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# San Bernardino County Probation Juvenile Justice Development Plan



## **Overview**

The Juvenile Justice Development Plan (JJDP) provides a description of the programs, placements, services, strategies and system enhancements funded by the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) allocation, as set out in the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1961(a), and how these efforts relate to the Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP).

San Bernardino County Probation utilizes funding from the CMJJP to provide options and services that are focused on preventing youth from becoming involved in the justice system. The Juvenile Justice Development Plan focuses on preventing youth already involved in the justice system from becoming more deeply involved, primarily through two programs; the Gateway residential program, and Juvenile Community Corrections field supervision services provided while the youth is in a home setting.

## **Strategies for Realigned Youth**

### **Gateway**

Gateway is a secure residential program that provides rehabilitative services to male youth, ages 16 – 19, who are working towards reintegration with their families and/or emancipation readiness. These youth have committed non-707(b) offenses and are no longer appropriate for Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. Gateway has a bed capacity of 40 and provides comprehensive programming to address a broad range of needs.

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools provides educational services, including but not limited to: GED/high school diploma; placement testing; life skills; computer skills; college prep and college enrollment; Individualized Special Education testing and services; a library on grounds; and a literacy program in cooperation with California State University. County Schools provides full-time teachers, instructional aides and resource specialists. Probation staff facilitate program services, including evidence-based programs such as ART (Aggression Replacement Training), and provide mentoring, guidance and social support. Under agreement with the Department of Behavioral Health, Gateway has incorporated behavioral health services that include individual and family counseling, crisis intervention and psychological evaluations. Medical services and care coordination are provided by on-site nurses, who are available to youth daily. Community services and occupational training is an integral part of the Gateway Program, along with an array of social awareness programs that promote successful community reentry.

YOBG funds pay for salaries, benefits, overhead, services and supplies to facilitate the program and additional funds for counseling services provided by Behavioral Health.

### **Community Corrections Field Services**

Field Services focuses on providing direction and services to youths and families with the intent to release youth from Probation terms without further involvement in the justice system. Field Services staff funded by YOBG offer guidance and services to those youth not engaged in Gateway, but that are

in the care and custody of their family or a caretaker in the community. These youths, while already engaged in the justice system, are identified as having the potential to move towards being a successful and independent member of society.

Field Services staff for juvenile offenders utilize a validated assessment tool to determine a youth's risk to recidivate (commit a new crime), and also determines the underlying needs of the youth to allow the field services staff to address root deficiencies that, if addressed, will help the youth to successfully complete their probation terms. This is accomplished in a variety of settings, including three Regional Day Reporting Centers, individual and family counseling sessions, Community Based Organizations, in home counseling, and other settings that may be unique to any individual. The population served is comprised of youth who are at high risk to reoffend, as well as medium risk youth who require significant treatment intervention based upon their risk and needs. Needs are targeted using motivational interviewing techniques and rewards systems, as well as graduated sanctions. Individualized treatment plans (case plans) allow officers to assist youth with behavior change. Family are involved in case planning and referrals to cognitive behavioral programs are required.

Field Services staff provides an array of specialized supervision and services to address any number of issues that these youth and their families may face. The services and providers may include, but are not limited to: Girls Circle, Gender Response Adolescent Caseload Enrichment (GRACE), Mentoring with Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, Crime Intervention partnership Program with the City of San Bernardino, Integrating New Family Opportunities (Functional Family Therapy completed in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health), Boys Council, Alive @ 25, Parent Project, Anger Management, Victim Awareness, Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Job Skills/Life Skills, Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE), community based Youth Accountability Boards, Independent Living Program, Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents (CITA), Wraparound Services, Drug Court, AB 12 (Extended Foster Care), and services providing for the safe housing and treatment of youths not able to stay in their home environment.

### **Coordination of Planning Efforts**

The county has developed an extensive system of collaborative partnerships to better direct the county's efforts toward prevention, intervention, and supervision of youth in the community.

Combined, the programs outlined in the CMJJP and the JJDP provide a range of services to first prevent youth from becoming involved in the justice system. If they do enter the juvenile justice system, the county's system of services, supported in part by YOBG and JJCPA funds, provides the services and direction for youth to escape an on-going cycle of criminal justice system involvement and become self-sufficient, productive citizens. These plans allow high levels of coordination between the multi-agency partners.