



**BSCC Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant**

**Trinity Coordinated Active Response to Ensure Student Safety (CARES)**

**Trinity County Local Evaluation Plan**

**October 1, 2020 - March 31, 2024**

**Bryan Ward, Project Director**

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**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

**INFORMATION ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE PROJECT**

The Trinity County Coordinated Active Response to Ensure Student Safety (CARES) Prop 64 program is primarily a comprehensive prevention and intervention program conducted primarily in Trinity County public school settings designed to mitigate outcomes of substance use by diverting youth who are at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, and by providing supports for youth within the juvenile justice system who are still in school. Secondly, CARES provides for needed code enforcement support that improves both public health and public safety by decreasing negative impacts of cannabis cultivation through remediation of environmental hazards that seriously impact human, watershed and wildlife health.

The youth focus of CARES utilizes a multi-disciplinary team for coordinated activities including youth outreach, prevention activities, and trauma informed intervention programs. The CARES team consists of: 1) a CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist team leader who provides guidance and education to students and parents around ACEs, presents substance use education to high school clubs, responds to threats of violence, links students to available resources, and monitors trauma informed care interventions conducted at school sites and at public health agencies; 2) staff from the Trinity County Office of Education who serve as CARES liaisons who communicate directly with school site officials that oversee the trauma informed interventions of CARES engaged youth at their school sites; 3) a Trinity County Probation school-based officer who works in tandem with the CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist in youth outreach and school site interventions in support of CARES engaged youth; 4) and Trinity County Behavioral Health staff who use evidenced-based trauma informed care strategies with CARES engaged youth to reduce their risk factors and to increase their protective factors.

The environmental code enforcement focus of CARES is a collaborative arrangement to provide specialized satellite technology to Trinity County Environmental Health to help improve water systems, water storage, and mitigation of collateral damage created by cannabis grow sites that contain hazardous chemicals. These chemicals pose not only a danger to investigators on the scene, but the public living downstream as well as the surrounding local wildlife. The Registered Environmental Health Specialist assists code enforcement deputies at cannabis grow sites during the inspection process and note environmental crimes, educates property owners on how to remedy any environmental issues, and issue notices of violations.

**THEORY BEHIND CARES**

The CARES youth focus was founded on the 2018 comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMAJJP) model now in use by the Trinity Safe Schools Collaborative that is partially aligned with the Mental Health Assessment Response Treatment model that has achieved “promising practice” status in other communities around the state that have shown success with significant substance abuse and justice issues amongst their youth.

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The environmental code enforcement focus of CARES was founded on the fact that illegal cannabis “trespass grows” on public lands in Trinity County constitute one of the leading issues threatening Trinity County’s communities and surrounding wildlife through widespread degradation of the environment from the illegal use of pesticides, rodenticides and herbicides. These toxicants contaminate water, poison wildlife, and pose a serious threat to the health, safety and wellbeing of residents.

**TARGET POPULATION**

The target population is junior high school and high school students. The CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist conducts presentations at schools and community events to educate youth on substance use and abuse, informed decision-making skills, and informed goal-setting skills to enhance youth resiliency in responses to situations involving drug use. The resiliency increases the potential for adolescents to meet their physical, developmental, and social needs. The CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist will administer pre and post surveys at each presentation to help measure student knowledge of substance use and abuse, decision-making skills, and goal-setting skills.

The CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist is notified by school officials when a student is determined to be at-risk based on a combination of risk factors including ACEs scores, school attendance, substance use, disciplinary referrals, and referrals to community support service agencies. The CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist maintains regular communication with school officials regarding at-risk student status related to their case management and progressive supports being provided to help mitigate the risk factors.

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**PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#	Goals	Objectives
1	Increase the potential for adolescents to meet their physical, developmental and social needs through resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Decrease the percentage of K-12 youth being under the influence at school</li> <li>B. Improve school attendance and bonding to school, adults and the community</li> <li>C. Enhance the ability of youth to respond appropriately to situations involving drug use</li> <li>D. Greater use of community services for resolving family/personal problems</li> <li>E. Increase youth resiliency in the social bonding dimension, personal competence dimension and social competence dimension</li> <li>F. Increase youth's ability to adapt patterns of behavior that avoid high-risk situations that expose them to substance use or harmful actions</li> <li>G. Maximize the use of county-wide partnerships and service coordination to reduce substance use/abuse</li> <li>H. Improve access to opportunities for positive youth development</li> <li>I. Reduce the percentage of youth reporting considering suicide</li> </ul>
2	Implement successful prevention and intervention activities for youth by using data driven and evidence-based practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Implement relationship and engagement-centered assessments, interventions and healing through compassionate relationships that re-establish health and well-being as a means of addressing trauma</li> <li>B. Ensure training and capacity building of CARES team to ensure a culturally response, racially just, healing-center and trauma-informed program approach</li> <li>C. Increase cross-sector collaboration to facilitate a coordinated response</li> <li>D. Decrease the potential for youth to progress from substance use to abuse</li> <li>E. Increase the availability of evidence-based prevention and intervention services/activities</li> <li>F. Increase recognition of the risks associated with adolescent substance use on the developing brain and body</li> <li>G. Increase knowledge about, and negative attitudes toward, substance use</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H. Improve refusal skills of youth, resulting in delayed and reduced substance use</li> <li>I. Decrease the percentage of youth reporting substance use</li> <li>J. Reduce the dependence on substances for stress reduction and social involvement</li> <li>K. Increase adherence to data driven practices</li> <li>L. Implement effective strategies that address the underlying cause and structural conditions of substance use/abuse, including ACEs and the absence of positive childhood experiences</li> </ul>
3	Reduce the environmental impacts caused by cannabis cultivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Increase the volume of processed code enforcement cases by 5%</li> <li>B. Implement an effective satellite imagery program focused on watersheds that have been highlighted as containing illegal cannabis cultivation</li> </ul>

**PROCESS EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN**

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

The CARES project utilizes a descriptive research design to conduct its evaluation activities that measure the impact of its goals and objectives. The goal is to obtain baseline data for each process measure, if available, to look at trends over time that show the impact the active response team is having on breaking the “preschool to prison” pipeline in Trinity County through positive changes in youth risk factors that lead to substance use and abuse.

The measures also look at trends over time to show the impact that environmental code enforcement has on mitigating collateral damage created by legal and illegal grow sites that contain hazardous chemicals.

The Process Evaluation Plan outlined in Table 1 defines how each measure will be collected for quantitative collection and analysis. The local evaluator developed a secure online data system that centralizes data collection and provides real-time reporting of the process measures. The local evaluator monitors data entry on a monthly basis and provides quarterly progress monitoring reports to the CARES Steering Committee to help ensure consistency in the data collection protocol.

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**PROCESS EVALUATION PLAN**

**Table 1: Process Evaluation Measures**

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Data Source</u>
1A Decrease the percentage of K-12 youth being under the influence at school	# of students under the influence at school	School behavioral records
1B Improve school attendance and bonding to school, adults and the community	# of students absent 10% or more days	School attendance records
1C Enhance the ability of youth to respond appropriately to situations involving drug use	# of students who self-report responding appropriately to situations involving drug use	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist Presentation pre-post student survey
1D Greater use of community services for resolving family/personal problems	# of students whose parents participate in TCOE Love and Logic training	TCOE Love and Logic training records
1E Increase youth resiliency in the social bonding dimension, personal competence dimension and social competence dimension	# of students who self-report social bonding, personal competence and social competence	School CHKS data
1F Increase youth's ability to adapt patterns of behavior that avoid high-risk situations that expose them to substance use or harmful actions	# of students who adapt patterns of behavior that avoid high-risk situations that expose them to substance use or harmful actions	School behavioral records
1G Maximize the use of county-wide partnerships and service coordination to reduce substance use/abuse	# of students referred to county-wide partnerships	School referral records
1H Improve access to opportunities for positive youth development	# of students who have access to opportunities for positive youth development	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records
1I Reduce the percentage of youth reporting considering suicide	# of students reporting considering suicide	School Counselor records
2A Implement relationship and engagement-centered assessments, interventions and healing through compassionate relationships that re-establish health and well-being as a means of addressing trauma	# of students directly engaged by CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records
2B Ensure training and capacity building of CARES team to ensure a culturally response, racially just, healing-center and trauma-informed program approach	# and type of CARES trainings	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records
2C Increase cross-sector collaboration to facilitate a coordinated response	# of CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist meetings with cross-sector collaborators	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records
2D Decrease the potential for youth to progress from substance use to abuse	# of CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist presentations to students related to substance use to abuse	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records
2E Increase the availability of evidence-based prevention and intervention services/activities	# of evidence-based prevention and intervention services/activities	School records and CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records

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<u>Objective</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Data Source</u>
2F Increase recognition of the risks associated with adolescent substance use on the developing brain and body	# of CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist presentations to students related to substance use on the developing brain and body	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records
2G Increase knowledge about and negative attitudes toward substance use	# of CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist presentations to students related to knowledge about substance use	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist records
2H Improve refusal skills of youth resulting in delayed and reduced substance use	# of youth under the influence at school	School behavioral records
2I Decrease the percentage of youth reporting substance use	# of youth reporting substance use	School CHKS data
2J Reduce the dependence on substances for stress reduction and social involvement	# of youth reporting a reduction in substance use for stress reduction and social involvement	School CHKS data
2K Increase adherence to data driven practices	A description of how data driven practices have increased	CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist narrative response
2L Implement effective strategies that address the underlying cause and structural conditions of substance use/abuse, including ACEs and the absence of positive childhood experiences	A description of the effectiveness of strategies in use to address the underlying cause and structural conditions of substance use/abuse, including ACEs and the absence of positive childhood experiences	TCOE narrative response
3A Increase the volume of processed code enforcement cases by 5%	# of processed code enforcement cases	Registered Environmental Health Specialist records
3B Implement an effective satellite imagery program focused on watersheds that have been highlighted as containing illegal cannabis cultivation	A description of the effectiveness of the satellite imagery program	Registered Environmental Health Specialist narrative response

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**PROJECT OVERSIGHT STRUCTURE**

CARES has a contract with the Center for Evaluation and Research, LLC to serve as a local evaluator and work collaboratively with the Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist to prepare progress-monitoring reports for the CARES Steering Committee. The CARES Steering Committee, under the leadership of the Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist, meets quarterly with representatives from the Trinity County Office of Education, Probation, and Behavioral Health with the primary role of monitoring activities, determining their effectiveness, and making adjustments as necessary.

The Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist has the primary responsibility to document activities performed by staff and partner organizations. The procedures that ensure that the project implements its components with fidelity include accountability at quarterly Steering Committee meetings and ongoing contacts with partner agency representatives to address any challenges as well as to affirm and replicate productive activities. The Trinity County Sheriff Department is in the process of obtaining a MOU's with partner agencies to help ensure document and data sharing.

Quantitative and qualitative process data are analyzed by the local evaluator that prepares progress-monitoring reports used by the Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist at quarterly CARES Steering Committee meetings.

**OUTCOME EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN**

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

The outcome evaluation utilizes a descriptive research design that analyzes the outcome measures over time to answer the research questions described below. The outcome measures are quantifiable and match Trinity County CARES's goals:

- Goal 1: Increase the potential for adolescents to meet their physical, developmental and social needs through resiliency;
- Goal 2: Implement successful prevention and intervention activities for youth by using data driven and evidence-based practices; and
- Goal 3: Reduce the environmental impacts caused by cannabis cultivation.

Baseline and annual interval measures are used to evaluate the effectiveness of CARES activities and to document changes in the student population and environmental code enforcement over time. The outcome evaluation will utilize descriptive statistics to analyze data from the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS), Trinity County Department of Education, CARES Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist, and Trinity County Environmental Health Department.

The activities implemented toward achievement of CARES goals are overseen by the CARES Steering Committee and managed by a Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist assigned to serve as a school resource officer and community collaborator along with a Registered Environmental Health

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Specialist who conducts code enforcement of environmental hazards related to illegal cannabis cultivation in collaboration with Trinity County Sheriff Deputies.

Outcome variables are analyzed annually by the local evaluator, Center for Evaluation and Research, LLC (CER), that provides reports to the CARES Steering Committee for review to help ensure that grant activities are implemented in a timely fashion and that there is ongoing fidelity to the CARES Local Evaluation Plan.

**OUTCOME EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

The CARES outcome evaluation questions reflect the identified goals of the project.

1. “Is there an increase in the potential for adolescents to meet their physical, developmental and social needs through resiliency?”
2. “Have successful prevention and intervention activities for youth been implemented based on data driven and evidence-based practices?”
3. “Is there a reduction in the environmental impacts caused by cannabis cultivation?”

**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED**

The estimated number of activities to be accomplished is as follows:

- Approximately 4 Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist presentations to students will occur each academic year between August and June
- Approximately 187 Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist school contacts will occur each academic year between August and June (17 schools x 1 contact per month x 11 months)
- Approximately 150 environmental code enforcement violations will occur annually between July 1 through June 30
- Approximately 4 CARES Team meetings will occur annually July 1 through June 30
- Approximately 2 CARES Steering Committee meetings will occur annually July 1 through June 30

**CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SUCCESS**

There are four primary criteria used to determine program success in terms of achieving CARES’ stated goals. First, success will be affirmed if there is a measured increase in students’ level of school connectedness and academic motivation. Second, success will be affirmed if there is a measured decrease in student current alcohol and other drug use (AOD) and in lifetime AOD use. Third, success will be affirmed if there is a measured decrease in student chronic absenteeism defined as 10% or more days absent in an academic year. Fourth, success will be affirmed if there is a measured decrease in the negative environmental impacts of cannabis cultivation.

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**OUTCOME DATA COLLECTION**

Outcome data collection will include the measures listed in the table below:

<u>Outcome Measure</u>	<u>Data Source</u>
Students self-report increases in School Connectedness and Academic Motivation	California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)
Students self-report reductions in Current AOD Use and Lifetime AOD Use	California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)
There is a reduction in student chronic absenteeism defined as 10% or more days absent in an academic year	California Department of Education (CDE) DataQuest
There is a reduction in environmental code enforcement violations	Trinity County Sheriff's Office

**OUTCOME DATA ANALYSIS**

Outcome data analysis is conducted by the Center for Evaluation and Research, LLC (CER) that serves as a local evaluator for CARES. CER developed and implemented the Local Evaluation Plan along with a secure, online data collection system used to manage collection for outcome data analysis. The CARES data system centralizes data collection for CER to monitor the accuracy of data entry in real time and to help ensure fidelity with the Local Evaluation Plan. CER analysis includes addressing data anomalies that may surface through re-verifying the data.

**DETERMINING WHETHER OUTCOMES ARE DUE TO THE PROJECT AND NOT SOME OTHER FACTOR(S) UNRELATED TO THE PROJECT**

The CARES project focus is to positively impact the total population of adolescent students in Trinity County with resiliency when faced with substance use decision-making. The Deputy Sheriff Juvenile Specialist will develop positive relationships with individual students that will likely contribute to an increased resiliency in those specific students related to substance use and abuse; however, there is no plan to measure individual student attitudinal changes; therefore, it is unlikely that a strategy can be identified for determining whether the outcomes are due solely to the CARES project and not some other factor(s) unrelated to CARES.

While it may not be possible to control for outside factors influencing outcome results, there are steps being taken to document the outside influences including the use of baseline data compared with outcome data and the cataloging of other school site interventions that may be addressing student social and emotional learning or substance use issues.

Baseline data used for outcome analysis includes the 2018-19 CHKS Secondary Core Module, 2018-19 CHKS Elementary Core Module, 2019-20 CDE Chronic Absenteeism rates, and 2019-20 Trinity County Sheriff's Office Environmental Code Enforcement statistics.

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**METHODS FOR TRACKING CHANGES AND PROJECT PERFORMANCE OVER TIME**

The Center for Evaluation and Research (CER) developed a CARES online data collection system used to manage the collection of both process and outcome data. The CARES data system centralizes data collection for CER to monitor for accuracy of data entry in real time and to help ensure fidelity with the Local Evaluation Plan.

CER assesses the validity of CARES process evaluation measures data entry on a monthly basis and outcome evaluation measures on an annual basis. The compiled data is used for quarterly progress monitoring and BSCC reporting. Data are shared quarterly with the CARES Steering Committee. Stakeholders and constituents are provided regular updates on program outcomes through the CARES Steering Committee, whose primary role is to review program interventions and to make evidence-based recommendations for the continuous improvement of the project. The CARES Steering Committee also uses process and outcome data findings to identify the extent to which the project is making progress toward meeting goals and objectives.

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**LOGIC MODEL**

<b>Inputs</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Impact</b>
State of California, Board of State and Community Corrections Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Funding	CARES Steering Committee  CARES Training  Student Substance Use Education and Prevention  Student Interventions  Focusing on Children under Stress (FOCUS) Incidents  Environmental Health Code Enforcement  Satellite Imagery	Project Oversight and Monitoring  Effective Student Engagement  Substance Use Educational Presentations  Counseling and Treatment  School Support Services  Environmental Remediation	<u>Goal 1:</u> Increase the potential for adolescents to meet their physical, developmental and social needs through resiliency  <u>Goal 2:</u> Implement successful prevention and intervention activities for youth by using data driven and evidence-based practices  <u>Goal 3:</u> Reduce the environmental impacts caused by cannabis cultivation	Students self-report increases in School Connectedness and Academic Motivation  Students self-report reductions in Current AOD Use and Lifetime AOD Use  There is a reduction in student chronic absenteeism defined as 10% or more days absent in an academic year  There is a reduction in environmental code enforcement violations	Break the “preschool to prison” pipeline in Trinity County  Fewer students become engaged in substance use and the juvenile justice system  Water systems and storage capacity are improved and the collateral damage created by legal and illegal grow sites that contain hazardous chemicals is eliminated