



Mendocino County Proposition 64 Public Health & Safety Grant Program Local Evaluation Plan

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Project Background

On January 29, 2021, the Mendocino County Probation Department responded to a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Proposition 64 (Cohort 2) Public Health and Safety Grant Program (i.e., Prop 64 grant) from the State of California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The grant program was intended to fund projects that assist counties and cities with law enforcement, fire protection, youth cannabis use prevention, and other local projects related to public health and safety associated with the implementation of the *Control, Regulate, Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act* (AUMA). Mendocino County was awarded one of the 22 grants in the second cohort which covers the period between May 1, 2020 and October 31, 2024. Of the four PPAs included in the RFP, Mendocino County's proposal addressed PPA1: Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention.

Based upon the descriptions of Youth Development and Youth Prevention and Intervention, the goals and objectives around Mendocino's Prop 64 grant program are a blend of both components. The program's goals and objectives focus on intervening in young people's cannabis and other substance use trajectories, with educational and prevention-oriented programming and activities, while also providing a rich youth development program for them, all within a restorative justice framework. Mendocino County's P64 grant program goals and objectives, along with the need for this project, project activities, the overall approach to the work, and description of the evaluation, are described in this local evaluation plan (LEP).

PPA 1: Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention

Mendocino County has a total population of 86,061, 21% of which is under age 18. The county has the 4th largest population per capita of Native American persons of any California county at 6.6% of the population.¹ There are 10 Tribal Nations within Mendocino County each with its own unique customs and traditions which is a strength but is not sufficient to protect Native youth from experiencing multiple disparities. However, Native youth are not unique in experiencing disparities. Mendocino County is 64% White and 26% Hispanic/Latinx. Aside from 6.6% who are Native American, the remaining 3.4% represent three groups: African American/Black (0.8%), Asian (2.3%), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0.3%). Many indicators of health and wellbeing are worse for the county's minority racial/ethnic group children; on some indicators, all Mendocino youth fare worse than these groups around the state.

Mendocino County residents face significant impacts due to social determinants of health. A total of 55% of residents have experienced one or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and at 25%, Mendocino is the 2nd highest county in the state for the percentage of children who have experienced two or more ACEs.² In 2020, Mendocino County's rate of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect was 20/1,000 residents, almost three times the state rate of 6.8/1,000 and the 5th highest rate of all counties.³ The 2018 Mendocino's rate of children in foster care was also

¹ County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2022). 2022 California Data. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Accessed at: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/california/data-and-resources>

² National Survey of Children's Health and the American Community Survey (Jan. 2021). *Proportion of children who are exposed to Adverse Experiences (Parent reported)*. Population Reference Bureau. Accessed from: <https://letsgethealthy.ca.gov/goals/healthy-beginnings/adverse-childhood-experiences/>

³ California Child Welfare Indicators Project, CCWIP Reports. UC Berkeley; CA DSS (2021). Accessed from Kidsdata.org.

California's 5th highest at 11.3/1,000, and more than double the state rate of 5.3/1,000.⁴ The 2020 public school suspension rate was 49.9/1,000, twice that of California (24.5/1,000), and again, the 5th highest rate of any California county.⁵

Despite the overall level of need, numerous gaps exist by race and ethnicity in terms of the social determinates of health for Mendocino County youth which puts them at higher risk for multiple negative life outcomes, including involvement in the justice system, poor school completion and economic challenges. Mendocino youth enter into the juvenile justice system at higher than average rates, as evidenced by its juvenile felony arrest rate. Mendocino County had the tenth highest juvenile felony arrest rate in 2020 at 3.6 per 1,000 youth (representing 30 felony arrests) compared to California's rate of 2.7/1,000. This rate has actually improved from 2018 when it was 9.8/1,000, more than double the state rate of 4.1/1,000 and then 2nd highest rate statewide.⁶

Bullying and harassment at school are also problematic. The California Healthy Kids Survey of 2017-2019 revealed that 46% of Mendocino County students surveyed in grades 7, 9 and 11 reported some bullying and harassment at school compared to 35.7% of students statewide. Compared to California overall, students in certain racial/ethnic groups more frequently experienced harassment or bullying at school: African American/Black (46% vs. 35.7%); Asian students (52.1% vs. 36.5%); and Hispanic/Latinx students (34% vs. 26.3%). Three groups experienced a lower than state average rate of harassment at school (American Indian students (20.9% vs. 33.4%); White students (33.4% vs. 36.5%); and Multiracial students (36.% vs. 37.1%).⁷

Environmental risk factors, such as exposure to trauma, poverty, and violence will likely be made worse by the legalization of recreational cannabis. Substance use data from the California Healthy Kids Survey bears this out. Overall, 40.2% of Mendocino students in grade 11, reported some use of alcohol and other drugs on the 2017-19 survey compared to 23.2% statewide. Alcohol and substance use also varies by race and ethnicity, with all racial and ethnic groups showing higher use than their counterparts across California. The results show disproportionate reporting of alcohol and other drug use for students who are African American/Black (33.2% vs. 12.5%); American Indian (23.9% vs. 16.1%); Asian (14.5% vs. 7%); Hispanic/Latinx (28.4% vs. 15.9%); Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (56.2% vs. 15.5%); and White (32.5% vs. 16.7%).

Cannabis use is especially high for Mendocino County students compared to the state as well. Of Mendocino's 11th grade students, 24.5% used cannabis within the last month compared to 15.7% of similar students statewide. Moreover, the County's younger students, in grade 7 used at higher rates than all California grade 7 students (9.7% vs. 3.7%). These disparities between the county and the state persist by race and ethnic groups' student reporting as well (again reported in order of county vs. state): African American/Black (18% vs. 10.1%); Native American (20.2% vs. 11.8%); Asian (10.6% vs. 3.8%); Hispanic/Latinx (17.3% vs. 10.5%); Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (54.5% vs. 11.9%); White (21.6% vs. 10.5%), and Multiracial (21% vs. 10.9%).⁸

⁴ Webster, D., et al. California Child Welfare Indicators Project Reports. UC Berkeley Center for Social Services Research (Jul. 2019). Accessed from Kidsdata.org.

⁵ CA Dept. of Education, Suspension Data (May 2021). Accessed from Kidsdata.org.

⁶ CA DOJ Crime Statistics. Arrests; CA Dpt of Finance, Population Estimates & Projections (Dec. 2021). Accessed at Kidsdata.org.

⁷ WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey Biennial State CHKS. CA Dept. of Education (2020). Accessed at Kidsdata.org.

⁸ WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey Biennial State CHKS. CA Dept. of Education (2020). Accessed at Kidsdata.org.

Between the existing concerns about Mendocino’s youth and the proliferation of recreational cannabis, there is a great community need to provide youth with a program that will mitigate risk factors while offering an alternative to further traumatization by entry in the juvenile justice system. Mendocino County’s approach to PPA 1 is to enhance Mendocino County’s Restorative Justice Youth Council (RJYC) program, a public/private partnership between Mendocino County Probation and the Arbor-Drug Free Communities Coalition, a Division of Redwood Community Services, Inc. (RCS). Using youth-driven, restorative approaches based on Youth Court, the program will work with high-risk youth and young adults to advocate for restorative practices in schools, with law enforcement, and community-based organizations, providing trauma-informed alternatives to juvenile justice and suspension systems. Youth will participate in peer-with-peer support and mentorship activities to increase protective factors and independent living skills. To ensure equity of access to the program across the rugged rural areas of the county, services will be provided through a varied model of in person and virtual activities. Mendocino County’s PPA1 youth participant information appears in Table 1.

Table 1. Program Participation Information for Restorative Justice Youth Council

Target Population	Criteria for Eligibility	Criteria for Selection of Intervention
Referred Youth Participants (RYPs)	Participants are Mendocino County youth ages 12 – 17, 1 st time offenders of non-violent crime or 1 st time non-violent school offenses. Youth are referred from County Probation or by Mendocino County schools and other sources.	Referred youth participate in compulsory activities and discretionary activities. Compulsory activities are required of all RYPs. Discretionary activities are discussed between the RYP and the RJYC Coordinator at intake. The possible options and recommendations of the RJYC Coordinator are reviewed and determined at the RYP’s hearing. The formal Restorative Justice Case Plan is delivered as the official sanctions by the RJYC.
Peer Team Youth Volunteers (PTYVs)	Peer Team Youth Volunteers are the RYPs who, as part of their participation, appear in the Youth Council Proceedings of at least 3 other RYPs.	The RJYC model is designed to include this as a component of the referred youths’ compulsory activities while participating in the RJYC.
Youth Advocate Volunteers (YAVs)	Once RYPs complete their Peer Team Youth Volunteer requirements, they are given the opportunity to become a YAV.	The YAV role is described within the RJYC program description. The YAVs all engage in the same activities.

Referred Youth Participants (RYPs) engage in a 3-month program which includes compulsory activities and discretionary activities, shown in Table 2 below. The compulsory activities are designed to give youth the greatest opportunity to take accountability for their actions, reflect on their behavior, make a commitment to repairing harm, and restore relationships with their families and community. Discretionary activities are rooted in trauma informed and strengths-based practices. They take into consideration individual referred youth’s cultural practices and personal needs, while enhancing peer connections and giving youth the opportunity to guide the program model for future participants. Successful completion is determined based upon each required element being completed.

Table 2. Referred Youth Participants – Compulsory and Discretionary Activities

RYP Compulsory Activities	Discretionary Activities
<p>Successful completion of the RYJP requires all RYPs to complete the following within 3 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commitment to take accountability for behavior ○ Commitment to repair harm done ○ Commitment to fix relationships ○ Completion of 25-30 hours of community services/civic engagement activities ○ Completion of 12 hour Drug and Alcohol Course (1 6-hour session that is also attended by the parents; 2 3-hour courses for youth participants) ○ Completion of a reflective essay ○ Participation in Peer Council for 3 other RYPs (PTYV) 	<p>Discretionary Activities include a combination of culturally relevant individualized wellness activities determined and agreed upon at the RYP’s hearing, based on information presented in the case file. These activities can include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individual or family therapy ○ Substance use disorder treatment ○ Culturally specific activities (e.g., interview a Tribal Elder, learn to make a traditional dish from RYP’s cultural heritage) ○ Job training ○ Life skills courses ○ Music lessons, community theater or sports programs

Peer Team Youth Volunteers (PTYVs) are the RYPs themselves, as they engage in the final component of their RJYC Program. RYPs participate in at least three RJYC hearings of their peers. Typically, PTYV have completed their Restorative Plan and are working towards their compulsory and discretionary activities. They share their experience, growth, success with newly referred youth, work towards building a positive peer role modeling and supportive relationships with peers. Successful completion of this component of the RJYC program is met once the PTYV participates in at least three Youth Council proceedings for other RYPs.

Youth Advocate Volunteers (YAVs) complete six hours of training on restorative practices, how to build rapport with youth from diverse backgrounds, and learn skills to support RYP’s throughout their process from intake to completion. Advocates attend hearings and informational sessions about motivational interviewing, mandated reporting, and other important topics. There are no requirements that define successful completion of this element as it is voluntary. However, YAV are asked to commit to at least six months in this role.

Evaluation Overview

The evaluation of Mendocino County’s Prop 64 grant program is based on logic model for its project. The logic model addresses the goals and maps out project resources (inputs), activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts. The evaluation involves both process and outcome components, the details of which, as well as the overall research design, and data collection follow, with logic models shown in Appendix A. The evaluation of process and outcomes address the questions shown in Table 3. Goals and objectives and their measurement appear in Table 4. The development and modification of PPA goals, objectives, and linkages within the logic models, as well as subsequent evaluation work, will be facilitated by a contracted external evaluation consultant, Lori Mulholland of Mulholland Research & Evaluation Services (MRES).

Table 3. Evaluation Questions

Process-related Evaluation Questions	Outcome-related Evaluation Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were grant activities implemented as planned? • What barriers were encountered in implementation? • What modifications were needed to overcome barriers? • How well were grant activities implemented? • Were the target audiences reached and engaged? • How satisfied was the target audience with services received? • How did external factors impact implementation? • What lessons have been learned to improve program efforts? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How well did the grant activities work in changing conditions, knowledge, attitudes, and/or behaviors? • Did grant activities benefit some participants more than others? • Which aspects of the grant were the most successful or seen as most valuable by the target audience? • What external factors influenced the outcomes?

Research Design

The evaluation of Mendocino County’s grant relies on mixed methods, incorporating quantitative and qualitative data to inform both process and outcome evaluation. Table 4 is an evaluation matrix that describes the nature of each objective, whether it is process or outcome-oriented, the source of data, and frequency of data collection. Quantitative data will be used to document many of the process-related objectives, as well as certain components of all outcome-related objectives. Quantitative and qualitative data will be used to assess change in perceptions and knowledge of youth, young adult, and family participants for specific youth prevention-related objectives. Qualitative data will also inform the evaluation with insights about impacts, systemic barriers, challenges, and successes encountered during implementation of the RJYC Program.

Process Evaluation

The process evaluation focuses on the extent of implementation and completion of grant activities. The evaluation will triangulate both quantitative and qualitative data as needed to document implementation and provide various perspectives on the quality of implementation, barriers, and facilitators encountered to inform program improvement efforts. The objectives involve both process and outcome evaluation. Although all objectives are considered outcome-related, process-related data will be collected continuously alongside the measurement of outcomes. Process-related indicators documenting implementation will be measured in part through program records as well as through surveys as appropriate.

Outcome Evaluation

The outcome evaluation assesses the change in conditions for intended populations within the objectives being measured. Outcome measurement will use surveys addressing the objectives. Unfortunately, available funding does not permit a rigorous experimental or quasi-experimental evaluation design as the costs of adding a randomly assigned control group or a comparison group would be prohibitive. So, while other factors may to some extent influence participant change, it will not be possible to determine, with reasonable certainty, that the changes that participants experience, are due exclusively to the program and not to some other factors. Caveats will be described in the Local Evaluation Report that address the limitations of the evaluation, such as limitations of self-report data, and non-experimental design. The data collected, will however, directly assess the experiences, knowledge gained, attitudes and behavior changes of all program participants which will be used for program improvement and further program planning purposes.

Data Sources and Data Collection

Data sources and data collection by goals, objectives, and the description of objectives as process- or outcome-related, and frequency of data collection are shown in Table 5 on page 8.

Quantitative Data Collection

Objectives will be measured in part with quantitative data from program records for information such as enrollment statistics and participation rates, staff training, documentation of purchases, and assessment results. Quantitative program record data will be collected from multiple sources such as participant sign in sheets, training logs, activity records, and the results of social/emotional competency assessments. These records will be added into a project database when not otherwise stored in program-specific databases.

There are also quantitative elements to survey data. Surveys are to be implemented for Referred Youth Participants, Peer Team Volunteers, and parents. Responses will be averaged within participant groups, and percentage of responses falling along each end of the Likert-type scale (e.g., percent of students who Strongly Agree/Agree). Table 4 shows the various sources of quantitative data to be used.

Table 4. Quantitative Data Sources

Data Source	Quantitative Data to be Accessed	Responsible for Collection
Program Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals to RJYC by Probation, schools, other sources • RJYC enrollment of RYPs, PTYVs, and YAVs • Monthly cannabis/other substance education activities/events • Participation records for RYPs, PTYVs, YAVs, and parents • Collaborative efforts, meetings to improve the referral process from Probation • Curriculum purchase, EBPs added (if needed), training conducted • Referrals to services for families/parents • Change in number of program partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCS • RCS • RCS • RCS • RCS; Probation • RCS; Probation • RCS • RCS
Referred Youth Participant Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-reported change in knowledge/use of harm reduction/safety skills in high risk drug use • Change in self-reported ratings of substance use, including cannabis • Change in Self-reported grades/school attendance • Change in self-reported ratings of mental health, communication, and leadership skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to be collected by RCS based upon Evaluator developed RYP surveys
Peer Team Youth Volunteer Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in self-reported ratings of criminal justice system knowledge, restorative justice practices, leadership skills, and social emotional competencies • Change in perception of harm of cannabis and other substance use • Change in self-reported cannabis and other substance use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to be collected by RCS based upon Evaluator developed PTYV surveys
Parent Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrospective change in ratings on knowledge of community resources • Self-reported referrals to resources and use of those referrals • Level of impact of RJYC on their child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to be collected by RCS based upon Evaluator developed parent surveys
Social Emotional Competency Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in social/emotional competencies and mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected by RCS based upon selection of assessment determined by RCS and Evaluator

Table 5. Mendocino County Prop 64 PPA 1 Grant Goals and Objectives

Goal	Goal/Objective	Process or Outcome	Data Source	Collection Frequency
<p>Goal 1: Through Restorative Justice Youth Council’s (RJYC’s) high quality curriculum, EBPs, educational opportunities and activities, participants will increase their perception of harm around cannabis and other substance use.</p>	<p>By 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. RCS will provide RJYC Referred Youth Participants with monthly cannabis/other substance educational activities/events; B. 85% of RJYC Referred Youth Participants will increase their perception of harm around cannabis & other substance use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Process b. Outcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program records, observation b. Participant survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quarterly b. Quarterly
<p>Goal 2: Enroll and Improve positive outcomes of RJYC’s Referred Youth Participants, their families, and youth volunteers (i.e., Peer Team/Youth Advocates) to include decreased use of cannabis and other substance use.</p>	<p>By 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Annually enroll 20 unduplicated Referred Youth Participants and 20 Peer Team Volunteers, and 10 unduplicated Youth Advocate Volunteers into the RJYC; B. 85% of Referred Youth Participants will successfully complete RJYC; and 75% of referred youth’s parents, Peer Team Youth Volunteers, and Youth Advocate Volunteers will participate in 80% of required activities; C. 85% of Referred Youth Participants will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. increase knowledge/use of harm reduction/safety skills for high risk substance use; b. decreased self-reported substance use, including cannabis; c. Improve: 1) social/emotional competencies; 2) mental health outcomes; 3) communication and leadership skills; 4) Self-reported grades/school attendance, as measured by program records and participant surveys/assessments; D. 75% of referred youths’ parents/guardians will increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. perception of harm of youth cannabis and other drug use; b. their knowledge of community resources, and use of RJYC’s referrals to services; and c. report that RJYC positive impacts on their child, as measured by program records and parent surveys/ interviews; E. 80% of Peer Team Youth Volunteers who participate in 3 or more hearings, will report that their participation in RJYC improved their understanding of the criminal justice system, restorative justice practices, and social emotional competencies, increased their perception of harm of cannabis and other substance use, and decreased self-reported cannabis and other substance use; F. 90% of Youth Advocate Volunteers will report that their participation in RJYC improved their understanding of the criminal justice system, restorative justice practices, and social emotional competencies; improved leadership skills, increase their perception of harm of cannabis and other substance use, decreased self-reported cannabis and other substance use; and increased their confidence in their ability to support peers as measured by youth volunteer surveys and/or focus groups, and assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Process b. Process c. Outcome d. Outcome e. Outcome f. Outcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program records b. Program records c. a) Participant survey b) Participant survey c) Participant survey; assessments of identified social/emotional competency scales d. a) Parent survey b) Parent survey c) Parent survey and program records for referrals to services e. Peer Team Youth Volunteer Survey f. Youth Advocate Volunteer focus group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quarterly b. Quarterly c. Biannually d. Biannually e. Quarterly f. Biannually

Goal	Goal/Objective	Process or Outcome	Data Source	Collection Frequency
<p>Goal 3: Improve capacity of Probation Department to utilize the RJYC as a diversion strategy for youth referred to them for cannabis and other substance use.</p>	<p>By 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Probation Department will collaborate with RCS to improve efficiency of referral process to RJYC; B. Probation Department will increase referrals to RJYC by 25% annually over 2020 baseline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Process b. Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program records/ document review b. Program records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annually b. Annually
<p>Goal 4: Build the capacity of Redwood Community Services (RCS) to provide a high quality, sustainable evidence based RJYC, and increase the program’s visibility, community presence, and sustainability as a cannabis and other drug prevention and early intervention program strategy for Mendocino County youth.</p>	<p>By 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. RCS will review curriculum, EBPs, and associated educational opportunities and activities used in RJYC activities that relate to harms of youth cannabis use and other substance use and modify any as needed; B. RCS will modify or purchase curriculum and EBPs and train staff, based on Objective 4.A review; C. RJYC will increase program partners 50% over baseline, and referrals into RJYC from new partners by 10% each year, as measured by program records and staff interviews; D. Through inter-agency training, increase external partners' knowledge of restorative justice practices, commitment to a restorative culture, and knowledge of available resources for referred youths’ access to SUD treatment and therapeutic support services (e.g., individual/family therapy, anger management), as measured by program records, participation records of staff/partners at outreach events, and surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Process b. Process c. Process d. Outcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Documentation, review of process/ Staff interviews b. Purchase records/ Training records c. Program records/Staff interviews d. Program records/ Participation records, staff and partners at outreach events/ Interviews of new partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annually b. Point-in-time c. Annually d. Annually

Qualitative Data Collection

Qualitative data is planned within the evaluation of PPA 1 objectives, to include surveys, document review, interviews, and focus groups. Focus groups are preferable to surveys when numbers of participants are small, such as the Youth Advocate Volunteers and staff. In addition, using a structured observation protocol, the evaluator will attend various trainings, RJYC hearings, and program activities to observe facilitator/participant interactions, delivery of material, and participant response and engagement, as well as the physical space and setting.

The qualitative focus of surveys, interviews, and focus groups, are shown here by role:

Referred Youth Participant Survey:

- Communication skills learned
- Leadership skills learned
- Social and emotional competencies gained
- Changes in perceptions of cannabis and other substance use
- Impact of the Reflective Essay
- Most valuable aspects of their participation and suggestions for improvement.

Peer Team Youth Volunteer Survey:

- Changes in perception of the criminal justice system, restorative justice,
- Social and emotional competencies gained
- Changes in perceptions of cannabis and other substance use
- Most valuable aspects of their participation as a PTYV and suggestions for improvement.

Parent Survey:

- Perceptions about youth cannabis and other substance use
- Perceived helpfulness of family participation in their child's RJYC
- Perceived helpfulness of information shared on community resources, referrals to resources
- Barriers to use of referrals, perceived usefulness of the referrals, and impact on family
- Perceived impact of RJYC on their child

Youth Advocate Volunteer Focus Group:

- Changes in perception of the criminal justice system, restorative justice,
- Social and emotional competencies gained
- Changes in perceptions of cannabis and other substance use
- Perceptions about the role of supporting other peers
- Most valuable aspects of their participation as a YAV and suggestions for improvement.

Staff Focus Group:

- Process and findings from review of curriculum, EBPs, and educational opportunities and activities used in RJYC that relate to harms of youth cannabis use and other substance use
- Any modifications made and the impact on the program;
- Helpfulness of any new curriculum purchased, EBPs put into use, and training
- Impact of these changes on RSYC program and participants.

Program Partner Interviews:

- History of their relationship with the RJYC Program and/or RCS, Arbor Teen Program
- Perception of the value the RJYC Program has had on their referred youth
- Training and updates to the RJYC Program, general communication with the program staff
- Suggestions for improvement

Logic Model

Mendocino County's Logic Models are included as Appendix A of this LEP.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data collected for process and outcome objectives will be analyzed using quantitative data analysis methods. Qualitative data analysis techniques will be used and triangulated with the quantitative data to allow data from various sources to inform the measurement of each objective where appropriate. In this way, data that describes extent of implementation is combined with the quality of implementation. Qualitative data can provide insights into the reasons why a particular program component was or was not implemented to the extent intended and the extent to which the objective was achieved.

Quantitative Data Analysis

Quantitative data collected for process and outcome objectives will be analyzed using various analytical tools. Surveys will either be on paper or where appropriate, on a web-based survey platform. Excel will be used to capture descriptive statistics to address relevant objectives. Likely data will be imported into SPSS for statistical analysis when appropriate. Where needed, inferential statistics will be used to determine whether attitudes, knowledge, and/or behavior changes significantly from the pre- to post-test or by retrospective post-test. The latter questions will be analyzed using dependent samples paired t-tests in SPSS statistical software.

Qualitative Data Analysis

Qualitative data from surveys, key informant interviews and any focus groups done will undergo content analysis via QDA Miner to determine prominent themes and response patterns within and across groups and questions.

Data Management

The data will be managed collaboratively between Mendocino County Probation, RCS, and MRES. The MRES evaluator will meet frequently with County Probation and RCS to ensure that data collection tools are developed, evaluation activities are implemented as required, timelines are maintained, and any unforeseen challenges are addressed in a timely way.

All survey data that must be matched (e.g., pre/post-test design) will be de-identified prior to being transferred to the evaluator. Participant codes will be substituted for any names or other identifying information to allow matching of pre- and post-test survey data as needed. If a web-based survey platform is used, participants will be given a participant code to use. When necessary, data will be transferred from RCS to MRES via a Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP). Once transferred, data will be kept in a password protected secured drive. At the conclusion of the grant, the data will be destroyed by MRES.

Project Management

The MRES evaluator will communicate with Mendocino County Probation and RCS at least weekly by phone and/or email regarding program implementation and evaluation activities. MRES will also meet (virtually or in-person) with the Mendocino grant team, at first monthly, and then as needed to review progress and plan next steps. During these meetings, project implementation, current activities, and challenges and concerns will be discussed. The management of the grant, tool development, and decision-making will utilize a collaborative approach between the evaluator, County Probation and RCS. When needed, and as directed by the team, MRES will communicate about evaluation activities and project implementation with other agencies (e.g., potential partners such as Ukiah High School) to accomplish the scope of work.

MRES will share preliminary results bi-annually with Mendocino County Probation and RCS to ensure that data collection systems are operating optimally, and that results obtained are moving toward the achievement of objectives. The purpose of the bi-annual preliminary review will be to discuss the emerging results and determine whether any course corrections need to be made to program implementation or to data collection or to the overall evaluation itself.

Further, County Probation, RCS, and MRES will meet quarterly to plan for the delivery of Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) to the BSCC. At these meetings team member will share updates on grant activities, evaluation needs, budget issues, and solutions to any new challenges.

Training and Technical Assistance

MRES will provide training and technical assistance (TA) to all staff related to the evaluation of the objectives. This will involve the development of data collection processes, training on instruments and data collection procedures, survey administration techniques, and conducting key informant interviews and focus group facilitation if needed. Training and TA will be provided proactively before the start of various data collection components, and then as needed throughout the grant period based on staff needs, staff turnover, and any data collection concerns that arise. Specific training and TA will be collaboratively developed between each County department's staff and MRES, as well as the delivery methods which can include, webinars, in-person meetings, or by phone.

Evaluation Timeline and Reporting

Mendocino County will comply with the BSCC's and its own reporting timelines as follows:

- **Quarterly Progress Reports:** Mendocino's grant team will work together to deliver the BSCC-required QPRs according to the BSCC's timeline using the BSCC's reporting guidelines.
- **Annual Review of Results:** At the conclusion of each fiscal year, MRES will deliver an analysis of results to date to ensure that both program implementation and the evaluation are providing the desired results. The Annual Review will be sent to County Probation and RCS. A meeting will be scheduled following the receipt and review of the Annual Review of Results, during which, discussion will occur around interpretation of results, factors contributing to results, and any course corrections needed for continuous program improvement.
- **Local Evaluation Report:** The Local Evaluation Report (LER) will be delivered to BSCC by March 31, 2025. MRES will complete the LER with input from Mendocino Probation and RCS.

Appendix A: Logic Model

Logic Model for Mendocino County Prop 64 PH & S Grant Program

GOAL 1: Through Restorative Justice Youth Council’s (RJYC’s) high quality curriculum, EBPs, educational opportunities and activities, referred participants will increase their perception of harm around cannabis and other substance use.				
GOAL 2: Enroll and Improve positive outcomes of RJYC’s Referred Youth Participants, their families, and youth volunteers (i.e., Peer Team/Youth Advocates) to include decreased use of cannabis and other substance use.				
GOAL 3: Improve capacity of Probation Department to utilize the RJYC as a diversion strategy for youth referred to them for cannabis and other substance use.				
Goal 4: Build the capacity of Redwood Community Services (RCS) to provide a high quality, sustainable evidence based RJYC, and increase the program’s visibility, community presence, and sustainability as a cannabis and other drug prevention and early intervention program strategy for Mendocino County youth.				
INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACTS
<p>Probation and RCS staff time for collaboration, program development, outreach and engagement, and program monitoring</p> <p>Program Partners (e.g., Probation, law enforcement agencies, RCS, schools, community based organizations)</p> <p>Financial support (e.g., Prop 64 grant funding);</p> <p>Organizational tools (e.g., RCS staff and agency expertise in restorative justice & youth development, SUD treatment services, and linkages to other therapeutic services for youth and families);</p> <p>Training and TA from regional/national experts on restorative justice work and</p>	<p>Intake process for referred youth and their families;</p> <p>Collaborative work between Probation and RCS to streamline referrals;</p> <p>RCS staff outreach to potential program partners; training to partnering agencies on restorative justice, and the RJYC program;</p> <p>RCS training to staff on restorative justice practices, substance use identification, cannabis use prevention, and EBPs;</p> <p>RJYC program activities for referred youth, including leadership and communication training, substance use awareness education, training on life skills, job skills, and other helpful workshops;</p>	<p>Goal 1: Participants engaged in RJYC curriculum, EBPs, educational opportunities and activities</p> <p>Goal 2: 20 referred youth enrolled/year; 20 parents/guardians of referred youth participate; 20 Peer Team Volunteers participate in 3+ RJYC hearings/year; 10 Youth Advocate Volunteers are trained, and support referred youth and the RJYC program/year; 85% of Referred Youth Participants complete RJYC; 75% of referred youth’s parents, Peer Team Youth Volunteers, and Youth Advocate volunteers participate in 80% of required activities</p>	<p>GOAL 1. By 2024:</p> <p>1.1 RCS will provide RJYC Referred Youth Participants with monthly cannabis/other substance educational activities/events;</p> <p>1.2 85% of RJYC Referred Youth Participants will increase their perception of harm around cannabis and other substance use.</p> <p>GOAL 2. By 2024:</p> <p>A. Annually enroll 20 unduplicated Referred Youth Participants and 20 Peer Team Volunteers, and 10 unduplicated Youth Advocate Volunteers into the RJYC;</p> <p>B. 85% of Referred Youth Participants will successfully complete RJYC; and 75% of referred youth’s parents, Peer Team Youth Volunteers, and Youth Advocate Volunteers will participate in 80% of required activities;</p> <p>C. 85% of Referred Youth Participants will:</p> <p>a. increase knowledge/use of harm reduction/safety skills for high risk substance use;</p> <p>b. decreased self-reported substance use, including cannabis;</p> <p>c. Improve: 1) social/emotional competencies; 2) mental health outcomes; 3) communication and leadership skills;</p> <p>4) Self-reported grades/school attendance, as measured by program records and participant surveys/assessments;</p> <p>D. 75% of referred youths’ parents/guardians will increase:</p> <p>a. perception of harm of youth cannabis and other drug use;</p> <p>b. their knowledge of community resources, and use of RJYC’s referrals to services; and</p> <p>c. report that RJYC positive impacts on their child, as measured by program records and parent surveys/interviews;</p>	<p>Referred Youth Participants in RJYC will apply leadership skills, life skills, social and emotional competencies learned to improve their long-term life outcomes, such as reducing further interactions with the justice system, avoiding substance use or obtaining treatment for SUD or other therapeutic needs, and engaging in positive pro-social activities.</p> <p>Youth Volunteers (both Peer Team and Youth Advocates) will learn leadership and communication skills, and improve social and emotional competencies through their participation, thereby improving their attainment of</p>

<p>relevant content to learn/implement best practices (e.g., webinars, conferences, meetings, and other resources);</p> <p>Evaluation support to document program implementation/outcomes (e.g., tracking tools, surveys, evaluation consultant);</p> <p>Evidence-based programs (EBPs) and staff trained;</p> <p>Continuous staff training on Restorative Justice practices; Collaborative relationships with other restorative justice programs.</p>	<p>Case Management services for referred youth (e.g., participant assessment of risk/needs, restorative justice case plans, and referrals to community based SUD treatment services, mental health support, and other support);</p> <p>RCS training for Peer Team and Youth Advocate Volunteers; Leadership and communication training, substance use awareness education, life skills training and other helpful workshops.</p>	<p>Goal 3: Streamlined referral process between Probation and RCS; 25% increase in referrals to RJYC program from Probation over baseline</p> <p>Goal 4: Review and modification as needed of RJYC curriculum, EBPs, educational opportunities and activities related to cannabis and other substance use; Curriculum and EBPs purchased, and 8 RCS staff trained to implement curriculum and EBPs; 50% increased number of RJYC program partners; 10% increase in referrals for youth participants from new program partners; Inter-agency training provided on restorative justice and culture, SUD treatment and therapeutic support services available for referred youth.</p>	<p>E. 80% of Peer Team Youth Volunteers who participate in 3 or more hearings, will report that their participation in RJYC improved their understanding of the criminal justice system, restorative justice practices, and social emotional competencies, increased their perception of harm of cannabis and other substance use, and decreased self-reported cannabis and other substance use;</p> <p>F. 90% of Youth Advocate Volunteers will report that their participation in RJYC improved their understanding of the criminal justice system, restorative justice practices, and social emotional competencies; improved leadership skills, increase their perception of harm of cannabis and other substance use, decreased self-reported cannabis and other substance use; and increased their confidence in their ability to support peers as measured by youth volunteer surveys and/or focus groups, and assessments.</p> <p>GOAL 3. By 2024:</p> <p>A. Probation Department will collaborate with RCS to improve efficiency of referral process to RJYC;</p> <p>B. Probation Department will increase referrals to RJYC by 25% annually over 2020 baseline.</p> <p>GOAL 4. By 2024:</p> <p>A. RCS will review curriculum, EBPs, and associated educational opportunities and activities used in RJYC activities that relate to harms of youth cannabis use and other substance use and modify any as needed;</p> <p>B. RCS will modify or purchase curriculum and EBPs and train staff, based on Objective 4.1 review;</p> <p>C. RJYC will increase program partners 50% over baseline, and referrals into RJYC from new partners by 10% each year, as measured by program records and staff interviews;</p> <p>D. Through inter-agency training, increase external partners' knowledge of restorative justice practices, commitment to a restorative culture, and knowledge of available resources for referred youths' access to SUD treatment and therapeutic support services (e.g., individual/family therapy, anger management), as measured by program records, participation records of staff/partners at outreach events, and surveys.</p>	<p>positive life outcomes, and improving their communities.</p> <p>Probation Department will increase capacity to refer youth for cannabis and other substance use to RJYC as a progressive diversion strategy.</p> <p>RCS along with its program partners, will build capacity to deliver and sustain a robust restorative justice program for the youth of Mendocino County;</p> <p>Through outreach and engagement efforts, RJYC program will help to establish a restorative culture for youth in Mendocino County.</p>
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