

**Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant  
Addendum to Fiscal Year 21/22 Annual Plan**

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## Identifying the target population

In the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, there were 71, 63, and 37, respectively, distinct juveniles who were adjudicated that received at least one disposition for a 707(b) offense. The average number of juveniles adjudicated that received at least one disposition for a 707(b) offense from 2019 through 2021 is 57, with an average percent decline of 26.3% per year. Since 2019, the population has declined by 47.9% as of 2021. The figures and tables below show the breakdown of the above population by ethnicity and gender per year.

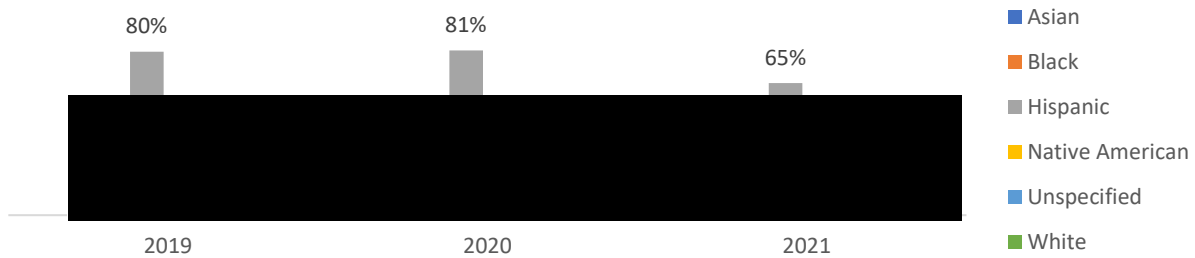
*Table 1. Total Number of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition for a 707(b) Offense by Ethnicity per Year*

| <b>Ethnicity</b>   | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Asian              | 0           | ■           | ■           |
| Black              | ■           | ■           | ■           |
| Hispanic           | 57          | 51          | 24          |
| Native American    | 0           | ■           | ■           |
| White              | ■           | ■           | ■           |
| Unspecified        | 0           | ■           | 0           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>71</b>   | <b>63</b>   | <b>37</b>   |

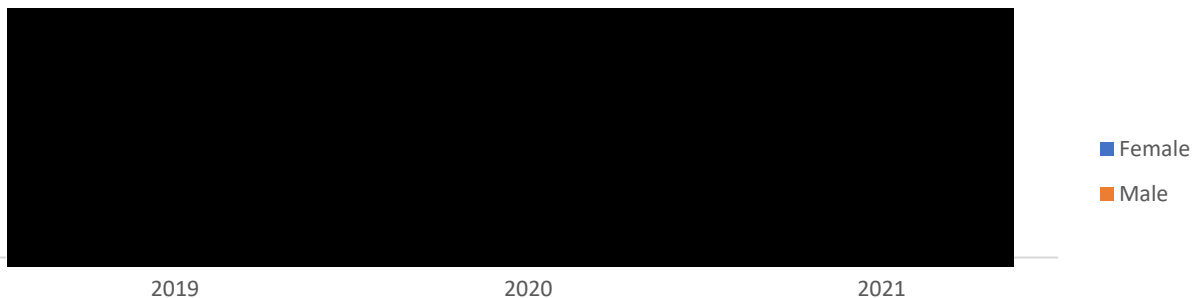
*Table 2. Total Number of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition for a 707(b) Offense by Gender per Year*

| <b>Gender</b>      | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Female             | ■           | ■           | ■           |
| Male               | ■           | ■           | ■           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>71</b>   | <b>63</b>   | <b>37</b>   |

*Figure 1. Total % of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition for a 707(b) Offense by Ethnicity per Year*



*Figure 2. Total % of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition for a 707(b) Offense by Gender*



The trends observed above are not exclusive to the 707(b) population; however, the overall number of juveniles that have been adjudicated that received at least one disposition for any type of offense have been decreasing for the past ten years (see Figure 3). It is notable, too, that the percent distribution, in respect to ethnicity, of the 707(b)-population shifted in 2021. The percent makeup of the 707(b)-population consisting of Hispanic went down by 16%; whereas Black and White 707(b) population went up by 11% and 5% respectively in comparison to percent distribution in 2020. In addition to demographic breakdown, Table 3 and Figure 4 below show the dispositions received by juveniles adjudicated for 707(b) offenses per year and percent distribution.

Figure 3. Total Number of Youth Adjudicated that Received at Least One Disposition for Any Type of Offense

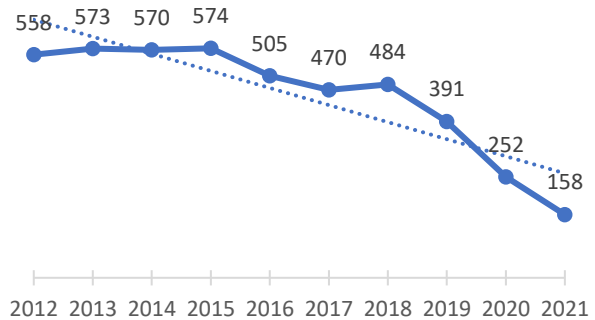
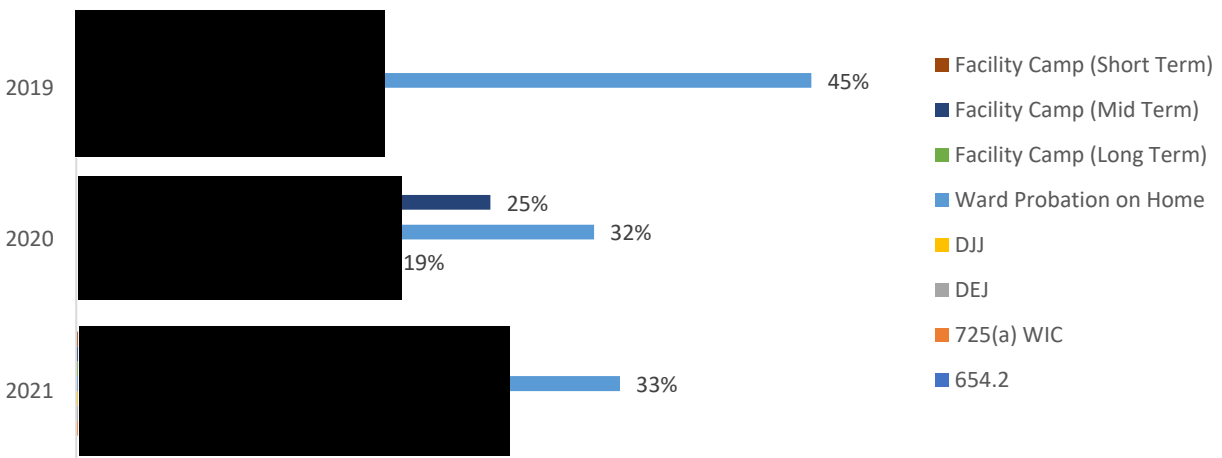


Table 3. Dispositions Received by Juveniles Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses per Year

| Disposition                | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 654.2                      | █         | █         | 0         |
| 725(a) WIC                 | █         | █         | █         |
| DEJ                        | █         | 12        | █         |
| DJJ                        | █         | █         | █         |
| Ward Probation on Home     | 32        | 20        | 12        |
| Facility Camp (Long Term)  | █         | █         | █         |
| Facility Camp (Mid Term)   | █         | 16        | █         |
| Facility Camp (Short Term) | █         | █         | █         |
| <b>Grand Total*</b>        | <b>71</b> | <b>63</b> | <b>36</b> |

\*Grand total reflects distinct number of youths, not total number of dispositions as a youth may receive more than one type of disposition

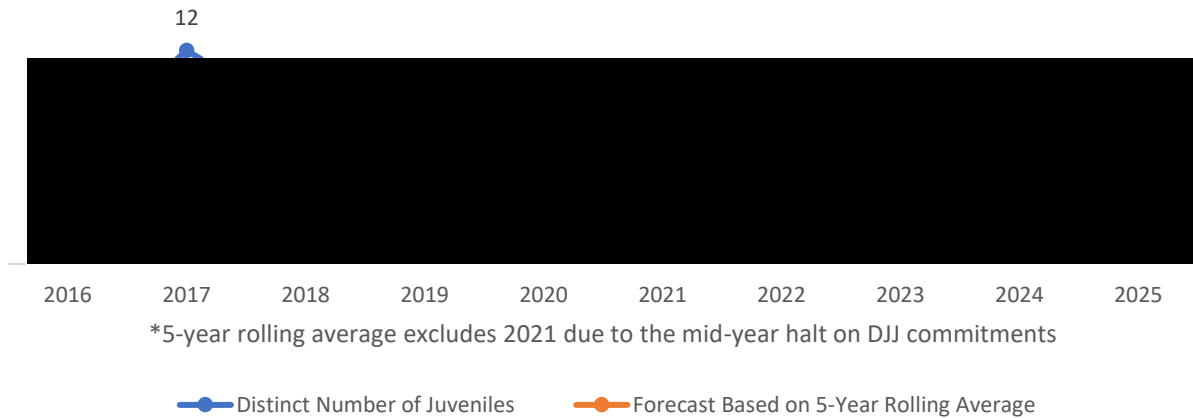
Figure 4. Dispositions Received\* by Juveniles Adjudicated for 707(b) Offenses per Year



\*It should be noted that a juvenile may receive more than one disposition in any given year (i.e., total number of dispositions may not equal total number of juveniles)

Of the distinct juveniles adjudicated that received at least one disposition for a 707(b) offense in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, there were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] youth that received a disposition for a DJJ commitment. The average number of juveniles that received a disposition for a DJJ commitment between 2019 and 2020 is 8, with a percent decline of 22.2%.<sup>1</sup> Figure 5 below shows the distinct number of juveniles that received a disposition for a DJJ commitment from 2016 to 2021 along with a 4-year forecast based on a 5-year rolling average.

Figure 5. Total Number of Juveniles That Received a DJJ Disposition from 2016 to 2021 and a 4-year Forecast Based on a 5-Year Rolling Average\* for Years 2022 to 2025



Of the DJJ population from 2019 to 2021, it is of note that the population is exclusively comprised of males. Though the population size is relatively small, it is also of note that the percent distribution in respect to ethnicity has shifted in 2020 in comparison to 2019; a 32% decrease is observed in the percent makeup of Hispanics who have received a disposition of DJJ commitment from 2019 to 2020 whereas there was a 17% increase in percent makeup of Blacks from 2019 to 2020. The figures and tables below show the demographic breakdown of DJJ population from 2019 to 2021.

Table 4. Total Number of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition of DJJ Commitment by Ethnicity per Year

| <b>Ethnicity</b>   | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Black</i>       | █           | █           | █           |
| <i>Hispanic</i>    | █           | █           | █           |
| <i>White</i>       | 0           | █           | 0           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | █           | █           | █           |

Table 5. Total Number of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition of DJJ Commitment by Gender per Year

| <b>Gender</b>      | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>Male</i>        | █           | █           | █           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | █           | █           | █           |

<sup>1</sup> Calculated averages and percent decline exclude the 2021 cohort as DJJ commitment was halted halfway through 2021

Figure 6. Total Number of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition of DJJ Commitment by Ethnicity per Year

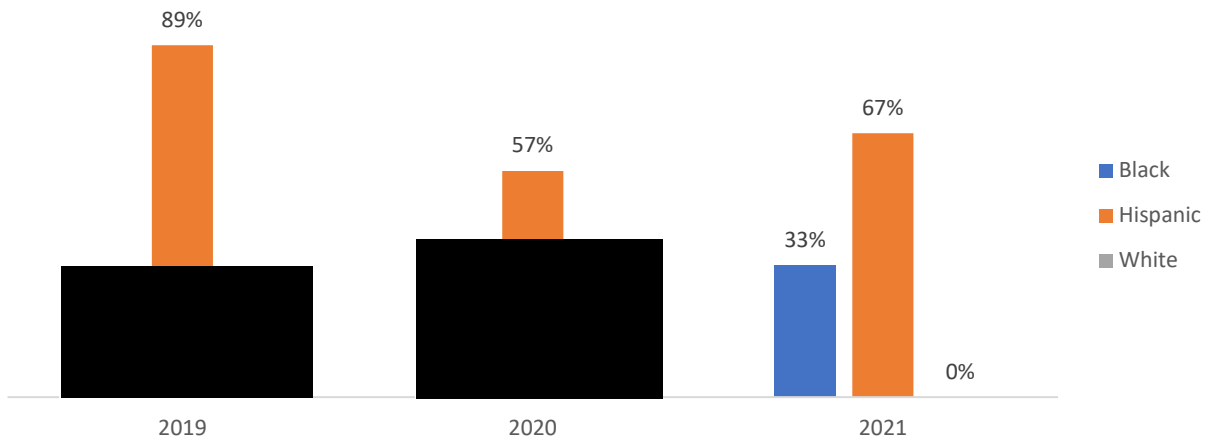
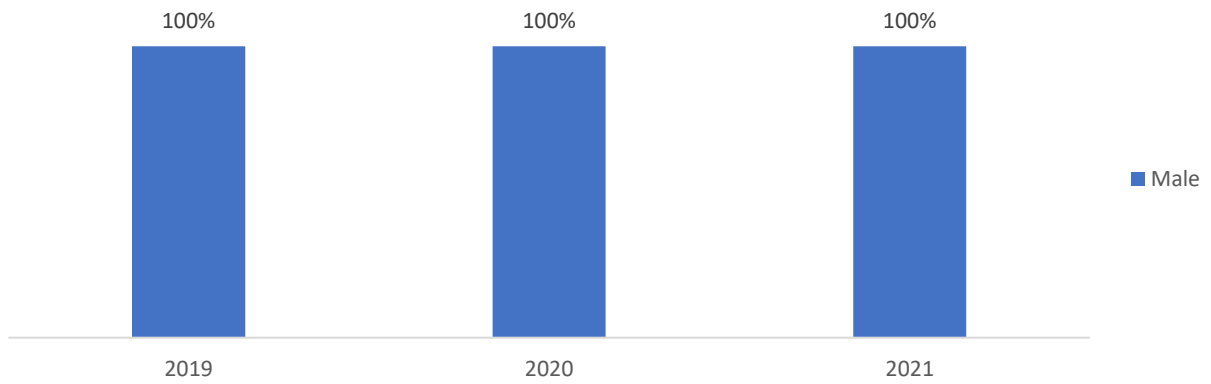


Figure 7. Total Number of Youth Adjudicated that Received a Disposition of DJJ Commitment by Gender per Year



## **All improvements (facility-wide) included to enhance the program for this population**

Since completion and submittal of the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan on December 31, 2021, the Tulare County Probation Department has procured a contract with Phoenix House to provide the Mental Health Services (MHS) Program to the target population (youth) in Tulare County. The curricula in the MHS Program will provide tailored services to address specific needs and youth enrolled in this program will receive services from eighteen (18) months to two (2) years.

The Phoenix House MHS Program will provide the following curricula for in-custody youth:

- A New Direction: Criminal & Addictive Thinking and Introduction to Treatment
- CBT with Justice-Involved Participants
- DBT Skills Training Handouts and Worksheets
- Helping Men Recover
- Living in Balance
- Moral Recognition Therapy
- TCU Disease Risk Reduction Waysafe Intervention
- TCU Getting Motivated for Change
- TCU Straight Ahead – Transition Skills for Recovery
- TCU Treatment Readiness and Induction Program (TRIP)
- Seeking Safety
- Victim Impact

Additionally, The Tulare County Probation Department recently created four new positions to support programming services within the facility, these include: one (1) Probation Programs Specialist Supervisor; two (2) Probation Programs Specialists; and one (1) Probation Vocational Education Instructor. The individuals in these positions will oversee programs and education offered to youth and ensure program fidelity. The Probation Programs Specialist Supervisor has been hired and measures are in place to hire the Probation Programs Specialists and Probation Vocational Education Instructor.

The Probation Programs Specialist Supervisor will provide supervision and training for the Probation Programs Specialists and the Probation Vocational Education Instructor. The duties of the Probation Programs Specialist Supervisor include but are not limited to monitoring program compliance; maintaining data and preparing reports that demonstrate program effectiveness; and serving as a liaison between service providers and Probation staff.

Probation Programs Specialists are charged with collecting and evaluating program information and making recommendations for program improvements and effectiveness. The duties of the Probation Programs Specialists may include assisting youth with program services and providing information to youth and their families; observing, evaluating, and reporting the conduct, needs, and progress of youth; developing educational and vocational materials; supervising and instructing an assigned group of youth in a variety of recreational activities; reporting any behavioral or emotional issues observed to supervising staff; and assisting with the preparation of the youth's release plan, which includes making recommendations and referrals to various vocational, educational, employment, and counseling services available in the community.

The Probation Vocational Education Instructor is responsible for assisting youth under the care of the Tulare County Probation Department with obtaining training, education, and skills set in various vocational trades. The duties of the Probation Vocational Education Instructor include providing supervision and instruction to youth in various vocational trades including Building Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Landscaping and Gardening, Office Machine Repair, Household Appliance Repair, Computer and Related Technologies, Mill and Cabinet Work, Plumbing, and Printing Graphic Arts; organizing and conducting training sessions and workshops on basic vocational trade practices and safety in the workplace; completing and providing quarterly reports that highlight the youth's significant achievements; developing training/workshop curricula and hands-on lesson plans; maintaining records of assignments completed, grades obtained, and performance records on all participating youth.

Furthermore, infrastructure improvements will include extending our secure fence around approximately three (3) acres of land connecting the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) (where the youth housing units are located) to our Vocational Education Building and to our Probation Connections – North facility. The interior of the fenced area will provide a secure environment for youth to engage in recreational activities, visits, and/or for therapists to use during therapy sessions when appropriate. Examples of amenities that the fenced area will offer include walking trails, shaded seating areas, benches, and picnic tables. Providing youth with outdoor recreational activities can facilitate improved cognitive and physical health as outdoor recreation provides psychological benefits including reduced stress, improved self-esteem, and increased social engagement with peers and physical benefits including cardiovascular and muscular fitness and improved immune system. In addition, outdoor visits can help to promote family reunification as an outdoor, open environment offers more of a natural “home-like” setting in comparison to a detention facility. Likewise, allowing counseling services to be conducted in an outdoor, less restrictive setting is expected to be more conducive to promoting open dialogue between the youth and the therapist. In addition, a garden area will be added as an extension to the vocational education building that can be used for recreational purposes and/or for youth to learn about horticulture.

Following the opening of our Probation Connections Office, adjacent to our Probation Headquarters Office, we were able to better envision how additional resources would be added to our rural communities. Due to the decrease in our youth population and the location of our detention facilities, it was decided to repurpose our Youth Facility to become Probation Connections – North. This facility will be utilized by community-based organizations and other county departments to provide the additional resources that are needed in our rural areas. Resources will include, but not be limited to, better access to individual counseling services, family counseling services, drug and alcohol programs, job readiness programs, and housing assistance. Aside from being able to provide these resources the facility will increase better collaboration between providers, as they will be utilizing the same space to provide services. These services will provide the assistance and support needed to successfully transition a youth from the custodial setting to the community.

A portion of Probation Connections – North will be used to expand the vocational education program. The section that will be used as the expanded vocational education building will include two large areas that can be utilized as classrooms and provide future growth, as additional trades are identified to be a viable option for our youth.

Additional space will be allocated to serve as a training room to provide Probation Staff with the needed training to best provide care for the youth. Some of the training that will be provided include, but are not limited, to Verbal De-Escalation, Cultural Competence, Emotional Intelligence, PREA, Motivational Interviewing, and Mental Health First Aid for youth. Providing a dedicated space for training will enhance our training program and provide the staff the best learning environment, to properly absorb the material and subsequently, provide the best quality of care to the youth.

**If a regional facility will be used, how will family engagement and reunification be incorporated.**

In the event an unanticipated need to utilize a Regional Hub arises, the Probation Department will verify the programs and services the Regional Hub offers to ensure that there are services that adequately align with the needs of any youth who would be sent.

A Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) is assigned to our Program Unit and is responsible for working collaboratively to coordinate the development of a release plan, which involves regularly meeting with the youth's family to be aware of all family dynamics. Additionally, multidisciplinary team meetings are conducted to ensure that all stakeholders, including family members, who are working with the youth are involved and have the opportunity to assist with the development of the release plan.

The DPO assigned to the Program Unit also has the responsibility to ensure that any youth placed at a regional facility continue to receive services, including basic needs (adequate food, shelter, clothing, etc.), counseling services, and family reunification services, at the regional facility that best transition the youth from the regional facility to their environment.

One of the anticipated barriers to the use of a regional center is the distance away from the youth's family and the family's ability to continually attend in-person visits, family counseling sessions, and any other family events that the regional facility would be hosting. In order to combat this potential barrier, the Department will look into viable options to assist the family. These options may include, but are not limited to, providing transportation for the family, or offering gas cards and/or bus passes. Additionally, the DPO assigned to the Program Unit will work with the Regional Hub to relay these types of barriers and attempt to coordinate visiting hours or family counseling sessions best to meet the needs of the family and the youth.

**Classifications systems that will ensure appropriate housing for the target population (SYTF)**

The Tulare County Probation Department utilizes the Caseload Explorer (CLE) case management system to maintain data that can be used to ensure appropriate housing of the target population (youth). It is the policy of the Department to assure that the classification process is ongoing and at the least restrictive level.

Examples of data entered into the CLE case management system that can be extracted and used to consider and ascertain what classifications are appropriate for youth at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) include:

- Charges
- 707(b) offenses
- Gang involvement
- Assaultive behaviors
- Severity of offense(s)



- Criminal sophistication level and/or behavior
- Demographics – age, gender, etc.
- Behavioral health needs
- Specialized counseling and or service needs

Institution Supervisors and other supervisory staff use the aforementioned data to determine housing assignments of youth to ensure appropriate classification. In addition, Institution Supervisors evaluate the current housing classification of each youth on a weekly basis to ensure that the classification is appropriate and to make any necessary adjustments.