

**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act &
Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG)**

Consolidated Annual Plan

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Juvenile Justice Plan Outline

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Part I. Service Needs, Priorities and Strategy

A. Assessment of Existing Services

The Local Juvenile Justice Action Plan has not been updated since 2001. At that time, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council identified gaps in local services and prioritized them in order of greatest need. In 2001, a school based truancy intervention program was selected as the top priority. Many of the other needs identified in the 2001 plan have also been addressed through the implementation of the Truancy Intervention Program; hiring of additional school based counselors; and the implementation of the Children's System of Care Program.

The truancy intervention program provides supportive services to the school district and students which has steadily improved truancy rates throughout the county over the past sixteen years. The school district also hired additional counselors to assist students at all school sites. Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services created the Children's System of Care Program (CSOC), which replaced the Family Solutions Program referenced in the 2001 JJCPA application. CSOC provides youth and family services based on an assessment of the families' needs and strengths. The youth and family partners are actively involved in the development of the case plan and goals.

In April 2017, the local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council reviewed the programs and services supported by the JJCPA and YOBG allocations. The JJCC agreed that there continues to be a need to support the existing programs. The JJCC is also aware that they need to update the Local Juvenile Justice Action Plan of 2001.

Until the plan is updated, Mariposa County will continue to use existing resources to respond to juvenile crime. To make the best use of limited funding, Mariposa County has developed strong collaborative relationships between local agencies and organizations that provide services to the at-risk youth population. The key resources that target at-risk youth and their families include:

- Probation
- Law Enforcement
- Education
- Mental Health
- Health
- Social Services
- Drug and Alcohol

Probation Department

In 1992, Mariposa County built a four-bed special purpose juvenile detention facility. The local juvenile hall can house youthful offenders for up to 96 hours and is only open when a youth has been detained by law enforcement and transported to the facility. The local facility is staffed with extra-help employees only. Over the past several years, juvenile crime has steadily decreased across the country. Consequently, the number of youth needing secure detention has also declined. Additionally, the Probation Department implemented a detention risk assessment instrument (DRAI) to ensure that only those youth needing secure detention are booked into the facility. The consistent use of the DRAI further reduced local detentions of youthful offenders. The reduction in the number of youth detained locally made it difficult to maintain the number of extra-help employees needed to staff the local facility when needed. To address this issue, Mariposa County has contracted with two full-service juvenile hall facilities for the detention of our youth.

The Juvenile Division within the Probation Department has one full-time Deputy Probation Officer and one full-time Supervising Deputy Probation Officer. These officers work together to provide an appropriate level of intervention and prevention services which hold youthful offenders accountable, while keeping the community safe. In 2001, when the County first applied for the JJCPA funding, there were 62 youth on the juvenile caseload. Currently, the department is supervising only two youths, who are on deferred entry of judgement. The juvenile officers have been successful at handling many referrals informally, which include meetings with the offender and parent; referrals to diversion programs; and referrals to other service providers to avoid further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

One diversion program utilized is 3rd Millennium Classrooms, which is an on-line educational program paid for by the department. Youth who are referred as first-time offenders are referred to the on-line classes for shop-lifting, marijuana, alcohol and tobacco related offenses. 3rd Millennium Classrooms also offers a parent education program which is a companion course to the juvenile alcohol and drug education programs.

Another juvenile intervention program is the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), which has been operative since its implementation in 2001. TIP has strengthened the collaborative relationship between the Probation Department, Mariposa County Unified School District and Sheriff's Department. The Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the Juvenile Division responds quickly to referrals received from the various school sites on students who are truant. This officer also responds to the school sites to help with students who are being disruptive to the learning environment.

Over the years the department has also used alternatives to detention and sentencing when deemed appropriate to do so. Applying the appropriate level of intervention or sanction is critical to the success of juvenile probation services. Over the past several years, electronic monitoring, community service, juvenile hall custody and supervision services have been used separately and in combination to meet the diverse need of our youthful offender population.

Law Enforcement

The Mariposa County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and Probation Department comprise the local Drug Task Force team. The Drug Task Force is an interagency project developed to address the prolific drug problems in the community. The task force has eradicated millions of dollars' worth of illegal marijuana gardens and other drug operations over the years. A primary focus of the task force is to identify drug endangered children and make referrals to Child Welfare Services so appropriate services can be provided to this vulnerable population.

Mariposa County Search and Rescue program has been operable since 1976. The program recruits and trains youth to become volunteers in the local search and rescue efforts. Although privately funded, the Mariposa County Sheriff's Department organizes and trains the volunteers which include pilots, radio operators, mounted horsemen, off road vehicle owners, and others. The Search and Rescue group is used to locate and assist victims and carry out "grid" searches. Search and Rescue gives youth excellent training in many areas and opportunities to be helpful in ways that they and others can immediately recognize.

Education

The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meets monthly to review students who are having attendance or behavioral problems in school. SARB members include the Truancy Intervention Program's Deputy Probation Officer, Chief Probation Officer, Sheriff, Deputy District Attorney and representatives from the Human Services Department and school sites. The TIP DPO acts as an arm of SARB to assist students and parents with attendance and behavioral needs. The DPO often provides transportation to students who have missed their bus or don't have other forms of transportation to get to school. The DPO also responds to residences to support parents when youth refuse to go to school. The immediate intervention provided by the Truancy Intervention Program has been instrumental in reducing the number of referrals that are sent to SARB.

The Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD) is the lead agency for Healthy Start, an interagency collaborative program. A wide variety of

support services are offered at the school site by Healthy Start staff and representatives from several local agencies and organizations.

MCUSD also provides counseling services at each of their school sites. Most recently, the Justice Assistance Grant provided funding to a new school program implemented in 2015 that covered the cost of a Behavioral Specialist. This position has provided observation, training and support services to teachers and their students with significant behavioral problems. This program has been successful in reducing the number of suspensions and expulsions of students.

Mental Health

Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provides individual, group and family counseling services to youth and adults.

Unfortunately, with the realignment of Human Services funding, the local Wraparound Program was discontinued. However, Intensive family focused services are now provided by the Children's System of Care Program, which is similar to the wraparound program. Families referred to this program participate in Child and Family Team meetings to identify the strengths, weaknesses and needs of the family. Each child and family team member has identified roles and responsibilities designed to address the issues and support the family.

The MiWu-Mati Healing Center provides client-centered services to American Indian clients, integrating professional clinical counseling services with traditional Native American values and practices. The Center provides counseling, crisis and referral services, community mental health intervention and prevention activities to American Indian families, adults and children. Eligibility for services is based on the client's self-identification as being Native American.

Drug and Alcohol Services

Mariposa Safe Families, Inc. (MSF) is Mariposa County's designated Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council. MSF provides drug and alcohol intervention and prevention services through their Friday Night Live and Club Live programs offered at the high school and elementary school sites throughout the county. Both programs promote positive and healthy youth development.

Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provide individual and group drug and alcohol counseling to adults and youth.

The Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board was established as a body to advise the county alcohol and drug administrator on substance abuse policy and programs. The Advisory board has also taken responsibility for providing direct services in the community. This group actively participates in the

annual County Fair, the Coyote Howl and other community events with games and education for youth and adults, alike.

MiWu-Mati Counseling also provides alcohol and drug counseling services and activities for youth and adults. All services are culturally designed for the Native American population.

Health

The Mariposa County Health Department provides community and environmental health education and services. Community health services include children's immunization and dental programs; children's health and disability prevention program; Smart Start visiting nurse program; communicable disease control; public health emergency preparedness program and tobacco education program, to name a few.

The Health Department's environmental health services include programs that help protect the health, safety and well-being of the public and preserve the quality of the environment. Department specialists inspect, oversee and monitor regulated programs and facilities to ensure compliance with regulations.

Community Based Services

Ethos Youth Center supports young people in bringing positive change to youth culture and supports youth more holistically. The mission of Ethos is to empower young people in Mariposa County to participate fully in their community and thrive in a place of creativity, security, and support. Ethos is open weekday afternoons and Saturdays. Ethos provides free counseling, school tutoring, food and a safe place for youth 12-18 years old to hang out and establish relationships with caring adults.

Mariposa Safe Families' mission is to provide community events that nurture safe and healthy families. The annual Safe At Home event promotes Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a free family fun fair that is intended to link participants to services and opportunities within our community that will support children and the families that are raising them. The Daddy Daughter Dance is an annual event open to everyone to help nurture father-daughter relationships. The annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event is organized to provide a safe environment for families to engage in the trick or treat activity, while providing families with access to local resources.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is a national, nonprofit organization that focuses on volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children. Mariposa County's CASA Program was founded in 2004 and has been serving Mariposa County dependency youth ever since. In 2015, CASA started providing advocacy services to delinquent youth, as well. In 2016, CASA received funding to develop the RECESS Program. RECESS is a free childcare program for parents or guardians who have children who have

been through tough times and the parent or guardian needs some time to themselves.

Community Collaboration

Collaboration in Mariposa County has always occurred naturally here. Mariposa is a small county, with no incorporated areas, so there are no competing levels of local government.

Agency officials have broad areas of responsibility. Each official "wears several hats" and represent programs that would be housed and staffed separately in larger counties. Mandated boards, committees and councils often consist of the same representatives from each agency and community based organization. Agency representatives are continuously working on their interrelationships in order to effectively carry out their many responsibilities with a minimum of duplication and overlap.

Mariposa County agencies are flexible, and bend to meet environmental conditions and the needs of the people. This requires collaboration, which has become a shared value in our county. It is not unusual to find virtually every government and private agency or community group represented at a single meeting to discuss community problems. The county's high level of collaboration is extremely beneficial when we are working together to identify and fill service gaps with limited resources.

Agency representatives agree that all at-risk families are often served by multiple agencies. Because our county is small, service providers are able to get to know each other well and the clients we serve. Therefore, we are able to share the tasks of information gathering and case planning, to best meet the needs of our youth and families. Mariposa County will continue to work collaboratively, as we have been for years, to support the integration of services.

B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

Mariposa County's rural nature makes the prioritization of neighborhoods nearly impossible in our rural community. There are no cities in Mariposa County. The largest town and county seat is Mariposa. Mariposa has a population of approximately 2,200 people, based on the 2010 census; and is the center of most services. Many of our youth live in "neighborhoods" that are best defined as geographical neighborhoods; not population centers, which are normally associated with the definition.

Yosemite National Park is partially located in Mariposa County. No discussion of youth impact on neighborhoods could be made without mentioning Yosemite National Park. The park continues to have a lack of Federal resources to deal with juvenile crime in the park. Although, with the reduction in delinquent activities over the past several years nationwide, the

Probation Department in Mariposa County has not received many juvenile crime referrals from the park.

Since Mariposa is the area of most activities, many youth related activities are centered there as well. Youth are known to congregate in the downtown area. The recent addition of the Ethos Youth Center in Mariposa has become a popular location for youth to congregate, relieving some of the loitering issues for local businesses.

It is also difficult to prioritize and identify one school over another as being more at risk of delinquent crime than others. However, the Spring Hill Alternative Education School site generally deals with the more problematic students. This school site has students that have difficulty being successful at the other traditional school sites in the school district. The Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the Probation Department's Juvenile Division often responds to the alternative education school site to assist school personnel with those students who disrupt the learning environment.

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

In 2014, law enforcement agencies in the United States made an estimated one million arrests of persons under age 18, which is 50% less than the number of arrests made in 2005. The state of California and, more specifically, Mariposa County has also seen a steady decline in juvenile crime. Over the past several years, Mariposa County has been improving the continuum of services provided to youthful offenders in an effort to reduce the incidence of juvenile crime and delinquency locally.

Every effort is made to hold youthful offenders accountable for their actions, utilizing the least restrictive option available. The Probation Department has implemented several evidenced-based programs over the years; and has collaborated with local service providers to offer evidenced-based programs to meet the needs of youthful offenders and their families.

The department has utilized Project TND, a promising evidenced-based interactive program designed to help high school age youth resist substance use. Project TND is based on the theories of cognitive perception and behavioral skills. This program was successfully used within our department to divert first time offenders from the juvenile justice system. Another program used by Mariposa County Probation is the Aggression Replacement Training (ART), and was an effective evidenced-based program which concentrated on the development of individual competencies to address various emotional and social aspects that contribute to aggressive behavior in youth. With the decline in juvenile crime referrals, both of these programs were discontinued due to a lack of program participants. The most common early intervention program utilized by the department is 3rd Millennium Classrooms, an on-line educational program for low level offenders.

The Probation Department has also implemented the use of juvenile assessment tools, an evidenced-based practice. The assessment tool has been used to identify low to high risk offenders, allowing the department to focus limited resources on those offenders who need them the most. With the use of the assessments, the department has been able to establish appropriate supervision ratios of juvenile offenders. Additionally, the department uses incentive-based supervision to motivate juvenile probationers to make positive and successful choices.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is familiar with the programs and services funded by JJCPA and YOBG. The Council continues to support the use of JJCPA funding to cover the costs to maintain a full-time deputy probation officer assigned to the Probation Department's Juvenile Division. Furthermore, the Council believes that the services provided to local students and the school sites through the Truancy Intervention Program has been instrumental in reducing local truancy rates, suspensions and expulsions. The Council supports the Probation Department's desire to continue the Truancy Intervention Program. This program will continue to support a comprehensive continuum of responses to juvenile crime, enhance collaborative and integrated approaches, and implement a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

Incidents of arrest, incarceration, and probation will be our measures of ongoing success. Youthful offenders under a program of supervision by the Probation Department will be measured by their successful completion of probation or deferred entry of judgement program. For minors not on probation, measures of success will include attendance in school and reduced recidivism rates.

While we recognize that in the future, other identified service gaps may be identified and need to be addressed, we feel priority should be given to the school based intervention strategy, which has proven to be a successful program. Poor school performance and or behavioral problems have been proven to be a major predictor of future delinquent behavior. The Mariposa County School District continues to need assistance in working with these youth. The JJCC recognizes the benefit to the community to provide services on the front end while maintaining the current continuum of responses. It also recognizes the demonstrated effectiveness that similar programs have had at integrating services and intervention/prevention strategies.

The JJCC believes that a truancy intervention program will continue to reduce the truancy rate in our school district. This supports the Juvenile Justice Plan in that attendance in school has demonstrated to reduce the risk of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

A. Information Sharing and Data

The Court, Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and Probation Office share a computer database that allows for sharing of information. Each agency compiles data on juveniles for individual departmental evaluation. The Probation Department also submits reports to DOJ on juvenile arrests and disposition data through the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System. Probation also has an interagency release form to resolve confidentiality concerns. Parents sign the form, indicating which department(s) may exchange information.

Mariposa County's small size lends itself to the oldest system of information sharing, word of mouth. Whether it is a case going to court or a problematic youth in the school system, it is not unusual to hear about it through personal contact with the involved parties. Community partners work effectively together to share information needed to provide appropriate services to youth and their families.

B. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

Program Name

Truancy Intervention Program (TIP)

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based

Mariposa County's Truancy Intervention Program was developed in 2001. Our program was based on the Kern County Truancy Intervention Program, which had a demonstrated record of success since 1988. Additionally, Mariposa County used the guidelines identified in the Manual to Combat Truancy, released in July 1996 by the U.S. Department of Education in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Description

The Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) is a collaborative effort on the part of the Mariposa County School District, Probation Department and Law Enforcement. The program objective is to reduce the truancy rate of students.

TIP is also an early intervention program to divert youth from future involvement in the Juvenile Justice System. School based probation officers handling truancy issues have proven effective across the State of California and the Nation to be effective in reducing truancy rates. There is currently one Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) assigned to the school district in

Mariposa County. JJCPA funding will be utilized to support the cost to maintain a full-time Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the program.

The benefits from the reduction of truancy are:

- Opportunity to improve academic success;
- Improve overall commitment to education;
- Address anti-social behaviors;
- Reduce the drop-out rate of students;
- Fewer daytime crimes committed by youthful offenders;
- Increase in ADA funding for the school district.

The DPO will be a liaison between the family, school and the community. Although intervention programs differ to some degree in each school, the goal is the same, reduce the truancy rate of students. The DPO will work in tandem with school personnel to address the problem of absenteeism by reviewing the school records and discussing previous problematic issues. The DPO will conduct in-service training with school personnel regarding attendance monitoring and school site intervention tactics.

Once a student has been identified as a truant and referred to the school DPO, a letter will be sent to the home of each student, apprising the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the problem. In most cases, a home visit by the TIP Officer will be conducted if the problem persists.

Students who are habitually truant are identified by:

- Attendance clerks
- Counselors
- Teachers
- Parents/Guardians
- Law Enforcement

Once a student is referred to the TIP DPO:

- The DPO will contact the student and parent/guardian at home or school.
- The family is made aware of laws pertaining to truancy and a plan will be devised to get the family in compliance with the law.
- Collateral information will be gathered.
- Referrals will be made to community resources and the school counselor.

- The TIP DPO will continue to sit on the SARB Panel and provide information regarding pre-SARB intervention services.
- SARB cases will be monitored by the TIP DPO for compliance with the voluntary contract.
- If a student is not in compliance with their SARB contract, the student will be contacted and the family will be notified of the continuing problem.
- Potential obstacles will be assessed and a decision will be made regarding whether a student is appropriate for Informal Probation, pursuant to 654(a) Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC).

Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

Every youth who has committed a felony is assessed at the onset of their case to determine the likelihood of future law violations and ability to comply with probation conditions. The PACT Assessment tool is used to identify criminogenic risks and needs of probation youth; and has been instrumental in assisting our officers in providing an appropriate level of intervention, services and referrals.

The program's targeted population includes WIC 602 youth who have been identified as DEJ youth, felony offenders, repeat offenders, and at-risk youth. This population includes youth who are on probation for felony or misdemeanor offenses involving violent/serious offenses, drug offenses, sex offenses and offenders with mental health needs. This population also includes youth in out-of-home placement or at risk for out-of-home placement.

Youth at risk for placement or detention are served by the local Children's System of Care Program (CSOC), provided through Mariposa County Human Services Department. The CSOC Program provides counseling, mentoring, parental role-modeling and other supportive services used successfully to reduce the out-of-home placement and detention of this population.

Although our Juvenile Probation Caseload has declined steadily over the past several years, there are currently two Deputy Probation Officers assigned to the Probation Department's Juvenile Division. One Deputy Probation Officer is assigned to manage the Juvenile Division and is the Superintendent of the County's Special Purpose Juvenile Hall. One Deputy Probation Officer is currently assigned to supervise all youth on Probation, which includes the youth who meet YOBG program requirements. This officer is also assigned to the Truancy Intervention Program. In all wardship and deferred entry of judgement cases, individualized case plans are developed with the participation of the minor and parent to identify the risks and needs of the youth so appropriate services can be provided to address the youth's criminogenic factors and promote rehabilitation.

The department has collaborative relationships with the local school district and service providers. The officer regularly participates in MDT, TDM, CFT and school meetings to address the needs of the youth and families and coordinate agency efforts. The DPO has weekly contacts with targeted youth, their parents, teachers and service providers as needed. This allows the officer to evaluate the youth's compliance with probation conditions. Youth who do not meet YOBG program requirements typically have monthly contact with their probation officer, to report their progress toward meeting the conditions of their probation.

The Department has utilized several evidenced based programs in the past. The previously mentioned ADAPT Program was very effective. Additionally, the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) is also available and is a non-profit community based program designed to facilitate a meeting between the victim, offender and offender's parents to discuss the offense and needs of the victim. 3rd Millennium Classrooms is an on-line educational program that is currently utilized for first-time or low-risk offenders, targeting marijuana/alcohol and shop lifting offenses.

B. Regional Agreements

Mariposa County has a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall, which can hold youth in custody for up to 96 hours. The facility is staffed with extra-help, on-call employees only. Unfortunately, over the past several years it has been difficult to hire enough employees required to cover 24 hour shifts in the juvenile hall. Therefore, Mariposa County has housing contracts with the Madera and Kern County Juvenile Detention facilities. Youth requiring detention, pending a court appearance, are transported to one of these out of county facilities.

YOBG funds may be used to cover the contract housing fees for youth detained in Madera or Kern County facilities. Furthermore, YOBG funds may be used to cover medical or mental health costs for detained youth requiring these services while under the care, custody and control of the Mariposa County Probation Department.

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

Program Name

Youthful Offender Program

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA

Mariposa County has had an effective Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) funded by JJCPA. JJCPA supports the costs associated with retaining a full-time Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the Juvenile Division. This officer is responsible for the supervision of all youthful offenders on Juvenile Probation, including YOBG targeted youth and TIP participants.

The JJCPA prevention and early intervention program has had a positive impact in reducing local truancy rates and identifying youth with other risks and needs. The collaborative efforts of these two programs continue to be successful.

Description

Mariposa County's moderate to high risk juvenile offenders are the targeted population. Youth identified as at risk for out-of-home placement will be referred to the local Children's System of Care (CSOC) Program for intensive intervention and services. The level of services provided through this program has proven to be effective in addressing youth and familial issues, while allowing the youth to remain in the home. The CSOC Program provides counseling, mentoring, parental role-modeling and other supportive services.

Other local programs and services are used as alternatives to incarceration and hold youth accountable. The department's Electronic Monitoring Program is utilized to maintain youthful offenders in the home so that services can be continued. The Truancy Intervention Program (JJCPA) addresses school related issues and has been successful in reducing truancy statistics in our community.

YOBG funds will be used to support existing and new programs. When available, contract services may be used to support youth at home. Funds may also be used to support the costs of electronic monitoring; detention; drug testing; vehicle expenses; office/equipment expenses; and other costs associated with supporting services that best meet the needs of the targeted population. Keeping youth in the home of their parent/guardian significantly reduces county costs associated with out-of-home placement and detention.