

Firebaugh Police Department Youth Outreach and Cannabis Compliance Program *Elementary Safe Schools*

Local Evaluation Plan City of Firebaugh

September 30, 2023

Funded by: Proposition 64 Board of State of Community
Corrections (BSCC) Youth Reinvestment Grant

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CONTENTS

Project Background	3
Process Evaluation Method and Design	5
Outcome Evaluation Method and Design	7
Project Logic Model	11
Appendices	

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Firebaugh is a rural community in Western Fresno County. Firebaugh is secluded from any major city that can provide an array of free youth programs provided by non-profit organizations. The city core, once neglected, has been renovated and some projects are still underway. With a population of about 8,296 where 43.3% of the families live in poverty¹ and whose fluctuating income is mainly supported by agriculture, a need to provide a free program for the youth in this community was essential. The local schools in Firebaugh are highly rated and provide students with quality educational experiences. These schools offer a variety of programs for their students, including Advanced Placement courses and extracurricular activities. The teachers provide students with the best possible learning opportunities to help them reach their goals. Firebaugh is home to two elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and one community college. All of these educational institutions offer the highest quality of education for their students and strive to make sure they have all the tools needed to succeed in life. Additionally, the local schools provide support services such as free or reduced-cost lunches and counseling services for families who need assistance. One of the tools identified that the children of Firebaugh need is support in avoiding illegal cannabis use. In addition to addressing the community's need for youth, it became apparent to the City of Firebaugh Police Department that there was a necessity to keep youth out of the criminal justice system and provide prevention and intervention services early on.

With California voters passing Proposition 64, allowing recreational use of marijuana for adults aged twenty-one and older, challenges have been created for law enforcement, parents, and educators. Local youth see cannabis as less harmful than alcohol and tobacco as well as carrying less of a consequence if caught. A 2019/2020 survey of 241 Firebaugh High School students found that 17.8% reported using cannabis products in the last 30 days. Students who reported never having used cannabis products indicated that it would be easy for them to get cannabis products from friends who are currently using.

Over the past several years, the Firebaugh Police Department have located several non-regulated cannabis cultivation operations and honey oil extraction operations within the City limits. Unregulated Cannabis operations lead to various problems, impacting public health, safety, and the economy. Issues that the Firebaugh Police Department have run into are unsafe products, environmental damage, fire hazards, loss of revenue and negative community impacts.

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/firebaughcitycalifornia>

The City of Firebaugh has important goals that have been identified, as well as the corresponding objectives.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
<p>To reduce marijuana and vape use by youth</p>	<p>By providing an evidence based developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, prevention and intervention program.</p> <p>To identify a youth's strengths and challenges as well as satisfaction post program.</p> <p>By the end of the program, youth will score higher on the marijuana knowledge posttest.</p> <p>To provide a developmentally appropriate intervention for youth in grades 5 and 8.</p> <p>Through collaboration with the School District, provide a prevention program on campus by delivering presentations, recruiting mentors, and educating students.</p> <p>Involving Youth at the Summer Soccer Program</p>
<p>Reduce Crime among youth.</p>	<p>Youth crime statistics will be tracked to demonstrate reduction. By having youth more informed, the goal is to have them engaged in more pro-social activities.</p>

<p>Lower Rate of Cannabis use by 10%</p>	<p>To reduce cannabis use among Firebaugh youth from by 10% of the reported 17.8% that have used cannabis.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of illegal cannabis grows in the city of Firebaugh</p>	<p>To reduce the number of illegal grows in Firebaugh by increasing the ability to investigate reports and issue violations.</p>

PROCESS EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN

The Firebaugh Police Department will use quantitative data to represent the reduction in instances of disciplinary actions at school and interactions between juveniles and police officers as well as qualitative data to represent the increase in education of the dangers of cannabis for juveniles. The following chart shows all the data points to be collected and with whom the responsibility lies.

Data Points	Tracking and Reporting	Police Department	School Director
In Classroom Educational Cannabis Presentations	Quarterly	✓	
Number of Classrooms Visited	Quarterly	✓	
Number of youth reporting cannabis use	Yearly	✓	
Marijuana education classes: average pre and post test scores	Yearly	✓	
Disciplinary Interactions involving Cannabis	Quarterly		✓
GPA: starting and ending	Yearly		✓
Activity participation: Summer Soccer Program	Yearly	✓	
Number of Youth arrests	Yearly	✓	
Number of subsequent offenses	Yearly	✓	
SARB referrals	Yearly	✓	
Referrals for petition to DA's	Yearly	✓	
School staff satisfaction survey	Yearly	✓	

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School staff satisfaction survey	Yearly	✓	

Data Points	Tracking and Reporting	Police Department	School Director
Diversion intakes (WIC 654)	Yearly	✓	
Marijuana related referrals	Yearly	✓	
Race/Ethnicity	Quarterly		✓
Free lunches	Quarterly		✓

The City of Firebaugh Police Department (FPD) is responsible for the implementation of an evidence based, developmentally appropriate cannabis dangers awareness program in the identified schools. Quarterly reports will be done to show how the program is doing regarding meeting the goals. Additionally, the Police Department will have a yearly meeting with the school district representatives to gauge the improvements in disciplinary actions.

OUTCOME EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN

FPD's research design will consist of a mixed-method data analysis of both qualitative and quantitative information. The estimated number of participants per school year is ___ from either the middle or high schools. The mixed design of descriptive and experimental is generated by surveys, pre/posttests, and comparison between reported delinquency interactions and cannabis associated disciplinary actions. The qualitative and quantitative data assess the program's outcome goals from the inception to the completion of the program.

Evaluation Questions.

Goal 1: Increase knowledge of cannabis danger.

1. Was the substance abuse education program deliberate and effective?
2. Did the assessments identify the needs of the participants?
3. Were the services and activities pro-social and age appropriate?
4. Was the program effective in changing the youths' knowledge about marijuana?

Objectives:

- A. By providing an evidence based developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, prevention and intervention program to ensure safety and health of youth.
 - i. Is the marijuana class relevant for the targeted population?
 - ii. Did the class discourage youth from future marijuana usage?
- B. By the end of the program, youth will score higher on the marijuana knowledge post-test.
 - i. Did youth gain the appropriate knowledge to refrain from using marijuana?
- C. Through collaboration with the school district, provide a prevention program on campus by delivering presentations and educating students.
 - i. Did the presentation deliver the necessary information and education to equip college students in making an informed decision?
 - ii. Are the presentations necessary and effective?
- D. Youth will receive less school and law enforcement referrals and School Attendance Review Board (SARB) referrals by engaging in stimulating programming and educational activities.

- i. Are the program activities providing the youth with the prosocial skills necessary to reduce the risk of being involved in the justice system?
 - ii. Is the program identifying the youth who may need additional support and referring to the appropriate resource?
 - iii. Are the program's afterschool hours and structured supervision keeping youth accountable?
- E. Youth will receive a nutritious meal (summer) and healthy snacks (MAP) to ensure their physical health and development.
- i. Are the meals and snacks nutritious?
 - ii. Is the allotted amount enough?

Goal 3: To reduce the number of delinquency interactions with the police department.

1. Is the police department reporting fewer delinquency interactions?

The success of the education program will be measured by the comparison of the baseline data points with the end of the program final data collection. The ability to compare year to year will be telling whether the program is achieving the outlined goals. Since this program is not provided in a controlled setting, it is uncertain whether the program is solely responsible for the participants' success. Nevertheless, the qualitative and quantitative data points keep the program accountable to the youths' needs.

Public Safety

Over the past five years the Firebaugh Police Department has located non-regulated cannabis cultivation operations and honey oil abstraction operations within the city limits and outside the city limits of Firebaugh. This cannabis operations were inside family homes, in the middle of city neighborhoods where no one would ever suspect a cannabis operation would exist.

This unpermitted cannabis operations have dangerous electrical, structural, and dangerous chemicals present. Nonregulated cannabis operations commonly have major fire hazards due to illegal electrical connections or the use of large generators. Unpermitted cannabis operations commonly have environmental issues relating to the use of fertilizers, pesticides, illegal water connections, water diversion, non-biodegradable waste, and the threat of fires. Unpermitted operations commonly have video surveillance, guard dogs and sometime armed security personnel.

Drug dealers who sell cannabis products are often involved in dealing methamphetamines, cocaine, fentanyl, and ecstasy as well. This pattern is concerning because it suggests a progression from lighter drugs to more dangerous substances. Juveniles who start with cannabis products may be more likely to experiment with these heavier narcotics, putting themselves at risk of addiction and other serious consequences.

To address this issue, grant police officers are conducting investigations focused on the sale of cannabis products to students in Firebaugh. By closely monitoring these activities, law enforcement can intervene early and prevent young people from being exposed to more harmful drugs. Additionally, officers are investigating individuals who are selling methamphetamines, cocaine, fentanyl, and ecstasy to school students. This proactive approach aims to disrupt the supply chain of these dangerous substances and protect the well-being of students in the community.

By targeting both the sale of cannabis products and the distribution of heavier narcotics, law enforcement is working to combat drug-related issues among young people and ensure a safer environment for students in Firebaugh. It is crucial to address these challenges comprehensively and prevent the escalation of drug use among juveniles.

Drug dealers often carry firearms or even deal firearms to people, including school-age teens, who purchase cannabis products or heavier narcotics from them. This dangerous combination of drugs and guns poses a significant threat to public safety. In Firebaugh, the police department has identified a concerning link between cannabis, drugs, and firearms, with users and dealers found in possession of weapons.

The presence of firearms in drug-related activities increases the risk of violence, accidents, and other criminal activities. It creates a volatile environment that endangers not only those involved in drug transactions but also the broader community, including school-age teens who may be inadvertently drawn into these dangerous situations.

The Firebaugh police department will actively addressing this issue by investigating and cracking down on individuals who are involved in the illegal sale of drugs and firearms. By disrupting this illicit network and enforcing strict laws against such activities, law enforcement aims to safeguard the community and prevent further harm caused by the intersection of drugs and guns.

It is crucial to address the connection between drugs, firearms, and criminal behavior to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, particularly young people who may be vulnerable to exploitation and violence in these illicit activities. By taking proactive measures and cracking down on these illegal practices, law enforcement is working to create a safer environment for everyone in Firebaugh.

The grant officer will be responsible for surveillance, search warrants and investigating reports of illegal cannabis operations. Unpermitted cannabis operations found will be documented on BSCC Grants Stats form. Data collected and reported will include the number of houses/operations surveilled, number of public tips investigated, number of search warrants served, number of operations seized, types of grow and extraction equipment used, and potential street value in US dollars of operations shut down.

The city recently purchased and started an aerial drone program. The drones within the scopes of state and federal law will be used to conduct surveillance on unpermitted cannabis sites. The drones will be used to address inaccessible areas along the San Juaquin River looking for illegal cannabis grows.

Drone flights related to cannabis will be documented on BSCC Grant Stats form. Data to be collected include number of tips received, total hours of drone flight/operation, number of areas surveilled, number of operations seized and total potential street value in US dollars of operations shut down.

The City of Firebaugh has one authorized commercial cannabis operations. This operation will be regulated through state and local municipal code rules and regulations. Although these types of operations are legal, they will require monitoring and frequent inspections to make sure they are following all required regulations. The grant officer will conduct at least two monthly inspections of each commercial cannabis operations (4 inspections per month total). The inspections will be documented on BSCC Grants Stats sheet created to keep record of all grant activities. **WILL YOU CAPTURE DATA THAT DOESN'T GET REPORTED TO BSCC WHILE DOING INSPECTIONS? IF YES, WHAT WILL YOU CAPTURE?** Data collected from inspections will be collected on a computerized database currently operated by Firebaugh Police Department. Data from that database will be used to report to the BSCC on a regular basis.

**Public Safety Prop 64 PH & S Cohort 3 Grant Goals and objectives
Conducted by the Firebaugh Police Department Officers**

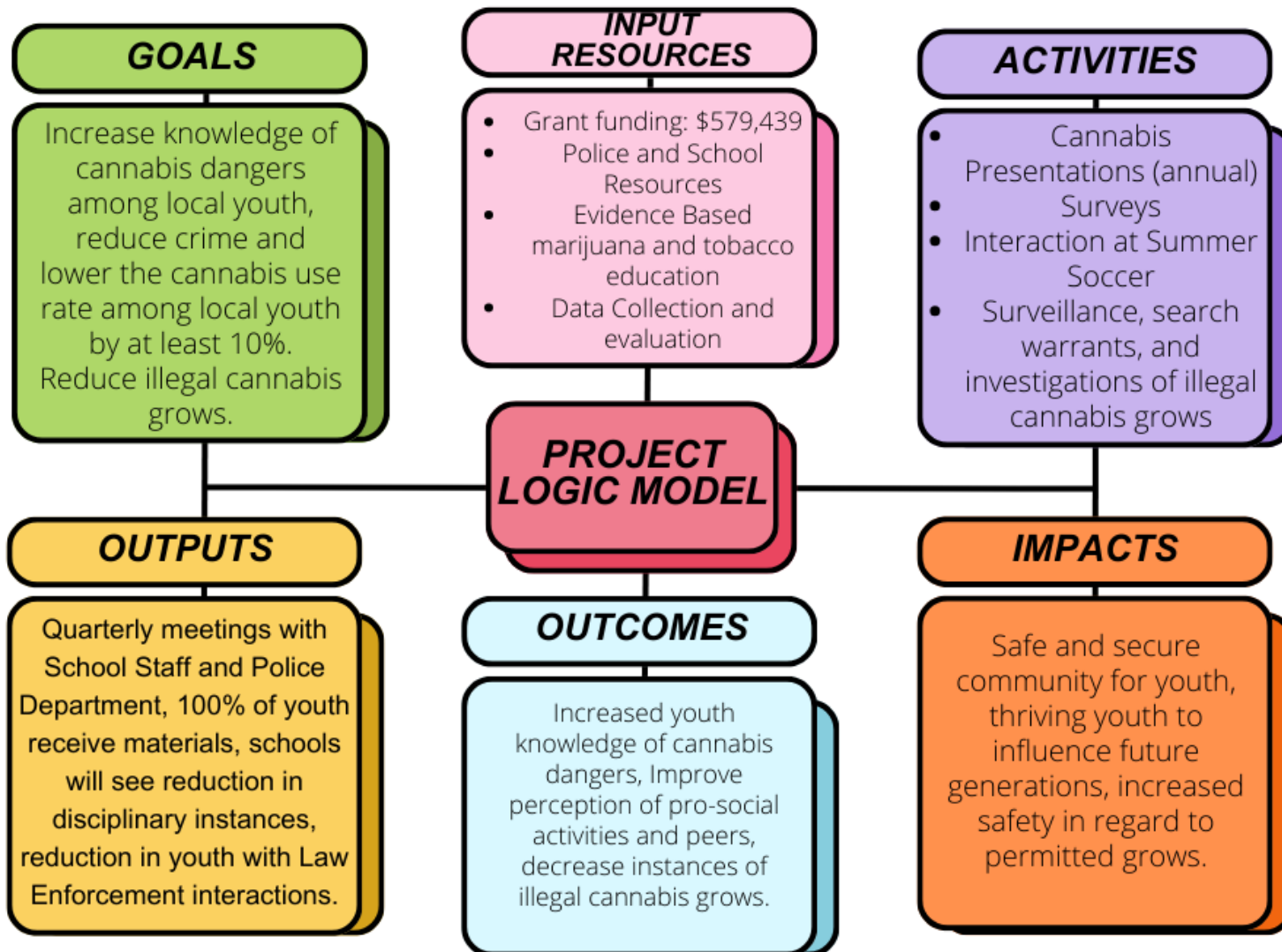
Goals	Objectives
<p>1. Reduce impacts of unpermitted cannabis grows along the San Joaquin River within the city limits.</p> <p>2.Reduce impacts of unpermitted residential cultivation and oil abstraction operations</p> <p>3. Conduct criminal investigations involving the sale of cannabis products & other narcotics focusing directly sales to school aged children.</p>	<p>1.Increase identification of unpermitted cannabis grows using drone imagery along the river and wooded areas of the city as compared to 2020 baseline data.</p> <p>2.Increase identification of residential grows who have not obtained proper city permits</p> <p>2.Conduct site inspections (2 per month), deliver permitting requirements</p> <p>3.Arrest individuals involved in the illegal operations of cannabis grows and sales.</p> <p>3.Arrest individuals involved in the sale of narcotics to local youth</p>

Logic Model

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes		
	Activities	Participation	Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term
<u>STAFF</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief • FPD Staff • Grant Officer 	Educate youth on K-12 school campuses	FPD, K-12, Grant Officer	Increased knowledge about cannabis and healthy lifestyles	50% less cannabis DUI arrests by 2023	Reduced addiction rates
	Grant Officer teach the ESSP program to 5 th and 8 th grade students.	FPD, Grant Officer, City of Firebaugh	Increased knowledge about Prop 64	75% of youth understand risks of using cannabis	Reduced crime rates
<u>PARTNERS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 School • City of Firebaugh • Community Members • Other local and state law enforcement agencies. 	Increase drone operations	FPD	Improved perception of FPD among youth and residents	Reduction of reported youth use of cannabis by 10%	
	Identify illegal grow operations along San Juquin River and other outdoor areas	FPD, Grant Officer	Increased relationships with local authorized commercial cannabis operations	Reduced juvenile crime by 30% (2022)	
<u>FUNDING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State 	Identify illegal grow operations in residential neighborhoods	FPD, Grant Officer		Reduced juvenile crime by 50% (2023)	
	Conduct criminal investigation into sales of cannabis and other narcotics.	FPD, K-12, Chief, City of Firebaugh, Community Members			
<u>FACILITIES</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 classrooms • Public events • Police Station • Civic areas 	Write and serve search warrants on subjects involved in the sale of cannabis products or other narcotics to students.				
	Evaluate Project				

Assumptions: Youth are going to experiment with cannabis as peer pressure remains high, although cannabis has been legalized across the state. Youth are unaware of what the actual legality of cannabis is and might believe they are not committing a crime when they actually are. Illegal grow sites will continue to operate; an increased police presence will slow their ability to produce.

External Factors: Law changes may affect how FPD deals with the challenge of youth cannabis and grow site deterrents. New technologies may replace vaping that will require additional resources and training.



BSCC Cohort 3 Stats Form

	Date	# Attending	Survey
Cannabis K12 Classroom Outreach Presentation			
Cannabis Community Outreach Presentation			
5th & 8th Grade ESSP Presentation			

Possession of Cannabis or other drugs	Month	Cannabis	Vapes	Narcotics
Mills School				
Middle School				
Firebaugh High School				

	Monthly
Cannabis Operations Inspections	
Drone Flights Cannabis Grows	
criminal Investigations cannabis & narcotics	
Guns recovered	
Search Warrants Served	
Arrests and criminal charges	

Monthly Notes