

**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**

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

### **A. Assessment of Existing Services**

In 2001, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council identified gaps in local services and prioritized them in order of greatest need. A school based truancy intervention program was selected as the top priority. In collaboration with the Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD), the Mariposa County Probation Department implemented the Truancy Intervention Program. Over the years, this program facilitated the collaborative relationships that probation now has with Mariposa County Health and Human Services Department, school site administrators, teachers and other service providers within the county.

The Truancy Intervention Program has provided supportive services to the school district and students since its implementation. At the beginning of the current school year, the school district implemented a new program to address student attendance. The sheriff's office assigned a deputy to act as a school resource officer and work collaboratively with a teacher on special assignment (TOSA) and the probation department to address truancy issues and students with behavioral problems. The addition of the sheriff's deputy and the TOSA has strengthened the truancy intervention program initially implemented by the probation department. The probation department continues to respond to the school sites as needed to address student attendance and behavior problems.

The school district also provides counselors to assist students at all school sites. Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provide therapeutic services through their Full Service Partnership (FSP) Program to support students and their families. FSP 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.

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
- Social Services
- Mental Health
- Drug and Alcohol
- Health

## **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. Over the past several years, juvenile crime has steadily decreased across the country. Consequently, the number of youth needing secure detention has also declined. The implementation of a detention risk assessment instrument (DRAI), to ensure that only those youth needing secure detention are detained in the facility, has further reduced local detentions of youthful offenders. The reduction in the number of youth detained locally has made it difficult to maintain enough extra-help employees needed to staff the local facility. 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. Juvenile offenders are assessed by this officer to determine the appropriate level of intervention and services. In most cases, informal intervention services are found to be appropriate in order to hold youthful offenders accountable.

In 2001, when Mariposa County first applied for the JJCPA funding, there were approximately 60 youth on the juvenile supervision caseload. In 2018 there were approximately 115 delinquency referrals received by the probation department. Of those referrals, three youth were placed on informal probation and one youth was placed on formal probation by the court. The majority of those referrals were successfully handled informally, which included 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.

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. 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 Mariposa County Drug Enforcement Team, historically funded by the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). This drug enforcement program has been operative since 1992. The drug enforcement team is an interagency project developed to address the on-going drug problems in the community. This team has eradicated millions of dollars' worth of illegal marijuana gardens and other drug operations over the years. A primary focus of the drug enforcement team 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. Youth are recruited and trained to become volunteers in the local search and rescue program. 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. The search and rescue program gives youth excellent training in many areas; and opportunities to be helpful in ways that they and others can immediately recognize.

## **Education**

The Mariposa County School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meets monthly to review students who are having attendance or behavioral problems in school. SARB members include representatives from the probation department, sheriff's office, district attorney's office, health and human services department and school site counselors and administrators.

The Mariposa County Unified School District (MCUSD) is also 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. In 2015, JAG provided funding to the school district for a teacher on special assignment (TOSA). The TOSA was assigned to an under-served school site in the northern part of the county. The TOSA provided observation, training and support services to teachers; and students with significant behavioral problems. This program was successful at reducing the number of suspensions and expulsions of students.

## **Mariposa County Health and Human Services**

Mariposa County recently consolidated the Public Health Department, Community Services Department and the Human Services Department. By

consolidating these agencies, Mariposa County hopes to improve the wellness of its residents through a holistic approach. In addition, the consolidated agency includes Mental Health Services, Drug and Alcohol Services, Adult and Child Welfare Services.

- **Mental Health**

Mariposa County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services provides individual, group and family counseling services to youth and adults. Intensive family focused services are provided through the Full Service Partnership 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. The center also provides alcohol and drug counseling services and activities for youth and adults.

- **Drug and Alcohol Services**

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.

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.

- **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 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. With the reduction in delinquent activities over the past several years nationwide, the Mariposa County Probation Department has not received many juvenile delinquent 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 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 department's juvenile division may respond to the alternative education school site to assist school personnel with those students who disrupt the learning environment.

### **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

The state of California and, more specifically, Mariposa County has 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 levels for juvenile offenders. Additionally, the department uses incentive-based supervision to motivate juvenile probationers to make positive and successful choices.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) 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 juvenile division. Furthermore, the council believes that the services provided to local students and the school sites through the collaborative relationship with the school and sheriff's office has been instrumental in reducing local truancy rates, suspensions and expulsions. 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 youth 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 locally. Poor school performance and or behavioral problems have been proven to be a major predictor of future delinquent behavior. MCUSD continues to need assistance in working with these youth. Everyone recognizes the benefit to the community of providing preventative and early intervention services to maintain the current continuum of responses. It has also been recognized that similar programs have demonstrated their effectiveness at integrating services and intervention/prevention strategies.

## **Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

(Government Code Section 30061(b) (4))

### **A. Information Sharing and Data**

Mariposa County's Superior Court, Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and Probation Department have independent databases at this time. However, due to the collaborative relationships that exist between each of these agencies, the sharing of information is not problematic. Each agency compiles data on juveniles for individual departmental evaluation. The probation department submits reports to the California Department of Justice 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 (TIP) 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**

TIP has been a collaborative effort on the part of the Mariposa County Unified School District, Probation Department and Sheriff's Office. The program objective is to reduce the truancy rate of students.

TIP is an early intervention program to divert youth from future involvement in the juvenile justice system. School based officers handling truancy issues have proven effective across the State of California and the Nation to be

effective in reducing truancy rates. Since the school district recently developed their own program to address truancy and behavioral issues of students, the probation department's truancy intervention program has become a support system for the school's program. The TOSA and school resource officer, assigned to the school's program, have taken the lead in addressing these school based issues. Consequently, the need for a full-time DPO assigned to the school district is no longer necessary. However, JJCPA funding will still be utilized to support the cost to maintain a full-time DPO so the department can continue to support the school's truancy reduction program, while providing an appropriate level of intervention and services to juveniles referred to the probation department for delinquent activities.

It has been many years since JJCPA funding fully supported the truancy intervention officer position. Over the years, Mariposa County has had to increase general funding to cover the costs of maintaining a full-time deputy probation officer assigned to this project. The reduction of juvenile crime over the past several years has caused the number of delinquency and truancy referrals to decline. However, all parties agree that the early intervention efforts of the program have proven to be successful.

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 partially funded by JJCPA will continue to be a liaison between the family, school and the community. The DPO will work in tandem with school personnel to address the problem of absenteeism by reviewing school records and discussing previous problematic issues.

Once a student has been identified as a truant, the school will send a letter to the home of each student, apprising the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the problem. When deemed appropriate, the DPO will make a home visit to contact a parent/guardian if the problem persists. The DPO will also assist with the personal service of truancy notification letters when the school has not been successful at contacting the parent or guardian.

The probation department is committed to supporting truancy intervention efforts. In collaboration with the TOSA and school resource officer, the DPO will continue to assist in providing the following interventions:

- Contact the student and parent/guardian at home or school
- Make family aware of laws pertaining to truancy
- Devise a plan that will get the family in compliance with the law
- Refer student and parent/guardian to school and/or community resources
- Potential obstacles to student's success 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).

Additionally, the probation department will continue to have representation on the Student Attendance Review Board Panel. The DPO attending SARB meetings will provide information regarding pre-SARB intervention services provided by the department and assist with monitoring SARB cases for compliance. Students who continue to be non-compliant with attendance laws may be contacted and their parent or guardian will be notified of the continuing problem. The probation department will make every effort to support the family in getting their student to school.

## **Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

(Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))

### **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 or 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 Full Service Partnership Program (FSP), provided through Mariposa County Health and Human Services Department. The FSP 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.

Consistent with the decline of our juvenile probation caseload over the past several years, there is only one DPO assigned to the juvenile division. This DPO wears many hats. In addition to handling juvenile referrals from intake to supervision, this officer is the superintendent of the county's Special Purpose Juvenile Hall; and is also responsible for supervising staff and managing and reporting on the department's grant funded programs.

Currently, the department is supervising only one youth on formal probation. Most delinquent referrals are handled by informal interventions and referrals to appropriate service providers. In all wardship and deferred entry of judgement cases, individualized case plans are developed with the participation of the youth 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 DPO 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 contact 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) has also been utilized 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 currently utilized for first-time or low-risk offenders.

## **B. Regional Agreements**

Mariposa County has a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall, which can hold youth in custody for up to 96 hours. Unfortunately, over the past several years it has been difficult to hire enough on-call employees required to cover 24-hour shifts in the facility. Therefore, Mariposa County has housing contracts with Madera and Tuolumne County Juvenile Detention facilities. Detained youth 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 Tuolumne 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 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 youthful offenders on juvenile probation.

The JJCPA 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. However, the number of juvenile offender referrals has decreased significantly over the past ten years. Most delinquent referrals received by the department have been for low-level offenses. What continues to increase is the number of delinquent youth referred who have significant mental health concerns. This youthful population has become the new target of the YOBG program, by default.

Since appropriate mental health services for this population are limited locally and statewide, probation will continue to collaborate with local providers to provide an intensive level of supervision, services and support needed to keep youth in the home of their parent or guardian. This youthful population typically is identified as being at a higher risk for out-of-home placement.

Child and Family Team Meetings will continue to be utilized to identify family strengths and needs of the targeted population. These meetings help align the appropriate services to meet the needs of the youth and family. The Full Service Partnership Program through Behavioral Health is able to provide counseling, mentoring, parental role-modeling and other supportive services. This approach has proven to be effective in addressing youth and familial issues.

Other local programs and services are used as alternatives to incarceration and hold youth accountable. The department's Electronic Monitoring Program may be 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 deemed appropriate, this funding will be used to cover the costs for psychiatric or psychological evaluations. These evaluations have been beneficial in the past to identify mental health problems of youth and provide treatment recommendations. Since many youth today enter the juvenile justice system with undiagnosed mental health disorders, the results of these assessments have given the Juvenile Court Judge the information needed to make an appropriate order that best meets the needs of the juvenile offender and their family.

Funds may also be used to support the costs of electronic monitoring; 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.