

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

**2018-19  
Consolidated Annual Plan**

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Instructions:

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

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

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

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

*Please e-mail your plan to:*

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

# Juvenile Justice Plan

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## **Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy**

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

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

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

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

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

### **A. Assessment of Existing Services**

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

The types of agencies listed above work in conjunction with juvenile probation in Santa Cruz County. There are strong partnerships with many county agencies including Children's Mental Health and Family and Children's Services, and the same can be said with community-based organizations who participate with probation in a variety of ways such as participating on several grant funded efforts and different task forces that focus on juvenile justice issues. Probation also works closely with law enforcement and share representation on different task forces and initiatives. Probation is currently looking at a partnership with the County Office of Education to focus on prevention efforts while youth are in school and before they enter the Juvenile Justice System. Additionally, the Juvenile Division has committed to focusing on youth and family engagement during 2018 and one example of this is staff are now being trained to complete case plans with a trauma informed lens which will allow for engagement in an entirely new and effective way.

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

Collaboration is a primary component of the Juvenile Justice System in Santa Cruz County as many different agencies and organizations share a common purpose and similar goals which allow for partnerships to exist and flourish. These partnerships then work together to provide tremendous opportunities for youth and their families. There are several examples in our county in which many organizations have come together to work on different initiatives for improving services offered to youth and families. One example is the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force which has representatives from the following agencies: Applied Survey Research, Children's Mental Health, Community Action Board, Community Bridges, Conflict Resolution Center, County Office of Education, Human Services Division, Pajaro Valley Prevention Student Assistance and the United Way. Another great example of collaboration in Santa Cruz County is the agencies that come together weekly to participate in Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings. The CFT meetings are a direct result of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) initiative that is well underway statewide. The CFT meetings often include partners from Children's Behavioral Health, Probation, Child and Family Services and Encompass- a local community-based organization. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for the youth going through the court process and their families to have more of a voice in the outcome of the court process.

## **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.

There are three distinct areas in Santa Cruz County which comprise nearly the entire county population. Those three areas are: San Lorenzo Valley (North County), Live Oak (Central County) and Watsonville (South County). Probation caseloads are represented as follows: South County 65%, Central County 24% and North County 11%. As a result of the data outlined above the majority of youth on probation reside in Watsonville which is a community of 53,111 people. The Watsonville Police Department report there are approximately 700 documented gang members residing in the community and 250 of those 700 are juveniles. Many of these juveniles are on probation or have been on probation previously. There are several neighborhoods in Watsonville where many of these juveniles have been arrested and the public may feel unsafe as the question suggests.

There are several schools in Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) that are targeted by gang members for recruitment of youth. These schools are in neighborhood where gangs are prevalent, very active and violent, recruiting youth into gangs, selling drugs and intimidating other youth. These schools include; Watsonville High School, EA Hall Middle School, Rolling Hills Middle School, Pajaro Middle School, Radcliff Elementary School and Freedom Elementary School.

### **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

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

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Juvenile Probation Division, is responsible for the intake, investigation, pre and post adjudication services which include alternatives to detention programs and community supervision, out-of-home placement, and prevention of out of home placement for juveniles referred to the Probation Department. The Juvenile Division incorporates a system of care model that consists of six essential values when working with juveniles and their families. The six values are family preservation, interagency collaboration, utilizing the least restrictive setting, family involvement, natural setting and cultural competency.

The Juvenile Division is committed to ensuring public safety through the reduction of recidivism by increasing the life skills and competencies of the youth and families we serve. The Juvenile Division accomplishes this by adhering to the Principles of Risk, Need and Responsivity which focuses on key supervision strategies including evidenced based supervision, family engagement, decreasing criminogenic risk factors, increasing protective factors, utilizing alternatives to detention, and providing services/interventions and programs that increase critical thinking skills. Probation has strategically and successfully partnered with community stakeholders to support the Juvenile Division's efforts to provide comprehensive and culturally responsive supervision and services that the court, court partners, and community rely on to enhance community safety. Additionally, the Division has Violation of Probation Response Grid used specifically to respond to technical violations and minor law offenses in a graduated manner. The Grid has been in use by the Department since 2010. At the time the Grid was being piloted it was primarily in response to the CAP caseloads having a 67% VOP rate. Two years after the Grid was piloted and implemented the same caseloads had a 24% VOP rate.

## **Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

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

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

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

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

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

### **A. Information Sharing and Data**

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

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Juvenile Division, relies extensively on a case management system, AutoMon’s Caseload Explorer, which is used for several case management functions. The information system requires regular trainings for staff to remain current on updates and allows for our staff to suggest functionality options to be built into the system as needed.

An overview from the AutoMon is as follows: Caseload Explorer helps efficiently track and manage Juvenile Offenders while adhering to jurisdictional security and judicial mandates. Caseload Explorer stores demographic and personal information such as gender, DOB, address and phone, as well as information related to their offense such as charge type, restrictions and conditions. Caseload Explorer also tracks Active Referrals or Case file(s), as well as the assigned Supervisor and/or Caseworker. If the Juvenile is placed into a juvenile facility, Caseload Explorer allows caseworkers to easily manage intake with a customizable intake/release workflow, providing the functionality to track appointments and release information, manage property, record behavioral habits, and access events and disciplinary action.

As noted in the presentation to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the data obtained through our internal case management system is used in a variety of ways including a review of recidivism numbers, tracking caseload size, and looking at individual program outcomes to determine public safety performance. In the end, it is the responsibility of the department to ensure good, accurate data to inform

management on how best to allocate resources to provide the programming needed for youth to be as successful as possible on probation.

**B. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

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

## JJCPA Funded Program, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

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

### **Program Name:**

Luna Evening Center (LEC) – Specific programs included within the programming at the LEC are: Barrios Unidos and Alcance Weekend Work Program.

Additionally, JJCPA also funds the Live Oak Resource Center and Mountain Community Resource programs.

### **Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:**

Luna Evening Center - Promoting prosocial behavior, building accountability, diversion/restorative justice.

Barrios Unidos – CBT, gang dissidence, violence prevention, life skills.

Alcance Weekend Work Program – Community engagement, work readiness, pro-social behaviors and relationships.

Live Oak Resource Center – Pro-social behavior, accountability and restorative justice.

Mountain Community Resources – Pro-social behavior, accountability and restorative justice.

### **Description:**

Luna Evening Center: A partnership with Probation, Mental Health and Alcance. The program helps provide additional support to probation-involved youth that are struggling with substance use/abuse and other high-risk behaviors. The Evening Center provides a structured after-school environment where youth can examine the thoughts and feelings that affect their behavior and learn skills to make the best choices possible. It is a short-term immediate intervention designed to maintain youth in their home and in their community. However, with the addition of the PODER (Positive Outcomes through Diversion for Effective Results) grant project a mental health component has been added to the array of services offered at the LEC. The PODER project aims to reduce the overrepresentation of Latino youth in the justice system while ensuring that youth with mental health needs receive proper assessments and subsequent treatment while attending the LEC. The extent of the services is based

on the combination of the JAIS and the CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths), both of which are validated assessment tools.

**Barrios Unidos:** In collaboration with Encompass Youth Services, provides mental health services and counseling. This program is bilingual, culturally sensitive, and personalized to meet the individual needs of youth and to enhance strengths and assets of each family. Individual, group and family counseling for youth and families facing the challenges that arise in the process of growing up. Participating in counseling improves family, peer and community relationships, increases self-confidence and school.

**Alcance Weekend Work Program:** The mission of Alcance is to provide youth and adults with employment services, work skills development and community engagement. We honor and serve those who are under-resourced, at-risk or involved in the justice system. The Alcance program offers opportunities for low-income youth and adult to improve their quality of life and to reach their full potential through employment services, leadership development and meaningful community engagement.

**Live Oak Resource Center:** Aim to improve the quality of life and strengthen families while promoting a healthy and safe community. Much of their work is “Front End” work with families who have not entered the criminal justice system. They are strength based and set goals with their families. They also serve youth and families outside of Live Oak. Some of their services include:

- Parent Education
- Counseling (Group and one on one)
- Health Care Access
- Live Oak Summer Sports League (FREE)
- Youth Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Resume assistance
- Neighborhood/Community Events
- “Roots and Wings” Program (Foster Parents Support Services)
- Community Service Option

**Mountain Community Resource Center:** -Parent Education- Offer group classes and one-on-one sessions, helping parents address a wide range of topics including preventing tantrums, traveling in the car, managing chores, the power of self-esteem, and more. Classes are available in English and Spanish.

- Teen Program: Support for probation-assigned youth and their families in San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley communities, including case management, community outreach, coordination of court mandates and more. Afterschool program for middle and high school students is Tues. & Wed. from 2:30 to 4:30pm.

-Community Advocacy- Bi-lingual short and long-term advocacy, helping our community access resources and set goals to address issues of housing, employment, healthcare, education, substance abuse, domestic violence prevention, childcare and more.

-Food Distribution- Fresh, local organic produce, protein-rich foods, whole grains and more are available to the community every Thursday from 11am to 12pm.

### **Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders**

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

The Juvenile Division remains focused on the continued use of evidence-based practices by implementing Risk Based Supervision, JAIS Assessments and Case Planning with a trauma informed lens as a new approach to increasing youth and family engagement. By re-assigning caseloads based on risk levels and regularly re-assessing risk levels, the Division can focus intensive levels of supervision to youth assessed with moderate and high-level risk factors. Additionally, through treatment/intervention matching, the Division ensures dosage is appropriate for the assigned caseloads and does not “net widen” by increasing engagement with youth assessed with lower risk factors.

Placement alternatives continue to have a greater significance moving forward because of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Report that was provided to the state legislature in January of 2015. The report was part of a comprehensive two-year effort by California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to outline a process to eliminate group homes as we know them today. Starting in 2017, use of congregate care/foster care placements decreased dramatically. Instead, eligible youth ordered into placement will now be placed in Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP) with a strong emphasis on mental health services so that the youth can successfully transition back to lower levels of care. Efforts have also focused on increasing placement of youth in local

foster homes as well however it is noteworthy that from July of 2017 to present there have been no new youth court ordered into congregate care.

It is also worth noting that during 2017, the Juvenile Division was very actively involved in several meetings with county agencies and community stakeholders. In addition to attending various meetings and working on a variety of workgroups the Probation Department also co-chairs the County CCR Steering Committee with Child and Family Services. Much of the work done in 2017 focused on identifying the changes required by the CCR and becoming more informed on those changes. Our Juvenile Division is currently identifying different staff to oversee various components of CCR and have sent six staff to several regional and statewide CCR implementation trainings. In fact, in April of 2018, the Division sent five staff to the State-wide CCR conference in Sacramento. It is anticipated that 2018 will continue to provide a variety of training opportunities to further understand the requirements associated with CCR.

As noted earlier the Division continues to look for alternatives to congregate care and is in the process of modifying and expanding programs such as WRAP/FUERTE for youth who will benefit from the close supervision, a team approach and mental health treatment. All of this while the youth can remain in their homes and work on case plan needs with their family. The Division is focused on meeting children's medical, emotional/behavioral, developmental and educational needs.

In 2017, the Juvenile Division continued to administer the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) by initiating use of the JAIS Case Plan. In addition to determining a youth's level of risk to reoffend, the JAIS has three goals:

To help probation officers quickly establish appropriate supervision strategies based on youth strengths and needs, anticipated behaviors and attitudes, and the reasons for behaviors and attitudes;

To provide probation officers with effective strategies for dealing with problems behaviors before they escalate into law violations;

To reduce recidivism in the community.

## **B. Regional Agreements**

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

## **Program Name:**

Luna Evening Center (LEC);  
Probation Officer who visits Ranch Facilities and other out-of-home placements.  
Probation Officer who may work primarily in the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) caseload.  
Detention assessments and continuous services to ensure evidenced based practices.

## **Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

Please see narrative for LEC in JJCPA section

## **Description:**

Please see narrative for LEC in JJCPA section.

The Probation Officer referenced above travels to different placements and ranch camps monthly to ensure youth are complying with court directives but also working on reunification.

The Probation Officer (portion of a FTE) with YOBG funds works with youth to help them gain access to pro-social necessities such as a driver's license and work permits.

The Department can use YOBG funds to continue to provide assessments on youth who based on the results of the assessment are sometimes able to be diverted from the juvenile system or allowed to return home pending future

court hearings. Further, YOBG funds also assist with our continuing efforts around risk-based supervision strategies.