

# PROPOSITION 64



## **Proposition 64 Grant Program Cohort 1 Statewide Evaluation: Public Health and Safety Impacts**

December 2025

The Board of State and Community Corrections administers a wide range of public safety, re-entry, violence reduction, and rehabilitative grants to state and local governments and community-based organizations, and provides services to county adult and juvenile systems through inspections of county jails and juvenile detention facilities, technical assistance on local issues, promulgation of regulations, training standards for local correctional staff, and review of in-custody death investigations.



Produced by:

Ashley Garibaldi, Research Data Supervisor II

Megan Jones, M.A., Research Data Specialist I

Emma-Clementine Welsh, Ph.D., Research Data Specialist II

This report would not have been possible without the efforts of others. Specifically, we would like to thank Standards & Training for Corrections and Research Deputy Director Kasey Warmuth for guidance and Field Representative Helene Zentner from the Corrections Planning and Grant Programs Division for coordination support.

You can download reports prepared by the  
Board of State and Community Corrections at: [bscc.ca.gov](https://bscc.ca.gov).



## Contents

---

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Grantees and Funding .....	1
Youth Served .....	1
Program Outcomes.....	2
Challenges and Highlights .....	3
<b>Proposition 64 Grant Program .....</b>	<b>4</b>
About the Grant Program.....	4
Data Collection Approach .....	6
Youth Demographics at Enrollment.....	7
Youth Participant Demographics at Exit .....	10
Statewide Outcomes for Youth .....	12
Public Health Activities.....	14
Cannabis Compliance and Enforcement Activities .....	14
<b>Challenges and Highlights .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Conclusions.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendixes .....</b>	<b>20</b>

## List of Figures

---

Figure 1. Proposition 64 Grant Cohort 1 Awardees, by Project Purpose Area and Total Amount Requested .....	5
Figure 2. Youth Demographics at Enrollment.....	7
Figure 3. Youth Race/Ethnicity .....	8
Figure 4. Proposition 64 Services: Youth Development Activities and Case Management ...	9
Figure 5. Total Youth Exits .....	11
Figure 6. Youth Demographics: Successful Exits .....	11
Figure 7. Youth Race/Ethnicity Successful Exits.....	12
Figure 8. Youth Outcomes: Successful Exits .....	13
Figure 9. Proposition 64 Services: Compliance & Enforcement Activities .....	16

## List of Tables

---

Table 1: Grant Awards and Funds Spent .....	4
Table 2. Youth Outcomes .....	12

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

## GRANTEES AND FUNDING

The Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program (Prop 64 PH&S) was designed to support local governments in California engaged in law enforcement, fire protection, and other public health and safety initiatives related to the implementation of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA). The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) allocated \$24,700,000 for the initial grant period, which spanned from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2023, with an optional no-cost extension until October 31, 2024.

Eligible applicants for the Proposition 64 PH&S Grant Program included California counties, cities, and city-county partnerships. These applicants were required to propose project activities addressing at least one of four Project Purpose Areas (PPAs): PPA 1: Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention, PPA 2: Public Health, PPA 3: Public Safety, and PPA 4: Environmental Impacts. All applicants were required to address PPA 1, allocating at least 10% of their requested grant funds to Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention, with additional PPAs addressed based on local needs.

## YOUTH SERVED

Each of the ten Proposition 64 grantees implemented youth development, prevention, and intervention programs. These programs aimed to improve the lives of youth by preventing and addressing substance use and addiction, and promoting healthy behaviors through education, mentoring, pro-social activities, counseling, and referrals to support services. Grantees provided over 8,300 instances of services, including substance use awareness education, pro-social activities, leadership/mentor training, and other services such as skill building, mentoring, counseling, and workshops.

Between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023, grant programs enrolled a total of 1,800 youth participants (youth). Of these, 99% were first-time enrollees, with the remaining 1% of youth reenrolling for a second time. Most youth participated voluntarily, and the majority of participants were aged 13-17 years. The demographic breakdown included 36.5% men, 30% women, and 32% of unknown gender. Enrolled participants were relatively diverse, with 20% identifying as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish, 16% as White, 16% as Black or African American, and 4% as multi-ethnic, though 40% of race data was recorded as “Unknown” (i.e., unable to obtain or declined to disclose). With regard to youths’ educational and employment status, 57% were enrolled in high school, 34% in middle school, and 58% were focused solely on school without employment (37% were reported to have an unknown employment status).

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Five hundred youth successfully “exited” their program using the grantee-specific definition provided to BSCC. Of these 500, 70% were aged 13-17 years ( $n = 351$ ), nearly 21% were aged 18-20 ( $n = 104$ ) and the remaining 9% accounted for youth 12 or younger and youth of an unknown age ( $n = 45$ ). Those successfully exiting were 53% men ( $n = 263$ ), 39% women ( $n = 193$ ), and 7% of unknown or other gender ( $n = 44$ ). Ethnic diversity among those who exited successfully included 29% White ( $n = 143$ ), 21% Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ( $n = 108$ ), 15% Black or African American ( $n = 73$ ), and 7% multi-ethnic ( $n = 35$ ). The programs reported several positive outcomes, including youths’ increased perception of the harmfulness of cannabis use through educational outreach (52%,  $n = 258$ ), increased protective factors and resiliency skills (36%,  $n = 180$ ), reduced assessed risk status (36%,  $n = 180$ ), reduced substance use (26%,  $n = 131$ ), avoidance of contact with the justice system (20%,  $n = 100$ ), and increased prosocial behaviors (20%,  $n = 98$ ). Other positive outcomes included improved school behavior, academic performance, school attendance, family support, mental health, and employment status.



**500 youth  
successfully  
exited**

Public health activities (PPA 2) were a significant component of the grant program. Five (5) out of the ten (10) grantees provided services towards PPA 2, reaching 9,658 youth, 485 teachers, and 598 school district staff through school educational events. Community events, such as fairs and festivals with education booths, reached 4,534 youth and 4,566 adults. Though it is difficult to track the exact number of individuals reached by social media campaigns, data reported by grantees suggest that over 3,772,400 youth and 340,500 adults were exposed to cannabis awareness education through social media outlets. Campaign education focused on the health effects of cannabis use (lung disease, addiction, anxiety, impaired cognitive functions, etc.), and signs for parents/caregivers to be aware of surrounding youth usage, vaping, and dangers of unregulated (illegal) cannabis. Grantees also conducted nearly 1,480 outreach activities, totaling over 6,186 hours.

Compliance and enforcement activities (PPA 3 and 4) were also a large focus of six (6) of the ten (10) grantees. Between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023, six grantees completed 5,237 enforcement activities, including unlicensed cannabis growth

**Nearly 1 million  
illegal cannabis  
plants eradicated**



investigations, identification of illegal cultivation areas, and eradication of over 960,000 unpermitted cannabis plants. They also seized 295 firearms and more than 38,000lbs of processed marijuana. Environmental impact activities included

over 280 environmental inspections, as well as the development of reclamation plans for five sites formerly used to grow cannabis.

## CHALLENGES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Proposition 64 grantees cited several challenges in carrying out their activities, particularly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staffing challenges were significant, with delays in recruitment, training, and hiring. Critical staff were reassigned to support pandemic relief efforts, leaving programs with minimal personnel to execute planned activities. The pandemic also caused disruptions in investigations, enforcement efforts, and service delivery due to new safety protocols. Developing relationships and establishing MOUs with project partners through virtual platforms significantly slowed progress, and outreach and engagement was delayed due to school closures and event cancellations. Furthermore, virtual service delivery presented a barrier to initial youth engagement and recruitment efforts. Despite these challenges, grantees adapted by shifting to virtual formats, incorporating outdoor activities, and increasing communication with partners to continue service delivery.

Law enforcement agencies across Humboldt, El Dorado, and Sonoma counties achieved significant success in cannabis enforcement and community engagement efforts. Humboldt's Marijuana Enforcement Team eradicated over 267,000 illegal cannabis plants in six months—well beyond their annual target—and addressed 188 environmental violations while seizing firearms to improve community safety. El Dorado Sheriff's Office introduced the "Champions" youth program, which thrived despite pandemic-related school closures, and simultaneously tackled illegal growing operations through dozens of investigations and enforcement actions. Meanwhile, Sonoma County Code Enforcement Section ramped up aerial surveillance to detect illegal growing operations, deployed a dedicated Cannabis Inspector, and partnered with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect vulnerable watershed areas and guide growers toward compliance.

# PROPOSITION 64 GRANT PROGRAM

## ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

The Proposition 64 Grant<sup>1</sup> supports local governments assisting with law enforcement, fire protection, or other local programs addressing public health and safety associated with the implementation of the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA; see Appendix A). A total of \$24,700,000 in funding was allotted to the BSCC for the initial<sup>2</sup> Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program (Prop 64 PH&S). The grant period began on October 1, 2020, and ended on September 30, 2023 (or October 31, 2024, for those who accepted the no cost extension). Eligible applicants for Prop 64 PH&S Grant Program included California counties, California cities, and California city and county partnerships. Applicants were required to propose activities and strategies that fell within four (4) Project Purpose Areas (PPA); PPA 1: Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention, PPA 2: Public Health, PPA 3: Public Safety, PPA 4: Environmental Impacts. All applicants were required to address PPA 1, Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention, and to budget a minimum of ten percent (10%) of requested grant funds for addressing this area. Though not required, applicants could also choose to identify and address one (1) or more of the other PPAs as identified by local needs.

Recognizing that different sized jurisdictions have different capacities, resources, and needs, funding categories for small, medium and large county groups were established (and the cities within those counties). Applicants only competed with other applicants within their designated category. The categorization of counties as small, medium, or large is based on county population figures published by the California Department of Finance. Each group was allotted 20 percent (20%) of the total Prop 64 PH&S grant funds which equated to \$4,940,000. The remaining 40 percent (40%) of the total Prop 64 PH&S grant funds would fund the overall highest-rated proposals not funded through the small, medium, and large county categories.

Ten applicants submitted proposals, with all ten being awarded. Table 1 illustrates the nine counties and one city that were awarded Cohort 1 funding.

*Table 1: Grant Awards and Funds Spent*

Grantee	County Size	Amount Requested	Funding Spent
Alameda County	Large	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Contra Costa County	Large	\$999,346	\$570,553
Monterey County	Medium	\$996,545	\$798,854

<sup>1</sup> Cal. Rev. & Tax. Code § 34019(f)(3)(C).

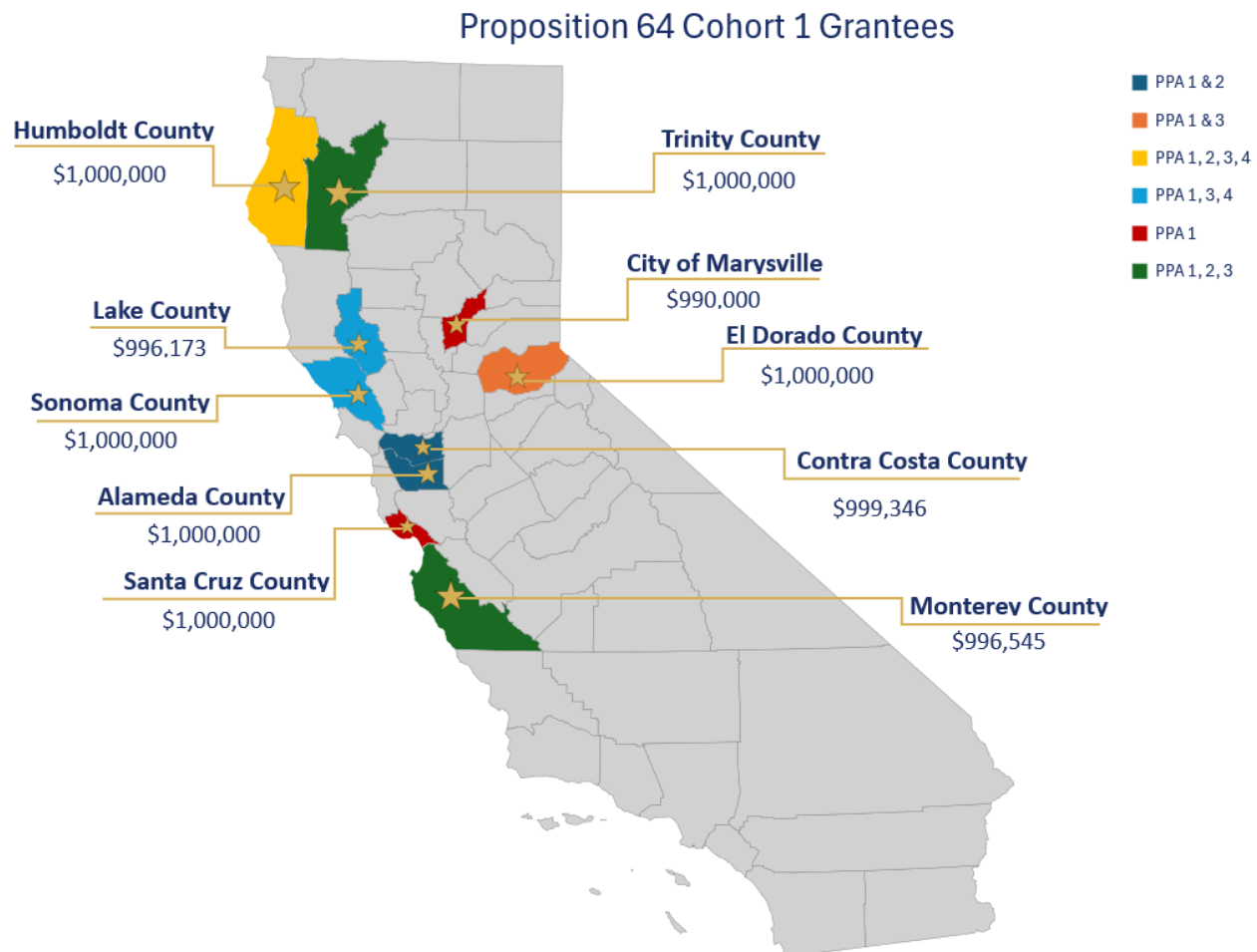
<sup>2</sup> Cohort 2 and Cohort 3 were funded and begun services in May 2021 and May 2023, respectively. Cohort 4 is anticipated to begin services in July 2026.



Grantee	County Size	Amount Requested	Funding Spent
Santa Cruz County	Medium	\$1,000,000	\$998,942
Sonoma County	Medium	\$1,000,000	\$976,898
City of Marysville	Small	\$990,000	\$928,515
El Dorado County	Small	\$1,000,000	\$400,660
Humboldt County	Small	\$1,000,000	\$997,070
Lake County	Small	\$996,173	\$944,542
Trinity County	Small	\$1,000,000	\$228,350
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$9,982,064</b>	<b>\$7,844,384</b>

Figure 1 below lists the local governments that were selected for the Cohort 1 awards, the total grant amount requested and their identified PPAs.

*Figure 1. Proposition 64 Grant Cohort 1 Awardees, by Project Purpose Area and Total Amount Requested*



## **DATA COLLECTION APPROACH**

### **Proposals**

Each grantee submitted a proposal in response to the Proposition 64 RFP. In addition to the description of the proposed project, the proposals also included a description of the need for the project within the community, an evaluation plan, and a project budget.

### **Quarterly Progress Reports**

Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) were submitted to the BSCC six weeks after the close of each quarter, for a total of 12 quarters. One grantee, Alameda County, accepted a no-cost extension to include an additional four quarters.

QPRs contained narrative responses describing grantees' quarterly progress, and aggregate level participant and activity data. Narrative responses included spending of grant funds, project inputs and implementations (partnerships; staffing, mentoring and/or volunteers; training; identification, outreach and enrollment process; evidence-based programming; compliance and enforcement activities; data collection/evaluation; and quality assurance), challenges encountered and how they were addressed, project highlights, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress towards goals and objectives, definitions of success (for youth participants, cannabis compliance and enforcement activities and public health awareness), and project outreach efforts. Aggregate participant and activity data were the primary source of information for this report. Participant data represented enrollment and exit totals, including point of enrollment/entry type; demographic information (at entry); education status (at entry); employment status (at entry); risk status (at entry); development and case management activities counts (services received during the quarter); youth participant exits by type; and outcomes of youth participants who successfully exited. Activity data detailed public health awareness and education in schools and community events; project outreach events; as well as cannabis compliance and enforcement activity completions (initiated/outcomes).

The QPR was designed as an Adobe form which enabled grantees to electronically report their project data to the BSCC and allowed for the data to be extracted for analysis. BSCC Research Staff cleaned and analyzed grantee QPR data to provide a summary of program activity across the program. QPR formats were initially standardized across all grantees and then customized based on grantees' initial responses in Quarters 1-3. Once a grantee indicated that PPA or activity was not applicable to their program, they were no longer required to complete the related reporting section. This was done to aid grantees in submitting QPRs in a more streamlined fashion. The content of the QPRs did not change, only the formatting was refined.

### **Final Local Evaluation Report**

Each grantee was required to complete a final Local Evaluation Report (LER) at the conclusion of the grant to determine project results and document evidence of the

project's effectiveness and overall impact, including the outcomes of participants enrolled in the project, and outcomes for the following activities: public health awareness and education in schools and community, public outreach, and cannabis compliance and enforcement. Requirements for the report included a description of the project, the research methodology and data collection process, process and outcome evaluations, and a project logic model.

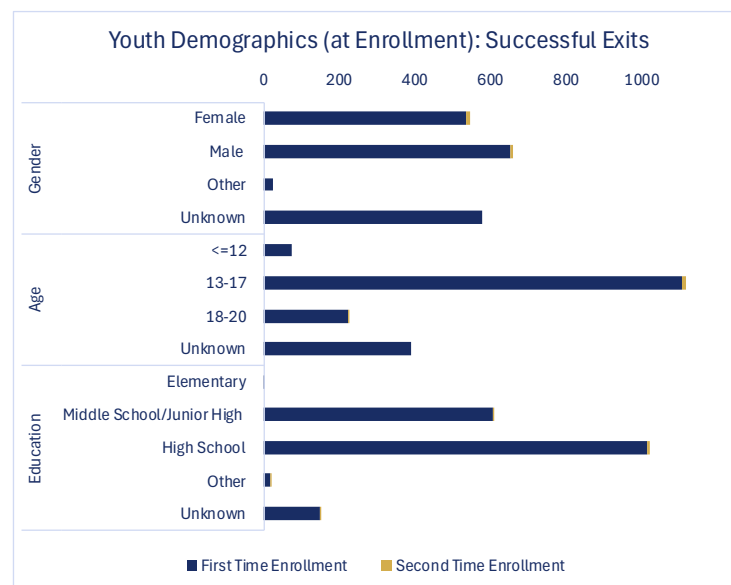
### Youth Development / Youth Prevention and Intervention (PPA 1)

Each Prop 64 PH&S grantee Cohort 1 ( $n = 10$ ) was required to implement youth development, prevention, and intervention programs as a part of their grant. Youth development programs aimed to improve the lives of children and adolescents by building competencies needed to become successful adults. Youth prevention and intervention programs sought to address substance use and addiction and/or intervention services to promote healthy behaviors around cannabis use. Funded activities included substance use awareness education, mentoring, pro-social activities, counseling, and referrals to support services, amongst other activities.

## YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS AT ENROLLMENT

Prop 64 PH&S grant programs enrolled 1,800 youth between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023. Ninety-nine percent ( $n = 1,786$ ) of youth were first time enrollees, with the remaining youth reenrolling for a second time<sup>3</sup> ( $n = 14$ ). Most youth voluntarily participated (85%). More than a third of enrollees were men<sup>4</sup> (36.50%), while 30% were women. Gender was not documented for 32% of youth enrolled. The majority of youth ( $n = 62\%$ ) enrolled in prevention and intervention activities were between the ages of 13 and 17 years old ( $n = 1,115$ ). Of those participating, 57% ( $n = 1,021$ ) were enrolled in high school; followed by 34% being enrolled in middle school ( $n = 607$ ).

Figure 2. Youth Demographics at Enrollment

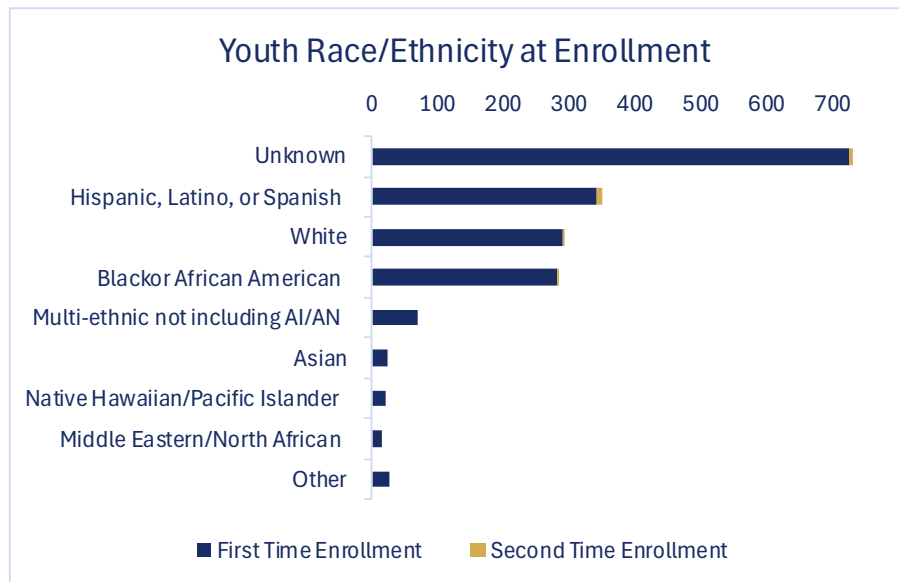


<sup>3</sup> Youth may exit the program for a variety of reasons (see page 12). If reenrolled into grant services, grantees are instructed to record youth as second-time enrollments.

<sup>4</sup> The Quarterly Progress Report required grantees to report data using "Male" and "Female" categories. The intended terminology should have been "men" and "woman" to reflect gender, not biological sex.

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of youth focused solely on school and were not employed otherwise ( $n = 1,044$ ). Employment status was not documented for 37% of youth enrolled. Of those who were enrolled, nearly 20% identified as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ( $n = 348$ ); 16% White ( $n = 290$ ), 16% Black or African American ( $n = 281$ ) and 4% identified as multi-ethnic. Race data was not documented for 40% of youth enrollees ( $n = 729$ ).

*Figure 3. Youth Race/Ethnicity*
















### Youth Participating in Development Activities and Case Management

Prop 64 PH&S Grantees hosted numerous development activities (Figure 4) in addition to providing case management-related services to the 1,800 youth reported above. More than 8,300 instances<sup>5</sup> of services were provided to youth between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023. The most common type of service provided to enrolled youth was substance use awareness education ( $n = 2,372$ ) followed by pro-social activities and recreational events, with 1,079 instances reported (13%). Leadership/mentor training followed, with 861 occurrences across the grant cycle (10%). The remaining 48% of youth services were dedicated towards skill building, individual/group mentoring, ongoing assessments of risk/needs, life skills training, individual/group counseling, workshops, behavior change plans, etc. Please see Figure 5 Proposition 64 Services: Youth Development Activities and Case Management for additional details regarding overall program activities.

<sup>5</sup> Youth could receive the same service type multiple times during their time enrolled in the program. As such, services figures may be duplicated.

Figure 4. Proposition 64 Services: Youth Development Activities and Case Management

<b>Proposition 64 Services</b>	
<b>Youth Development Activities &amp; Case Management</b>	
	<b>Substance Use Awareness Education   100% of grantees</b> Any educational demonstrations, school/classroom presentations, focus groups or events provided to youth to help spread awareness of substance use and its effects.
	<b>Assessment Risk / Needs   90% of grantees</b> Any routine process involving assessing youth, assigning risk levels or other individualized plans, and monitoring progress over time with repeated testing.
	<b>Leadership Mentorship Training   70% of grantees</b> Providing youth training in leadership or mentoring to develop fundamental skills so that in turn they can serve as leaders, mentors or educators to fellow youth.
	<b>Pro-Social Activities / Recreational Activities   70% of grantees</b> Any project activities provided to youth that served as positive outlets and alternatives to certain behaviors. They could include sports leagues, Friday Night Lights events, visiting colleges or entertainment venues.
	<b>Referral/Linkages to Substance Use Services   70% of grantees</b> Connecting youth to services outside the project which helped them with any existing drug and/or alcohol use. Drug or alcohol services could include inpatient or outpatient rehab, sessions with a substance abuse counselor, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or other group or individual services. While direct service may have been provided to youth, this category is for when outside referrals were made for alcohol or drug services.
	<b>Referral/Linkages to Mental Health Services   70% of grantees</b> Connecting youth specifically to mental health services outside of the project, either directly through a partnership or indirectly by providing youth with resources. Mental health services can include individual counseling, group therapy, and much more. While direct service may have been provided to youth, this category is for when outside referrals were made for mental health services.
	<b>Referral/Linkages to Any Other Services   70% of grantees</b> Connecting youth to any other services outside of the project. This can involve “warm-hand offs” or other active modes of connecting youth that go beyond simply providing a list of available resources.
	<b>Career Counseling / Job Shadowing   60% of grantees</b> Counseling focused on helping youth develop and plan for a future career. These services could focus on general job skills like constructing a resume and interviewing, soft skills like communication, computer literacy, and professionalism, or any other kind of employment support for youth. This counseling must be provided by a professional as part of the project, not by referral to any outside agency. Job shadowing can include youth working alongside staff to understand duties, participating in ride-alongs, demonstrations, explorer programs, etc.
	<b>Individual / Group Counseling   60% of grantees</b> Counseling provided by a professional as part of the project, not by referral to any outside agency. Many types of counseling were acceptable, but this category was reserved for counseling that is relatively structured and intensive and would not be more appropriately grouped as Mentoring, Life skills training or Skill building activities.

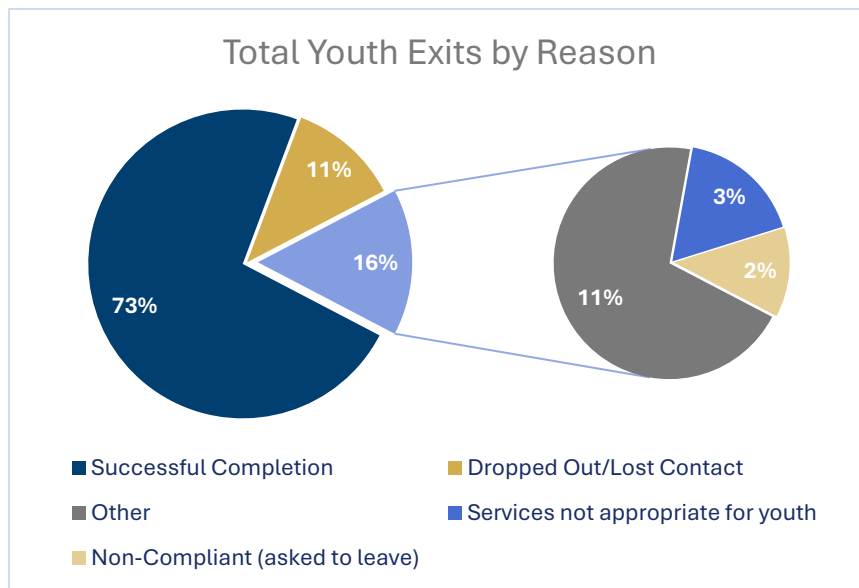
	<b>Referral/Linkages to Community-Based Support Services   60% of grantees</b> Connecting youth specifically to community-based support services outside of the project that uses members of the local community to support youth. Community-based support services could include but are not limited to transportation services, laundry services, food-access services, and after-school programs.
	<b>Individual / Family Support Services   50% of grantees</b> Any service activities provided by the project that assisted or supported either the youth or the youth's family. This could include medical, dental, etc. This category excludes mental health, substance use, academic, or community-based services as these types of services are captured in other categories listed here.
	<b>Life Skills Training   50% of grantees</b> Providing youth with training to develop skills that serve in increasing connectedness to themselves, their families and community, increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors.
	<b>Skill Building Activities   50% of grantees</b> Any project activities to strengthen youth's independent life, problem solving, resiliency, and/or refusal skills.
	<b>Behavior Change Plans   50% of grantees</b> Plans established in working directly with youth, where behaviors such as substance use, bullying, or school performance are discussed. Steps are identified and followed to increase or decrease identified behaviors.
	<b>Academic Support / Tutoring   40% of grantees</b> Any services aimed to help youth progress in school, including tutoring, academic advising, study hall, supplemental classes, etc.
	<b>Individual / Group Mentoring   40% of grantees</b> Formation of an ongoing relationship between a mentor from the project and youth (either in a group setting or one-on-one), in which the mentor became a confidant, role model, teacher, friend, etc. and supports a path of positive development for the youth.
	<b>Workshops   40% of grantees</b> Any workshop(s) provided by the project that do not fall under one of the other listed categories.

## YOUTH PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS AT EXIT

Youth could exit the grant program in a variety of ways: through successful completion<sup>6</sup> of the program, by dropping out or losing contact, program non-compliance (resulting in dismissal), being arrested/incarcerated, a determination by project staff that the grant-funded services were not appropriate for the youth, or other, non-specified reasons.

<sup>6</sup> Youth who successfully completed the project, using the grantee-specific definition provided to BSCC. Definitions of success included measurable milestones used to determine when a youth had successfully completed services and exited the project.

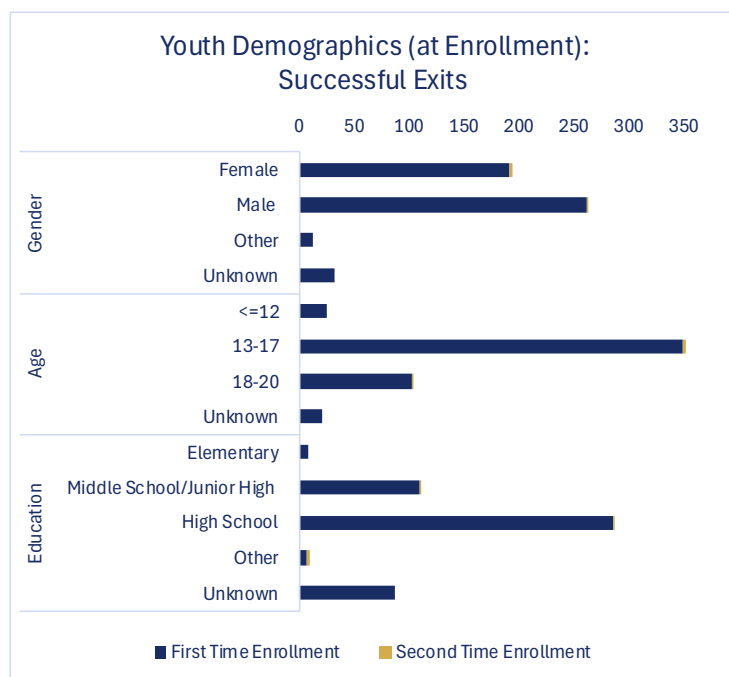
Figure 5. Total Youth Exits



Each grant was required to develop a unique definition of success which guided their determination of when a youth was ready to exit their program. Definitions of success were developed to include measurable milestones that could be used to assess when/whether a youth has successfully completed services and exited the project. The definition had to delineate the amount of time spent involved in pro-social activities, the number, frequency, and/or duration of services received, degree of improvement on an outcome measure, or other definition(s) specific to the project.

Of those youth who exited ( $n = 652$ ), 500 successfully completed their grant program requirements. First time enrollees ( $n = 496$ ) represented 99% of successful completions. Fifty-three percent (53%) of successful exits were men, while 39% percent were women. Seventy percent (70%) of youth that successfully exited their program were between the ages of 13 and 17 years old ( $n = 351$ ). Nearly 21% were aged 18-20 ( $n = 104$ ) and the remaining 9% ( $n = 45$ ) accounted for youth 12 or younger and youth with an unknown age. Youth self-reporting as “Other” gender or “Unknown” accounted for the remaining 7%.

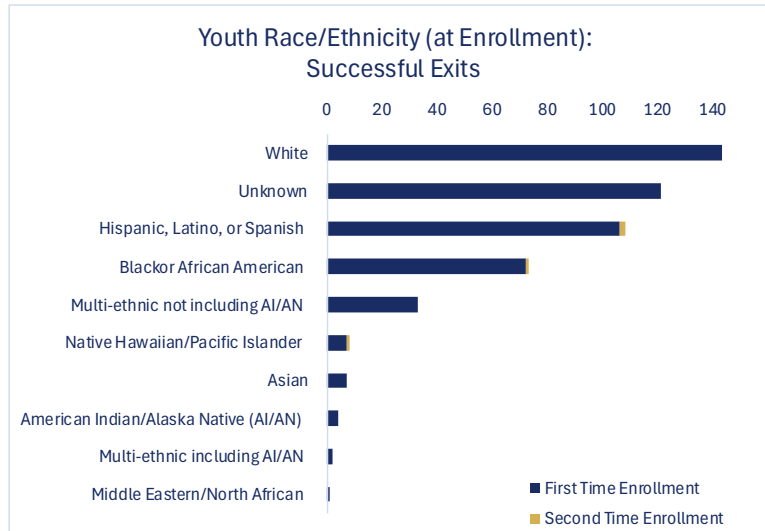
Figure 6. Youth Demographics: Successful Exits





Of those successfully exiting, 57% ( $n = 286$ ) were enrolled in high school, 22% were enrolled in middle school ( $n = 110$ ), and 17% had an unknown educational status ( $n = 87$ ). Thirty-six percent (36%) of youth ( $n = 182$ ) were focused solely on school and were not employed otherwise. These metrics related to enrollee's education and employment status refer to status at the time of enrollment/entry.

*Figure 7. Youth Race/Ethnicity Successful Exits*



Of those youth who successfully exited, 29% were White ( $n = 143$ ), 21% were Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ( $n = 108$ ); 15% were Black or African American ( $n = 73$ ), 7% reported themselves as multi-ethnic/racial ( $n = 35$ ), 2% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ( $n = 8$ ), 1% were Asian ( $n = 7$ ), and Unknown youth race data accounted for 24% of enrollees ( $n = 121$ ).

## STATEWIDE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH

Five hundred youth successfully exited the program, reporting a variety of positive outcomes<sup>7</sup>. Of the youth who successfully exited, the following outcomes were self-reported.

*Table 2. Youth Outcomes*

Youth self-reported outcomes <sup>8</sup>	N	%
Increase in the degree to which they perceived cannabis use to be harmful	258	52%
Increased protective factors/resiliency skills	180	36%
Reduction in assessed risk status.	180	36%
Reduction in the quantity or frequency of substance use	131	26%
Lack of contact with the justice system throughout the duration of the grant period.	100	20%

<sup>7</sup> Upon exiting the grant program, each youth may report one or more distinct outcomes. However, each specific outcome should be recorded only once per youth.

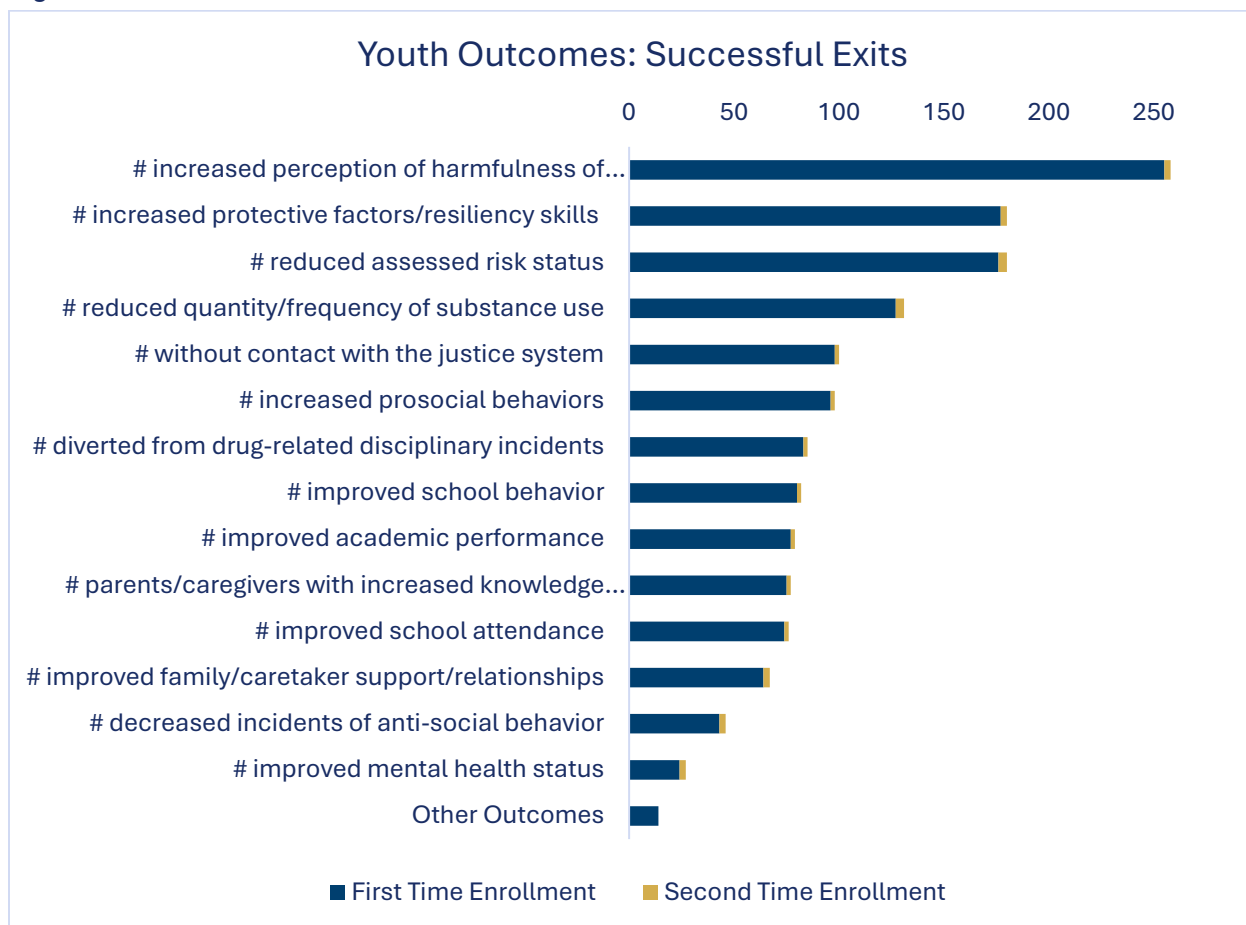
<sup>8</sup> Outcome percentages do not total to 100%, as youth may report one or more distinct outcomes. Percentages are calculated using the total number of youth successfully exiting ( $n = 500$ ).



Youth self-reported outcomes <sup>8</sup>	N	%
Increase in prosocial behaviors	98	20%
Diversion from drug-related disciplinary incidents	85	17%
Improved school behavior	82	16%
Improved academic performance	79	16%
Parents/caregivers increased knowledge of the negative impacts of youth cannabis use	77	15%
Improved school attendance	76	15%

The remaining outcomes ( $n = 154$ ) were attributed to youth who improved family or caretaker support/relationships; decreased incidents of anti-social behavior; improved mental health status; no longer being on probation; improved employment status; no longer working at cultivation sites; and other positive outcomes.

Figure 8. Youth Outcomes: Successful Exits



## Public Health (PPA 2)

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

The Public Health PPA of the Proposition 64 Grant aimed to protect the safety and improve the health of communities through education, policy/infrastructure establishment, and research. Funded activities included public health training and education, as well as public information and outreach (see Appendix B: Project Purpose Areas and Eligible Activities for additional information).

Between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023, half of Prop 64 PH&S grantees ( $n = 5$ ) provided services that addressed PPA 2. Of those services, a total of 9,658 students, 485 teachers, and 598 school district staff<sup>9</sup> attended school educational events. School events included school-wide and classroom-based presentations by School Resource Officers, and fairs. Community education events were routinely held throughout the grant cycle, with a total of 4,534 youth and 4,566 adults educated during the events. Community events included fairs and festivals with education booths, presentations to parents, etc.

Social media education was a large part of grantees' efforts to educate the public. Utilizing customized grantee websites and targeted ads through social media platforms (i.e. Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat), as many as 3,772,400 youth<sup>10</sup> and 340,500 adults were potentially reached by cannabis awareness education efforts.

Grantees were also asked quarterly to measure and describe steps taken to provide outreach to the community in service of promoting their projects and identifying referrals for services (information/resources provided to potential partners, materials shared with the public, meetings/community forums held, visits to schools, etc.). This differed from direct outreach services to community members and students in that this area focused on the behind-the-scenes efforts grantees made in order to establish and build their projects. Overall, project outreach efforts totaled nearly 1,480 activities and over 6,186 hours between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023.

## Public Safety and Environmental Impact (PPA 3 & PPA 4)

### CANNABIS COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Cannabis Compliance and Enforcement (PPA 3) activities funded via the Prop 64 PH&S grant concentrated on the welfare and protection of the public. This included, but was not limited to, prevention and protection of the public from dangers affecting safety, such as crimes, disasters, or impacts due to the legalization of cannabis. Funded activities included law enforcement, code enforcement and community planning or development

---

<sup>9</sup> Students and staff may have participated in multiple services. As such, attendance figures may be duplicated.

<sup>10</sup> The reported figures represent the total number of potential impressions and may include duplicated counts.

efforts (see Figure 9. Proposition 64 Services: Compliance and Enforcement Activities for additional information). Environmental Impact (PPA 4) activities sought to address the prevention of human injury by identifying and evaluating environmental resources and hazardous agents. Activities funded through PPA 4 were centered around cultivation code enforcement and nuisance abatement.

Between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023, 5,237 enforcement activities were completed by six (6) grantees (60%). Enforcement activities included law enforcement

***678 unlicensed cannabis investigations were completed***

investigations into unlicensed cannabis grows, eradication (i.e., physical destruction) of unpermitted plants, identification of illegal cultivation areas, and drug interdictions (i.e., preventing illicit drugs from reaching their destination). Grantees accomplished 678 unlicensed cannabis growth investigations. As a

result of those investigations, 2,351 illegal cultivation areas were identified through boots-on-the-ground work and aerial inspections ( $n = 824$ ) using drones and satellite imagery. Investigations resulted in the eradication of more than 960,000 unpermitted cannabis plants.

Three grantees ( $n = 3$ ) completed activities relating to PPA 4 (Environmental Impacts). More than 280 environmental inspections were completed during the grant cycle. Reclamation plans (i.e., the identification of land and water within or near cultivation sites in need of remediation) were completed for five (5) sites (not all sites require these efforts).











Of the numbers highlighted above, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office accounted for nearly 81% of eradicated plants destroyed, with 775,410 unpermitted plants eradicated by officers. Sonoma County ( $n = 81,391$ ), Trinity County ( $n = 54,536$ ), Lake County ( $n = 24,605$ ), and El Dorado County ( $n = 24,259$ ) accounted for the remaining 19%. Overall, more than 960,00 illegal cannabis plants were eradicated. Other law enforcement investigations ( $n = 115$ ) seized 295 firearms, 38,218lbs of processed marijuana, 26,375lbs of marijuana bud, and 18,976lbs of marijuana shake<sup>11</sup>.

Code Enforcement played a significant role in improving public health and safety, with over 800 code enforcement/compliance activities completed by half of the grantees ( $n = 5$ ). More than 1,000 inspections were completed, and 849 code enforcement actions/violations were resolved. Please see Figure 9. *Proposition 64 Services: Compliance & Enforcement Activities* for additional details.

---

<sup>11</sup> Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

Figure 9. Proposition 64 Services: Compliance &amp; Enforcement Activities

<b>Proposition 64 Services</b>	
<b>Compliance &amp; Enforcement Activities</b>	
	<b>Identification of Illegal Cultivation Areas   60% of grantees</b> Identifying areas that hosted illegal cannabis cultivations via aerial/surveillance footage or physical inspections (by foot or vehicle).
	<b>Aerial / Satellite Surveillance of Land   60% of grantees</b> Utilizing surveillance photos or video to determine the extent of illegal cannabis cultivation and environmental impacts.
	<b>Cultivation eradication   60% of grantees</b> Eradicating illegal cannabis plants found during investigations, surveillance and/or inspections.
	<b>Compliance monitoring of permitted   50% of grantees</b> Code enforcement officers or deputies inspected and/or monitored local permitted operations to determine compliance with codes and regulations. This could include brick and mortar outlets and delivery, manufacturing, testing, distribution, and cultivation locations.
	<b>Law Enforcement Investigations   40% of grantees</b> Investigations conducted within the targeted service area, that may have focused on illegal cannabis cultivation, sales, distribution, associated gang activity, etc.
	<b>Cannabis Retailer Education / Outreach / Training   30% of grantees</b> Any training, educational events or outreach provided to cannabis retailers to increase knowledge about codes, regulations, youth substance use, illegal cannabis product sales, etc.
	<b>Testing Illegal Cannabis Products   30% of grantees</b> Staff or partners tested cannabis products from brick and mortar outlets and delivery, legal or illegal manufacturing, distribution, and/or cultivation locations to determine if it meets compliance standards of legal cannabis products.
	<b>Environmental Assessments   20% of grantees</b> Staff or partners assessed sites to determine environmental impacts due to illegal cannabis cultivations. Environmental reclamation plans were developed to identify land and water within or near cultivation sites in need of remediation.
	<b>Land Remediation   10% of grantees</b> Upon an environmental assessment, land remediation of illegal cannabis cultivation sites was done to restore damaged habitats, eliminate soil erosions, remove contaminants, remove unpermitted graded roads and/or buildings, etc.
	<b>Water Remediation   10% of grantees</b> Upon an environmental assessment, water remediation within or near illegal cannabis cultivation sites was done to restore water diversions and habitats, eliminate soil erosions, remove contaminants, etc.

## CHALLENGES AND HIGHLIGHTS

---

Prop 64 PH&S grantees experienced a number of challenges over the course of the grant period, but the most significant obstacles were those imposed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic created immediate and severe project staffing challenges for at least half of the grantees, including marked delays in personnel recruitment, training, and hiring. For some projects, the situation was compounded when critical staff were activated as Disaster Service Workers, leaving programs with only a skeleton crew to execute activities. The need to adjust to new safety protocols resulted in slowed investigations, enforcement efforts, and significant disruptions to service delivery (both with youth participants and the community at large).

Participant outreach and engagement were greatly impacted. Due to widespread school closures and the cancellation of community events during the initial quarters of the grant cycle, nearly all grantees reported that the implementation of planned project activities was significantly delayed or disrupted. Staff had greater difficulty identifying and effectively engaging youth, which led to serving fewer participants than anticipated and experiencing slow referral processes. The primary activities impacted during this period included the delivery of cannabis education, the administration of public surveys, and general outreach.

In response, many grantees adapted by moving services to virtual and remote formats. While necessary, this shift introduced its own set of difficulties. The reliance on virtual formatting slowed progress in developing relationships with partners and establishing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). Furthermore, several grantees reported that students and youth were negatively impacted by the shift to virtual learning, which led to decreased levels of engagement and an increase in student behavioral issues. Even after quarantine mandates were lifted, participants were often hesitant to return to in-person activities due to lingering safety concerns and parental restrictions.

In addition to the extensive challenges presented by the pandemic, grantees also faced several roadblocks unrelated to COVID-19. Multiple grantees reported coordination and communication issues between project staff and partners, such as slow response times from school districts during the process of establishing MOUs. These administrative hurdles were a significant factor, as the ability to enter schools for outreach and service delivery was often delayed until these agreements were finalized.

Several grantees' projects were also negatively impacted by general staff shortages, transitions, and turnover, which slowed or temporarily halted activity implementation and data reporting while replacements were hired and trained. Grantees also identified challenges inherent to their outreach processes. For example, some projects had to streamline initially cumbersome enrollment and referral systems to facilitate the enrollment and engagement of youth in grant services. Others found that relying on school administrators for referrals hindered more active, on-campus recruiting efforts. Finally, grantees cited youth attendance issues tied to the normal school calendar, such

as scheduled breaks, holidays, and graduation or end-of-year events, as an ongoing challenge to engagement.

Each grantee reported a variety of successes throughout the grant cycle, with a few highlighted here:

One of the most significant highlights was the exceeding of plant eradication targets by the Humboldt's Sheriff Office's Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET). MET consistently surpassed their quarterly and annual targets for eradicating unpermitted cannabis plants including 158,193 unpermitted plants in one quarter, which is 53,193 more plants than needed to meet their target metric. Over six months, they eradicated a total of 267,517 plants, exceeding the annual target of 210,000 plants. MET also identified 188 environmental violations at 27 illegal cultivation sites, showcasing their commitment to addressing environmental concerns alongside illegal cannabis activities. During their enforcement activities, MET seized and removed numerous illegally possessed firearms from the community. MET achieved these accomplishments despite setbacks such as the Knob Fire, demonstrating their resilience and dedication to their mission.

El Dorado Sheriff's Office (EDSO) reported youths' pre-enrollment excitement and team-building activities, leading to the creation of the "Champions" youth program. More students than anticipated were eager to enroll in the program, showcasing its appeal and potential impact on the youth. Despite school closures due to COVID, the youth participants showed enthusiasm by planning and designing their meeting area, giving them a sense of ownership and pride in the program. The excitement and engagement of the youth created a strong foundation for the program, setting a positive tone for its growth and success. Additionally, EDSO's enforcement activities resulted in 88 illegal grow site investigations, 88 surveillances, 48 code enforcement inspections of which 17 violations were found, eradicated 26,449 illegal marijuana plants, and had 24 subsequent law enforcement cases.

A significant highlight for Sonoma County Code Enforcement Section (CES) was their implementation of surveillance activities to eliminate illegal cannabis operations, while also promoting the identification and mitigation of corresponding environmental and public hazards. CES contracted an aerial imagery provider for enforcement operations, with multiple sets of images being produced to aid cannabis investigations. Using Prop 64 funding, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was acquired and used to identify unpermitted sites, capturing detailed images for enforcement, and supporting documentation for warrants. A new Cannabis Inspector was hired to free up resources for unpermitted cannabis investigations. Unpermitted operators were then directed to official resources for regulatory compliance. CES also collaborated with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to monitor sensitive watershed areas for environmental concerns tied to unpermitted cannabis operations. UAV flights then helped assess high-risk locations for pollution risks.

## CONCLUSION

---

Throughout the grant period, programs reported a range of outcomes and activities. In the area of youth development, 500 youth participants successfully exited grant-funded programs. The data collected from these programs indicated several changes among youth, including an increased perception of the harmfulness of cannabis, an increase in reported protective factors and resiliency skills, and a reduction in the frequency of substance use. These reported outcomes aligned with the program's goal of supporting long-term healthy decision-making among youth.

Public health and education initiatives reached thousands of students, teachers, and other adults through cannabis-focused informational sessions at school and community events. To expand their reach, grantees also utilized social media campaigns, in an effort to provide residents with information to help prevent underage cannabis use and other associated public health risks.

Enforcement and compliance activities were directed at the illicit cannabis market. Grantees investigated over 670 unlicensed cannabis growth operations, which resulted in the eradication of nearly one million unpermitted plants. Additional investigations resulted in the seizure of firearms, illegal cannabis products and paraphernalia. Furthermore, over 280 environmental inspections were completed, and multiple reclamation plans were initiated to address the environmental damage caused by illegal cultivation.

During the grant period, grantees reported several operational challenges, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff shortages and turnover, and difficulties with partnership coordination. Despite these challenges, grantees were able to adapt and make progress towards their programmatic goals.

The Proposition 64 grant continues to serve communities through Cohorts 2 and 3, with grantees providing prevention and intervention services to youth, as well as enforcement activities within their jurisdictions to highlight and potentially decrease the harmfulness of cannabis use and illegal grows. The BSCC will continue to monitor ongoing Proposition 64 projects and collect data to analyze the effects of the programs on youth outcomes, community health, and public safety.



## APPENDIXES

### Appendix A: Proposition 64 Legislation

In November of 2016, voters approved Proposition 64, the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA). AUMA legalized the recreational use of marijuana in California for individuals 21 years of age and older. Proposition 64, in pertinent part, provides that a portion of the tax revenue from the cultivation and retail sale of cannabis or cannabis products will be appropriated:

Cal. Rev. & Tax. Code §34019. (3) (C). To the Board of State and Community Corrections for making grants to local governments to assist with law enforcement, fire protection, or other local programs addressing public health and safety associated with the implementation of the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act. The board shall not make any grants to local governments that ban both indoor and outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation, or ban retail sale of cannabis or cannabis products pursuant to Section 26200 of the Business and Professions Code or as otherwise provided by law.

### Appendix B: Project Purpose Areas and Eligible Activities

#### PPA 1: Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention (*required*)

Youth development programs should be designed to improve the lives of children and adolescents by meeting their basic physical, developmental, and social needs and by helping them to build the competencies needed to become successful adults. Youth Prevention and Intervention programs should address preventing youth substance use and addiction and/or intervening to promote healthy behaviors and environments while minimizing illness, injury, and other harms associated with substance use. Approaches may include preventing exposure, preventing youth from progressing from substance use to misuse, and preventing the onset of addiction, overdose, and other harms associated with misuse. Activities that may be funded include but are not limited to: peer mentoring or community-based mentoring; job training/apprenticeships; substance use education; substance use treatment; prosocial activities; juvenile record expungement; and youth outreach programs.

#### PPA 2: Public Health

Public health refers to activities for protecting the safety and improving the health of communities through education, policy/infrastructure making, and research for the safety of the community. Activities that may be funded include but are not limited to: public health training and education; public information and outreach; inspection and enforcement of cannabis businesses; behavioral and mental health treatment; cannabis product safety; testing/safety equipment; pesticide impact efforts; drinking and waste water system updates; air quality efforts; and other environmental-system updates.



**PPA 3: Public Safety**

Public Safety refers to the welfare and protection of the general public, including but not limited to the prevention and protection of the public from dangers affecting safety such as crimes, disasters, or impacts due to the legalization of cannabis. Activities that may be funded include but are not limited to: public information and outreach; training efforts; law enforcement; code enforcement; community planning or development efforts; cannabis delivery compliance, protective safety equipment; update to technology systems (track & trace); transportation impacts, water storage issues; fire protection; fuel mitigation and/or fuel reduction; and wildland/urban interface planning and implementation.

**PPA 4: Environmental Impacts**

Environmental impact refers to the prevention of human injury, and promoting well-being by identifying and evaluating environmental resources and hazardous agents by limiting exposures to hazardous physical, chemical, and biological agents in air, water, soil, food, and other environmental media or settings that may adversely affect human health. Activities that may be funded include but are not limited to: technology/software; odor abatement; nuisance abatement; forest management; hazardous clean-up; sediment testing; water systems and storage; cultivation code enforcement; aquatic protections; fire protections; and pesticide impacts.

Table 1 below lists the local governments that were selected for the Cohort 1 awards, their county size (used to determine initial funding pots), the total grant amount requested, and the total funds spent by the conclusion of the grant.

**Appendix C: Statewide Logic Model**

[Proposition 64 Cohort 1 Statewide Logic Model](#)