

Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

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County Name: Sonoma County

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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)	David Koch, Chief Probation Officer	David.Koch@sonoma-county.org	(707) 565-2731
Court Representative	Hon. Ken Gness, Superior Court Judge	kgnoss1@sonomacourt.org	(707) 521-6710
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District Attorney's Office Representative	Spencer Brady, Chief Deputy District Attorney	Spencer.Brady@sonoma-county.org	(707) 565-6250
Department of Mental Health	Karin Sellite, Section Manager, Behavioral Health Division, Youth and Family Services	Karin.Sellite@sonoma-county.org	(707) 565-3542
Office of Education Representative	Georgia Ioakimedes, Director Sonoma County Office of Education	gioakimedes@scoe.org	(707) 514-2884
Department of Social Services Representative	Megan Barajas, Supervisor Family Youth and Children Services	barajmb@schsd.org	(707) 565-4300
Community Program Provider Representative	Greyson Gunheim, VOICES Sonoma	greyson@voicesyouthcenter.org	
Community Program Provider Representative	Michelle Edwards, Boys and Girls Club Sonoma-Marin	medwards@bgcsonoma-marin.org	(707) 919-0506

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Community Program Provider Representative	Irma Cuevas, Santa Rosa Violence Prevention Partnership. GPS Program	ICuevas@srcity.org	(707) 543-4681
Karissa S.	Former Justice involved Youth		
L.P.	Former Justice involved Youth		

Additional Subcommittee Participants

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Sonoma County Probation Department	Vanessa Fuchs, Deputy Chief Probation Officer	Vanessa.Fuchs@sonoma-county.org	(707) 565-6258
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Part 2: Target Population (WIC 1995 (C) (1))

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

The Sonoma County Probation Department will provide county based custody, care, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) or who were otherwise eligible for commitment to the DJJ prior to its closure. These youth will range from ages 14 to 25, and will have been adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) or on offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code.

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

Data collected in October 2020 on Sonoma County youth sent to the DJJ over the past four years show the majority of commitments are male (only [REDACTED] female), 17 and 18 years old, Hispanic and White, and are typically involved in aggravated assault (assault with a deadly weapon), followed by robbery and sex offenses. Half of residents committed to DJJ since January 2016 were Hispanic, while White youth made up nearly a third of commitments. The average length of stay is 22 months, with a range of 12 to 40 months (none less than 12 months).

Based on this data, anticipated numbers over the next two years is between 5 and 10 youth, primarily male, Hispanic or White, 17 and 18 years old at the time of commitment, and committed for the aforementioned crimes. What is not known is how many youth will be transferred back to Sonoma County from DJJ prior to their closure or based on youth petitioning the Court to be brought back in advance. Based on Sonoma County youth currently in DJJ, [REDACTED] youth have anticipated parole dates after June 2023, and [REDACTED] have parole dates prior to June 2023. The ages of these youth will be between 18-22 in June 2023. What is also not known is the demographics/number of youth that may be sent to Sonoma County Juvenile Hall from other counties that will contract with us for services for their target population. Planned capacity for out-of-county youth is 12-16, for a total of 20.

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

DJJ commitment youth are nearly all assessed as moderate to high-risk to reoffend. Sonoma County Probation utilizes the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to assess for risk to reoffend. Residents committed for sex offenses often present as low-risk to reoffend, as our assessment tool is not specifically designed to measure sexual offending risk. The Sonoma County Department of Health Services will assess all residents committed for sex offenses using tools recommended in the California's Guidelines for Assessment and Treatment of Sexually Abusive Juveniles. Assessments will be used to identify both protective and risk factors pertinent to the individual youth. The Sonoma County Probation Department may elect to use the Static-99 assessment tool for sex offenders over the age of 18.

With regard to commitments, most youth (58%) are commitments on new crimes, while probation violations only represented 21% of commitments. The most common reason for commitment is related to serious/violent behavior (serious crime, danger to the community, violence, weapons, and aggression).

According to the WIC, youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court who are in need of protective services shall receive care, treatment, and guidance consistent with their best interest and the best interest of the public. Minors under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a consequence of delinquent conduct shall, in conformity with the interests of public safety and protection, receive care, treatment, and guidance that is consistent with their best interest, that holds them accountable for their behavior, and that is appropriate for their circumstances. This guidance may include sanctions that are consistent with the rehabilitative objectives listed in statute. If a minor has been removed from the custody of his or her parents, family preservation and family reunification are commonly appropriate goals for the juvenile court to consider when determining disposition.

The Sonoma County Probation Department typically applies a graduated sanctions approach before presenting consideration for home removal; however, in some instances immediate removal is necessary upon a youth's first offense or subsequent new offense due to the severity of the adjudicated crime or necessity for public safety. Home removal is often made in attempt to best serve the youth and provide family strengthening services concurrent to removal. Typically, several attempts are made to prevent home removal through the use of community based supervision and services which are tailored to the youth and family's needs. Home removal generally consists of placement in either a short term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) or Resource Family, Probation Camp commitment (currently un-occupied), or commitment to Juvenile Hall. As previously noted, the use of DJJ commitment is reserved for youth who have proved to be unamenable to these services, or their needs and the need to maintain public safety warrants commitment and services beyond community and residential based services.

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:

The Sonoma County Probation Department will provide a safe and secure facility for the housing and programming of court committed youth identified as appropriate per Senate Bill (SB) 823. It will provide rehabilitative treatment designed to reduce recidivism; provide opportunities to address personal, social, physical, mental health, educational, career technical education and independent living skills needs; and prepare them for a successful re-entry to their communities.

The Sonoma County Probation Department maintains contracts with local providers for current services within the Juvenile Hall (and the Probation Camp once re-occupied) in addition to contracts focused toward transitional services. Within the facility residents are offered drug and alcohol services, mental health support, Aggression Replacement Training, trauma focused, gender responsive, culturally competent/bilingual services, spiritual advising, and various other services. Transitional services include referrals to our Intensive Case Management (ICM) Program, career technical education/training programs, County Behavioral Health, and case management/supervision services through the Sonoma County Probation Department.

The Sonoma County Probation Department will provide additional family engagement opportunities and program provider meetings to support its existing programming, including: focus on the Child-Family Team approach to individual rehabilitation plans (specifically targeting individual risk factors and needs of a youth committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility), enhanced family visitation opportunities such as events, career technical education/training opportunities, educational assistance, programming, and work day-pass/furlough opportunities (court approved), face-to-face meetings in Juvenile Hall with program providers, and family therapy services.

Housing of residents will vary based on classification, risk level, individual needs, and safety of the resident and other residents within the facility. The Sonoma County Probation Department is exploring the use of a Camp setting by utilizing the currently un-occupied Probation Camp facility to assist in housing residents who are transitioning back into the community or for a day program (court approved).

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:

The Sonoma County Probation Department will provide comprehensive treatment related to mental/behavioral health, trauma needs and sex offender specific treatment.

The Sonoma County Probation Department currently refers youth to community-based individual and group sex offender treatment, and will transition these services into Juvenile Hall as well with additional services for the resident's family and any victims within the home. Sonoma County has historically served the majority of sex offenders within the community and through home removal via placement/out of home care; commitments to Juvenile Hall or DJJ for sex offenses are infrequent. On average, residential juvenile sex offender treatment is between 18 to 24 months in length.

Mental health and trauma services will remain available to all residents housed in Juvenile Hall regardless of commitment status and in compliance with statute and Title 15 regulations. The Sonoma County Probation Department will expand the current service array and introduce evidence based services targeting these need areas, in order to help build youth resilience, stability, and rehabilitation.

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))

The Sonoma County Probation Department intends to use grant funds to secure and facilitate evidence based and innovative practices and programs. The Sonoma County Probation Department currently has a variety of services and interventions available to residents and administered by trained staff and through the use of local community based organizations. The Sonoma County Probation Department has compiled a list of services that are either evidence based or promising practices which would benefit this population. Grant funding would assist in the procurement of these services and allow the Sonoma County Probation Department to provide additional services and training of staff. In addition, grant funds may be used for facility upgrades, procurement of equipment and resources for the integration of career technical education/training services, higher education, and virtual programming.

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

The Sonoma County Probation Department is dedicated to securing services for youth and families that promote well-being and assist in our goal of rehabilitation. The Sonoma County Juvenile Hall will be working closely with juvenile probation officers in an effort to provide residents and their families with supportive and necessary transition services. Family engagement is a key part of this transition process and the Sonoma County Probation Department intends to engage with families while the youth is housed within the facility and throughout their transition onto aftercare; and ultimately, successful completion of probation supervision. Grant funding would also be applied toward procuring necessary community based services and media services which could be used within the facility via virtual programming and in person visitation. In addition, a portion of funding could be maintained to allow flexible spending for youth and families when various funding needs arise. Such spending is commonly referred to in Sonoma County as Flex-funding or Flex-funds. Flex Funds would be used to ensure opportunities and support to youth and families by providing linkage to community-based pro-social activities. Additionally, officers/staff would be able to purchase items necessary for success in various domains such as education, employment, family functioning, mental health, vulnerability, and delinquency.

Virtual visitation and programming will assist this Sonoma County Probation Department's goal of facilitating family engagement and breaking down barriers to regular communication with family and pro-social connections that the youth may have outside the facility. This also allows for Child and Family Team Meetings to easily be part of individual rehabilitation planning and case management process. Child and Family Teams place families in the center of the planning process and encourage formal and informal supports to unite around the shared hopes and goals of the family. Plans coming out of Child and Family Team meetings build on individual and family strengths to address unmet needs and involve use of community resources.

There are many factors in probation cases which pose a challenge to family engagement. Those factors may include youth who have broken or damaged ties with family or pro-social connections within the community, youth with increased mental health needs, and youth involved in sex offenses with a victim within the family or home. The Sonoma County Probation Department is well suited to overcome these challenges and is dedicated to improved outcomes for justice involved youth. Ultimately, grant funds applied toward family engagement would improve the array of services and supports available to justice involved youth while they are housed in the facility, engage families through a more individualized casework approach that emphasis family involvement, and improve child and family well-being.

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))

The Sonoma County Probation Department will provide a robust transitional program focused on reentry and independent living. The Sonoma County Probation Department collaborates with local providers for transitional services for youth who are returning to the community from a variety of settings. These services included referrals to our ICM Program, career technical education/training, Mentoring, County Behavioral Health, and case management/supervision services through the Sonoma County Probation Department.

The ICM Program is a family-centered, strength-based and outcome-oriented alternative to out of home care or for youth transitioning from a court commitment. The target population is probationers with complex and enduring needs and their families. The goal of the ICM Program is to offer services in a strengths-based, family-centered, and culturally competent manner. To that end, most services are provided in clients' and families' homes, or their preferred locations, and services are provided around-the-clock, with staff expected to maintain flexible schedules and participate in a rotating on-call system to address the needs of families in crisis. Additional services include post commitment transitional services, and family finding services.

Career technical education/training services include a variety of referral programs that serve at risk youth ages 16-24, and targets career and educational goals. These programs assist in facilitating employment.

With regard to residents charged with sex offenses, and as previously noted Sonoma County has historically served a high number of sex offenders within the community and through home removal via placement/out of home care; however commitments to Juvenile Hall or DJJ for sex offenses are infrequent. On average, residential juvenile sex offender treatment is between 18 to 24 months in length. In developing strategies for the implementation of SB 823 the Sonoma County Probation Department will coordinate services with a provider(s) that can provide treatment which can address behaviors within the facility and also assist the family within the community.

The Sonoma County Probation Department is dedicated to facilitating successful transition from commitment to the Juvenile Hall, to the community, and will engage residents throughout their commitment in developing re-entry plans for youth/young adults who are committed to the facility. The objective of this collaboration is to prepare residents for their eventual return to their home community by connecting them with services and supports within the community to assist in this transition. Probation Officers will work closely with Juvenile Hall staff throughout the length of stay of the youth. Probation Supervision services will be provided upon release which includes case management services and referral to appropriate services which address any additional criminogenic needs the probationer may have. Services could also include access to the Day Reporting Center, through the Adult Probation Department or to an Evening Reporting Center.

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

The Sonoma County Probation Department has identified the following programs as evidence-based or promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive services for the target population (not all services will be provided):

Positive Youth Justice

Organizing framework for the program rooted in youth development research. Focuses on key assets: skills (learning & doing) and connections (attaching & belonging). Behavior change and development are pursued through six practice areas: Work, Relationships, Health, Education, Community, and Creativity.

CBT for anger-related problems in children and adolescents

Does not refer to a specific program

This variant of CBT focuses specifically on residents who have anger-related problems, including aggression, self-control, problem-solving, social competencies, and anger experience. For residents with anger problems, CBT is designed to 1) change how anger is experienced (e.g., how quickly a youth becomes angry, the intensity of the anger, and the amount of time spent feeling angry), 2) reduce aggressive behavior, and 3) improve social functioning.

Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

A multidimensional psychoeducational intervention designed to promote prosocial behavior in chronically aggressive and violent adolescents using techniques to develop social skills, emotional control, and moral reasoning. Program techniques are designed to teach youths how to control their angry impulses and take perspectives other than their own. The main goal is to reduce aggression and violence among youths by providing them with opportunities to learn prosocial skills in place of aggressive behavior.

Girls Moving On

Girls Moving On is a gender-informed cognitive-behavioral program for at-risk girls between the ages of 12 to 21 years. Girls Moving On is a comprehensive program that uses a number of complementary approaches, such as relational theory, motivational interviewing, and cognitive-behavioral intervention. The program is designed to provide girls and young women with alternatives to criminal activity by assisting them to identify and mobilize personal and community resources. Girls Moving On consists of seven modules: two are delivered in an individual basis and five are delivered in a group-based setting.

Just Beginning

A structured visitation program designed specifically for young noncustodial fathers, particularly those in juvenile or criminal justice facilities with the goals of building and strengthening the relationship between father and child.

Cognitive Behavioral Interventions - Core Youth (CBI - CY)

This curriculum is designed to provide a thorough intervention that broadly targets all criminogenic needs for juvenile populations. Relies on a cognitive- behavioral approach to teach individuals strategies to manage risk factors in a way that is developmentally appropriate for youth. The program places heavy emphasis on skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development. Additionally, it provides modifications so that youth with mental illness can participate, though it is not dedicated exclusively to this population.

Triple P Parenting

Provides 17 core parenting strategies/skills that promote children's development by creating positive relationships & teaching new skills & behaviors.

Supportive Virtual Family Time Program

Designed to create structure, guidance, and training for those supervising virtual parent-child visits, with the goal of helping them facilitate positive remote supervised visits between parents and their children in out-of-home care. Geared toward both private agency supervised visitation providers as well as caseworkers who will be supervising these virtual visits.

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))

The Sonoma County Probation Department will apply a portion of grant funding toward acquisition and utilization of community based providers to secure community based programming for youth transitioning home or to an alternative placement, career technical education/training programs, and Mentoring services. We also intend to supplement currently funded programs such as our ICM Program, Mental Health services, and trauma/counseling services.

As previously noted, the ICM Program will serve probationers and families in a strengths-based, family-centered, and culturally competent manner. Career Training Programs will serve at risk youth ages 16 to 24, and will target career and educational goals, and assist in facilitating employment. Trauma counseling services will be offered to youth and families who have an identified need beyond services already available to them (either through private insurance or probation referrals). All of these services will be selected through a Request for Proposals process, and will be available in the community and within the facility.

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))

It is the intent of the Sonoma County Probation to house all youth within our jurisdiction in the secured setting of the Juvenile Hall, who are received for commitment (in accordance with SB 823) and to house this population within the facility through use of a classification system, direct supervision model, and services targeted to address individual needs of the residents. In most cases, male and female commitments will be housed separately; however, residents may be housed in various units throughout the facility given the resident's needs or any need due to overall safety and security of the facility. Residents will be assessed using the Positive Achievement and Change Tool (PACT), and the Residential Positive Achievement and Change Tool (R-PACT). The R-PACT fits the unique needs of a residential setting, and elicits more specific, relevant information that will assist in developing intervention strategies for youth committed to juvenile hall. Additional risk assessment tools may also be utilized as appropriate, and Sonoma County Juvenile Hall will follow accepted juvenile justice best practices. Case management and supervision for these residents begins at the process of commitment with a review or completion of a risk and needs assessment; the development, implementation and monitoring of an individual rehabilitation plan; use of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral interventions; application of structured evidence based practices such as "CCP" (Core Correctional Practices); and imposition of appropriate sanctions and the use of incentives for positive behavior and change, as a means of holding residents accountable and improving outcomes. Individual rehabilitation planning and supervision practices for committed residents address key issues such as risk, responsivity, competency development, reparation of harm, community protection, family dynamics, adolescent development, and services to address criminogenic needs. These goals will be attained by adhering to the following objectives:

Adhering to individual rehabilitative planning and commitment/supervision practices that address risk, need and responsivity; providing youth with appropriate treatment services based on identified criminogenic needs; and facilitating community safety through containment of youth committed for violations of crimes specified in 707(b) of the WIC.

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))

SB 823 clearly affirms that justice system-involved youth are more successful when they remain connected to their families and communities. Justice system-involved youth who remain in their communities have lower recidivism rates and are more prepared for their transition back into the community. The Sonoma County Probation Department plans to facilitate the retention of the target population by providing a safe and secure facility that promotes and provides rehabilitative treatment designed to reduce recidivism; provide opportunities to address personal, social, physical, mental health, educational, career technical training, and independent living needs; and prepare them for a successful re-entry to their communities. A key component of successful re-entry is ensuring that justice-involved youth are housed closer to their families and within their communities while they receive age-appropriate treatment, and allowing the family to engage in treatment concurrently. Family and pro-social community ties play a large role in rehabilitation planning for each resident.

The Sonoma County Probation Department currently utilizes evidence-based and promising practices and programs that improve the outcomes of youth and public safety. This is an important step in our attempts to reduce the transfer of youth into the adult criminal justice system. By applying appropriate and individualized preventative services and programming to fidelity, and ensuring that disposition recommendations are considered in the least restrictive appropriate environment, we hope to reduce recidivism and continue to serve youth within the juvenile justice system. With the addition of commitment programs within juvenile hall that target a variety of needs and risk levels we believe we can reduce the need for transfer to the adult criminal justice system.

Part 7: Regional Effort

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

The Sonoma County Probation Department has the capacity to offer our facility and programming to other Counties wishing to send their realigned youth to our County. In order to support the intent of SB 823, Sonoma County will only accept youth from the Bay Area or Northern California, keeping other county youth as close to their natural supports as possible. We will contract with these counties through cooperative agreements and provide them with written material and brochures describing the programming offered. As with our own county youth, we will work with out-of-county youth on ensuring connections to family and natural supports as well as closely working with the other Probation Departments to ensure a smooth re-entry plan is in place. We will be investing in technology to support these youth with connections to their communities.

Part 8: Data

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

Data collection for program performance will use the Sonoma County Probation Department’s data information systems as well as data from community based Organizations in accordance with performance reporting requirements in contracts.

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

Outcome measures will include recidivism, entry into the Adult justice system, measures of racial and gender equity, and changes in thinking, skills, and connection to supports for reentry and independent living. Recidivism is defined as a new delinquency or criminal/delinquency referral, petition/complaint, or adjudication/conviction during years one, two and three after release from the Secure Youth Treatment Facility. Entry into the Adult system includes youth entering the adult system for a new crime occurring after turning 18 years of age, and (reported separately) youth transferred to the adult criminal justice system under 707(b) of the WIC. Measures of racial and gender equity include comparisons of the experiences at key decision points broken out by race and gender. Changes in thinking, skills and connection to supports will be measured for individual interventions, where applicable, using measurement tools specific to the intervention models.