



**BSCC Proposition 64 Cohort 3 Grant Program**  
**Local Evaluation Plan**

**Trinity Coordinated Active Response to Ensure Student Safety (CARES)**

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**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

**INFORMATION ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE PROJECT**

The Trinity County Coordinated Active Response to Ensure Student Safety (CARES) Prop 64 Cohort 3 program continues and enhances the CARES Cohort 2 program. The CARES Cohort 2 was designed to address the need for comprehensive prevention and intervention in school settings to mitigate the outcomes of substance use that result in risky behaviors and places youth at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system. This program utilizes a multi-disciplinary team for coordinated rapid response using trauma informed care, and incorporates other aspects of youth outreach, prevention and intervention activities.

Trinity CARES is comprised of a Mobile Response Team including Trinity County Office of Education (TCOE), Trinity County Sheriff's Office, and Trinity County Probation Department. The CARES program will utilize a Deputy Sheriff and a Probation Officer acting as Juvenile Specialists in collaboration with school staff to provide substance and threat prevention. This program will facilitate positive youth contact through face-to face interaction between youth and law enforcement officers. The face-to-face contacts will be initiated in one of four ways: 1) Referral from School Staff; 2) Youth Initiated; 3) Officer Initiated: or 4) Reports of Victimized Youth.

**TARGET POPULATION**

CARES is designed to impact the target population of at-risk youth who typically have few or no protective factors. As a community, Trinity County is attempting to break the "preschool to prison pipeline" by targeting junior high school and high school youth at risk for drug use and violence-related behaviors that place them at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. The county selected this population because all young people within Trinity County should be provided the opportunity to be healthy, safe, and engaged in positive and productive activities.

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### PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The BSCC approved CARES Work Plan has the Goal to *increase the potential for adolescents to meet their physical, developmental, and social needs through resiliency.*

The CARES Work Plan Objectives are to:

- *Facilitate positive relationships between law enforcement and youth.*
- *Decrease the number of K-12 youth being under the influence.*
- *Enhance the ability of youth to respond appropriately to high-risk situations that expose them to substance use or other harmful actions.*
- *Maximize the use of county-wide partnerships and service coordination to improve healthy outcomes.*
- *Improve access to opportunities for positive youth development.*

### PROCESS EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN

#### RESEARCH DESIGN

The CARES project utilizes a descriptive research design to conduct its evaluation activities that measure the impact of its stated goal and objectives. The measures will show the impact that the active response team has on breaking the “preschool to prison” pipeline in Trinity County, reducing substance use and high-risk behaviors that involve youth in the juvenile justice system.

The Process Evaluation Plan Matrix defines how the activities will be documented for quantitative collection and analysis for each process measure. Activity progress for the most part will be tracked quarterly for progress monitoring and aggregated annually for outcome analysis. The CARES Cohort 3 Data System is a secure online data system that centralizes data collection and provides real-time reporting of the process measures. CARES Juvenile Specialists will enter their data directly into the data system using mobile devices and the local evaluator will enter its data into the data system using mapped batch importing for real-time process measure data tracking to measure project implementation and progress.

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**PROCESS EVALUATION PLAN MATRIX**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Data Sources/Elements</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Organization/Person Responsible</u>	<u>Methodology</u>
Staff Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date</li> <li>• Type</li> <li>• # CARES Participants</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Juvenile Specialists	Entered into CARES Data System
Juvenile Specialist CARES Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date Provided</li> <li>• Topic</li> <li>• Location/Venue</li> <li>• # Youth Participants</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Juvenile Specialists	Entered into CARES Data System
Juvenile Specialist Events Attended to Represent CARES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date Provided</li> <li>• Topic</li> <li>• Location/Venue</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Juvenile Specialists	Entered into CARES Data System
CARES Team Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Dates</li> <li>• Meeting Type</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Juvenile Specialists	Entered into CARES Data System
Referrals (Life Skills, Anger Management, Job Training, Juvenile Justice, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date Referral</li> <li>• Agency/Intervention Referred to</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Juvenile Specialists	Entered into CARES Data System
Youth Under the Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total # Reported</li> </ul>	Annually	Juvenile Specialists	From Trinity County Probation and Entered into CARES Data System
Chronic Absenteeism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Level Chronic Absenteeism</li> </ul>	Annually	External Evaluator	From CDE DataQuest and Entered into CARES Data System
Face-to-Face Youth Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date</li> <li>• Type Issue Addressed</li> </ul>	Quarterly	Juvenile Specialists	Entered into CARES Data System
School Satisfaction Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey Window Dates</li> <li>• Survey Responses</li> </ul>	Annually	Project Director	Feedback Survey Entered into CARES Data System

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### **PROJECT OVERSIGHT STRUCTURE**

CARES has a contract with the Center for Evaluation and Research, LLC to serve as a local evaluator and work collaboratively with the Juvenile Specialists to prepare progress-monitoring reports for the CARES Mobile Response Team. The CARES Mobile Response Team, with representatives from Trinity County Sheriff's Office, Trinity County Probation and the Trinity County Office of Education, will meet quarterly with the primary role of monitoring activities, determining their effectiveness, and making adjustments as necessary.

The Juvenile Specialists have the primary responsibility to document CARES activities. The procedures that ensure that the project implements its components with fidelity include accountability at quarterly CARES Mobile Response Team meetings to address any challenges as well as to affirm and replicate productive and effective activities.

Quantitative and qualitative process data are analyzed by the local evaluator that prepares progress-monitoring reports used by the Juvenile Specialists at the quarterly CARES Mobile Response Team meetings.

### **OUTCOME EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN**

#### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

The outcome evaluation utilizes a descriptive research design that analyzes the process measures over time to answer the outcome evaluation questions described below. The outcome measures are quantifiable and match the Trinity County CARES's intent to make measurable changes that result in 1) a decrease in chronic absenteeism rates at participating schools, 2) a reduction in the number of youth referred as "under the influence", and 3) an increase in CARES Juvenile Specialists' face-to-face youth contacts. CARES activities are overseen by Juvenile Specialists assigned to serve as both school resource officers and community collaborators.

The Outcome Evaluation Plan Matrix defines the outcome variables to be analyzed annually by the local evaluator, Center for Evaluation and Research, LLC (CER), that provides outcome reports to the CARES Mobile Response Team for review that measures the overall effectiveness of the activities, if they were implemented with fidelity, and to help determine the level of achievement of the CARES outcome measures.

#### **OUTCOME EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

1. What was the frequency/dosage of each process measure?
2. How does the outcome data compare with baseline data?
3. Did at-risk youth do better as a result of the interventions?

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**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED**

The number of activities is unknown at the onset of the project because specific activities will be determined by the type of face-to-face youth interactions and subsequent interventions/referrals conducted over the life of the grant.

**CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SUCCESS**

The primary criteria used to determine program success in terms of achieving its stated goals is an annual analysis of the CARES process measures. It is expected that CARES interventions will reduce the number of youth at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system.

**OUTCOME DATA COLLECTION MATRIX**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Data Source(s)</b>	<b>Frequency of Data Collection</b>
Decreased chronic absenteeism rates at participating schools	Chronic Absenteeism is absent more than 10% of a school year.	California Department of Education DataQuest public web-based data reporting system	Chronic Absenteeism data is compared to baseline and annually over the life of the CARES program
Reduction in the number of youth referred as “under the influence”	Youth determined to be “Under the Influence” by school officials or law enforcement officers are referred to Trinity County Probation’s juvenile division	Trinity County Probation juvenile division referral records	“Under the Influence” youth data is compared to baseline and annually over the life of the CARES program
Increase in the number of CARES Juvenile Specialists’ face-to-face youth contacts	Face-to-face youth contacts are CARES Juvenile Specialists interactions initiated by referrals of at-risk youth	CARES Juvenile Specialists data entered into the CARES data system	Subsequent to each face-to-face youth contact
Increase in the number of anti-drug and anti-bullying presentations to community youth	Formal presentations conducted at participating schools to educate youth	Log of presentation dates, topics, and number of participating students	Subsequent to each presentation

Outcome data collection will include the measures listed below and will be used to conduct the outcome data analysis:

- Total number and types of staff trainings
- Total number of Youth face-to-face contacts
- Total number of CARES Mobile Response Team meetings
- Total number of Youth under the influence
- Total number of Youth presentations conducted at participating schools
- Total number of events attended by CARES Juvenile Specialists
- Total number and types of issues that initiate face-to-face contacts
- Chronic Absenteeism rates

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- Survey data from participating schools on how the interventions impacted youth development and the strengthening of protective factors

**OUTCOME DATA ANALYSIS**

Outcome data analysis is conducted by the Center for Evaluation and Research, LLC (CER) that serves as a local evaluator for CARES. CER designed and implemented the Local Evaluation Plan along with a secure, online data collection system to manage collection for outcome data analysis. The CARES data system centralizes data collection for CER to monitor the accuracy of data entry and to help ensure fidelity with the Local Evaluation Plan.

**DETERMINING WHETHER OUTCOMES ARE DUE TO THE PROJECT AND NOT SOME OTHER FACTOR(S) UNRELATED TO THE PROJECT**

Baseline data is compared with outcome data and focus interviews of the Juvenile Specialists with help determine whether the outcomes are due to CARES project interventions or due to factors unrelated to the CARES project.

**METHODS FOR TRACKING CHANGES AND PROJECT PERFORMANCE OVER TIME**

CARES outcome data is tracked annually for analysis of outcome measures. Data management includes the use of a secure online data system designed by the local evaluator for tracking process evaluation measures, for quarterly progress monitoring and reporting, and for outcome reports aggregated annually that the CARES Mobile Response Team utilizes as part of its analysis of program performance over time. A key component for analyzing program performance over time will be feedback collected annually from participating schools on the impacts that CARES activities had at their sites. The feedback will come from participating schools via individualized surveys after their school officials have had an opportunity to reflect upon individualized annual reports that summarize the type and frequency of CARES activities conducted at their sites.

The CARES Mobile Response Team whose primary role is to review program interventions and to make evidence-based recommendations for the continuous improvement of the project, uses outcome data and other evaluation findings to identify the extent to which the project is making progress toward meeting goals and objectives.

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**LOGIC MODEL**

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Goals	Objectives	Impact
<p>State of California, Board of State and Community Corrections Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Funding</p>	<p>CARES Mobile Response Team Staff Training Youth Substance Abuse Education and Prevention Youth Referrals</p>	<p>Project Oversight and Monitoring Effective Youth Engagement Substance Abuse Education Counseling and Treatment School Support</p>	<p><u>BSCC approved CARES Work Plan Goal:</u> increase the potential for adolescents to meet their physical, developmental, and social needs through resiliency.</p>	<p><u>Objective 1:</u> Facilitate positive relationships between law enforcement and youth. <u>Objective 2:</u> Decrease the number of K-12 youth being under the influence. <u>Objective 3:</u> Enhance the ability of youth to respond appropriately to high-risk situations that expose them to substance use of harmful actions. <u>Objective 4:</u> Maximize the use of county-wide partnerships and service coordination to improve health outcomes. <u>Objective 5:</u> Improve access to opportunities for positive youth development.</p>	<p>Break the “preschool to prison” pipeline in Trinity County. Reduce substance use and high-risk behaviors that involve youth in the juvenile justice system. Young people within Trinity County have the opportunity to be healthy, safe, and engaged in positive and productive activities.</p>