

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

**2018-19
Consolidated Annual Plan**

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Instructions:

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(b) call for consolidation of the annual plans required for JJCPA and YOBG.

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan.

The rest of this document is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so.

Your submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.

Please e-mail your plan to:

JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov

Juvenile Justice Plan

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Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy

Authority: Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A) The multiagency juvenile justice plan shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following components:

(i) An assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.

(ii) An identification and prioritization of the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas in the community that face a significant public safety risk from juvenile crime, such as gang activity, daylight burglary, late-night robbery, vandalism, truancy, controlled substances sales, firearm-related violence, and juvenile substance abuse and alcohol use.

(iii) A local juvenile justice action strategy that provides for a continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency and demonstrates a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(B)(ii) Collaborate and integrate services of all the resources set forth in clause (i) of subparagraph (A), to the extent appropriate.

A. Assessment of Existing Services

Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.

Ventura County works in conjunction with all of the agencies listed above. There are strong collaborative partnerships Juvenile Court and many county agencies, including Children and Family Services, Public Health, Behavioral Health, and the Alcohol and Drug Program, as well as with many community based organizations. Probation also works closely with law enforcement to share information and coordinate diversion efforts.

Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration amongst the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.

In Ventura County, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) was developed to strengthen community partnerships and make recommendations for services to the Board of Supervisors, Juvenile Court, and other stakeholders. In 2017, Ventura County updated the Juvenile Justice Master Plan (JJMP). The JJMP is used as a blueprint for advising the JJCC on areas of focus regarding funding for programming and services. Ventura County also collaborates with the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI) and is an active Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative- Racial and Ethnic Disparities (JDAI-RED) county. The JDAI-RED workgroup meets regularly to collaborate regarding additional needs and areas of focus within the County.

B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.

Ventura County provides a countywide strategy. Data related to JDAI and RED helped determine which areas of the county (based on zip codes) have the highest rates of arrest and admissions. This information has been used to focus resources. For example, VCPA had a high rate of youth that were admitted to the Juvenile Facilities for violations of

probation. It was determined by JJCC that an Evening Reporting Center (ERC) was a viable alternative. Using the success of the ERC in Oxnard, CA, the ERC was/is expanded to other areas of the county that lack resources for youth at risk. Data from the W. Haywood Burns Institute is also used to target interventions and diversion in certain cities with a higher number of citations.

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

Describe your county's juvenile justice action strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well as a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. |

The JJMP serves as an action strategy for responding to gaps in the continuum of juvenile justice services. It allows the JJCC and JDAI-RED to make informed decisions regarding use of resources and community need.

Ventura County currently focuses our attention in the following areas:

Prevention: Building positive services to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system (i.e. THRIVE)

Intervention: Providing appropriate and necessary services to reduce recidivism from youth already in the juvenile justice system.

Supervision: Using a graduated response Matrix, determine the appropriate level of response for violations and utilizing appropriate treatment referrals and resources (i.e. referral to ERC or KEYS program)

Custody: Individual commitment cases are assigned to Deputy Probation Officers who carry in custody caseloads. The youth on these caseloads are assessed at intake for receiving a variety of appropriate services and programming participation. These include school attendance, behavioral health services (including equine assisted psychotherapy and learning), substance abuse counseling, Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART), gender specific services through Girls Inc. as well instruction on poetry, art, music (drumming and guitar), dog training, landscaping, Paxton Patterson construction trades, screen printing, radio broadcasting and job and career skills. The probation officers monitor their progress throughout their commitment and develop release plans that include the youth, parents or guardian as well as the probation officer that will be providing community based supervision upon their release.

Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

Authority: Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(B) Programs, strategies, and system enhancements proposed to be funded under this chapter shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(i) Be based on programs and approaches that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing delinquency and addressing juvenile crime for any elements of response to juvenile crime and delinquency, including prevention, intervention, suppression, and incapacitation.

(iii) – Employ information sharing systems to ensure that county actions are fully coordinated, and designed to provide data for measuring the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.”

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A) The multiagency juvenile justice plan shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following components:

(iv) A description of the programs, strategies, or system enhancements that are proposed to be funded pursuant to this subparagraph.

A. Information Sharing and Data

Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.

Probation is a part of the Ventura County Integrated Justice Information System (VCIJIS). VCIJIS is an electronic database that allows for limited sharing of case and court information among the Courts, Probation, and the Sheriff's Department.

Ventura County also contracts with the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI). BI uses data to inform funding decisions and to focus areas of attention in regards to community interventions.

B. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

Using the template on the next page, describe each program, strategy and/or system enhancement that will be supported with funding from JJPCA, identifying anything that is co-funded with Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) moneys.

JJCPA Funded Program, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, strategy and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.

Program Name:

Evening Reporting Center (ERC)

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Ventura County has used data-driven juvenile justice reform efforts, including implementing JDAI-RED. As part of these efforts, it was determined that an evening reporting center was needed as an alternative to detention and to reduce youth of color admissions into the Juvenile Facilities. The focus was to provide programming grounded in evidence based practices for positive youth development and empowerment for youth struggling to comply with their Court ordered obligations or who were at risk of being returned to custody. The ERCs provide this programming for the youth. The Boys and Girls Club of California uses evidenced based programs through Project Learn and Summer Advantage USA. One Step a la Vez based their program on the Boys and Girls Club model.

Description:

The ERCs are an effort to address the need for community-based alternatives to detention and to assist in the reduction of youth of color admissions into the Juvenile Facilities. There are currently two ERCs in the County of Ventura (The Boys and Girls Club in Oxnard and One Step a la Vez in Fillmore). The ERCs serve youth ages 12 ½ to 18 who reside in the designated areas of the county. Approximately 125 unduplicated youth are served a year, and the youth attend the ERCs program for approximately 20-45 business days. The ERCs utilize evidence-based programming for the selected youth that strives to build positive personal development and professional skills among participants (i.e. positive self-identify, hope about one's future, reduce recidivism, educational, vocational, social, emotional, and cultural competencies, community and civic involvement, the knowledge, skills, strategies and attitudes necessary to have a positive foundation for change and values enabling one to develop positive relationships with others). The programmatic goals include: Reduce recidivism; promote and implement positive youth development; track youth who successfully complete the program and continue to attend the ERCs; and enhance public safety and promote and increase academic success, character, citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The centers are socially and environmentally safe facilities for the youth to attend. The programs are based upon physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs, and offered in a non-competitive environment that encourages skill development, self-esteem, and acceptance. It also reinforces positive social values that benefit the community.

Program Name:

Truancy Habits Reduced Increases Vital Education (THRIVE)

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The California Attorney General's fourth annual Report on California's Elementary School Truancy and Absenteeism Crisis was issued in 2016, setting forth the importance of eliminating school truancy and making it a top priority of the California Department of Justice to keep children in school and out of the criminal justice system. According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, approximately 57% of violent crimes are committed by juveniles while they are truant. Studies conducted across the country have shown that excessive absenteeism in school increases the risk of falling behind academically, dropping out of school, and becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

Description:

THRIVE is a collaborative effort between the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Ventura County Public Defender's Office, Ventura County Probation Agency, Ventura County Public Health, and the School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). The District Attorney's Office has assigned two prosecutors to participate in SARB meetings across the county and one paralegal to assist the attorneys, coordinate schedules and track results. Habitual truants and their parents meet with school officials and county prosecutors to strategize ways to improve school attendance.

THRIVE provides truancy intervention for students from 13 Ventura County school districts, which include 30 individual school/district sites. THRIVE aims to help all children with chronic absenteeism between the ages of 6 to 18, offering appropriate remedial and community referral services during the SARB meetings, based on the youth's needs that have brought them to SARB (i.e. homelessness, mental health, medical, transportation, etc.). THRIVE utilizes the services of three Public Health nurses to which parents and students may be referred to determine whether there are medical reasons for the youth's truancy. During the 2017-2018 school year to date, 979 students have been served throughout the county and a total of 1,566 THRIVE student meetings have been held.

The program also has expanded Public Health involvement, with nurses attending team meetings for youth who have been identified as Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). The nurses provide health information and services to CSEC youth in an effort to prevent truancy and further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

If the services offered through THRIVE prove ineffective, prosecutors may utilize formal court sanctions as a means of ensuring truants and their parents are held accountable. The support of the Juvenile Court has proved essential to realizing change in the behavior of truants for whom other services are ineffective.

During the 2016-2017 school year, before the intervention of THRIVE, students were attending school at an overall rate of 80.4%. After THRIVE intervention, overall attendance jumped to 85.3% and unexcused absences dropped significantly from 14.5% to 10.3%. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of THRIVE in reducing truancy in Ventura County schools.

Program Name:

Habitual Offender Prevention Endeavor (renamed Repeat Offender Prevention Program- ROPP)

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The State Legislature established the program in 1994 (Bill 3220, Chapter 730) as a three-year demonstration project designed to test intervention strategies for curbing recidivism amongst

a small percentage of first-time juvenile offenders identified in research conducted by Orange County as having a potential to become repeat serious offenders.

Description:

ROPP is an intensive, comprehensive multi-disciplinary program that provides services during the fiscal year for up to 100 first time Formal wards, Informal probationers, and DEJ youth who are 15.5 years or younger at time of declaration of wardship or placement on probation, and who demonstrate at least three of four risk factors associated with chronic delinquency. The ROPP team is comprised of three intensive supervision probation officers, two Marriage and Family Therapist, a Substance Abuse counselor, three Youth Advocates, and a Reading Specialist. The program is guided by evidence-based practices, and the ROPP team meets weekly to discuss the cases.

The primary objective of ROPP is to provide early identification and services to potential high risk repeat offenders. A few of the program's broadly defined objectives include breaking the patterns of delinquency, antisocial behavior and domestic violence, by providing services before the youth become entrenched in the juvenile justice system.

The target population is known as the "8% problem;" youth who are identified as having specific characteristics which make them a high risk for re-offending. The majority of the chronic recidivists are an 8% group with the following characteristics:

1. 15.5 years of age or younger at the time of their initial case disposition
2. Declared wards of the Court at their initial system referral
3. Found to have significantly more problems in four composite areas:
 - a. Significant family problems such as domestic violence, child abuse and family criminality
 - b. School attendance or performance problems
 - c. Drug and/or alcohol use
 - d. Pre-Delinquent behaviors such as gangs, runaway, stealing

It was found that chronic juvenile offenders have a significantly higher rate of incarceration and recidivism. More than half of the families of high risk youth have significant problems impeding their ability to provide adequate supervision, structure, or support to their children. Youth are reviewed periodically throughout the time spent in the program. The length of the program is open ended and based on the stability of the family and the sufficiency to which the identified risk factors have been addressed.

Program Name:

Early Intervention and Prevention Services

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

This program combines prevention and intervention services through evidence based programs, practices, and strategies for youth who are not currently wards of the Court.

Description:

This program will provide specialized early intervention services to youth and their families. The early intervention services are intended to divert youth from further juvenile justice involvement. Services will be brief and will focus on assessment, case management, family mediation, skill building, and counseling within a cognitive behavioral intervention framework. Services are provided to youth under age 18 who reside in Ventura County who are first and sometimes second time youth offenders with 601 offenses, miscellaneous misdemeanors, and lower level felony offenses (the felonies likely reserved for youth 13 and younger). The provider will respond to all referrals within 24 hours, provide a referral disposition within 30 days, and conduct a service assessment with youth/family to determine the most appropriate intervention. Staff will provide interventions for up to 90 days, then if needed, facilitate appropriate linkage to community partners as well as other counseling services. Modality of services will include weekly skill building group – conflict resolution, anger management, healthy relationship skills, and other topics. Youth can join at any point.

Program Name:

Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Mentoring and Case Management

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Preventing the exploitation of children is achieved through multi-pronged efforts including safety education, awareness training, and addressing demand. Mentoring and training are trauma informed.

Description:

This program builds supportive relationships with high-risk youth, current victims, and recovering survivors ages 12-21. It aims to provide support and a mentor team to vulnerable youth who have a history of abusive and dysfunctional relationships. Mentors provide social and emotional support and focus on modeling wholesome relationships, encouraging a positive self-identity, teaching life skills, and introducing healthy choices.

Program Name:

Juvenile Justice Treatment for Sexually Abusive Youth

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Services are based on the California Coalition on Sexual Offending’s guidelines for the assessment and treatment of sexually abusive youth and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Adolescent Practice Guidelines 2017. The program is a cognitive-behavioral multimodal program drawing on several disciplines to inform best practices and evidenced based interventions.

Description:

Ventura County contracts with Anew Therapeutic (Anew) to provide treatment to those youth who have been court ordered into treatment for sexually abusive behavior. Anew integrates treatment of the youth's trauma symptoms and response as well as his characterological strengths and deficits. Anew focused on a Risk, Needs, and Responsivity (RNR) approach to identifying risks. Anew offers individual, group, and family therapy that complies with the California Coalition on Sexual Offending's guidelines for the assessment and treatment of sexually abusive youth.

Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

Authority: Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a) – On or before May 1 of each year, each county shall prepare and submit to the Board of State and Community Corrections a Juvenile Justice Development Plan on its proposed programs, strategies, and system enhancements for the next fiscal year from the Youthful Offender Block Grant Fund described in Section 1951. The plan shall include all of the following:

(1) A description of the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded by the block grant allocation pursuant to this chapter, including, but not limited to, the programs, tools, and strategies outlined in Section 1960.

(2) A description of how the plan relates to or supports the county’s overall strategy for dealing with youthful offenders who have not committed an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707, and who are no longer eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Facilities under Section 733 as of September 1, 2007.

(3) A description of any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported by the block grant allocation pursuant to this chapter.

(4) A description of how the programs, placements, services, or strategies identified in the plan coordinate with multiagency juvenile justice plans and programs under paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 30061 of the Government Code.

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

Describe your county’s overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders who are not eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this Plan relates to or supports that strategy.

Youth committed locally by the Court to the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities for periods of time ranging from 30 days to a year or more are provided direct services to deter future delinquency and skills to transition back into the community. They enter the facility commitment program in which the average commitment duration is approximately 60 days. In a camp like dormitory setting, they attend school, receive behavioral health services, and participate in a variety of programming activities designed to raise their level of awareness as it relates to making better choices and equip them with the insights and abilities to positively redirect their lives once released from the facility for community based supervision.

In the community, youth will have the opportunity to participate in a Day Reporting Center. The DRC will provide a menu of services that target life skills, education achievements and job readiness/placement. Additionally, a Deputy Probation Officer will provide early intervention services to deter youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

B. Regional Agreements

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOBG funds.

N/A

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

Using the template on the next page, describe the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the YOBG program. Explain how they complement or coordinate with the programs, strategies and system enhancements to be funded through the JJCPA program.

YOBG Funded Program, Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, placement, service, strategy, and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.

Program Name:

Leaders

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

N/A

Description:

Youth in this program serve commitments of 60 days or more at the Juvenile Facilities. Programming is delivered on a group and/or individual basis. These youth represent a smaller portion of the commitment population who agree to participate in specialized programming, vocational training and drug and alcohol treatment services to help them transition back into the community. Specialized services, which is based on youth needs, may include: mental health treatment, gender specific classes, mentorships and other enrichment programming. Vocational training encompasses courses such as landscaping, screen printing and job readiness that are taught by professionals in the trade and/or by the Ventura County Office of Education. In addition, the Paxton/Patterson Building Skills construction course is part of the vocational training component that is taught by certified Probation Agency staff. The drug and alcohol treatment services provided to the youth in this program are funded through a separate funding source associated with the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department.

Program Name:

Gender Specific Programming for Girls

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

N/A

Description:

Girls Inc. is a community based organization working in the Juvenile Facilities (JF) to provide programming that is gender specific for offenders housed at the JF. Gender specific programming includes: domestic violence/date rape, self-esteem building, values and morals, relationships, health/hygiene, the reproductive system, assertiveness and communication, decision-making, goal setting, strategic planning for the future, media literacy, sexually transmitted infections, gender roles and expectations, job skills, economic literacy, gardening, and life skills. Girls Inc. provides weekly educational groups and creates new groups as needs arise.

Program Name:

Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART)

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

N/A

Description:

ART is an evidence-based model of aggression replacement therapy provided to youth housed at the Juvenile Facilities. ART is designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive adolescents in order to improve social skills competence, anger control, and moral reasoning. The program uses modeling, role playing, and performance feedback. By design, it is a 10 week, 30 hour intervention administered to groups of 6 to 8 juvenile offenders three times per week.

Program Name:

Enrichment Program Services

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

N/A

Description:

Enrichment programming offers an array of services to youth in the facility that focus on continuing education, career and technology training, life skills, cultural arts and diversity, and cultural awareness. Programs include broadcast journalism, Paxton/Patterson Building Skills (introductory construction courses), landscaping skills, poetry, origami, screen printing, Hi-Set testing (formerly GED), music and art lessons, sculpture, dance, exercise, community service activities, and equine assisted psychotherapy and learning. A library will be available to the youth.

The program also offers two separate canine programs that are managed in a multiagency collaborative effort with a community based organization. The first is a therapy dog program, in which certified therapy dogs and their handlers from two separate community organizations (Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International) visit the juvenile facilities weekly to provide emotional support to the youth.

The second is a canine care and dog training program, with dogs that reside full-time in the facility called "Pawsitive Steps." This program is a multi-agency collaboration with the Canine Animal Rescue League (C.A.R.L), Ventura County Animal Shelter, a certified dog trainer, Behavioral Health and Ventura County Office of Education to provide training, counseling, and education to the youth working with the selected dogs. With the assistance of a trainer this program teaches youth how to properly care for and train a shelter dog. In doing so, the youth prepare the dog to be more attractive candidates for adoption into the community. Combined with the physical training and care of the dogs, there are additional program components consisting of Restorative Justice through Behavioral Health, humane education and career pathways. The youth will earn elective school credits during their participation. Upon

completion of the program, the youth participate in the adoption process of the dogs. This program offers the youth the opportunity to give back to their community; enhance their social, educational and vocational skills; and promote their sense of responsibility, kindness and compassion.

Probation will continue to engage in community outreach, provide re-entry services and enhanced dental/vision services to the youth.

Program Name:

Juvenile Day Reporting Center named KEYS (Keeping Engaged Youth Successful)

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

N/A

Description:

To safely reduce reliance on secure detention, the Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA) established the KEYS program. This program has been developed with the assistance of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) and the strategies found in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). It addresses the needs of the youth in the community as outlined in the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Plan, which provides strategies to reduce juvenile delinquency.

The KEYS program is a collaborative partnership that includes the VCPA, Human Services Agency (HSA), and participating community based organizations. The KEYS program also welcomes volunteers. The KEYS program, as part of an overall continuum of juvenile supervision strategies, is a one stop resource center that offers rehabilitate services. Using educational and vocational evidence based methods, participants will obtain the tools required to gain employment and become successful members of the community. The program goals include: Drop in center for the youth to work on enhancing life skills that will help them be functional adults; education (Tutoring, GED preparation, college enrollment, vocational training); job skills (Career guest speaker, resume building, interviewing skills); connect youth to potential employers; break the pattern of delinquency; build confidence; pro-social activities (i.e. college tours, job fairs, seasonal celebrations); and provide an alternative sanction to address violations of probation in lieu of Court. There is one DPO assigned to the program who focuses on completing the above noted goals. When the program is not open, the DPO assists other probation officers with caseload needs.

The HSA portion of the KEYS program is called the Specialized Training & Employment Project for Success for Youth (STEPS-Y) program. STEPS-Y prepares youth for re-entry into the local workforce by offering them job search and job skills training, resume building, networking recognition and skills, supportive services, and other life skills training through either the KEYS program or while in the Juvenile Facilities.

Program Name:

Early Intervention and Prevention Services

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

The service provider contract is paid through JJCPA. However, the funding for the DPO that reviews and supervises cases is through YOBG.

Description:

There is one DPO assigned to the program who reviews all citations and diverts appropriate cases. The DPO meets with the youth and his/her families and makes treatment or other diversion referrals as necessary.