

# (2021-2022) 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. [jterrell@rivco.org](mailto:jterrell@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](mailto: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.**

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.

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 youth detained through the Riverside County juvenile justice system. This includes youth 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 several of the Probation Department's offices, and treatment/detention facilities. RUHS-BH collaborates with the Probation Department to provide wraparound services and Functional Family Therapy to youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system who exhibit a need for more intensive intervention services.

Numerous community-based organizations 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. Such agencies include: the Salvation Army, the Riverside Art Museum, Kids in Konflikt, Living Advantage, Chavez Education Services, Community Action Partnership, MFI Recovery Center, Family Resource Centers, The Boys and Girls Club, Community Connect, Catholic Charities, The Center for Employment Training and many others. Additionally, there are several other county agencies that provide programs and/or services to youth and their families, to include: Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Riverside County Department of Child Support Services, Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS-PH), and the Riverside County Economic Development Agency-Workforce Development.

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

In an effort to ensure coordination and collaboration among the various government and community-based organizations (CBOs), the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meets periodically to assess resources, review program progress and the budget. All funded CBOs 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.

There are also collaborative efforts among multiple agencies that come together to meet specific goals. These collaborative efforts include:

- Dual Status Committee: Comprised of Probation, DPSS and RUHS-BH. 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 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.
- Juvenile Victim Restitution Workgroup: Comprised of Probation, the District Attorney's Office (DA), Law Offices of the Public Defender (PD), and the Court. The group meets quarterly to review and maintain protocols.
- Psychotropic Medication Workgroup: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, RUHS-BH and RUHS-PH. The group meets bi-monthly to maintain protocols regarding medical declarations and to review state audits.
- Public Education Program for Graffiti: Comprised of Probation, Riverside Police Department, DA, City Counsel, and Public Works. The group meets bi-monthly to monitor graffiti cases and discuss prevention.
- 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, and various CBOs. 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 Committee: 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 Committee: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, RUHS-BH, and Placement Providers. The group meets monthly to disseminate information regarding Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), review current legislation, policy, and forms related to youth in out-of-home care.
- Every Student Succeeds Act Committee: Comprised of Probation, RCOE, local school districts, Transportation Department, and DPSS. The group meets quarterly to review/resolve transportation concerns for dependent and placement youth as it pertains to school.
- SB439 Steering Committee: Comprised of Studentnest, RCOE, Kids in Konflikt, the Carolyn E. Wylie Center for Children, Youth, and Families, Communities 4 Children, RUHS-BH, Riverside Sheriff's Department, and DPSS. This group provides county- wide oversight to youth under the age of 12 impacted by this bill. The mission is to ensure a community-based option is in place for applicable youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

## **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. Demographic and geographic data is utilized to assess where particular needs exist, and additional support is provided based on such indicators.

## **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.**

Riverside County utilizes multiple partnerships among social services, education, health, community organizations, and families, some comprised via Memorandums of Understanding or contracts, to appropriately service at-risk youth and youthful offenders. 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. Such diversion programs include the Youth Accountability Team (YAT) and Restorative Justice.

YAT is designed to address the specific needs surrounding the youth and family while promoting positive, pro-social development. It also strives to reduce the number of juvenile petitions filed, and the number of youths placed into custody. Youth who volunteer to participate in YAT receive mentoring and coaching, as well as programming and referrals to address such issues as: substance abuse, behavioral problems, family conflict, mental health issues, gang association, social skill development, and academic performance. Statistically, Riverside County has seen success with our YAT population, as there are two teams strategically placed throughout the county.

The Restorative Justice program allows youth who commit certain low-level offenses that include an actual victim, to be assessed for mediation by law school students and staff. Both the youth and victim must volunteer to participate.

Restorative Justice allows the youth to openly discuss their issues and concerns, as well as take responsibility for misbehavior. It also provides victims with a voice, an opportunity to have greater impact on a resolution, and seek closure. The forum promotes a greater understanding of the impact the crime has on victims, families, neighborhoods, and communities.

For cases that proceed through the formal court process, youth are assigned an appropriate level of supervision and services. In all of 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 such a goal.

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 admission, 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.

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, 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. These officers have been trained in Functional Family Probation Supervision (FFPS), an evidence-based caseload management supervision model. FFPS takes a holistic approach offering support and treatment to the youth and their entire family.

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

The plan has been updated to include newly funded CBOs to further service youth and families throughout Riverside County. A broader effort was made to increase the quantity and variety of services provided to include increased access to pro- social events/activities, gender-specific and trauma-informed programming, as well as academic, vocational, and employment development.

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

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**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) developed and maintains an in-house client management system which collects information on youth who receive services through the department. This system is frequently updated to ensure it is current with all law changes for data-collection and program measurement. The system electronically interfaces with several other systems including, but not limited to the following:

- Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System
- Riverside County Public Health
- Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE)

The client management system's ability to share data ensures that youths in-custody, and at-risk have the best chance at rehabilitation in the community. The system tracks 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. The department has contracted with a third-party vendor, WestEd, to evaluate specific program data and outcomes as well. Further, the department also has access to the state's Client Management System/Child Welfare Services (CMS/CWS) database to assist in the case management of Riverside County youth in the Child Welfare System.

**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.**

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## **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:

After a full review of local juvenile justice statistics, survey results and other data, the Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee (JJCC) identified gaps in services, prioritized needs and reviewed programs to address those needs. Prevention was identified as the primary local system gap. Needs included prevention services to reduce truancy, substance abuse, gang associations, family violence, as well as programs for family counseling, parent education, and school and community-based diversion programs. Targeted intervention and diversion programs have been shown to effectively reduce recidivism.

## Description:

YAT is a community-based diversion program for at-risk youth in Riverside County, in which a J132 arrest referral has been submitted by a law enforcement agency to RCP for review. The program is a voluntary 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, sport 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 of the program are geared to enhance the likelihood of success at school, home, and in the community, by helping youth address mutually agreed upon goals and objectives. Parents are offered parenting certain educational programming with their child to broaden their skills in addressing negative behavior.

**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 offenders with more satisfaction than with the traditional criminal justice system. Further, it reduced crime victims' desire for violent revenge against their offenders, and reduced the costs of criminal justice, when used as diversion, which this program does.

**Description:**

Restorative Justice is an approach to justice based on a set of principles that guide responses to conflict and focuses on the needs of victims, youthful offenders, and the community. The process provides victims with a voice and active role, something rarely available in the traditional justice system. This is achieved by fostering dialogue between the victim and youth which shows the highest rates of victim satisfaction and youth offender accountability. This collaborative diversion program between a law school and the Riverside County Probation Department was designed to support the healing process of victims by providing a safe and controlled mediation setting for them to meet and speak with the youth on a voluntary basis. The program is also designed to allow the youth to learn about the impact of the crime on the victim and to take responsibility for their actions. Finally, the program allows the youth and the victim to develop a mutually acceptable plan to address the harm resulting from the crime.

**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. 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. According to the California Judicial Branch Benchguide and Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Initiative, these youth even lag behind those of other disadvantaged student populations. Causes of poor outcomes include frequent school transfers, gaps in enrollment and attendance, and impact of trauma on learning and behavior. Studies demonstrate a distinct relationship between adverse childhood experiences and academic success. Further, system involved youth are less likely to receive prompt assessments and adequate special education services. A disproportionate number of youth in the juvenile justice system have special education needs, which often times overlap with mental health conditions, and can ultimately exacerbate delinquent behavior if left unaddressed.

**Description:**

SPARK, 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 represented by the DPD, by identifying unaddressed academic and mental health needs and linking them to appropriate resources through collaborative community and education partnerships. The program will consist of a team approach, with one team in each of Riverside County's three major regions: Desert, Mid-County, and Riverside. These teams will coordinate outreach and provide advocacy for youth as they navigate a positive path for more positive outcomes.

**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:**

Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Each year, there are approximately 150,000 chronically absent and truant youth in Riverside County, with an expectation for that number to increase due to the COVID pandemic. As the truancy rate is higher in Riverside County than the state average, there is also a 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:

Kids in Konflikt provides Gang Awareness, Cultural Diversity, Anger Management, Substance Abuse Awareness, Victim Awareness, and Life Skills courses for youth identified as needing such services. Additionally, the program coordinates community service hours for youth who still need to meet such an obligation for court or school purposes.

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.

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 also 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).

Communities 4 Children (C4C) employs wraparound services for at-risk youth and their families through a "system of care" framework. The program involves the C4C case manager, mentor, school teachers, C4C juvenile justice consultants, and any other agency with a connection to the youth, for the purpose of preventing him or her from entering the delinquency system. The team develops an individualized service plan to ensure appropriate services are provided using multiple systems and domains. The service plan identifies and prioritizes strengths and protective factors, targeted risk factors, mentoring services, intervention services, educational and vocational services, and aftercare services. Their basic life skills course is designed to assist at-risk youth with the following: finding new ways of thinking and problem solving; building confidence both in spoken skills and group collaboration; analyzing options; and developing a greater sense of awareness. The course's 15 sessions focus on three primary elements: personal mastery; social skills; and education. The mentoring program provided by C4C is designed to match each youth participant with a mentor who will make daily contact with them and schedule in-person visits. Academic and educational services are also provided to every youth in the program and are available in both English and Spanish. These services cover general education, GED prep, study skills strategies, and tutoring/homework assistance. Job training skills and employment assistance is also made available to youth. As this is a major barrier for the at-risk youth population, a wide range of training activities are provided, to include instruction, skill building, and remedial education. C4C has agreements with local work source centers to provide specific training to participants. Truancy prevention and literacy programs are also provided as needed. C4C has established numerous partnerships with other CBOs to assist them in meeting the needs of all referred youth.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Chavez Educational Services aims to reduce violence, promote social awareness, and increase academic achievement among at-risk youth. The program utilizes the Step-Up model, which is

aligned with the social emotional learning wheel. The curriculum covers self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills. The program is delivered in an interactive format and addresses issues of self-efficacy, independent decision-making, personal goal setting, anger and conflict identification and resolution. 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.

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.

Community Connect 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.

**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.**

The Riverside County Probation Department 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 Treatment 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. The goal of probation corrections officers and probation officers is to provide youth with a ratio of “4 to 1” positive to negative feedback.
- 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 to the youth and their family based on eligibility criteria, to include: Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT), Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), and Functional Family Therapy (FFT).
- Specialized supervision models are utilized based on eligibility criteria and the needs of the youth/family. These include YAT, 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 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 provides evidence-based treatment programs including Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Trauma Focused- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Seeking Safety (SS), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). Individual, group and family therapy are provided by licensed clinicians. Substance abuse treatment is also provided by behavioral health specialists who are trained in A New Direction program. These programs provide a continuum of responses for the in-custody treatment of youth. These programs 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 Functional Family Probation Supervision (FFPS) and Wraparound caseload management 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 graduation. 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, the results are reviewed by the treatment team. The treatment team then determines whether a youth is assigned to the standard or specialized program.

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 team meets weekly 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 Edmentum Exact Path Academic Diagnostic to determine reading and math achievement levels in order to place them in the appropriate grade along with assigning grade-level curriculum. Ensuring youth obtain a quality education is a vital component. Youth that have completed high school participate in career technical education programming through interactive Creative Educational Video (iCEV) courses. These certificated courses include topics on financial literacy, professional communication, professional business office software, and small engine technology.

In addition to the aforementioned standard programs and services that all youth receive, the treatment team may determine that certain youth would benefit from specialized programming such as the Intensive Re-integration Services (IRIS) program for youth with behavioral health issues or the Collaboratively Helping Adolescents Nurture Greater Empathy (CHANGE) program for sex offending youth.

IRIS is a comprehensive three-phase treatment program collaboratively designed by probation and behavioral health staff to reduce recidivism among youth with behavioral health issues and assist them with successful community re-entry. Youth committed to treatment are screened for IRIS and accepted if they meet the program criteria. During IRIS's initial phase, youth receive intensive treatment through multi-modal, evidence-based practices. The IRIS unit specifically selected ART, MRT, TF-CBT, and SS, because these programs have been identified as therapy approaches with strong empirical research supporting their effectiveness with youth offenders. In the second phase, re-entry planning focuses on the youth's post-custody needs, such as appropriate housing, educational services, employment preparation, and life skills development. 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. These include Wraparound or FFPS/FFT models of supervision and therapy. Officers providing Aftercare services have been trained in FFPS, an evidence-based case management approach that engages the entire family

in the youth's rehabilitation. IRIS youth who demonstrate appropriate behavior are rewarded with increased outings to educational and recreational events and are given opportunities to perform community service.

The CHANGE Program is a seven-stage comprehensive model to treat youth who sexually offend. The treatment for the youth is modeled after the Division of Juvenile Justice's evidence-based Forward Focused-Sex Behavior Treatment Program (FF-SBTP). RCP utilizes the Juvenile Sexual Offender Recidivism Risk Tool (II) for youth under the age of 18, and the Static-99R are for youth over age 18. These tools are validated and state-mandated instruments to measure youths' risk for recidivism and inform their treatment needs. Youth learn to eliminate inappropriate sexual behaviors as well as acquire skills and knowledge to become responsible, healthy individuals capable of forming positive relationships. They develop thinking and behavioral skills in strength-based individualized treatment as well as the ability to understand the impact of their crimes on victims and families. While in the program, youth participate in individual, group, and family therapy. In addition, youth complete journals, guided-group exercises, assigned readings, plant/equine therapy, and life skill role playing. In addition to the FF-SBTP treatment model, youth also benefit from the standard treatment program.

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. Youth are also expected to complete a set number of court-ordered community service hours to give back to the community.

Youth who demonstrate appropriate behavior and commitment to their rehabilitation are eligible to be selected for the transitional living unit (TLU) where they enjoy greater opportunities for off-campus activities as well as access to community-based organizations. Many of these youth acquire gainful employment, enrollment in community college, and independent living skills. The TLU experience ensures the youth have greater success and less recidivism upon re-entering their communities.

**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 successfully 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:**

Immediately 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 treatment probation officer (PO) assigned to the program. As it usually takes no longer than a few days to transfer the youth into the program, the PO is able to make contact with the youth almost immediately upon entry. The goal is to establish a rapport with the youth, ease their transition as much as possible, and establish expectations for their successful completion of the program. POs complete case plans as necessary, engage the youth regarding their progress, and ensure general needs are met (education, programming, etc.). The POs also facilitate cognitive behavioral treatment (Forward Thinking) to assist in addressing their rehabilitative needs. 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. Once youth progress to junior status in the program, they earn the possibility of being granted a multiple furlough home passes with increasing durations. Prior to final approval, the PO completes a residence verification to ensure the home is fitting and will not pose a detriment to the youth's progress up to that point. The PO's role is to provide support to the youth and family to ease the community reentry process.

As the youth approaches graduation, there is a litany of items designed to smoothen the transition back home. A case plan and release plan are completed so all parties are aware of the next steps. Probation coordinates with RCOE to ensure the youth will re-enter the appropriate school with a minimal delay, and a formal hand-off is conducted between the youth, parents, treatment PO and Aftercare field PO. Once the youth returns home, the field Aftercare PO utilizes FFPS or wraparound techniques to support the youth and family to meet their case plan objectives, continuously evaluating the youth and family, assisting them in their progress and

providing referrals and support. 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 continue to provide Forward Thinking instruction as necessary for each youth, as well as transportation, education, and employment information/referrals.