

# Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

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## Background and Instructions:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure.

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth.

County plans are to be submitted and revised in accordance with WIC 1995, and may be posted, as submitted, to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website.

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**Part 1: Subcommittee Composition (WIC 1995 (b))**

List the subcommittee members, agency affiliation where applicable, and contact information:

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Jeff Thomson	<a href="mailto:jthomson@inyocounty.us">jthomson@inyocounty.us</a>	760-872-4111
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<b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>			

## Part 2: Target Population (WIC 1995 (C)(1))

Briefly describe the County's realignment target population supported by the block grant:

Inyo County will target both male and female youth whose most recent adjudicated offenses are described in WIC 707(b) and is defined under WIC 1990(b), in cases where the Inyo County Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

Demographics of identified target population, including anticipated numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including age, gender, race or ethnicity, and offense/offense history:

Inyo County Probation anticipates serving youth who have been adjudicated of a 707(b) WIC offense(s) and who are aged 14 to 23, up to age 25 depending on the length of the disposition ordered by the Inyo County Juvenile Court. The initial estimates for year one is 0-1 males/females based on recent rates of commitments from Inyo County to the Division Of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Inyo County will be seeking a regional contract with Tuolumne County's Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility for both male and female youth.

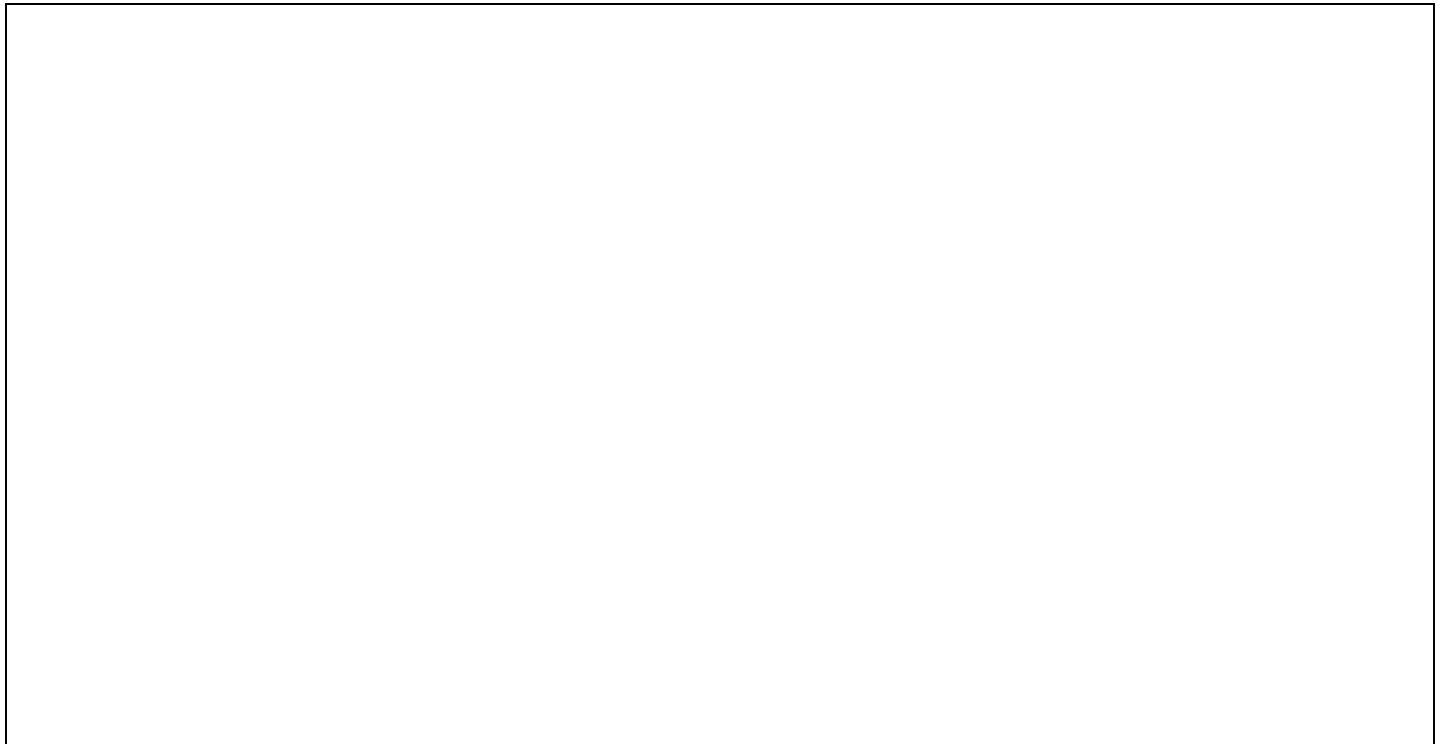
Inyo County has only had █ youth in the past 10 years serve commitments at DJJ, █ male. Inyo County has no Youth committed to DJJ as of 2021.

In the last decade, Inyo County Probation Department has utilized a risk and d needs assessment tool to help probation officers identify youth strengths and weaknesses as well as their risk to reoffend. Since implementing the tool, juvenile caseload numbers have fallen dramatically. The following statistics represent caseloads as of March 1, 2022:

- 29 youth under supervision.
- 15 youth on formal probation
- 14 youth on informal probation

The breakdown of offenders at DJJ statewide as of fiscal year 2019 is as follows:

- 96% male and 4% female
- 74% are between the ages of 18-21 years of age, 19% are under 17 years of age, and 7% are over the age of 22.
- 63% are enrolled in vocational programs, 42% are enrolled in high school, and 28% are enrolled in college.
- Behavioral health treatment breaks down to 13% being in Sex Behavior Treatment, 8% in Mental Health Program, and 6% in Behavior Treatment.



Describe any additional relevant information pertaining to identified target population, including programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.

Several lower-level interventions provided by the Inyo County Probation Department are available to youth prior to any long-term commitment of this nature becoming necessary. However, at times the serious nature of the adjudicated offense(s) and consideration for public safety will outweigh the opportunity for youth to be tried in lower-level options. A brief description of the Probation Department's continuum of care is described below:

**Out of Custody Referrals for Youth not on Probation Status**

Inyo County Probation receives approximately 10 police reports a month. Each report is reviewed by a Deputy Probation Officer or Supervisor to determine what, if any, action will be taken. Referrals to other services or warning letters are sent to parents of youth with no prior record for any report received alleging charges that carry no confinement time and some low-level misdemeanors.

**Evidence-Base Screening for Felony and Misdemeanor Referrals**

Inyo County Probation uses the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to screen youth referred for most misdemeanor offenses that carry confinement time and for referrals on felony offenses. The PACT is an evidence-based, risk/needs assessment and case planning tool implemented to assist officers in accomplishing four basic objectives:

- Determine the level of risk for re-offending (low, moderate, or high) to focus resources primarily on moderate and high-risk youth.
- Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so rehabilitative efforts can be tailored to address youths' unique assessment profiles.
- Develop a case management plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
- Re-assess at 6 month intervals to allow staff to determine if targeted factors change because of the targeted interventions.

The PACT assists in guiding initial decision-making regarding referrals. Dispositions of cases that have been screened by a Deputy Probation Officer include referrals to the District Attorney for filing or sending a letter for an intake with a probation officer and relevant referrals to community work service in lieu of any further action. Felony referrals are reviewed by the District Attorney's office. Once on probation status, the PACT case plan is updated regularly by the assigned Probation Officer.

#### **Lower-level Interventions for Youth on Probation Status**

Once youth have been adjudged wards of the Juvenile Court, lower-level interventions may be appropriate for redirection prior to consideration for a commitment to a local custodial program. These options include: Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) (it should be noted DEJ youth are not adjudged wards at time of DEJ disposition), community service, and school-based services. These interventions are typically ordered by the Juvenile Court in conjunction with terms of probation-based supervision of youth while they live at home in the community. Out of home placement is an option of last resort for youth whose parent/guardian is unable to properly provide care for them or where the home is unsafe or unsuitable.

#### **In-Custody Dispositional Options for Intervention**

Youth determined to need in-custody treatment can be committed by the Juvenile Court to local custodial programs. Inyo County currently contracts with Kern, Tulare, Eldorado, Nevada, and Tuolumne Counties for custodial detention and commitments of youth. These youth are composed primarily of those who, because of their level of delinquent behavior and risk to reoffend, require in-custody service provision and supervision. Upon release, most youth return to the community under Inyo County Probation supervision.

### **Part 3: Programs and Services (WIC 1995 (c)(2))**

Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population:

**Facility**

Inyo County Probation has a current contract for detention beds with Tuolumne County to utilize their Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility (MLRJDF) location in Sonora, California. It is anticipated that Tuolumne County will also become a provider for the DJJ realigned population.

**Youth Supervision**

To provide rehabilitative services to these youth, safety and security must be a core tenant. Youth will only be able to thrive when they feel safe and secure. Juvenile Corrections Officers (JCO) will provide this population supervision and guidance in day-to-day activities. Services will be provided to youth by facility staff.

**Medical Services**

Medical services will be provided by facility staff.

**Behavioral Health Services**

Specialized facility staff will be the primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. It is hoped that Inyo County can facilitate online/zoom Mental Health service to help with the reentry process to maintain a relationship through the youth's commitment.

**Educational Program**

Facility education staff will operate the on-site educational program. In MLRJDF the Gold Ridge Education Center provides: English/Language Arts and Social Sciences, Math, Science, and Health, Fine Arts/Foreign Language and Electives and Specialized educational services. In addition they provide Credit recovery services, Emphasis on project based learning and Academic Tutoring. They also have a Donated Library and Book Club.

**Health Services**

Facility staff will be responsible for medical services and dental services.

**Evidence-Based Programs Offered**

Contracted facility staff will provide various programs. Currently MLRJDF offers the following evidence based programs: Boy's Council, Girl's Circle, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Motivational Interviewing, Interactive Journaling, Seeking Safety (treatment for youth with PTSD and co-occurring substance use disorder), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DTB).

**Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds (WIC 1995 (3)(a))**

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population:

Inyo County will receive the SB823 Block Grant minimum of \$250,000 per year. It is recommended that a trust account be created for the Probation Department and that the funds are allocated if there is a need for support and care of a youth needing long term commitment services, including specialized treatment services, during fiscal year 2021-22. For now, the reserve funds will accumulate until there is a commitment need. This will financially prepare the County to be able to secure a long term commitment when we have one.

Justice-involved youth have a high prevalence of mental health disorders, trauma, environmental stressors, and family instability. The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice indicate that approximately 66% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health disorder. The rate of trauma these youth have experienced suggests a trauma-informed approach should be applied as a universal intervention that creates a healing environment suitable to rehabilitation and prosocial development. Provision of mental health and psychosocial interventions are most effective when individualized to the needs of the youth, involve family, and are culturally competent. Inyo County Health and Human Services' (HHS) Behavioral Health division will provide individualized assessment of treatment needs and coordinate provision of services either virtually or in-person as needed. HHS will seek additional licensed staffing resources as necessary.

Inyo County will insure that any facility that is used to provide commitment services to the DJJ realigned youth will have qualified staff who use research based programs consistent with mental health best practices.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (B))

Inyo County will utilize grant funds to secure a bed(s) for youth who are ordered by the Juvenile Court to the secure track (formerly DJJ). Inyo County does not have a facility capable of long term commits and thus will need to contract with a County that has the appropriate facility and services.

Inyo County plans to use some of the grant funds to support services that promote healthy adolescent development. This includes allocating funds to support Behavioral Health and Office of Education providing services to the realigned population, as well as offering evidence-based programming to the realigned population.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (C))



Inyo County Probation is committed to prioritizing family and community engagement. Research demonstrates that a strong bond with family and/or community support is essential for positive development and successful reintegration. Inyo County will also work to remove financial or logistical barriers in place to ensure that these relationships are maintained while the youth is in custody, such as considering providing funds and possible resources to family members for travel and lodging to Tuolumne County or any other county that we enter into a regional contract with. Family engagement will begin at the earliest possible stage of the youth's commitment. In fiscal 2021/2022, this will primarily happen through the MDT process; Families will be encouraged to be involved in the youth's treatment through the MDT throughout the youth's commitment.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing and continuing education for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (D))

In 2016, due to declining number of youth in secure detention and the need to house fewer juveniles, the Inyo County Juvenile Detention Center was transitioned from a full service juvenile hall to a special purpose juvenile hall. Inyo County used the opportunity of declining juvenile numbers in the juvenile hall to completely redesign the way that juvenile services are being offered to Inyo County youth and their families. The highly trained and skilled juvenile hall employees were moved out of the custody setting and into the communities to provide more services to more youth. Instead of closing the facility and having to lay off staff, the Probation Department shifted staff and resources in an effort to reach more youth with services and programs. With the transition away from secure detention, Rehabilitation Specialists (formerly Juvenile Corrections Officers) work with the youth to help them transition into the community throughout the reentry process. They help the youth with the employment process from teaching the youth how to fill out a job application to video recording mock interviews. Reentry and reintegration planning begins at the earliest possible stage of the youth's commitment. Our successful Drug Court model will be a guide for reentry planning. Local employers have been overly supportive in hiring those on probation while knowing probation staff have been able to insure a sober living atmosphere by drug testing numerous times a week. Inyo County Probation will also work closely with The Inyo County Office of Education to engage the youth in the newly created Adult Education program that will have vocational training for adults.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive services for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3)(E))

A trauma-informed approach is required when working with this population. Inyo County Probation will be contracting with another County to provide these services and programs to the realigned DJJ youth. Upon reentry to Inyo County, trained probation staff will utilize trauma informed and culturally responsive services to the youth in their care, as well as approaches to reduce provocation of trauma-responses. The selected programming is designed to support the use of effective emotional regulation and coping strategies to reduce impulsivity, aggression, and social isolation.

In 2020, the Bishop Paiute Tribe secured a grant to develop a Tribal Juvenile Healing and Wellness

Court (TJHWC). The Inyo County Probation Department, the Inyo County District Attorney Office, public defenders, and the Superior Court all joined in an MOU to be partners in the new program. The TJHWC is a transformative judicial process that may be categorized within the growing number of “problem-solving” courts. The TJHWC is a diversion program that allows tribal participants to obtain a full range of services to assist them in leading a drug and alcohol free life. This program offers services that are specifically coordinated, managed and holistically comprehensive. Components and services that may be selected as part of a case plan include, but not limited to supports and programmatic services that address needs in the areas of:

- Physical Healing
- Substance Abuse
- Disorder/addiction treatment
- Educational support
- Employment training/ assistance
- Community support/ connection
- Family relationship/ communication
- Individual/ family counseling
- Meaningful and engaged judicial interaction
- Spiritual healing
- Cultural/ traditional guidance
- Pro-social activities

Each participant will be supervised, supported and held accountable to the plan created by the TJHWC Team. The Probation Department has a probation officer assigned to the team. Each eligible participant is given the opportunity to rebuild and better their lives.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers: (WIC 1995 (3)(F))

Inyo County Probation is committed to awarding a percentage of the funding to qualified community based providers to support the realigned youth. However, community based organizations are limited throughout Inyo County. In order to ensure reentry planning and continuity of services, community-based providers should be included at the earliest stage of the youth’s commitment.

In Fiscal year 2021/2022, Inyo County Probation is committed to exploring the role of community-providers in the realignment and to identify the specific services, programs or components to handle. Additionally, Inyo County recognizes the need to allocate resources towards capacity-building for community-providers to better serve the realigned population and will explore this more in the next phase.

## **Part 5: Facility Plan**

Describe in detail each of the facilities that the County plans to use to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to

accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. (WIC 1995 (4))

Inyo County Probation has a current contract for detention beds with Tuolumne County and the youth will be housed at the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility, which is in Sonora, California. The facility will house both male and female youth. Youth will be classified and assigned to units based on gender, age, offense, and special needs.

The treatment program developed by Tuolumne County is intended to be viewed in its totality as a tier program where the residential placements are its most restrictive phase. Within its facility, youth may progress through levels to gain access to greater incentive. Post-release community supervision and community based services will fall within Inyo County's conceptualization of its tiered programming, but this facility is outside of Inyo County's direct control.

As more Counties develop secure track plans for the realigned DJJ youth, Inyo County will evaluate each program for the appropriate service and programs that will best address the needs of a DJJ realigned youth.

**Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System**

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system: (WIC 1995 (5))

Inyo County Probation is committed to the retention of youth within the Juvenile Justice System, in lieu of transfer to the Adult Criminal Justice System, and appropriate steps to avoid net widening. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council sub-committee in partnership with the Probation Department will work with the District Attorney's Office to help develop strategies to help keep youth in the juvenile system when appropriate. Inyo County does an exceptional job of maintaining youth in the juvenile system. The last youth that was transferred to the adult Court was approximately 12 years ago. As indicated in the above sections, in Fiscal Year 2021/2022, Inyo County Probation is prepared to serve all youth who would have otherwise been committed to DJJ.

**Part 7: Regional Effort**

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation: (WIC 1995 (6))

Inyo County currently contracts with Tuolumne County and the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility for detention beds and will be exploring other facilities and programs as they are developed.

Inyo County joined the consortium of Counties to address the need to place youth who are in the secure track in the most appropriate secure facility. A consortium could establish a statewide agreement and coordinating function that:

- Allows counties to place youth in a secure youth treatment program in another county.
- Ensures that capacity, including specialized capacity, is available when counties who do not have their own capacity need it.
- Creates incentives for counties who are willing to host youth from other counties defray costs of starting new programs and limits their liability of taking youth from other counties.
- Helps counties facilitate placements through a placement liaison that uses pre-established placing criteria.
- Sets a unified price structure throughout the state.
- Establishes consistency in programming among counties.
- Ensures proper roles and communication among counties.

The general principal of the County Consortium for secure track youth is to achieve delivery of quality programming and drive successful outcomes for young people in counties' care. It is the expectation of the sponsoring associations that counties will collaborate to assure sufficient, available services and capacity to meet the needs of the newly realigned youth, especially those who require specialized treatment programming.

**Part 8: Data**

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant: (WIC 1995 (7))

The data collected will utilize existing databases. This data will be utilized to drive future decision making and be reviewed on a semi-annual basis.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to determine the results of the programs and interventions supported by block grant funds: (WIC 1995 (7))

We will be developing performance and outcome measures to determine the results of the program. These outcome measures will be reviewed on a regular basis.