determine how youths are progressing through the program. The Probation Department also works in collaboration with all school districts in Imperial County to obtain grades, disciplinary records, and attendance information for minors who are on probation.

Through the utilization of these records, the Probation Department can ensure the client's educational needs are being met. In addition, with appropriate releases of information, Imperial County Behavioral Health can share information related to a client's diagnosis, treatment plans, and medication support, which is essential for the Probation Department to ensure the client's mental health needs are being properly treated and addressed.

### B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

The Imperial County has a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code 749.22. The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is an established, multiagency committee that funds a continuum of county-based responses to juvenile

crime. The Coordinating Council includes the Imperial County Chief Probation Officer, as Chair of the Council, the Imperial County District Attorney, the Imperial County Public Defender, the Imperial County Sheriff, a member of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, the Director of Imperial County Department of Social Services, the Director of Imperial County Behavioral Health Services, the City of Brawley Police Department Chief, the Senior Director of the Imperial County Office of Education, and a City of El Centro Council Member. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council also includes representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations that provide services to youth in the community.

## C. Funded Programs, Strategies, and/or System Enhancements

### **Evening Learning Center (ELC) & Mentoring and Tracking Programs**

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to contract with Rite Track LLC for operation of the Evening Learning Center (ELC) After School Program as well as the Mentoring and Tracking Program, which operate during the high crime periods. Rite Track continues to participate in monthly interagency meetings consisting of Imperial County Schools, the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP), the Imperial County Probation Department, and Rite Track staff. Through these monthly interagency meetings, Rite Track staff can assess students' progress, performance, and current setbacks in order to develop and deploy individualized service plans tailored to the student's needs.

The Evening Learning Center also continues to provide recreational activities to students, which helps them develop self-esteem, personal awareness, and learn to better manage their behaviors and feelings while at the same time reducing their levels of stress. The Evening Learning Center has expanded upon recreational activities by offering an additional day at a local gym, where students can continue to work on improving their physical health and endurance.

### **Evening Learning Center / Mentoring and Tracking Probation Officer**

The Imperial County Probation Department through JJCPA continues to fund a Probation Officer who is assigned to the Evening Learning Center to decrease truancy, arrest rates, and admittances to Juvenile Hall for participants of the program, as well as to ensure that participants successfully complete their terms and conditions of probation. The Probation Officer assigned to the Evening Learning Center supports and reinforces program staff in their efforts to guide and instruct youth in pro-social after school activities.

## Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) – Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a)

### A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

The Imperial County Probation Department's overall strategy for working with non-707(b) offenders is to provide the necessary amount of intervention to each client through evidence-based practices. At-risk youth, who are not under juvenile court jurisdiction participate in the Community Work Service (CWS) Program where they are given the opportunity to avoid formal court proceedings and perform public service projects.

During the initial stages of the youth being adjudicated and placed on probation, Probation Officers will utilize Motivational Interviewing when they meet with an at-risk youth as well as throughout the youth's term of probation. Motivational Interviewing will assist the officers when conducting assessments to determine the client's criminogenic needs. Once the youth's risk level is assessed and/or reassessed through the evidence-based assessment, an appropriate supervision level for the youth will be assigned based on the youth's risk level. This risk level will assist the Probation Officer in determining the appropriate amount of supervision and type of services that should be offered to the youth. After the youth's risk level is assessed, the Probation Officer, youth, and guardians jointly develop a case plan to best determine the client's needs and to set goals during their term of probation.

During the youth's term of probation, the Probation Officer works collaboratively with the youth, their family, and service providers to assist the youth in reaching their case plan goals. Should the youth violate their terms and conditions of probation, Probation Officers utilize graduated interventions to attempt to assist the youth with compliance. Graduated interventions may include counseling, additional referrals to service providers, intensified supervision, electronic monitoring, transitioning the youth to Wraparound and court reviews.

Probation officers may also recommend at-risk youth to continue rehabilitative services in out of home placement through an MDST/IPC process and court hearing should the above-mentioned strategies be unsuccessful. Youth can either terminate their probation while in out of home placement or prior to their probation expiration by successfully completing rehabilitative goals as indicated in their case plans and court orders. Additionally, if a youth returns from placement and remains on probation, the youth will participate in Rite Track's three-month aftercare program at the Evening Learning Center. Through the three-month aftercare program, and in collaboration with the Probation Department, the Evening

Learning Center is can provide returning youth an additional 30 dosage hours of evidence-based practices, substance abuse support, employment linkage and preparation, educational/vocational support and individual and family-based therapy.

Additionally, at-risk and youth on probation may participate in the annual Youth Summit hosted by the Probation Department. This event's intended outcomes are to develop problem-solving skills among youth and parents, build awareness of community resources, and educate participants on the importance of education, life skills, and healthy lifestyles. As the Youth Summit has developed, it has been expanded to include youth on probation, foster care youth in both the delinquency and dependency arena, as well as non-probation youth. The department's most recent Youth Summit, held in May 2023, hosted Joseph Lucero from the hit television program "The Mayans" who shared an important message of perseverance. The Youth Summit for 2024 will be held in April and will feature motivational speaker Raul Ramos.

## B. Regional Agreements

Currently, Imperial County does not have any regional agreements or arrangements that are supported through YOBG funds.

## C. Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies, and/or System Enhancements

### **Imperial County Probation Department Staffing Enhancements**

#### **Five (5) Deputy Probation Officers – Moderate to High Caseload**

The Imperial County Probation Department utilizes four Probation Officers who are assigned to high-risk caseloads of no more than 30 minors per officer, funded through the Youthful Offender Block Grant. These Probation Officers are able to identify and target criminogenic needs for the assessed youth and translate those risk factors into treatment objectives through an evidence-based risk assessment tool. In addition, these officers utilize evidenced-based tools and practices that lead to relevant interventions and supervision practices in order to reduce recidivism. Case plans are developed with each minor to ensure they have clear objectives and goals.

#### **Six (6) Youth Service Specialists – Project ASPIRE**

In addition, with the implementation of Project ASPIRE, the Probation Department has established new positions in the Department to provide services to youth participants of the program. The Youth Service

Specialists will plan, organize and supervise after-school activities for pre-teens in underserved communities throughout the county.

### **One (1) Probation Assistant**

The Probation Assistant will provide support to staff assigned to the Juvenile Division within the Imperial County Probation Department, which will allow Deputy Probation Officers more time to focus on providing supervision and supportive services to youth on probation.

### **One (1) Supervisory Probation Officer**

The Supervisory Probation Officer will supervise and manage department staff assigned to Project Aspire and ensure that the program is focused on providing at-risk children in underserved areas of the county opportunities to gain confidence and engage in pro-social activities. The Supervisory Probation Officer will also collaborate with the Imperial County Department of Parks and Recreation and the County Library to maintain and expand program activities.

### **Community Work Service (CWS) Program**

The Community Work Service Program is offered to select juvenile offenders that meet program criteria to complete community work service hours in lieu of fines as an alternative to the filing of a petition with the juvenile court. The Probation Department organizes the work sites and manages the offenders subject to community work service ordered by the court. The Community Work Service Program offers offenders an opportunity to perform public service projects that benefit local communities, neighborhoods, charitable organizations, schools and other agencies throughout the Imperial Valley.

The Community Work Service Program is designed to give youth an opportunity to fulfill the court's mandates as well as reinforce a restorative approach to juvenile justice. This program serves as a consequence to the behavior leading to the arrest and to avoid conviction and juvenile record, as well as to build focus around positive and meaningful service to the community. Youth involved with this program have performed graffiti abatement, event staffing and clean up, museum curation, and other meaningful activities.

The Probation Department has received many acknowledgments from other agencies, cities and non-profits for the work performed by the Community Work Service crew. Community Work Service barriers include weather extremes within the county; however, the program has been able to find alternative indoor locations that will accommodate the extreme weather conditions thus allowing the program to continue to operate twelve months a year.

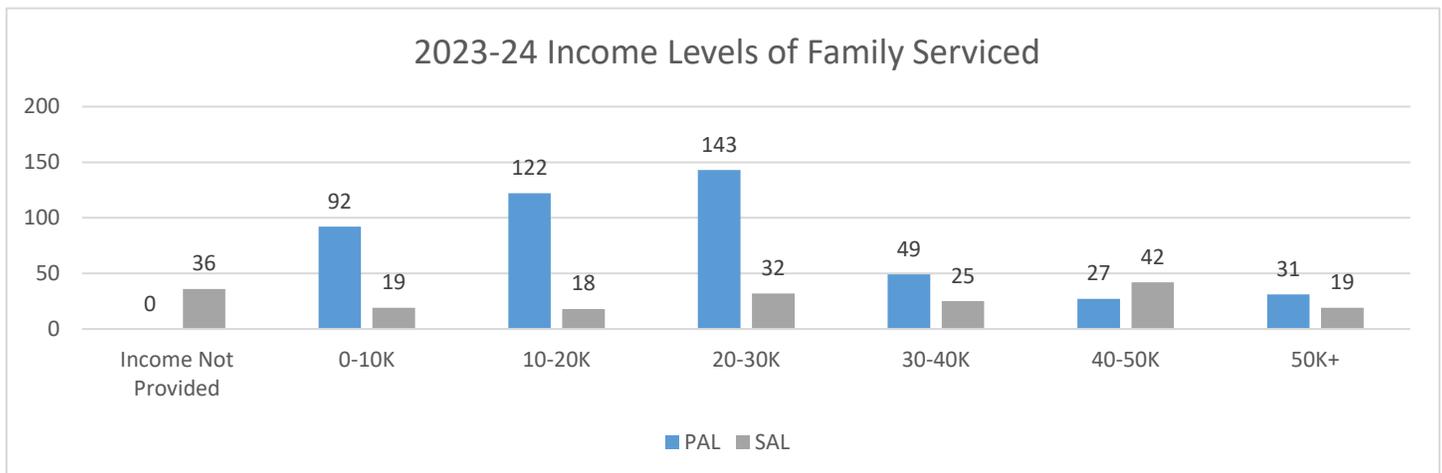
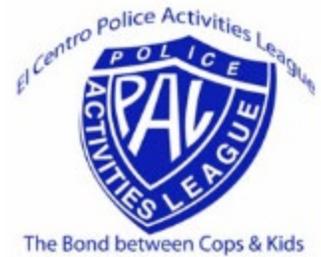
**Police Athletic & Sheriff Activities Leagues (PAL/SAL)**



The PAL and SAL Programs provide at-risk youth in the community an opportunity for positive, participatory sport experiences with law enforcement officers who serve as both coaches and role models. These programs strive to increase physical activity among youth and decrease their risk-taking behaviors by providing opportunities for youth to play on well-equipped, organized sports leagues.

The El Centro Police Activities League (PAL) fosters positive police and community relationships with youth in the City of El Centro and across Imperial County and strives to lead in the engagement of Imperial County youth, police officers, and the community. In addition to providing sports and recreation programs, PAL hosts tournaments and encourages external independent teams to register and participate.

The Sheriff’s Activities League (SAL) provides quality activities for the youth in Imperial County, with the goal of reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. The program’s activities are designed to pair law enforcement officers with young people to develop discipline, mutual trust, and respect. Outdoor activities provide youth with important life skills and experiences such as, relationship building, leading, following, providing support, planning and accepting responsibility for their own actions. These activities and skills increase the likelihood of successful reintegration into the community and reduce recidivism. The Imperial County Sheriff Activities League (SAL) provides activities that include flag football, boxing, soccer, summer programs, mentoring, Polynesian and ballet dance programs, judo and karate.





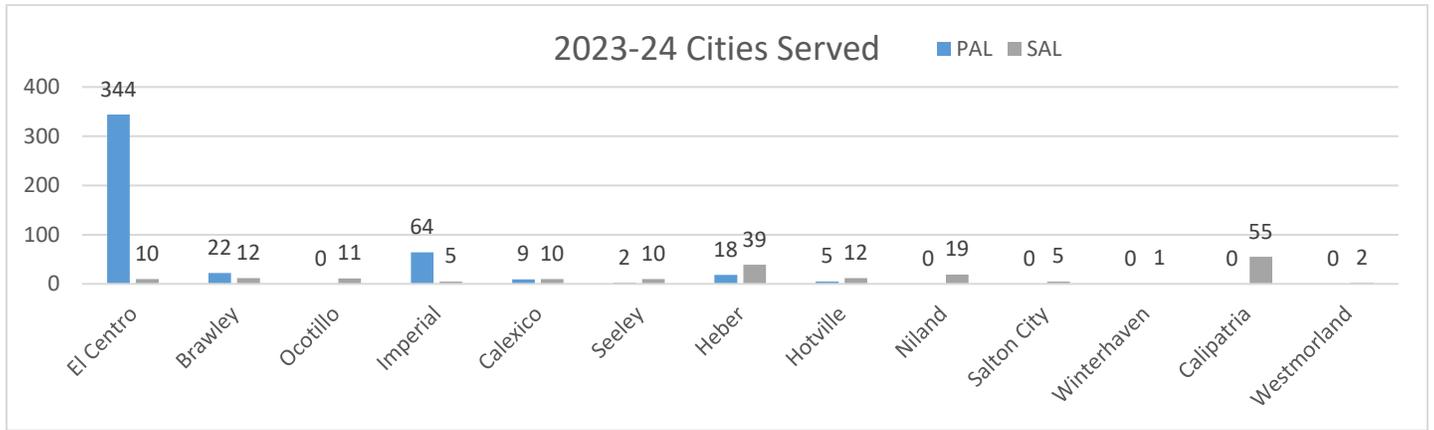
In 2023, SAL took students on a *Life After High School* event, where SAL participants went received information regarding applying for FAFSA (federal student aid), obtaining scholarships, what to expect in college, as well as reviewing information for trade schools. In addition, SAL alongside the Crime Prevention Program, brought back its annual *Drug Store Initiative*, which showed high school students around Imperial Valley the dangers of substance use. Throughout the 2023 year, SAL provided programs and services to 191 youth and their families in Imperial County.

In 2023, PAL provided programs and services to 464 youth and their families. The PAL program provides services to local families of low to extremely low incomes and offers quality after-school programs and activities for their children that they could not otherwise afford.

The PAL program continues to be an important pillar in providing activities such as soccer, boxing, martial arts, a mentoring program, a youth leadership program, an afterschool tutoring & study lab, a summer camp, a “National Night Out” event, and an Explorers Program provided in partnership with the El Centro Police Department. This year, the National Night Out event drew in a crowd of over 1,000 people.

These types of activities and services remain a key component in ensuring that youth within the community do not become involved with the justice system as they build on numerous skills that can lead to a successful life. In this upcoming year the PAL program will be adding golf, bicycle repair and a new soccer league, the latter in conjunction with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO).





**Imperial Valley Desert Museum**

The Probation Department continues their partnership with the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. The partnership continues to allow youth within juvenile hall to receive educational instruction by the Imperial Valley Desert Museum where they learn about traditional culture and participate in art projects throughout the year.

The Desert Museum offered weekly fine arts and culture projects to youth in Juvenile Hall through their “History on the Go” program. The weekly classes included lessons on traditional Kumeyaay culture, science and technology, and earth science activities.

In addition to The Desert Museum’s programming at juvenile hall; youth from Project ASPIRE benefit from receiving educational services through their “History on the Go” program. Similar to youth at juvenile hall, the Desert Museum visits youth at both of Project ASPIRE’s program sites once per week where they partake in an educational lesson and a “hands on” project.

**Juvenile Hall – Garden of Dreams**



The Garden of Dreams was initially presented in 2015 with the goal of offering youth the opportunity to learn about the delicate balance between living and surviving through a hands-on application. The Garden of Dreams continues to strive through the collaboration between the Imperial County Probation Department, the Master Gardener, and the Esther Huff School teachers where participating youth can experience the

importance of working cooperatively with one another, develop leadership skills, and learn responsibility. The Garden of Dreams facilitates lessons that include creating positive relationships with the environment, creating an understanding of complex and diverse biological ecosystems, creating an

understanding of where food comes from, developing experiences through hands-on work, and developing skills that are necessary to tend a garden from seed to harvest.

The Master Gardner provides instruction during the many phases of the growth cycle, which include cultivation of the ground, adding compost to enrich the soil, building and installing an irrigation system and trellises, seeding, watering, harvesting, and transplantation of vegetables. The Esther Huff teacher incorporates lessons in the classroom that include relationships between water, soil, sun, photosynthesis, phototropism, earthworms, and the role of nutrients in soils.

The Garden of Dreams has given youth at Juvenile Hall an opportunity to learn a vocational trade, receive education in nutrition, discover the differences between organic and non-organic, and develop a connection to nature. Working in the garden helps youth create lifelong, positive relationships with the environment that foster environmental stewardship and provides a natural opportunity for youth to work across disciplines and across divisions, and acts as a catalyst for building self-esteem within the participating youth. The circular process from planning and planting to tending and harvesting teaches the participating youth in a practical and visible way and instills in them the values of responsibility, caretaking, patience, and hard work. Funding through YOBG has allowed for the purchase of compost, seed, drip irrigation supplies, and safety apparel for youth working in the garden.

### Keeping Youth on Track Education Safety (KYOTES)



Previously known as the NYPUM Program, the Imperial County Probation Department partners with the City of El Centro Parks and Recreation Department to coordinate the Keeping Youth on Track Education Safety (KYOTES) program, an off-road highway program for boys and girls ages 10 through 18.

The program tackles the problems of gangs, school truancy, and school behavior that youth in Imperial Valley can often face and offers youth the opportunity to develop self-esteem, create values for daily living, and find a sense of belonging and companionship through minibike related activities. The KYOTES program can use minibikes to attract youth to outdoor activities and provides incentives to improve their lifestyle through the excitement of riding. Youth learn teamwork, fair play, trust, respect for property, discipline and other skills through trail riding.

Activities for the KYOTES program include events such as riding in the desert, camping, fishing, special trainings, desert survival techniques, fundraisers, and field trips. In addition, youth participants will have ownership of the program through year-round activities that include assisting with the cleanup of the Imperial Dunes, Heber Dunes, and other State OHV trails.

### KYOTES Goals:

- ❖ Develop safe riding skills through 21 lessons.
- ❖ Provide outdoor environmental awareness.
- ❖ Educate youth on proper use of desert survival and safety skills.
- ❖ Encourage school attendance and good grades.
- ❖ Provide mechanical training.
- ❖ Develop responsible citizenship.
- ❖ Foster community collaboration
- ❖ Provide Health Education and Nutrition
- ❖ Provide camping and survival skills.
- ❖ Provide outdoor cooking lessons.
- ❖ Provide information on career opportunities outdoors.
- ❖ Provide CPR and AED certification.

### **Project A.S.P.I.R.E**



Project ASPIRE is an after-school program designed to afford children in underserved communities supervised, pro-social activities between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The six Youth Service Specialists (YSS) provide educational, recreational and cultural opportunities to the youth they serve. Youth Service Specialists are currently providing programming to Westmorland, Heber, Niland, Imperial County Juvenile Hall and the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home. The Probation

Department is currently utilizing two vehicles purchased through YOBG funds to transport youth throughout the county to various activities and sites.

Youth from all program sites are offered the opportunity to participate a summer camp event through the YMCA of San Diego, where Project ASPIRE youth and staff attend a week-long camping experience filled with fun activities that include horsemanship, archery, swimming, climbing, arts and crafts, canoeing, alongside other activities that allow the youth to experience laughter, leadership, and build lifelong memories. Youth also participated in field trips to Universal Studios, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, Palm Springs Ariel Tramway and various Imperial County community fairs, parades and events.

## Youth Summit



The intended outcomes of the Youth Summit are to help participating youth and families develop problem-solving skills, build awareness of community resources, and help them gain knowledge on the importance of healthy lifestyles, life skills, and higher learning.

Initially, the targeted population for the Youth Summit was high-risk youth under probation supervision, however, the Youth Summit's audience has gradually expanded to include youth on probation who pose a lower risk, foster care youth in both the delinquency and

dependency arena, as well as local middle and high school students who are not under any type of court jurisdiction. Youthful Offender Block Grant funding supports a keynote speaker, as well as the motivational workshops offered to youth at the Summit.

As the Youth Summit has developed, it has been expanded to include youth on probation, foster care youth in both the delinquency and dependency arena, as well as non-probation youth. The department's most recent Youth Summit, held in May 2023, hosted Joseph Lucero from the hit television program "The Mayans" who shared an important message of perseverance. The Youth Summit event for 2024 will be held in April and will feature motivational speaker Raul Ramos.

## Boys and Girls Club of Imperial Valley

For 57 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Imperial Valley (BGCIV) has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances. The BGCIV provides services at the two sites located within the City of Brawley and Holtville and works to impact youth positively in three priority areas: Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. The programs work to provide five key elements for youth development:

1. A safe, positive environment (connected to feelings of emotional and physical safety)
2. Fun and a sense of belonging
3. Supportive relationships, including positive adult connections.
4. Opportunities and expectations, especially staff expectations of youth
5. Recognition, monthly award ceremonies and incentives

The Teen Center Club located in Brawley is a safe place for teens age 13-18, where they can drop in after school and be themselves without feeling the pressure of being judged. The program serves



approximately 15-20 teens daily with services provided from Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3-6pm and Friday 12:30-6pm with activities varying from sporting activities, arts activities, volunteerism, and academic pursuits. The Teen Club offers teens resources and programs to create meaningful experiences as they prepare a plan for their future.

In addition to the combination of well-rounded targeted programs that allow for self-improvement, youth are provided with unstructured free time to hang out and relax where they can just be with their friends in a safe, supervised environment.

### Programming

- ❖ **Power Hour, Making Minutes Count** provides club professionals with the strategies, activities, resources, and information to create an engaging homework help and tutoring program that encourages Club members of every age to become self-directed learners.
- ❖ **Triple Play** is a comprehensive health and wellness initiative, strives to improve the overall health of members by increasing their daily physical activity, teaching them good nutrition and helping them develop healthy relationships.
- ❖ **Youth of the Month** offers an opportunity to recognize youth for their accomplishments and efforts. Considerations are made by improved grades, being helpful to others, performing community service, kindness, and any overall positive outcomes that the youth display.
- ❖ **Mentoring** helps kids connect and establish healthy relationships with caring adults. Youth who have a mentor show increased high school graduation rates, healthy relationship and lifestyle choices, enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence, improved behavior both at home and at school, just to name a few.
- ❖ **Community Service:** studies show that young people who engage in community service do better in school, maintain positive relationships with adults and avoid risky behaviors. One regular community service activity is to participate at *Brawley's Feed the Need*, where youth help prepare and serve meals to homeless, low income, and non-income people of the north end of Imperial County.

## 2024 Goals & Plans



One of the program's main goals is to keep teens off the street and out of trouble while providing them with a safe place with opportunities for self-improvement. Teens who participate in the programs often feel an increased sense of self-worth and gain confidence in who they are and knowing they have something of value to offer to the community, which often shows improvements in grades at school. The program

recently had several teens make honor roll for the first time after having participated in the Power Hour program. Many have learned how to cook basic foods and now use their new knowledge to help cook for their families.

Another goal is to increase the number of teens who participate in the program. Currently the program serves about 15-20 youth daily and is looking to increase that number to 25-30 to increase the positive impact upon the community. For targeted programs, facilitators will begin to track numbers of participants and conduct pre and post surveys to measure the impact of the programs.

In addition, the program is in the beginning stages of creating a Teen Podcast where teens can practice and gain communication skills. The program is also in the process of planning a *Teen Night* where the program will be hosting a Cornhole & Ping Pong tournament. Funds are also being used to upgrade the Teen Center's computers to better assist youth with their homework and research assignments.

## Conclusion

The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is dedicated to enhancing public safety and enhancing the well-being of youth and families within our community. By implementing evidence-based interventions and diversionary tactics, Imperial County endeavors to steer numerous young individuals towards more promising paths while preventing their involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The ongoing accomplishments highlighted in this report underscore the efficacy of our initiatives and underscore our steadfast dedication to our overarching mission. Through extending support and resources to families engaged with the justice system, we actively contribute to breaking the cycle of reoffending and fostering better outcomes for youth in our community. Furthermore, our endeavors to adopt risk needs-responsivity models in community supervision facilitate accountability and rehabilitation among justice-involved youth.

Even as the JJCC confronts the persistent challenges of the juvenile justice landscape, we remain resolute in our commitment to identifying and implementing necessary changes and strategies. Our unwavering focus is on fortifying justice-involved families, safeguarding our community, and investing in the future of Imperial County's youth. At the heart of our success lies the invaluable collaboration of our partner agencies. Together, we form an intricate ecosystem of support, each entity playing a vital role in the collective pursuit of community well-being. It is incumbent upon us to ensure the sustainability of these partnerships, advocating for the continued support and funding necessary to uphold our shared mission.

It is our hope that this report serves as a comprehensive and enlightening overview of our endeavors and achievements. We extend our gratitude for the ongoing support and collaboration of our community and stakeholders as we collectively strive towards our mission of fostering public safety and enriching the lives of youth and families in Imperial County.

# Fiscal Year 2024-2025 JJCPA Spending Plan

**Estimated FY 2024/25 Allocation: \$ 493,625**  
**Growth 24/25 Allocation: \$ 454,315**  
**Total Available: \$ 947,940**

Department / Program	Funding Amount	Percentage of Total
<b><u>Probation Department:</u></b>		
Salary – One (1) Deputy Probation Officer II*	\$ 68,432	7.22 %
Overtime	\$ 10,000	1.05 %
Bilingual	\$ 520	0.05 %
Medicare*	\$ 992	0.10 %
Retirement*	\$ 28,851	3.04 %
Group Insurance	\$ 11,252	1.19 %
Dental/Vision	\$ \$-	0.00 %
Redemption of Benefits	\$ 1,489	0.16 %
Worker Comp Insurance*	\$ 1,127	0.12 %
Unemployment Insurance*	\$ 214	0.02 %
Liability Insurance*	\$ 1,834	0.19 %
Overhead Reimbursement*	\$ 1,356	0.14 %
Evening Learning Center (YOBG, WRAP)	\$ 669,365	70.61 %
Office Expense	\$ 1,000	0.11 %
Special Department Expense	\$ 2,500	0.26 %
Transfer Out-Probation (Mileage, Cell Phone)	\$ 10,490	1.11 %
* Overhead	\$ 1,492	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 810,914</b>	<b>85.39 %</b>
<b>Surplus Available</b>	<b>\$ 137,026</b>	

*Included in the FY 24/25 Spending Plan is the allocation of one Deputy Probation Officer II is supervising high/medium risk minors at the Evening Learning Center. The cost includes COB services for the Evening Learning Center and Mentor/Tracking.*

*\*Salary, Benefits, Worker Comp, Unemployment, Liability and Overhead costs are estimated at this time.*

# Fiscal Year 2024-2025 YOBG Spending Plan

**Estimated FY 2024/25 Allocation: \$ 1,141,039**  
**Growth 24/25 Allocation: \$ 30,599**  
**Total Available: \$ 1,171,638**

Department / Program	Funding Amount	Percentage of Total
<b><u>Probation Department:</u></b>		
Salary — One (1) Supervisor Probation Officer, Six (6) Youth Service Specialists, One (1) Probation Assistant, Four (4) Deputy Probation Officer II*	\$ 709,155	60.53 %
Overtime (CWS)	\$ 40,000	3.41 %
Bilingual	\$ 1,040	0.09 %
Medicare*	\$ 10,283	0.88 %
Retirement*	\$ 247,975	21.16 %
Group Insurance	\$ 135,024	11.52 %
Dental/Vision	\$ 4,859	0.41 %
Redemption of Benefits	\$ 6,177	0.53 %
Garden of Dreams	\$ 6,975	0.60 %
Youth Summit	\$ 10,000	0.85 %
AB12 Recognition	\$ 5,000	0.43 %
Community Work Service Program	\$ 56,986	4.86 %
SAL/PAL	\$ 13,517	1.15 %
KYOTES	\$ 15,000	1.28 %
Boys & Girls Club of Imperial Valley Teen Center	\$ 20,000	1.71 %
Imperial Valley Desert Museum	\$ 15,000	1.28 %
Office Expenses	\$ 15,000	1.28 %
Vehicle Maintenance Fees	\$ 19,080	1.63 %
Transfer Out - Probation (Mileage, CWS OT)	\$ 30,000	2.56 %
Project ASPIRE Operating Costs	\$ 75,000	6.40 %
Case Management System	\$ 69,450	5.93 %
Capital Improvement Projects – Juvenile Hall	\$ 600,000	51.21 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,105,522</b>	<b>179.71 %</b>
YOBG Reserves (\$3.6M)	\$ (933,994)	

\*Salary, Benefits, Worker Comp, Unemployment, Liability and Overhead costs are estimated at this time.  
 Included in the FY 23-24 Spending Plan is funding services provided to Youth within the Community. This includes funding for one (1) Supervisory Probation Officer, four (4) Deputy Probation Officers, six (6) Youth Service Specialists, and one (1) Probation Assistant to provide services.

Capital Improvement Projects for Juvenile Hall includes sunshade, fitness park, and outdoor recreation area as well as upgrading the existing CCTV system.

## Appendix - Imperial County Juvenile Referral Data

*Below is information submitted for the 2023 JJCPA-YOBG Data Expenditure Report:*

### Referrals of Juveniles to Probation Department for Delinquent Acts

Referral Type	
New	199
Subsequent	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Gender	
Male	145
Female	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Referral Source	
Law Enforcement	200
School	0
Other Public Agency	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Detention	
Not Detained	140
Detained – Nonsecure Facility	0
Detained – Secure Facility	56
Unknown	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Prosecutor Actions	
No Petition Filed	104
Petition Accepted	66
Petition Not Accepted	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Probation Dept. Disposition	
Closed	134
Petition Filed	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>

Referral Offenses	
Felony Total	83
Misdemeanor Total	187
Status Offenses Total	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>

Petitioned Offenses	
Felony Total	56
Misdemeanor Total	45
Status Offenses Total	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>

### Juvenile Court Dispositions From Petitions for Delinquent Acts

Wardship Placements	
Own / Relative's Home	22
Secure County Facility	0
Other Private Facility	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

Termination Actions	
Terminated	43
Transferred	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>