

**Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Annual Plan
Fiscal Year 2021-2022**



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County Name: Sierra

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Background and Instructions:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) 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 (JJCC) 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 state Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) website.

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INTRODUCTION

On September 30, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 823, which realigns the California State Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) population from the State of California to Counties, beginning July 1, 2021. The bill establishes the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court up to the age of 23 and 25 for certain offenses and transfers the responsibility of the care, custody, and supervision of youth to the county of commitment. Under SB 823, intakes to the DJJ will stop July 1, 2021. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2021-22, and annually thereafter, the State of California will make allocations to counties to provide appropriate care, rehabilitation, and supervision of the realigned population known as the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG). SB 823 intends for counties to use evidence-based practices and programs to improve youth and public safety outcomes, reduce the transfer of youth to the adult court system and reduce the use of juvenile justice confinement through community-based responses and interventions.

The newly added Section 1995 of the Welfare and Institutions Code requires that, to be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties are required to create a Subcommittee of the multiagency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) for the purpose of developing an annual plan to manage the custody, supervision, and rehabilitation of the realigned population at the local level. This plan, first due to the newly created Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) by January 1, 2022, for FY 2022-2023, and thereafter submitted each year by May 1st, is mandatory for counties to be eligible for the state funding available to manage the new responsibilities. Prior to that, the local plan for the first fiscal year, FY 2021-2022, will be presented to the Sierra County Board of Supervisors for consideration, as the OYCR does not yet exist. Funding is designated for the first three (3) fiscal years and subsequent funding is to be determined. Per 1991(a) W&I a local public agency that is primarily tasked with prosecution or arrests or detentions is not eligible for JJRBG funding and shall not provide rehabilitative and/ or supervision services for the realigned population set forth in this plan. The realigned population of youth offenders has been referred to as "Secure Track Treatment Youth."

On July 1, 2021, state DJJ will no longer accept youth intakes. Until DJJ completely closes, youth already committed to DJJ can remain for a daily fee until completion of their program or the complete closure of all DJJ facilities on June 30, 2023. After July 1, 2021, Sierra County will be responsible for the custody, supervision and long-term treatment for any youth who previously would likely have been sent to DJJ.

Funding for the first three fiscal years, through FY 2023-24, will be based on a formula including:

- Juvenile Population – 20% of formula based on county's distribution of youth ages 10-17
- DJJ Usage – 30% of formula based on each county's DJJ population as of December 2018, June 2019 and December 2019
- Estimated 707(b) Population – 50% of formula based on county's local population who have committed certain violent and felony crimes as reported in Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS) to be updated annually

However, per 1991(a)(5) W&I, 1991(b) W&I, and 1991(c) W&I, Sierra County is set to receive a minimum annual allotment of \$250,000 plus potential growth in monthly installments after each September 1.

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)	Charles Henson, Chief Probation Officer	chenson@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.289.3277
District Attorney’s Office Representative	Sandra Groven, District Attorney	sgroven@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.289.3269
Public Defender’s Office Representative	J. Lon Cooper, Public Defender	jloncooper@gmail.com	530.265.4565
Department of Social Services Representative	Vickie Clark, Director Social Services	vclark@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.993.6720
Department of Mental Health (Behavioral Health)	Lea Salas, Director Behavioral Health	lsalas@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.993.6748
Office of Education Representative	James Berardi, Superintendent	jberardi@spjUSD.org	530.993.1660
Court Representative	Ann Mendez, Court Executive Officer	amendez@sierracourt.org	530.289.3698
Community Member	Derrick Koch, Prevention/ Community Outreach	dkock@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.993.6746
Community Member	Stacy Hood, Advocate/ Youth Sports Director	shood@spjUSD.org	530.993.4454
Community Member	Lilly Bracher, Local Youth	rslndogs@gmail.com	530.277.4120

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

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

Sierra County will serve the targeted youth and young adults with adjudications for offenses outlined in 707(b) W&I or 290.008 PC where the Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

Sierra County does not have an in county juvenile hall or other less restrictive facility such as a camp or ranch. The county contracts with other counties in the region for these services. The county does not currently have any in county programs or resources to serve youth requiring specialized therapeutic needs, such as sexual offenders, arson offenders, offenders with significant mental health issues, and pregnant or recent mother female offenders. For these youth, we intend to seek a partnership within a consortium of other agencies in or out of our region that address these specialized treatment needs through a contract process.

It is not expected that all the future eligible youth will need “DJJ like” replacement programming in a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) custodial setting for an extended period. Extended period will be defined as secure facility incapacitation for over one (1) year. Secure Track commitment and length of commitment will be dependent on the individual circumstances and gravity of the qualifying offenses in conjunction with the assessed criminogenic risk and needs of the youth. If existing contracted facilities become operational as a SYTF, and they are configured and programmed to serve these youth to suitable standards of Sierra County, those facilities may be utilized.

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

Sierra County does not currently have any youth that would come within the provisions of realignment nor does the county have any youth currently housed within the DJJ.

Sierra County does not have a record of demographics because the last DJJ commit was over 20 years ago, and that data is no longer available. Generally, of Sierra County’s nearly 3,000 permanent residents, %16.5 are under the age of 18 and approximately %52 male and %48 female. Sierra County’s residents identify as %92.6 White, %0.7 Black or African American, %2.6 Native, %12.7 Hispanic or Latino, and %0.9 Asian. The median household income is well-below California’s median income by almost \$30,000. The most recent poverty and unemployment rates are very similar to balance of state; however, the teen unemployment rate is higher. Sierra County residents have a nearly %98 high school completion rate and yet relatively statistically high truancy and teenage pregnancy rates as well. The communities are rural with most employment being an average of an hour commute to out of county employers. Sierra County does not have any verified gang activity.

Understanding that the targeted population will be dynamic, the needs of all youth, inclusive of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) will be considered in the drafting of all plans and the care, custody, and supervision of all youth in an equitable and compassionate fashion.

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

Again, there is no data available for previous DJJ eligible/ committed youth due to the length of time since the last relevant youth.

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:

Sierra County currently has contracts with two (2) out of county juvenile detention centers located in Butte and Placer Counties. It is anticipated that these facilities will be utilized to house the targeted population pre-disposition and as a possible alternative to Secure Track detention centers for lower risk youth who do not have specific treatment or other special needs.

Programs, placements, services, and service providers, if out of the scope of local resources, will be contracted out potentially through the developing consortium of counties throughout the region and state depending on the most appropriate setting for the youth and proximity to supportive family. Supervision outside of a facility will be done by existing Sierra County Probation staff.

Sierra County has a relatively low wardship rate as there is a focus on serving our youth at the lowest level of intervention as appropriate. When appropriate, local resources are utilized. Those services have consisted of probation mentoring, self-reflection exercises such as interactive journaling, community service, facilitating meaningful family/peer conflict resolution circles, restorative justice, tobacco, drug and alcohol services, mental health, peer support, family wrap services, wellness, electronic monitoring, and school attendance assistance. Contracted out of county services for sexual offender counseling have also been utilized. Funding will directly support our youth in providing these specialized services and potentially enhancing services within the county when the need arises.

Sierra County Probation enjoys a strong partnership with Sierra County Behavioral Health (SCBH), the only provider of Mental Health and Substance Use Services available in the county. If a youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system at the local level is a MediCal beneficiary, as a Federal entitlement program, all MediCal recipients are eligible to full-spectrum Mental Health and Substance Use Services. If a youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system at the local level is not a MediCal beneficiary but still requires Mental Health and/or Substance Uses Services a variety of programs are accessed through the following specialized programing:

- Access to Youth Services Treatment program- Available through the Mental Health Services Act, these programs and services include: Therapeutic Behavioral Services Behavior Intervention Specialist services, Mental Health counseling, Family Therapy, medication management, case management and rehabilitative services.
- Student/ Parent Navigation program- Program provides outreach, linkage, and access to supports and services to families of youth who are experiencing challenges with school attendance and behavior problems in the school setting.
- Sierra Wellness Advocacy for Youth (SWAY) program- SCBH partners with Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District to provide education and in-services to the staff and student

body related to social-emotional development and well-being. Current plans are underway to extend youth-based wellness activities within the care continuum at the SCBH drop-in Wellness Center.

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:

Sierra County plans to assess eligible youth using evidence based Noble assessments for risk and needs. A specialized sex offender assessment will be conducted using the JSORAT assessment. Due to the historically small size of the county's targeted population, unpredictable nature of juvenile crime and dynamic needs of the target population in Sierra County, it would be costly and inefficient to create robust programming for each specialized treatment need area. To be cost effective, JJRBG funding will be used to benefit these youth by enabling the county to enhance local services when appropriate and to obtain out of county services that are proven in quality for specialized offenders when needed. It is anticipated that services for offenders who are experiencing significant mental health needs, severe alcohol and drug issues, sexual offender treatment needs, and/or other significant related behavioral or trauma-based needs will be contracted out to out of county specialized services to effectively serve the youth. Sierra County is awaiting further development of the consortium of counties to address these needs.

Eligible youth who are not placed in Secure Track will also be eligible to receive programing and services through these funds as well to work to ensure that they do not violate and be at further risk of Secure Track placement.

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))

Sierra County lacks a presence of community-based organizations (CBOs) or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that specialize in providing services for justice involved youth. This plan intends to reserve some funding for the development/ assistance of groups that may come forward in the community. Absent any CBOs or NGOs, probation will continue to utilize the strength we have as a small, intertwined community, to assist youth in obtaining out of home, nonauthoritarian prosocial relationships to provide an outlet and guidance. Funding may be used for prosocial activities and programs to help foster healthy development.

Sierra County does have a valued nonprofit partner in county, the High Sierras Family Resource Center. Although it does not specialize in justice involved youth, it can offer general family services which include family peer counseling, parenting services, food assistance, housing, winter heating, and transportation assistance, employment services, assistance with connecting to State benefit programs, GED and secondary education assistance, adult literacy programs, Khan Academy, citizenship, and English language assistance.

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

Sierra County plans to support family engagement for the target population through a variety of services and programming. Child and Family Teaming, in collaboration with the Department of Social Services, will be used to engage in Family Finding for youth in need of permanent connections and the utilization of a variety of options for parenting education and support. Mental health, drug and alcohol, and wellness services will also be used to support family engagement by providing capacity for regular family counseling for all Secure Track youth.

Wraparound Services is another key program for promoting family engagement. Target population youth re-entering the community from a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) will have the opportunity to participate in Wraparound Services if they are under the age of 18. The Subcommittee recognized that the target population is more likely to be over the age of 18 at re-entry compared to other youth on probation; therefore, many will not be eligible for Wraparound Services. Some of these youth will be able to access similar services such as Full Service Partnership (FSP), SWAY, and Youth Access to Treatment. Where no existing services can meet the need, grant funds are intended to be applied towards replacement services.

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))

Sierra County plans to address the following needs for the targeted population by focusing on:

- Specialized Services – Reserving some grant funds for specialized purpose needs as they arise, will allow for some specialized services, such as “Wraparound” management services, to aid with reentry for those target population youth who are not eligible for existing services based on age, insurance or other factors. This funding could also be accessed for youth specific needs such as post-secondary course enrollment for Secure Track youth.
- Supportive Housing - The Subcommittee recognized that some Secure Track youth will not have family homes to return to upon release. Those under 18 will have options for foster care placement settings. Those over 18 may not qualify for Extended Foster Care (EFC) services and therefore be in need of additional support. County stakeholders have agreed to provide “special consideration” for the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+) Program for Secure Track youth. Even so, some will not meet suitability criteria or otherwise be able to access this limited resource. Probation will work with these youth to explore all other housing options; however, some may still be in need of additional resources to exit custody to stable housing.
- Specialized Foster Home for High Needs Probation Youth – Sierra County has a FFA provider, Mountain Circle that can be utilized as well as a mechanism to utilize a RFA provider. Sierra County does have a need for a higher level “therapeutic” Resource Family Home. The subcommittee has expressed an interest in exploring this program through assistance of the JJRBG within Sierra County or likely in partnership with other small rural neighboring counties.
- Specialized Placements - Every effort will be made to serve the target population locally in order to keep them connected to their families and community; however, Sierra County has very limited local resources for placements in general therefore, this plan intends to reserve some realignment

funds for Specialized Placement each year to access Secure Youth Treatment Facilities in other counties as they become available.

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))

As most of the specialized programs and services to serve the targeted Secure Track youth will be contracted out to out of county providers, Sierra County plans to only utilize services for our youth that are well suited and experienced in evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices. Sierra County Probation and the JJCC will endeavor to assess all programs and services prior to placement and to evaluate utilized programs at least annually.

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))

Sierra County does not have a CBO or NGO presence that focusses their services on justice involved youth. Sierra County is open to partnering with reputable CBOs or NGOs that may want to establish in Sierra County.

As previously mentioned in Part 4., Sierra County does have a valued nonprofit, the High Sierras Family Resource Center with a Loyalton field office, the Empowerment Center. Sierra County does plan on building upon the partnership it has with the Family Resource Center and reserving an allocation of funding for this program and its broad range of services when the need arises.

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))

If currently contracted facilities cannot be utilized as the most appropriate facility for the targeted youth, it is anticipated that other specialized facilities will be used through the developing consortium of counties. Sierra County does not have oversight or control of how contracted facilities are designed or operated. However, Sierra County will be diligent in monitoring contracted facilities for the safety and protection of all potential local youth. Contracts will not be renewed to facilities that do not ensure these standards.

Decision making on whether target population youth would be best served in an existing contracted juvenile hall or in a consortium based SYTF will be based upon the least restrictive option that provides care, treatment and guidance that is consistent with the best interests of the youth and the public as required by Section 202(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC).

Considerations for the safety and protection of all youth in the facilities will take on additional importance given the probability of older (up to and including age 24) and more sophisticated target population youth now remaining in local commitment for extended periods. Youth will continue to be classified for specific housing based on requirements contained in Title 15 and the policies and procedures of the hosting county facility. These requirements are intended to provide for the safety of youth, facility staff and the public by placing youth in the least restrictive housing and program settings that can meet their needs. Classification factors include but are not limited to the following:

- Age and maturity of the youth
- Sophistication
- Emotional stability
- Court status and present offense
- Criminal offense history
- Prior behavior while in the facility or other institutions
- Gang affiliation
- Conflicts with other youth
- Court-ordered restrictions as to the association with other youth
- Medical/mental health considerations
- Gender and gender identity
- Developmental and cognitive processing disabilities
- Program needs
- Legal process status

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))

The Sierra county justice partners are cognizant of the need to keep youth out of the adult court system. This system will be a last resort reserved for consideration in only the most serious and violent of offenses. Funding for specialized services that meet an individual's needs will incentivize keeping the youth within the juvenile court system.

It is important to note that SB 823 changed the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction for some target population youth. Previously, only youth who were committed to the DJJ had their maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction extended to age 23 or 25. Changes enacted with SB 823 extend the age of jurisdiction for the entire target population, regardless of whether they become Secure Track youth, to the ages of 23 or 25, depending on the nature of their adjudicated charges. By adding a new Section 208.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), SB 823 also provided additional restrictions on housing wards of the juvenile court in adult facilities, regardless of age. Wards 19 years of age or older cannot be detained in an adult facility without a hearing. The presumption at that hearing is that the ward will be retained in a juvenile facility. Wards serving a commitment in a juvenile facility cannot have that commitment transferred to an adult facility, regardless of age. For the purposes of this plan, that means there is the potential for more youth between the ages of 21-25 requiring services in the local juvenile justice continuum, up to and including juvenile detention services.

All requests for transfer of a juvenile to adult court will be reviewed by the Chief Probation Officer using multi-agency processes and creating a comprehensive continuum of services for the individual.

Part 7: Regional Effort

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

Sierra County plans to use JJRBG funding to house eligible offenders in existing contracted facilities. The county has further planned to join a consortium of counties when that program is fully developed to serve as a "insurance" type policy to keep available and to utilize appropriate secure placement, special individualized programming and services, and reentry programming and services.

Part 8: Data

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

Absent a significant anomaly, the amount of eligible youth the Sierra County justice system will become involved with will be low enough that existing staff will be able to record data through existing case management systems. The demographics of the youth served will address age, gender, ethnicity, neighborhood, family status, and offense details.

Data other than demographics that will be collected will consist of:

- Assessment information- risk/ need
- Custody time – days spent in custody at juvenile detention facilities

- New law violations - subsequent adjudications and/or convictions for misdemeanor or felony offenses after becoming a target population youth
- Treatment programming - programs referred to and completion status
- High school and secondary education status
- Employment and/or employment skills training participation
- Housing status

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

The completion rate of eligible youth will be measured as well as the completion rates for programs utilized. Youth, families, and other partners will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on programs and the methods used to manage this population. Recidivism will also be monitored.