

# **(2022-2023) Annual Plan**

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County Name: Ventura

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## Instructions:

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institution 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 following is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so. Each field must be completed before submitting your plan to the BSCC. If you have nothing to report for a field, please indicate 'N/A'. At the end of the template please press the 'Submit' button to be recorded with the BSCC. Your work will be saved each time you log in, if you need to make any edits.

Your Submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.[carrie.vredenburgh@ventura.org](mailto:carrie.vredenburgh@ventura.org)

**If you have any questions on completing your annual plan, or wish to use your own plan, please email:**

**JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov**

## **Juvenile Justice Plan**

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## **Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))**

### **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.**

The JJCC has established a sub-committee, the JJCC Program Review and Development Committee. This committee is comprised of members which represent county-based organizations, as well as community-based organizations. This committee is tasked to review current program outcomes, identify gaps in services utilizing the Juvenile Justice Master Plan (JJMP) to guide decisions and to make recommendations for future programming. The JJCC recognizes the importance of assessing and evaluating existing services in addition to keeping the JJMP current and relevant. Ventura County recently updated the Juvenile Justice Master Plan (JJMP) which took a comprehensive look at the continuum of services available within the county. The JJMP identified five priority areas for the county: Emotional and Behavioral Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Intervention, A Coordinated Systems Approach, Family Support and Prosocial and Skill-Building Opportunities. Within each priority area are sub-priorities, each with key opportunities for addressing the need and potential outcomes if the suggested actions are taken. The recommendations for services are evidence based and specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families. Ventura also completed an evaluation of our existing JJCPO funded programs which identified strengths and challenges, the evidence supporting the program model and made recommendations for program improvement.

In addition, there are strong collaborative partnerships that exist among the Juvenile Delinquency Court and various 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. These collaboratives explore the implementation of effective intervention services for youth and families at risk of contact with the juvenile justice system or are already justice involved. Probation also works closely with law enforcement to share information and coordinate diversion efforts.

**Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration among 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 Delinquency Court, and other stakeholders. Our county is fortunate in that collaboration amongst stakeholders is strong and there is a true desire and commitment to provide services and support which will benefit youth and their families. The JJCC uses the JJMP as a roadmap which guides programmatic changes and determines future funding for new programming and services. Ventura County has historically collaborated 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, Youth Equity and Success (YES), meets monthly to collaborate regarding additional needs and areas of focus within the County. BI has provided technical assistance and support to our County with the intention to step away and allow the workgroup to continue this work on their own.

In addition, Ventura County has developed an Interagency Leadership Team (ILT) which brings together directors of numerous county organizations which often overlap in the work and services they provide to clients. The purpose of the ILT is to align and integrate public systems and community providers for a Child and Family Wellness System. The work of this group is informed by parent/resident voice and reflected in a comprehensive continuum of prevention.

Ventura County utilizes the Interagency Case Management Council (ICMC) to address and manage the most difficult cases. This process brings all partners together to assure the youth and family are provided the correct and needed services. This assures all resources are explored and all efforts are made to address the youth at the earliest and lowest level possible.

## **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. However, data related to JDAI and RED continues to assist in determining which areas of the county (based on zip codes) have the highest rates of arrest and admissions to our juvenile facility. This information, coupled with the updated JJMP, has been used to identify gaps in services and resources needed. Latino, male youth are the highest represented population on Probation and in custody at the juvenile facility. In addition, a majority of youth on probation reside in the Oxnard/Port Hueneme area. This population and the communities they come from face significant challenges and risk factors that may increase the likelihood to become justice involved. The JJMP highlights the demographic, economic, employment and educational indicators in Ventura County, again offering guidance related to future funding and programs.

As previously stated, the JJMP identified five priority areas for the county: Emotional and Behavioral Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Intervention, A Coordinated Systems Approach, Family Support and Prosocial and Skill-Building Opportunities. Within each priority area are sub-priorities, each with key opportunities for addressing the need and potential outcomes if the suggested actions are taken. The recommendations for services are evidence based and specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families. Ventura also completed an evaluation of our existing JJCJA funded programs which identified strengths and challenges, the evidence supporting the program model and made recommendations for program improvement.

## 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 juvenile crime and delinquency. It allows the JJCC to make informed decisions regarding use of resources and community need. Ventura County currently uses the following approach with at risk youth and juvenile offenders:

Prevention: Contracting services to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system. Advocating for the proper intervention and services when youth enter our system, but would be better served by another organization. Utilizing diversion programs available within the community, as well as Probation, in an effort to divert youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Intervention: Providing appropriate and necessary services to reduce recidivism for youth already in the juvenile justice system. Continuously evaluate existing services and make needed programmatic changes to improve effectiveness in reducing recidivism and youth outcomes. Develop new programs to address identified gaps within the continuum of services.

Supervision: Utilize a risk and needs assessment to determine the appropriate level of supervision. Create individualized case plan with the youth and family, refer to evidence-based programs to drive youth behavior change. Use a graduated response matrix to aid in determining the appropriate level of response for violations and utilizing appropriate treatment referrals and resources.

Custody: Utilize a risk and needs assessment to develop individualized case plan with the youth and family, utilize evidence-based programs to drive youth behavior change. Monitor youth's progress throughout their commitment and develop release plans that include the youth, parents/guardian, treatment providers and the probation officer that will be providing community-based supervision upon their release.

**D.Comprehensive Plan Revisions****Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year.**

Ventura County recently completed an evaluation of JJCPA funded programs and updated the JJMP. Consequently, the Program Review and Development Committee, a subcommittee of the JJCC, will be utilizing both reports as a guide to make improvements to our existing programs and/or recommend the JJCC seek new programs. The JJMP has identified five priority areas for Ventura County to better address the needs of youth and their families. These priorities will guide any revisions made to this plan.

**If your Plan has not been updated this year, explain why no changes to your plan are necessary.**

N/A

**Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)  
(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))**

**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, District Attorney, Public Defender and the Sheriff's Department. In addition, Probation has an independent data system, Probation Records Information System Management (PRISM). This system allows Probation to utilize data to enhance caseload management and supervision of youth. This system contains demographic information, client assessments, case management information, client related documents, and information related to our youth.

Outside of the above integrated system, there is no established data sharing with other partner agencies. Data sharing is recognized as a key component for building a child and family wellbeing system. In the absence of automated data sharing, information from respective public entities are shared via the Essential for Childhood-Ventura County (E4C-VC) collaborative forum to better understand common areas of needs and to work towards coordinating community interventions, a system's approach to targeting and impacting common areas of need. E4C-VC is in the planning stages of such efforts, using AB 2083 as the impetus for cross-system collaboration.

Ventura County previously contracted with the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI). BI assisted the Agency in utilizing data to inform funding decisions and to focus areas of attention regarding community interventions. BI has worked with the Agency to continue this work independent of their support.

Lastly, Probation has integrated performance measures and associated data outcomes in service contracts with community-based organizations providing services to youth. This data is invaluable and guides the Agency in making informed decisions about programming and case management.

## **B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

**Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & institutions Code 749.22?**

yes

**If no, please list the current vacancies that exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies occurred, and your plan for filling them.**

N/A

## **C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

# **JJCJA Funded Program(s), Strategy and/or System Enhancement**

**Below are JJCJA funded programs reported by the county.**

**Program Name:**

Evening Reporting Centers (ERC)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Evening reporting centers (ERCs) were implemented throughout the County as an alternative to detention, to reduce the number of youth coming into the juvenile justice system, and to reduce youth of color admissions into the Juvenile Facilities. Referrals come from Probation, as well as community-based organizations, schools, and law enforcement. ERCs provide programming grounded in evidence-based practices for positive youth development and empowerment. Each ERC is highlighted below:

The Boys and Girls Club (BGC) of America offers tested, proven and nationally recognized programs, such as Project Learn and Summer Advantage USA, that closely align with the developmental needs of all young people. The BGC prioritizes programming related to three focus areas: academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles.

One Step a la Vez utilizes evidence-based programming to increase positive personal development and professional skills among participants. Some of the programs include, Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), Way of Council and Restorative Justice. Also, staff members are in the process of being trained to conduct Smart Recovery support groups, a workbook-based program, to offer guidance and support to youth with drug and/or alcohol addiction.

Big Brothers Big Sisters offers one on one mentoring to youth and research supports that these relationships 1) increase the social-emotional development of children and adolescents and challenge the negative views youth hold of themselves; 2) improve cognitive development and thinking skills; and 3) facilitate identity development.

**Description:**

The ERCs provide community-based alternatives to detention and assist in the reduction of youth of color admissions into the Juvenile Facilities. There are currently three ERCs in the County of Ventura: The Boys and Girls Club in Oxnard, One Step a la Vez in Fillmore, and Big Brothers Big Sisters in Simi Valley. The ERCs serve youth ages 12 ½ to 18 who reside in the designated areas of the county. The ERCs utilize evidence-based programming for 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; enhance public safety; and promote and increase academic success, character, citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The centers are socially and environmentally safe facilities for youth to attend. The programs are based upon physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs of youth, 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:**

Restorative Justice Conferencing

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Extensive research indicates that the use of restorative practices to deal with crime and wrongdoing are recognized as evidence-based practices. Literature states that grounding offenders in their communities and building social networks are critical to success and address this component of the risk and needs responsivity assessment.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Interface Children and Family Services to provide RJC. RJC is a program that diverts youth away from the juvenile justice system by offering the opportunity to participate in a restorative justice conference and be connected to needed services. Restorative Justice Conferencing seeks justice by bringing together the youth and the victim to discuss the harm caused and, together, create a plan to move forward. In addition, RJC can be utilized as a graduated response for those on probation supervision and with youth in our juvenile facility. Interface is in the process of onboarding and training staff at this time and will service up to 60 youth in year one, with the potential for expansion in year two.

**Program Name:**

Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Youth Advisory Councils are a youth engagement strategy used by programs and organizations to positively incorporate youth voices and help build the capacity of youth participants.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with One Step a la Vez to coordinate and oversee the YAC. YAC facilitates monthly meetings and members come from the three ERCs to assure representation from multiple areas of the County. Participants are provided leadership, leadership training and mentorship with the goal that those formerly involved in the justice system should advise and make recommendations for services to youth who are currently or at risk for becoming involved with the justice system. One Step a la Vez received technical assistance and coaching from the Burns Institute over the last year to assure they are meeting the goals of the program and that the YAC is positively impacting the work being completed with at risk or justice involved youth.

**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 their characterological strengths and deficits. Anew focuses 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.

**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. Case management and mentoring are the key components of the program. Mentoring research supports that these relationships 1) increase the social-emotional development of children and adolescents and challenge the negative views youth hold of themselves; 2) improve cognitive development and thinking skills; and 3) facilitate identity development. Mentoring and training are trauma informed.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Forever Found to work with this identified population. 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. Each youth is assigned a case manager and may participate in both individual and group classes.

**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. The community-based organization assesses youth/family to determine services needed, provides case management and utilizes cognitive behavioral interventions.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Interface Children and Family Services for this program. This program provides specialized early intervention services to youth and their families. The early intervention services are intended to divert youth from further juvenile justice involvement. Services are brief and 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 who commit 601 WIC offenses, miscellaneous misdemeanors, and lower level felony offenses. 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:**

Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Based on the State of California ROPP demonstration projects in California, Probation targets youth who have risk factors associated with chronic recidivism. Youth are provided enhanced case management, receive therapeutic services, are assigned an advocate and attend pro-social events. These interventions have been demonstrated to be beneficial and impact the success of youth in the program.

**Description:**

ROPP is an intensive, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary program that provides services to first time formal wards, informal probationers, and DEJ youth who are 16.5 years or younger at the time they are placed on supervision, and who demonstrate at least three of four risk factors associated with chronic delinquency. The ROPP team is comprised of three probation officers, three Marriage and Family Therapist, and three Youth Advocates. The program is guided by evidence-based practices, and the ROPP team meets bi-weekly to discuss the cases. The primary objective of ROPP is to provide early identification and services to eligible youth. ROPPs 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%", 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. 16.5 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 12
  - 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:**

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, Public Defender's Office, Probation Agency, Public Health, and the School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). THRIVE provides truancy intervention for students from 12 Ventura County school districts, which include 21 individual school/district sites. THRIVE aims to help all children between the ages of 6 and 18 with chronic absenteeism, offering appropriate remedial and community referral services during SARB meetings, based on the youth's needs (i.e. homelessness, mental health, medical, transportation, etc.). THRIVE utilizes the services of three Public Health Nurses which assist in determining whether there are medical reasons for the youth's truancy. The program also provides a Public Health Nurse to youth identified as high risk for Commercial and Sexual Exploitation (CSEC). Nurses attend Child and Family Team Meetings for these cases, provide health information and services to CSEC youth in an effort to prevent truancy and further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

**Program Name:**

Youth and Family Engagement (Proposed Enhancement)  
Parent Partners (Proposed Enhancement)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

There is a lot of research surrounding the role of families in the lives of justice involved youth and the impacts they have on the youth. It is widely accepted that family is critical in the development of children, yet their involvement when a youth enters the justice system is historically minimized. Instead families need to be engaged, as they can offer protective factors to youth and increase their success on probation. The Campaign for Youth Justice, in partnership with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), identified the principles of effective family engagement which would be incorporated into this program.

**Description:**

Develop a whole family approach to work with youth who are at the highest risk to reoffend and/or be removed from their home. This approach will embed a child and family development specialist in the Probation office. This specialist will assist the probation officer in assessing not only the youth's needs, but those of the family. The case plan would focus on the needs of the entire family in an effort to strengthen families and prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Develop a parent partner program. This involves using adults with previous juvenile justice system experience to provide peer support for families. This program may be volunteer based or require hiring staff to focus specifically on connecting families who are encountering the justice system with a partner who will help them navigate the system and stay better connected. Such support may help build trust, establish safety, and empower families. This approach can strengthen families and prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Both of these programs were proposed program enhancements last year, however, they were intentionally delayed to allow for the completion of the updated JJMP. The JJMP continues to highlight family engagement and support as a priority area, so both will be a focus for the year to come.

### **Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))**

#### **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.**

Ventura County utilizes the juvenile justice strategy outlined in Part I Section C for all youth. However, this is a more comprehensive outline of the programs and services provided to youth while they are in custody. YOBG specifically supports those programs and services highlighted individually in the below section. Youth under our care are provided the following programs and services within the facility:

Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE):

- Providence Court School
- Individual Academic Counseling
- Reading and Math Assessments
- English Learner Support
- Special Education
- High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)
- College and Career Readiness Classes.
- Providence Scholars Program
- College Mentor Program
- Landscaping
- Guest Speakers Program
- Transition Back to Home School of Residence

Ventura County Behavior Health (VCBH):

VCBH provides risk assessment, crisis intervention, treatment planning, psychiatry, medication support, and release planning with care coordination to youth at the facility. They also administer individual, group, and family therapy sessions.

- Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Word on the Street
- Reins of H.O.P.E
- Substance Use Treatment Services (SUTS)
- Commitment Girls Group
- Co-occurring substance abuse and mental health treatment
- Educationally Related Social Emotion Services

Human Services Agency:

- Specialized Training and Employment Program for Success-Youth (STEPS-Y)

Community Organization Services:

- Alpha Leadership Program
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Sex Offender Treatment Program
- Pawsitive Steps Dog Training Program
- Comprehensive California Healthy Youth Act compliant sex Education
- Ventura County Arts Council
- Radio broadcasting (107.9FM The Hall)
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard & Port Hueneme
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Case Management and Mentoring

Programming Conducted by Juvenile Facilities Staff Members:

- Interactive journaling packets
- New Beginnings
- XLR8D Fitness Program
- JF Library Book Club Program
- Music N' Society
- Futsal & Basketball
- American Prison Data Systems (APDS) Tablets

Volunteers in Probation (VIP):

- Religious Services
- Cross Training

While funding remains unknown at this time, Ventura County plans to leverage and enhance existing practices and programming and create new practices and policies that promote healthy adolescent development of youth, through a strength-based, culturally proficient, trauma-informed, diversity, equity, and inclusion lens. The enhancements include:

- 1)Development of a Vocational & Career Center: The targeted population will inherently have longer lengths of stay and will likely transition to a young adult while in the facility and upon release. We plan to convert a housing unit into a dedicated place to learn specific trades that leverage their strengths and have regional demand. Within the Vocational Center will be a functional Career Center for youth to assess and explore their strengths, different trade certifications and career paths. We plan to work together with our Human Services Agency (HSA), Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), local Community Colleges and trade unions to develop the programs. We will also explore a partnership with Food Share to assist in operating the Senior Nutrition Garden and re-establish the Forklift Certification program.
- 2)Mentorship Program: We plan to use block grant funds to contract with a community-based organization to embed community mentors, with lived experience, within the facility to assist youth in every aspect of their stay in the facility: from detention, through their commitment and upon release. The mentors will engage youth daily to learn about their passions and goals and

support them and their families to reach those goals while in the facility and with Probation and an Interface (pending grant) case manager through release and community reintegration. Because of their shared experience, they would be able to assist with easing anxiety and tension as they work through challenges and conflicts with this population. They would also play a pivotal role on the multi-disciplinary team that works with the youth and their families.

3) Gang Intervention Program: We plan to use block grant funds to contract with a community-based organization to deliver the (ARISE) gang program. ARISE is a six-week program that focuses on gang intervention and prevention. It is taught in a group setting, giving the participants experience listening to other viewpoints, voicing their thoughts and values, and working on team activities together. This program is evidence-based and will augment the facilities' cognitive behavioral programming that also addresses gang intervention. Engaging in an ARISE group teaches youth life skills such as communication, mediation and listening skills that they can apply in their daily lives.

4) Reentry: Several months prior to reentry, the multi-disciplinary team will coordinate with the Juvenile Services Division and parents to develop a transition plan. All aspects of the youth/TAY's transition will be captured in a reentry release plan. To ensure the youth/TAY is successful upon release, continued treatment services, job placement, transportation and continued educational support will be incorporated into the reentry release plan. The continuum of care is vital for the success of our youth/TAYs who have some of the highest needs.

5) Transitional Housing: We will work with local CBOs and non-profits to expand housing opportunities for our youth/TAY populations who may not have stable housing prior to or upon release. We will also build off our partnerships with Human Services Agency and County Executive Office to leverage ongoing efforts within the County to address housing gaps and services. This Reentry service would be supported by case management services.

6) Facility Transformation to Campus Lifestyle: Block Grant funds will be used to gradually convert housing units, common areas, and outside facilities to mimic a campus feel that promotes growth, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Probation will create an advisory team comprised of youth, community volunteers, local artists, and facility partners to develop a facility transitioning plan for a campus-style setting.

## **B. Regional Agreements**

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

N/A

# **YOBG Funded Program(s), Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement**

**Below are YOBG funded programs reported by the county.**

**Program Name:**

Early Intervention and Prevention Services

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The service provider contract is paid through JJCBA. 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 contacts youth and his/her families and makes treatment or other diversion referrals as necessary. Additionally, the DPO contacts victims in order to establish restitution.

**Program Name:**

Enrichment Program Services

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

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:

Paxton Patterson (engine & construction) is also offered to our new target population. This program provides youth the opportunity to enhance their skills in construction to ultimately assist with obtaining employment upon release from custody.

High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) is given to on-site students who participate in test preparation. HiSET preparation is provided by the Providence HiSET Coach. The school counselor reviews transcripts and determines whether preparing, taking, and passing the HiSET would be a viable option for the student.

Landscaping training is provided by a certified teacher from Ventura County Office of Education. The youth learn to cultivate fruits, vegetables, and a variety of other plants.

Reins of H.O.P.E allows youth to participate in a weekly program with miniature horses. Ventura County Behavioral Health collaborates with Reins of Hope in selecting youth who would benefit from equine assisted psychotherapy (EAP). EAP addresses a variety of mental health and human development issues such as Behavioral Issues, Depression, Anxiety, Substance Use, PTSD and Sexual Trauma among the youth.

Ventura County Arts Council provides art, poetry, and guitar classes. They have produced books with youth art and poetry and have completed three murals in the facility, two of which involved youth.

Radio broadcasting (107.9FM The Hall) provides instruction on how to establish and maintain a localized radio station with a broadcasting radius that is limited to the grounds and buildings at the Juvenile Facilities. The Ventura County Arts Council in conjunction with CAPS Media plans to work with youth to produce a show called Hall Talk. The goal for this partnership would be to create a workforce training experience for radio and TV.

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard & Port Hueneme: The Juvenile Facilities contains one of fourteen Boys and Girls Clubs, opened nationwide, within a detention facility. It is a Targeted Re-entry Program focusing on the development of programming for youth while in the facility with a goal of linking the youth to Boys and Girls Clubs in the community. The Boys and Girls

Club of Oxnard Port Hueneme maintains a club house inside the facility that offers a variety of programming services and activities to the youth at the Juvenile Facility. A library is also available to youth that hosts activities including a book club and guest speaker presentations by selected authors.

Multi-Sensory De-Escalation Room (MSDR) is used to identify a resident's triggers, strengths and suggested sensory activities that may assist with internal regulation of behavior. A resident's ability to use the resources in the environment to calm his/her emotions with staff engagement is a critical step in the process of self-regulation. The MSDR environment promotes engagement and interaction between the resident and staff in a non-adversarial setting.

**Program Name:**

Leaders

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

N/A

**Description:**

Programming is delivered on a group and/or individual basis. These youth represent a smaller portion of the 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, based on youth needs, may include: mental health treatment, mentorships and other enrichment programming. Vocational training encompasses courses such as landscaping, 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. Women of Substance Men of Honor (WOSMOH) provides the Alpha Leadership Program. This is a 13-week program that covers topics such as Priorities and Goals, Individual Identification and Finances.

**Program Name:**

Health Care Services

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

N/A

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Wellpath to provide health care service to youth in custody. Wellpath provides services onsite and is available 24-hours per day. Wellpath provides health care, dental care and health education. Medical offices and examination rooms are available on site. Vision care and services for youth are provided in the community.

**Program Name:**

Gender Specific Programming

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

N/A

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Women of Substance Men of Honor (WOSMOH) to provide gender specific programming to both female and male populations. Healthy Lifestyles is a 10-week program which covers topics such as: Boundaries, Diversity, Feelings, Friendships, Role Models, Hygiene, STDs, HIV, Sexual Assault, Date Rape Drugs, and Protection.