

(2024-2025) Annual Plan

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County Name: Riverside

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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. TiCopeland@Rivco.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.

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Riverside County law enforcement consists of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and 29 city police agencies. Additional resource providers include the District Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Probation Department, which provide a continuum of services such as Support, Partnerships, Advocacy, and Resources for Kids (SPARK, page 16), De-escalation and Assistance Response Team (DART, page 12), and Gang Awareness, Mentorship and Education (GAME, page 14).

Educational services throughout the county are provided by public school districts, private schools, and the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE). RCOE provides alternative and continuing education for youth who have struggled academically and/or behaviorally in the traditional school setting, as well as to those detained through the Riverside County juvenile justice system. This includes detainees at the county's three juvenile detention and treatment facilities.

Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) provides services to people throughout Riverside County through its wellness, mental health, substance abuse, and prevention programs. These services are provided at various community hospitals and clinics, in addition to co-locating at the Probation Department's treatment/detention facilities. RUHS-BH collaborates with the Probation Department to provide wraparound services to youth and their families.

Numerous community-based organizations (CBOs) provide a wide variety of programs and services to youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system which include food and housing assistance, counseling services, educational and employment programs, mentoring, pro-social development, as well as general support services. Some CBOs are contracted through the County to provide these services free of charge to youth and families, and they include the following: Riverside Art Museum (RAM), Kids in Konflikt, Chapman Law School Mediation Program (Restorative Justice), Living Advantage, Chavez Education Services,

Studentnest, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Calicinto Ranch, Communities 4 Children, Community Connect, PVJobs, Raincross Boxing Academy, the Carolyn E. Wylie Center, Destiny Ministries, and Operation Safehouse. Numerous other non-contracted entities, both big and small, assist in providing the litany of services that many youth and families seek all across the county.

Over the last several years, West Ed, a third-party vendor has been contracted to assist in developing uniform tracking measures, to assess the services provided to youth and families via contracted agencies. Although this data is raw, the County can see how many individual youth and families are served by these entities, and depending on the provider, initial outcome data is available for some of the participants. Moving forward, however, the County is in the process of awarding a new RFP for both a comprehensive evaluation of all such services, but also for a gap analysis as to the strengths and needs of service availability throughout the County. Additionally, a multi-agency team is collaborating on an Integrated Services Delivery model across the county, aimed to improve the fluidity of communication and quality of effective services across agencies.

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

To ensure coordination and collaboration among the various government and community-based organizations (CBOs), the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meets quarterly to discuss the business of the board, assess resources, review program progress, and the budget. Funded and non-funded CBOs have the ability to participate in these meetings regarding available services, and sharing each agency's strengths, expertise, and outcomes. Discussions also include plans to maximize resources in the community and identify any gaps in services.

In January 2024, the JJCC Board voted to establish its first Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, consisting of both county and community providers. The intention is for this group to work collaboratively with the RFP award winner contracted for a comprehensive evaluation and gap analysis, to assist with both analyzing and implementing recommendations. This group will also provide technical assistance as necessary, i.e. answering questions, making local connections, and providing clarity to help ensure the complete analysis is meaningful. Further, this group will work alongside the county's CBO Alliance, to increase communication between county and community providers, and to market the efforts being made by each group. As an example, beginning this year, the Probation Department will utilize its website and potentially social media outlets to advertise the currently contracted vendors, as well as upcoming events (such as RFP releases). Further, the hope is to incorporate GIS mapping across entities, to better analyze the data we have and ultimately, make better decisions regarding the allocation of resources.

Additionally, and in response to AB2083, a "system of care" has been established by the Interagency Leadership team, which consists of Probation, RUHS-Behavioral Health, DPSS, RCOE, Inland Regional Center, the Courts, and the Public Defender. This team meets monthly to provide oversight and direction to the system of care steering committee (DPSS, Probation, BH, RCOE). Information from the steering committee is spread to specific subcommittees (some listed below), where goals are addressed monthly. The larger intention is to enhance collaboration and communication across the groups to better service our foster care population county-wide.

There are several other collaborative efforts among multiple agencies designed to meet specific goals. These collaborative efforts include:

- Dual Status Staffing: Comprised of Probation and DPSS. The group meets once per month to maintain communication regarding how best to serve each dual status youth.
- Inter-agency Placement Committee: Comprised of Probation, RUHS-BH, RUHS- PH, and 4

RCOE. The group meets twice per week to determine eligibility and suitability for out-of-home placement of applicable youth.

- AMC YTEC Treatment Team: Comprised of Probation, RUHS-BH, RUHS - Correctional Health, and RCOE. The group meets once per week per unit to address the progress of each youth in the treatment program.

- Behavioral Health Commissions Children's Committee: Comprised of Probation, RUHS-BH, RCOE-Special Education Local Plan Area, Victor Community Support Services, Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), and DPSS. The group meets monthly to discuss behavioral and mental health updates, and to provide parent support and training.

- Child Welfare and Attendance Committee: Comprised of Probation, RCOE, DPSS. The group meets monthly to discuss at-risk youth, various issues surrounding school attendance, and available services.

- Independent Living Plan (ILP) Consortium: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, Oak Grove Thrive, Aspiranet Transitional Housing Placement and Foster Care (THP+FC), Aspire THP+, RCOE, RUHS-BH and RUHS-PH. The group meets bi- monthly to discuss current ILP events, how to better serve ILP youth, and networking with community partners to assist in serving ILP youth.

- Juvenile Competence Attainment Team: Comprised of Probation, RUHS- BH, Inland Regional Center, and RCOE. The group meets regularly as needed to review/assess services available to assist minors in restoring competency.

- Support Letter Subcommittee: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, and RUHS-BH. The group meets weekly to interview potential providers and/or review Short-term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) program statements.

- Interagency Committee on Placements: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, and RUHS-BH. The group meets monthly to maintain communication regarding issues with placement providers.

- Joint Provider Meeting: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, RUHS-BH, and Placement Providers. The group meets twice yearly to disseminate information regarding Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), review current legislation, policy, and forms related to youth in out-of-home care.

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.

Riverside County is committed to providing a county-wide strategy. In the coming year, GIS mapping will be more widely utilized to identify trends across various regions and drive decision making. Further, and as previously indicated, a newly contracted RFP award winner will also serve in this capacity, to help us better assess our strengths and weaknesses as to service needs and availability all throughout the county.

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.

With the formation of the new Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, one of the first matters of business will be for the group to outline a calendar of goals for FY24/25. The goals, however, will be broken down into two major points of focus. Part one of the strategy will be to ensure everyone throughout the county knows that the group exists as a point of contact for collaboration and coordinating between agencies and community organizations, in addition to the CBO Alliance, and that services are available to all youth and families. Next, the group will work to ensure that there is a comprehensive continuum of care for youth at every point in the system. Whether a youth is nearing or potentially entering into our system of care, or even those who are further along in stages of treatment, the desire is to have a known and accessible system of support in place.

Currently, the county has contracts in place with community providers to assist with services for youth/families, whether they are on probation or not. Via this method, many of our at-risk youth can seek assistance as necessary, whether it be for individual counseling, academic assistance/tutoring, peer support, etc. Additionally, the county will be opening a new RFP in the coming year for additional CBOs to provide similar supportive services.

Further, in January 2024, the JJCC board approved opening an RFP for a new county-wide community-led diversion model. The goal of this RFP is to provide a more effective model of services for low-level offending youth who have come to the attention of law enforcement but may not require intervention through the formal court process. Upon the award of this RFP, a network of CBOs will collaborate with both the Probation and District Attorney's agencies to provide pre-court diversion services to eligible youth.

Upon arrest, youth are assessed by an assessment tool which determines if secured detention is necessary. The presumption is for youth to be released home unless specific criteria are met. For out-of-custody matters, upon receipt of an Application for Juvenile Court Petition, an assessment is completed to determine the appropriate response for mandatory and discretionary referrals. Regarding discretionary referrals, least restrictive options are considered, including close at intake, counsel and close, refer to CBO, and refer to diversion programming. Current diversion programs include the Youth Accountability Team (YAT), the 654.1 WIC Drunk Driving Program and Restorative Justice, but as indicated above, we are actively working to expand upon this model.

For youth who appear before the juvenile court and receive a disposition, they are assigned an appropriate level of supervision and services. In these cases, an evidence-based assessment tool is administered to make such a determination. Further, recommendations for treatment and additional services are targeted based upon identified needs and are in alignment with the responsivity principle. Examples of targeted areas include behavioral health, substance abuse, individual and family counseling, anger management, and educational services. Wraparound Services are also utilized for youth and their families who exhibit a higher level of need and meet certain criteria. The use of evidence-based practices is widespread throughout the Probation Department and various community service providers. Specifically, motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral treatment are utilized for youth in the community and in detention/treatment settings. An emphasis is also placed on reinforcing positive behavior, and a graduated sanctions and incentives matrix is utilized to achieve rehabilitative goals.

Wherein efforts made by the probation officer to modify a youth's negative behavior do not achieve the desired result, the juvenile delinquency court could order a youth detained or committed to a treatment program. Upon adjudication, all youth receive a comprehensive battery of screenings and assessments to identify suicide risk, health and education needs, vulnerability toward victimization, and exposure to past or current sexual exploitation. Prior to consideration for a treatment program or any out-of-home placement, a screening committee comprised of Probation, Behavioral Health, Public Health and RCOE, comes together to evaluate the case and make a recommendation to the court.

When appropriate, youth considered for out-of-home placement are also evaluated to determine if a Short-Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) or RFA process are more suitable and appropriate. Child Family Treatment Meetings (CFTMs) are also utilized, giving a voice to both the child and parents, to ensure all elements are being assessed.

All youth committed to a treatment program receive targeted educational, vocational, and therapeutic services. The treatment provided includes individual, group, and family behavioral health counseling, substance abuse education, and sex offender programming. Additionally, the following evidence-based programs are offered: Aggression Replacement Training, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Seeking Safety, Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and Functional Family Therapy. RCP staff also facilitates social awareness programming including life skills, victim awareness, gang disassociation (Crossroads), restorative justice (Conflict Resolution), healthy living, and the Just Beginning parenting program. Additionally, gender-responsive programming is provided in the form of Girls Circle and The Council for Boys and Young Men. Lastly, community-based partners facilitate programming for treatment youth including Real Men Read, Women Who Read, Women Wonder Writers, educational tutoring,

employment services (CFLC) and mediation services. Youth who have achieved a high school diploma (or its equivalent), are given access to community college enrollment or job-readiness training. Community-based organizations play a critical role in assisting these youth with career assessment, interview preparation and gainful employment, which often continues once the youth are released from the facility and re-enter their communities.

Upon successful completion of the treatment program, youth are placed under the supervision of Enhanced Aftercare probation officers.

D.Comprehensive Plan RevisionsDescribe how your Plan has been updated for this year.

The plan has been updated to include a newly formed committee designed to work alongside our new contracted vendor to dive deeper into an analysis of how well our current system is working in terms of reach throughout the County, services offered and the CBO's willingness to provide appropriate service metrics on a consistent basis. The County hopes to identify our strengths and weaknesses related to service availability, trends in data across the various regions, and how to best implement new recommendations. Further, new RFPs are underway to include additional services from CBOs for at-promise and/or non-probation youth, as well as a new community-led diversion model for low-level offending youth. Overall, this plan involves much greater collaboration between county and community agencies.

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.

The Riverside County Probation Department (RCP) recently acquired a new client management system which collects information on youth who receive services through the department. The transition into the new system is still underway, but it will have the capacity for data-collection and internal program measurement.

The client management system's ability to gather and share data ensures that youths in-custody, and at-promise have the best chance at rehabilitation in the community. The system will track all assessments to ensure youth are receiving adequate supervision based on their needs, and actions that have been completed to assist the youth on their journey including program referrals, completions, education, and case plan completions. RCP has a research unit which regularly reports statistics for youths, including a quarterly Juvenile Synopsis Report which reviews overall incoming and outgoing youth.

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

JJCPA Funded Program(s), Strategy and/or System Enhancement

Below are JJCPA funded programs reported by the county.

Program Name:

Youth Accountability Teams (YAT)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, diversion is more effective in reducing recidivism than conventional judicial interventions per peer-reviewed research. When youth assessed as low risk are diverted, they are 45% less likely to re-offend than comparable youth facing formal processing. Per the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in 2018, only 41% of juvenile referrals nationwide were diverted. Of the 59% that were formally processed, only 6% were for violent offenses. In a separate study, responses such as counseling, skill building, and restorative justice reduced re-offending by 10%.

Description:

YAT is a community-based diversion program for at-promise youth in Riverside County, in which a J132 arrest referral has been submitted by a law enforcement agency to RCP for review. YAT is a voluntary program for all participants, in which consent is gained on behalf of the youth and parent, with the assistance of defense counsel provided free of charge to families. YAT is a county-wide collaborative and multi-agency approach for rapid and effective intervention for less serious juvenile offenders. This is achieved by providing care, counseling, and assistance with educational services; coaching and mentoring; access to program referrals; and support to youth and their families for up to six months. Program referrals may be provided for one or more of the following areas: substance use, anger management, tutoring, and individual counseling. Guidance counseling may be provided by any member of the team, to include: the probation officer, the youth opportunity counselor, or the juvenile defense attorney. Another major aspect of the program includes opportunities for field trips, to include museums, local colleges, occupational programs, art exhibits, sporting events, etc. An emphasis is placed upon broadening each youth's experiences in the local community and expanding their knowledge base and interest levels in healthy, pro-social activities. These events are arranged not to conflict

with the youth's school schedule. Overall, efforts are also made with the youth's parent(s) to broaden their skills to appropriately address the negative behavior of the child in the home.

Program Name:

Restorative Justice

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

A review of research on restorative justice indicated several benefits, including, substantially reducing repeat offending for some youth, reduced crime victims' post-traumatic stress symptoms, and provided both victims and youth with more satisfaction than with the traditional criminal justice system. Further, it reduced crime victims' desire for violent vengeful acts against their offenders, and reduced the costs of criminal justice, when used as diversion, which this program does.

Description:

The Chapman University Restorative Justice Program is a holistic approach to justice designed for youth who have committed WIC 602 offenses involving a true victim. The program focuses on the needs of the youth, victims, and the community. The program's contract is overseen by the Riverside County Law Offices of the Public Defender, but the Public Defender does not participate in the actual programming, and referrals can come from other County agencies. The program provides opportunities for dialogue between the victim and youth and opportunities to discuss the harm done in a safe setting, leading to a high rate of victim satisfaction and youth-offender accountability. Upon the voluntary consent of both parties to participate in the program, Chapman University staff and students provide mentorship and guidance to help the youth "make amends" with the victim, understand how their actions directly impacted the victim, and give the victim "a voice." The program also allows the youth and the victim to develop a mutually acceptable plan, or reparative agreement, to address the harm. Additionally, the participants are provided with resource referrals to support successful completion of the reparative agreements.

Program Name:

De-escalation and Assistance Response Team (DART)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Schools routinely struggle with the aftermath of violent incidents, racially motivated fights and hate speech, student or faculty accidents, deaths and suicide attempts, on-campus overdoses, and serious crime arrests, and must manage the resulting, often negative, impacts on school climate, campus safety and student emotional well-being. In response, the District Attorney's Office has spearheaded a comprehensive and quick response team called to provide an immediate response to such crisis situations.

Description:

This program is provided by the District Attorney's Office. The purpose of the team will be to: a) help de-escalate tension, fears, stress and anxiety; b) prevent violence and retaliation; c) provide education regarding penal consequences that can occur if students respond in a manner that violates the law; d) suggest healthy, helpful, and appropriate responses to incidents of hate, anger, violence, or injustice; and e) provide resources to help students deal with anger, depression, fear, or anxiety. DART will include various local law enforcement partners, RUHS-BH, counseling organizations, drug and alcohol recovery organizations, the Riverside County Family Justice Center, youth shelter and safety organizations, and other public and private organizations that specialize in crisis intervention.

Program Name:

Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Diversions programs targeting youths' risk and needs have demonstrated success in reducing recidivism (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2018). Specific needs targeted include an increased emphasis on school grades and attendance, and abstinence from alcohol and illegal substances. Officers also provide appropriate referrals to counseling services based on needs and facilitate positive community involvement through community service and/or pro-social activities. Officers are trained to utilize Motivational Interviewing, an evidence-based model for communicating change talk.

Description:

The program provides for the supervision of a large percentage of non-wards in Riverside County. The caseloads are comprised of 654, 725, and 790 Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) Probation youth. Currently, there are 10 caseloads allocated throughout the county. The overall goal is to target specific needs and to assist youth and parents for the youth to successfully complete probation by their first review hearing. Staff are required to set an appointment to meet with the youth at the youth's residence within 15 days of the dispositional hearing. They have a mandatory 4-week follow-up Child Advocate Team (CAT) meeting, where child advocates are invited to the meeting. At these meetings, parents, probation officers, and the identified CAT members identify barriers youth may face in successfully completing probation and Court ordered programs. Prosocial activities and field trips are also planned as part of the case plan. SSTS probation officers connect youth to community-based organizations and resources in their areas.

Program Name:

Gang Awareness, Mentorship, and Education (GAME)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

The GAME program facilitated by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, averages 250 presentations a year and reaches approximately 25,000 people annually, mostly youth. In a survey in 2016, approximately 85% of the elementary school students indicated that they were less likely to get involved with gangs because of what they learned from the GAME presentations.

Description:

The GAME program works to deter youth from gang involvement through powerful and compelling anti-gang presentations. Effective and practical parenting skills presentations are also provided as an educational tool for parents. Experienced prosecutors travel throughout the county and give presentations that teach youth about the devastating social and legal consequences of gangs. They also teach parents about gang paraphernalia, warning signs, and parenting strategies to keep their children out of gangs, and train educators and social services staff about local gangs.

Program Name:

Aware to Care Exchange System (ACE)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Research shows that prolonged exposure to violence and trauma can seriously undermine a child's ability to learn, form relationships, and focus appropriately in the classroom. A recent national survey revealed that 60% of American children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse, with 40% being direct victims of two or more violent acts. Prolonged exposure can impact a child's ability to behave appropriately and learn in school.

Description:

ACE will be facilitated by RCOE, with collaboration from first responders (law enforcement, fire fighters, and emergency medical staff) in the community. The program will prompt these responders to notify school sites when a child has been exposed to an adverse childhood experience (ACE), which will allow school officials to monitor the child and treat them with appropriate care. Communication across a secured database will be essential, to ensure appropriate resources are allocated to the youth depending on their specified traumatic event.

Program Name:

Support, Partnerships, Advocacy, and Resources for Kids (SPARK)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

There are numerous educational risk factors associated with system-involved and/or at-risk youth that contribute to recidivism and unfavorable outcomes. Juvenile justice system-involved youth have a high incidence of disabilities and special education needs, estimated at between 65 to 85 percent, with many requiring services to be successful in school. Nationally, 60 to 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health condition and approximately 30 percent have a serious condition necessitating immediate treatment. Outcomes for these youth are further impacted due to frequent school transfers, gaps in enrollment and attendance, lack of consistent adult support for education, and the impact of trauma on learning and behavior. All of these factors contribute to disproportionate truancy, discipline and expulsion rates, as well as referrals to juvenile court and recidivism if left unaddressed.

Description:

SPARK is an intervention and prevention program spearheaded by the Office of the Public Defender (DPD). It is designed to benefit middle and high-school aged youth who are represented by the Public Defender's Office, as well as at-risk Transitional Age Youth throughout Riverside County. The overarching objective of SPARK is to identify unaddressed academic and mental health needs and link youth to appropriate resources through coordinated, collaborative, community, and education partnerships. SPARK provides services county-wide with a team in each of Riverside County's three major regions: Desert, Mid-County, and Riverside. The teams focus on: 1) preventing youth from full entry into the justice system by establishing and utilizing a coordination of community resources early in the court process; 2) reducing recidivism and promoting favorable outcomes, such as increased academic success, shortened probation terms, limited detention and removal, and increased protective factors for those who do enter the system; and (3) removing barriers and promote positive transitions to adulthood for Transitional Age Youth using an integrated, community-based approach. With this approach, the teams function as a liaison between multiple service providers, ensure the appropriateness and continuity of services, and provide outreach and advocacy that contribute to more favorable outcomes for Riverside County youth.

Program Name:

Youth Empowerment and Safety Program (YES)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

With the current climate of the community, as well as social and technological conditions that exist among our youthful population, parents and school officials alike have expressed concern regarding a variety of issues that negatively impact youth's decisions and ultimately their safety. Gender-based programming, such as Girls Circle and Boys Council, are evidence-based curriculums that have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing delinquency/recidivism.

Description:

The YES program, facilitated by the District Attorney's Office, will provide presentations to the general Riverside County public, parents, educators, and youth. Topics will cover Bullying and Cyber-Bullying, Internet Safety, Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence and Healthy Relationships, Hate Crimes, Juveniles and the Law, and the Power of Education. Further, One Circle Foundation curriculums (Girls Circle and Boys Council) will be utilized to promote resiliency practices and skills training.

Program Name:

Community Led Diversion

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

At one time or another, adolescents may engage in risky behaviors, act without thinking, or make undesirable decisions more often than they will as adults. Research demonstrates that a majority of youth that are arrested and charged with delinquent behavior will never be arrested for a second delinquent act or will become repeat offenders in adulthood. Further, formal juvenile justice system processing has the potential to increase the likelihood of recidivism among youth, particularly for low-risk offenders (Gatti et al., 2009; Petrosino et al., 2013). As such, diversion programs designed to reduce the risk of criminal socialization by providing positive social interactions, instilling structure, and addressing the underlying causes of such behavior may avoid youths' unnecessary exposure to the formal justice process which may actually increase youth's involvement in the system and delinquency.

Description:

Riverside County aims to create a community-led Juvenile Diversion Program as a county-wide pre-file diversion option for youth who engage in low-level offenses and are determined eligible pursuant to the Welfare and Institutions Code and the Rules of Court, as an alternative to prosecution. Within these parameters, applicable cases submitted to RCP by law enforcement will be screened for diversion eligibility. Additionally, any cases that fall within the legal discretion of the District Attorney will also be eligible for diversion should the DA find it appropriate and/or in the interest of justice.

The County will seek proposals to have a community-based organization, along with subcontracted entities, meet the individual needs of low-level clients and provide supportive services within the community. Responsive proposals will describe a collaborative approach working with the youth, family, and broader community to provide a pathway to intervention and supportive services. These services by design will effectively address delinquent behaviors and other risk factors while increasing positive change and reducing re-offense, maximizing diversion success with minimal formal system involvement.

Program Name:

Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

During school year 2022-2023, there were 122,971 chronically absent and truant youth in Riverside County (California Department of Education). Despite experiencing a decrease in the number of chronically absent or truant youth during the year, the truancy rate remains higher in Riverside County at 28.2% than the state average of 24.9%. There is also substantial risk for these youth to not complete their high school education. This impacts the criminal justice system in that 82% of adults incarcerated in US prisons are high school dropouts, and over 70% have difficulty reading above a fourth-grade level. Further, truancy is the number one predictor of juvenile delinquency in California and truants are more likely to be victims of crime.

Description:

SARB will be facilitated by the District Attorney's Office, in coordination with the County's 23 local school districts and RCOE. The program will include collaboration with community resources at SARB meetings, advising students and families of legal expertise. Further, truancy mediations will be authorized in accordance with the Education and Welfare and Institutions Codes, to emphasize compulsory education laws, and explore untapped resources and strategies to resolve trancies. Case management will be supplied as necessary to provide long-term stability to combat the most complex truancy cases.

Program Name:

Youth Services Expansion through Community Based Organizations

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Some identified predictors of juvenile delinquency include youth lacking strong social ties, anti-social peers, incorrigible behavior, poor attitudes about school, and poor performance in school. Comprehensive community-based programs that assist youth with academics, truancy, individual and group counseling on basic life skills, and mentoring programs are important intervention measures in the communities where our youth reside.

Description:

Contracts were awarded to various community-based organizations to provide mentoring programs, individual and group counseling, academic/vocational services, drug and alcohol counseling programs, transportation, pro-social programming, and truancy prevention. Below is a brief description of each organization's services for the youth and families, as well as areas of focus:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire provides one-on-one mentoring services to youth. An emphasis is placed on participants staying in school, improving academic performance, graduating high school, and effective career preparation. Practice interviews, resume development, career exploration support, and various other workshops are provided. The Boys and Girls Club provides outreach counseling throughout Riverside County. In this capacity, these counselors assist with mentoring, crisis counseling, and general support of the youth. They also assist with an assessment of mental health needs among troubled youth and provide support to parents and families experiencing any such circumstances with their children.

Calicinto Ranch, Inc. Provides overnight camping experiences, outdoor educational ranch activities, character building instruction, positive law enforcement connection along with mentoring services for children of incarcerated parents to assist them in breaking the cycle of crime. Youth will identify/address individual needs, build positive life skills, and be referred to community resources to help them explore/develop goals for their future.

The Carolyn E. Wylie Center for Children, Youth, and Families has a variety of direct services available for at-risk youth. The "Capable Girls" component is provided to socially awkward girls aged 11-17, to assist them in developing friendships, and to minimize the likelihood of being

a victim of bullying or sexual exploitation. The curriculum is taught by staff who are college graduates and includes the following: texting etiquette, dance lessons, field trips, and other pro-social activities. Project L.E.A.D. - Linking Education, Advocacy, and Development is utilized to provide college youth as mentors/tutors for program participants through activities such as therapeutic recreation, art, crafts, music, computers, and academic course work. This program is designed to assist middle school students enrolled in afterschool programs throughout Riverside County. Additionally, outreach counselors are assigned to five middle schools, two alternative education schools, four high schools, and 12 elementary schools. They assist youth in overcoming both academic and behavioral problems. Such problems may include suicide prevention, substance abuse, violence, conflict resolution, and anger management. Lastly, services are also provided in the format of individual and group counseling and to address trauma among transitional age youth (Seeking Safety; Safe Coping Skills Group).

Chávez Educational Services aims to reduce violence, promote self-accountability, and increase academic/career achievement among at-risk youth. The program utilizes the STEP UP Decide...Commit...Win model, which is aligned with the social emotional learning wheel. The curriculum is delivered in an interactive format and covers self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills.

Inland So Cal 211+ will provide an alternative sentencing program to youth in the method of community service opportunities, domestic violence, and anger management counseling. Youth will also receive Advanced Warning and Client Redirection Education and Teen Educations Mentoring Programming. Additionally, participants will be provided access to over 3,500 local resources based on individual needs and proximity to their housing location.

Jay Cee Dee Children's Home provides a variety of educational enrichment, pro-social activities, and community mobilization services to youth. An effort is made to expose youth to beautification projects through field trips and community/school events. Multi-systemic therapy is provided, as well as, aggression replacement training (ART), structured learning training, anger control training, moral reasoning, parenting workshops, and life skills training.

Kids in Konflikt provides services in anger management, community service, cultural diversity, domestic violence awareness, gang awareness, healthy boundaries and relationships, life skills/career development, mentoring, parenting, sex offender awareness, shoplifting, substance awareness (2-hour awareness and an 8-week series), tutoring, and victim awareness. They also will host an Annual Summit in June. This year will be their first time resuming since the pandemic.

Living Advantage provides gender-specific, trauma-informed programming for youth. Through

individual counseling, a focus is based upon internalizing values and standards which build and sustain character development. Same sex mentors are matched with each participant to help with school attendance, behavior, and general issues plaguing the youth/family. Homework assistance is provided as well as study skills strategies. The following workshops are also available: assertiveness training; self-esteem enhancement; empowerment training, positive problem solving; positive relationship skill-building; and substance abuse prevention.

Operation Safe House provides two similar programs in both the Western and Desert regions of Riverside County. Both programs offer a 21-day emergency shelter, as well as on-site school for youth participants. General Educational Development (GED) classes are provided, as well as transportation and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). Group counseling is provided to address positive decision-making skills, resistance to peer pressure, and positive self-attitudes. Food, recreational activities, and outreach services are also provided to these youth in the midst of crisis.

Playa Vista Job Opportunities is a juvenile re-entry program designed to address long-term labor market prospects for youth. The program offers a comprehensive case management component, which includes assessment, referrals for service, academic and career coaching, plan navigation, and career pathway development. The training curriculum consists of 16 sessions and consists of four components: personal mastery decision making and problem-solving skills; social skills development; education (reading, math, language arts); and refusal skills (avoidance of drug use and gang involvement). Apprenticeship training is provided for three major career tracks: construction, hospitality, or education.

Raincross Boxing Academy provides basic life skills education through individual and group assistance learning, academic and educational services, as well as job skills training and employment opportunities. Staff to student ratios remain low to provide adequate attention to the identified needs of each youth. Staff also stress the importance of academics, as well as higher education. Tutoring is a fundamental component provided, as well as SAT prep. Various speakers present on their backgrounds, careers, and educational pathways. School counselors and college representatives discuss/assist with admission requirements, financial aid, and general expectations. College and vocational fairs are made available to participants. Additionally, role models from a variety of professional fields are available for assignment as mentors and partnerships with various local businesses are maintained for apprenticeship opportunities.

The Riverside Art Museum provides services to at-risk youth through the Creative Horizons curriculum. This curriculum is designed to reduce the influence of risk factors by providing opportunities to build self-esteem, participate in pro-social leisure activities, and develop pro-

social attitudes. Youth participants are afforded interactive training workshops taught by trained artists, with an emphasis on techniques encouraging self-regulation skills of communication and problem solving. These students learn the fundamentals of art (composition, perspective, value, and color), and over a four-week period collaborate to design a mural of their choice.

Studentnest Foundation provides a variety of resources to youth and their parents. Self-help groups are available to such parents so they can develop mutual support for one another. Further, it serves as a resource for participants, providing mentorship and training. Parent training focuses on strategies and interventions that increase protective factors while reducing risk factors, such as: monitoring their child's whereabouts, increasing contact with their child's peers and parents of his/her peers, facilitation of their child's participation in pro-social activities, and implementing appropriate discipline, limits, consequences, as well as rewards. At-risk youth receive life-skills training, such as: learning how to control angry impulses, taking perspectives other than their own, increasing their knowledge of adverse consequences of substance use, teaching personal self-management skills, teaching general social skills, and learning about emotional intelligence.

Program Name:

654.1 WIC Program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Diversion programs can vary in many ways, including point of contact, form, and desired outcomes. Service coordination models include case management, service brokerage, and wraparound approaches. The primary goal of these models is to identify the needs of the youth and link them to appropriate services (The Institute for Innovation and Implementation, University of Maryland School of Social Work, 2018). There are several benefits to affording youth diversion programs. They include offering youth a chance to change the trajectory of his/her life without unnecessary and long-lasting punitive consequences, as well as a reduction of pre-mature involvement with the “deep end” of the juvenile justice system (Youth.Gov. 2018)

Description:

The 654.1 WIC program is a diversion program specifically designated for youth in Riverside County in which a J132 arrest referral has been submitted by a law enforcement agency alleging 23140 and/or 23152 of the Vehicle Code. The program is voluntary for all participants and is provided once consent is gained on behalf of the youth and parent/guardian, with the assistance of free defense counsel. Defense counsel is available to youth for the duration of their Driving Under the Influence (DUI) program, until the matter is disposed of and sealed by the court.

The program allows youth the opportunity to address his/her alcohol related concerns in a community setting, through a comprehensive DUI-based program. The counseling services are provided by a list of approved county vendors who provide such specific programming. The curriculum can either be supplied in a virtual or in-person setting and is designed to assist the family with the full support it may need to help the youth overcome any alcohol related problems. An array of care, support, and other services may be provided to the youth and family for up to six months, however the matter is immediately closed upon the youth’s successful completion of the DUI curriculum.

**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.

Riverside County employs various strategies to address non-707(b) offenders:

- A validated risk/needs assessment is utilized to determine an appropriate level of supervision and intervention services for the youth.
- Case plans are generated between the probation officer, youth, and the family to map out goals and tasks the youth should strive to complete during their supervision period. These are reviewed and updated periodically.
- Targeted responses are employed. Referrals are provided based upon needs specific to each youth, and with an appropriate dosage given the extent of need.
- Cognitive Behavioral Interactive Journaling (such as Courage to Change or Forward Thinking) is facilitated by probation corrections officers and probation officers. Through journaling, the goal is to have the youth make positive changes to their thoughts, feelings, and ultimate behaviors.
- Wide use of positive reinforcement is encouraged.
- A graduated sanctions matrix is utilized to implement alternatives to custody for youth. Additionally, use of the matrix limits bias among officers and creates consistency among staff responses to both positive and negative behavior.
- Various modes of counseling are provided by Behavioral Health to the youth and their family based on eligibility criteria, to include: Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)
- Specialized supervision models are utilized based on eligibility criteria and the needs of the youth/family. These include Wraparound, Home Supervision, and Aftercare/FFPS.
- The Interagency Placement Committee reviews all potential out-of-home cases and applies the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process whenever possible. The goal is to keep youth connected and in the homes of relatives or loved ones.
- Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) are utilized when necessary and in compliance with Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)
- Secure detention is utilized as a last resort. For those in custody, they also engage in case planning, social awareness programming, physical and behavioral health screenings, and educational programming.
- Commitment to a treatment program is utilized for those determined to be in need of a higher level of intervention and services. These youth also receive the same services as those in detention. In addition, they also receive a battery of evidence-based programming, gender-responsive programming, employment readiness programming via the Youth Opportunity

Centers (YOC), and the option for college/extended education for high school graduates. Seeking/maintaining employment is also an option for youth who are eligible.

B. Regional Agreements

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

Riverside County does not currently have regional agreements as part of its YOBG funded services.

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

Below are YOBG funded programs reported by the county.

Program Name:

AMC Youth Treatment and Education Center Program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

In Riverside County, youth may be committed to a secure treatment program at the Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center (AMC-YTEC). The treatment program targets different youth based on age, gender, criminogenic risk factors, and behavioral health needs. RUHS-Behavioral Health provides evidence-based treatment programs including Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Trauma-informed therapy, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). Individual, group, and family therapy are provided by clinical therapists. These programs provide a continuum of responses for the in-custody treatment of youth, and target needs that are not otherwise addressed in the JJCPA funded programs.

Description:

The goal of this treatment program is to successfully reintegrate youth into the community through utilization of evidence-based screenings and assessments, implementation of targeted treatment, focused educational services, and vocational programming in a non-punitive, therapeutic environment. This treatment is a continuum of care program, providing in-custody programs and services, along with a comprehensive re-entry plan. While youth are completing their commitment to treatment, they are assigned to an Enhanced Aftercare community supervision Deputy Probation Officer who has been trained in the Wraparound models. The Enhanced Aftercare officer works closely with the youth, their family, and treatment staff to develop their release plan.

The treatment program utilizes a four-level school campus model advancing youth through the program as a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior, before their graduation from the YTEC program. Youth progress through the program based upon evidence-based initial screenings

and assessments. Probation staff administer the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) assessments. Behavioral Health staff complete a clinical assessment. With this information, an individually tailored treatment plan is designed to address the youth's specific needs. Once the comprehensive screenings and assessments are completed, information pertinent to the roles of each department are shared in the treatment team. The treatment team then determines the treatment needs of the youth. All youth entering treatment are assigned a probation caseworker and a behavioral health therapist who work closely together to develop treatment goals for the youth based on assessments, behavioral history, career assessment and future goals. The treatment teams meet monthly to discuss the progress of each youth toward achieving their goals and determining when they are eligible for promotion to the next level in the program.

All youth attend school daily, and education is fully accredited through the Riverside County Office of Education. Youth are evaluated utilizing the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). This diagnostics tool determines reading and math achievement levels to place them in the appropriate grade along with assigning grade-level curriculum. Ensuring youth obtain a quality education is a vital component. Youth who completed high school can participate in educational programming and/or career technical education programming through online college such as Riverside Community College, and Innovative Creative Educational Video (iCEV). These certificated courses include topics on financial literacy, professional communication, professional business office software, and vocational programs.

In addition to the standard programs and services that all youth receive, the treatment team may determine that certain youth have a higher level of behavioral health needs and would benefit from more intense or specialized programming. This may include, but is not limited to, more frequent individual or family sessions, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), more frequent substance use treatment, and/or more intensive aftercare planning and linkage.

In the final phase, the youth are supervised in the community by an Enhanced Aftercare probation officer. These youth are screened prior to release to determine the best model of post-release services and supervision to fit their individual needs.

In addition to any specialized treatment programs, youth also have access to job skills training and career guidance. During the program, youth receive their birth certificate, California identification card, food handler card, high school transcripts and social security card. Junior-level youth who demonstrate appropriate behavior and commitment to their rehabilitation are eligible for furloughs with their guardians, and eligible for offsite vocation and educational opportunities. In addition, they participate in supervised outings and pro-social activities.

Program Name:

Enhanced Aftercare

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Enhanced Aftercare probation supervision is provided to youth who were ordered committed to Youth Treatment and Education Center (YTEC) for treatment and who complete the program. As these youth receive supervision and treatment before, during, and upon completion of treatment, gaps in services are significantly reduced. These programs target needs that are not otherwise addressed in the JJCPA funded programs.

Description:

Upon an order of the court to commit a youth to treatment, the youth's case is transferred to the Aftercare unit. The unit supervisor reviews the case and assigns it to an Aftercare probation officer (PO) assigned to the program. Once the youth is transferred into the program, the PO is able to contact the youth as early as possible within entry. The goal is to establish a rapport with the youth, ease their transition into treatment as much as possible, and establish expectations for their successful completion of the program. Further, within 45 days of induction, POs contact the youth's family and conduct a residence verification to ensure an appropriate release plan is in place, and if not, address any barriers that may hinder a youth's successful reintegration home. POs engage the youth regarding their progress, and ensure general needs are met (education, programming, etc.). Another goal of the PO is to ensure there is a stable release plan for the youth and establish a rapport with the youth's parents/ family, to assist in maintaining the relationship between both parties while the youth remains out of the home. POs accomplish this, in part, by making monthly contact with the family, attending bi-weekly treatment team meetings, and Child Family Team Meetings (CFTM). Once youth progress to junior status in the program, they earn the possibility of being granted furlough home passes with increasing durations, observing any public and detention health guidelines. The PO's role is to provide support to the youth and family to ease the community reentry process and render services to the family at the earliest stage possible in conjunction with Aftercare Behavioral Health.

As the youth approaches graduation, there is a litany of items designed to smooth the transition back home. During the CFTM, the PO, in conjunction with the youth's treatment team and Aftercare Behavioral Health team, and parent/guardian will solidify the release plan and complete the post-release treatment meeting. Should the youth lack viable housing, the assigned YTEC Clinician, Aftercare Behavioral Health team, and the PO, will work with collaborative partners to assist in securing it prior to release. In addition, the PO completes a risk

assessment and case plan, ensuring all parties are aware of the next steps. Probation also coordinates with RCOE and the prospective school district to ensure the youth will re-enter the appropriate school with a minimal delay.

Once the youth return home, the Aftercare PO utilizes Motivational Interviewing techniques in conjunction with the Full-Service Partnership or Wraparound model to support the youth and family to meet their case plan objectives, assisting them in their progress. Given the level of need, these youth/ families could be contacted by the PO multiple times per week as a means of support. These POs provide transportation, education, and employment information/referrals to support their successful transition to the community. As part of the department's priority of utilization of Evidenced-Based Practices (EBP), youth are continually re-evaluated to ensure they are receiving appropriate services to meet their needs and supervision at the least restrictive level necessary for ultimate success.