

Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

Date: 11/9/2021

County Name: Ventura

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Background and Instructions:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) (WIC) 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))

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

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Mark Varela	Mark.Varela@Ventura.org	(805) 654-2100
District Attorney's Office Representative	Maureen Byrne	Maureen.Byrne@Ventura.org	(805) 981-5861
Public Defender's Office Representative	Claudia Bautista	Claudia.Bautista@Ventura.org	(805) 477-7130
Department of Social Services Representative	Judy Webber	Judy.Webber@Ventura.org	(805) 477-5311
Department of Mental Health	Dr. Sevet Johnson	Sevet.Johnson@Ventura.org	(805) 981-2214
Office of Education Representative	Dr. Cesar Morales	Cemorales@vcoe.org	(805) 383-1921
Court Representative	Judge Manuel Covarrubias	Manuel.Covarrubias@Ventura.Courts.ca.gov	(805) 289-8823
Community Member	Dwight Thompson	Dwight4homes@gmail.com	(805) 479-6555
Community Member	Sal Flores	F.Sal15@yahoo.com	(805) 651-8647
Community Member	Gabe Teran	GabeTeran805@gmail.com	(805) 890-9903

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

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

The target population consists of youth who have been declared a 602 WIC ward, have committed a 707(b) offense, and are under the age of 25. Currently, the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities have 10 youth in its custody and care that are eligible for the program if committed.

2) Briefly describe demographics of identified target population, including anticipated numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including age, gender, race or ethnicity, and offense/offense history:

Of the [redacted]-program eligible youth, [redacted] are Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ([redacted] male and [redacted] female) and range in age from 18-21. [redacted] are younger youth (all male) and their ages range from 16-17. [redacted] Hispanic and [redacted] African American. They are all pending 707(b) WIC Code offenses. The [redacted] female youth are pending charges for 187(a) PC & 211 PC. [redacted] of the TAY males are pending charges for 187(a) PC and the [redacted] are pending charges for 211 PC and 246 PC. [redacted] of the youth are pending charges for 211 PC and the [redacted] are pending charges for 664/187(a) PC and 245(a) PC.

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

Youth/TAY residents, and their respective families, in this program will receive all programming and services at the Juvenile Facilities and/or locally based programs available in the community. Treatment and programming will be through a multi-disciplinary approach, age-appropriate based on adolescent brain science, trauma-informed, culturally proficient, and family focused-youth centered. Assessments, case plans, and services provided will be strength-based culturally sensitive, individualized, and tailored to meet the needs of the Youth/TAY residents.

Contracted service providers working with this population will have demonstrated training and knowledge in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including awareness and self-monitoring of implicit bias towards race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, and sexual identity, preferences, and socio-economic status. Providers with knowledge of adolescent brain development and trauma informed care will be sought when incorporating new programs.

Prior to assuming any responsibilities for Youth/TAY residents, supervision staff members shall be properly oriented to their duties and receive a minimum of 80 hours of facility-specific on-the-job training. Prior to assuming sole supervision of Youth/TAY residents, each supervision staff member completes the requirements of the Juvenile Corrections Officer Core Course. Prior to exercising the powers of a peace officer, supervision staff successfully complete training pursuant to Section 830 et seq. of the Penal Code. Supervision staff are required to review all policies related to the Juvenile Facilities, the Rights of the youth, and all Title 15 Regulations. We recognize that our supervision staff need to be informed and up to date on cultural, racial, ethnic and gender diversity. In addition, to their initial Core training, they will receive the following training:

- Cultural, Racial, Ethnic, Gender Diversity considerations, and how they have been impacted by systemic historical, social, and political discriminatory practices.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Discrimination Prevention, including but not limited to Awareness and Avoidance of Implicit Bias decision making practices.
- The Importance of Family and Community Engagement
- Professionalism & Ethics
- Medical and Mental Health Issues in Custody
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- First aid, CPR and AED
- Motivational Interviewing
- Trauma-informed Care
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (Identification, Awareness, & engaging youth)

- Indicators of Child Abuse
- Indicators of Substance Abuse
- Case Planning
- Safety/Health Standards and Procedures
- Crisis Intervention
- Fire and Life Safety

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

- 1) 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 Ventura County Juvenile Facilities complex sits on a 45-acre parcel in an unincorporated area of the county near the community of El Rio and was completed in 2003. The total capacity of the facility is 420 male and female youth. The detention component houses up to 240 and the commitment component houses up to 180. The housing units are based on the “new generation” pod design. In addition to the housing components, the Juvenile Facilities includes outdoor recreation areas for both detention and commitment programs, a multi-purpose gymnasium/technology training center, a visiting center, an intake/community confinement booking area, classrooms, program and facility administration offices, and kitchen and laundry services.

Youth under our care are provided with constructive, approved curriculums that offer individual and group activities as well as the following programs within the facilities:

Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE):

- **Providence Court School** is a Full-Service Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accredited High School. During the 2018-19 academic year, Providence Court School and Gateway Community School conducted a WASC review. From August 2018 to March 2019, the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) Court and Community Schools thoroughly reviewed their programs through a self-study process. April 29 to May 1, 2019 the WASC Committee visited both campuses. As a result, Providence and Gateway schools received a 6-year accreditation. This accreditation validates the integrity and quality of our program. All courses necessary for high school graduation are provided through on-site classes or independent study (on-line or bookwork). Every student is provided information on post-secondary opportunities through individual counseling upon entrance to the facility. Providence staff engage with the youth’s parents on Wednesdays for Parent-Connect to allow time for them to ask questions and/or discuss an Individual Education Plan (IEP) prior to their visit with their son/daughter. Parents are also invited to the facility to attend the youth’s graduation.
- **Individual Academic Counseling** is provided to each student. Upon enrollment, the Providence School Counselor meets with each student, reviews transcripts, and determines the courses that they need to graduate from high school. Each student is then placed in needed classes. Students are issued partial or full credit as applicable.

- **Reading and Math Assessments** are conducted upon entry using the STAR reading and STAR math assessment tools. These assessments identify student academic performance levels in reading and math. The results inform teaching staff on the students' instructional needs. Students who are in the facility for at least three months will retake the assessments after that time, to measure growth.
- **English Learner Support** is provided as needed. Student's initial language classification is housed on the state data system website. Upon enrollment, the Providence office manager accesses each student's language proficiency status by going onto the state data system website, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). While in class, teachers provide extra support to English learners to ensure that they have access to the content presented (integrated ELD). In addition, teachers work with students individually to help them further develop their English proficiency (designated ELD).
- **Special Education** students receive required special education services to ensure academic success. Parents are often contacted to review any changes or progress to the youth's IEP.
- **High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)** is given to on-site students who participate in test preparation. HiSET preparation is provided by the Providence HiSET Coach. The school counselor reviews transcripts and determines whether preparing, taking, and passing the HiSET would be a viable option for the student.
- **College and Career Readiness Classes** are offered by Providence Court School in a course called, *"Get Focused, Stay Focused!"* This class, which is provided five days a week, helps students meet California graduation requirements. Students create concrete step-by-step plans that will enable them to materialize their 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year goals and vision for their future. This dynamic curriculum enables students to develop a personal profile, examine the costs of their preferred future lifestyle, select and research an ideal career, identify detours and roadblocks, assess skills, and eventually begin a job search. Students work on decision making, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.
- **Providence Scholars Program** provides students with the opportunity to enroll in and attend online classes at their local community college, either Oxnard College, Moorpark College, or Ventura College. This program is offered to all graduates and is designed to give students the opportunity to learn about college and career prospects. Additionally, the Oxnard College Foundation developed a scholarship program to help students who are enrolled in both high school and college classes concurrently. They have awarded laptops to students so that they can use them once they leave the facility.
- **College Mentor Program** involves mentors from local colleges who meet with our Providence Scholars twice a month to ensure college success and support them in achieving their one-year, five-year and ten-year goals, and working towards obtaining self-actualization.

- **Landscaping** training is provided by a certified teacher from Ventura County Office of Education. The youth learn to cultivate fruits, vegetables, and a variety of other plants.
- **Guest Speakers Program** consists of representatives from the local community colleges who present to classes at Providence Court School regarding the available programs and career pathways. Speakers also present to students about available financial aid opportunities. Community members from diverse career paths present to students as well (e.g., nursing, auto-mechanics, actors, theater set-designers, etc.).
- **Transition Back to Home School of Residence** provides guidance and support to students to ensure a smooth transition back to their home school of residence. Annually, English learners take the English Learner Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). All English learners who are attending Providence during the state testing window take the test.

Ventura County Behavior Health (VCBH):

VCBH provides risk assessment, crisis intervention, treatment planning, psychiatry, medication support, and release planning with care coordination to youth at the facility. They also administer individual, group, and family therapy sessions.

- **Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)** uses a cognitive-behavioral approach and fosters moral development in treatment-resistant clients through education, group counseling, and structured exercises. Moral Reconciliation Therapy outcome studies show a reduction in the recidivism rate of offenders 30%-50% for periods up to 20 years after release. Re-arrest and re-incarceration rates can be up to 65% lower than expected. The group is led by two Ventura County Behavioral Health MRT trained facilitators and the group members complete 12 steps in a weekly group process until completion of the 12 steps.
- **Aggression Replacement Training (ART)** is a research-based, proven-effective approach for working with challenging youth. It is a cognitive behavioral intervention program to help youth improve social skill competence and moral reasoning, better manage anger, and reduce aggressive behavior. The program consists of 10 weeks (30 sessions) of intervention training and is divided into three components: Social Skills Training, Anger Control, and Moral Reasoning.
- **Word on the Street** curriculum educates, equips, and empowers youth with the tools needed to prevent them from unknowingly becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Forever Found mentors talk weekly with their assigned youth and transition with them into the community for support. They implement awareness program within the community and provide support to our population providing them with information about the warning signs of exploitation and how to report them effectively.
- **Reins of H.O.P.E** allows youth to participate in a weekly program with miniature horses. Ventura County Behavioral Health collaborates with Reins of Hope in selecting youth who would benefit from equine assisted psychotherapy (EAP). EAP addresses a variety of

mental health and human development issues such as Behavioral Issues, Depression, Anxiety, Substance Use, PTSD and Sexual Trauma among the youth. There is typically a female group, a male group and family groups are also offered.

- **Substance Use Treatment Services (SUTS)** is a pre-treatment group using the Matrix program evidenced based practices to familiarize youth with the alcohol and drug program. Three groups are offered weekly to address substance use, stages of change, relapse prevention and planning. In addition, when released from custody, group members are transitioned to Substance Use Treatment Services in the community. SUTS provides assessments for committed youth and links them to services which includes scheduling appointments in their community when they are released.
- **Commitment Girls Group** is currently taught by Ventura County Behavioral Health. Clinicians address safety concerns with youth to decrease suicidality, substance use, letting go of dangerous relationships, reducing self-harming behaviors and ceasing behaviors that reenact past trauma. Group members also work on decreasing patterns of instability in emotional regulation, impulse control, interpersonal relationships, and self-image. This group incorporates skill-building activities of both Seeking Safety and/or Dialectical Behavior Therapy.
- **Co-occurring substance abuse and mental health treatment** is provided by Ventura County Behavioral Health. Youth are assessed at booking to determine if substance related issues are impacting their mental health needs. VCBH staff will provide clinical interventions to those who are experiencing one or both substance use and mental health issues. VCBH works collaboratively with probation and medical staff to stabilize youth in crisis including suicidal ideation, suicidal attempts, and severe disruptive or irrational behavior. VCBH assesses and initiates voluntary or involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations and coordinates care with psychiatric facilities while at the Juvenile Facility.
- **Educationally Related Social Emotion Services (ERSES)** is unique to this facility where emotionally disturbed youth with an Individualized Educational Plan can receive school based mental health services. We currently have five clinicians and one school-based therapist. In anticipation of our new population, we plan to add an additional therapist. We also expect an increase in the cost of medication for our new youth population and plan to implement a new suicide risk assessment tool.

Human Services Agency:

- **Specialized Training and Employment Program for Success-Youth (STEPS-Y)** has an employment specialist from the Human Services Agency who assists youth with one-on-one case management, career assessments, development of employment portfolios, job placement, and referrals to internships.

Wellpath:

- **Health Care Services** (Wellpath) for our youth is available onsite, 24-hours per day. Wellpath provides Health Education, Dental Care and Community Healthcare. Medical offices and examination rooms are on campus. Wellpath provides medical services under contract with the County. In addition, Community Vision Optometric provides Vision care and services to youth in the community.

Community Organization Services:

- **Alpha Leadership Program** (Women of Substance and Men of Honor) is a 13-week program and is offered to both our male and female youth. Topics cover Priorities and Goals, Individual Identification and Finances.
- **Healthy Lifestyles** (Women of Substance and Men of Honor) is a 10-week gender specific program and is offered separately to both our male and female population. Topics cover Boundaries, Diversity, Feelings, Friendships, Role Models, Hygiene, STDs, HIV, Sexual Assault, Date Rape Drugs and Protection
- **Sex Offender Treatment Program** (Anew Therapeutic Services) is a comprehensive program that consists of weekly individual therapy. The program offers a creative and interactive curriculum tailored to the individual youth. They work in collaboration with probation and the Court on client case management services.
- **Pawsitive Steps Dog Training Program** (Canine Adoption and Rescue League) provides a weekly group utilizing Restorative Justice Principles and practices in caring for the rescue dogs, training them, and working together with other youth to support the dog's transition back to the community.
- **Comprehensive, California Healthy Youth Act compliant sex education** (Planned Parenthood) is currently taught by Planned Parenthood. Topics include Self-Identity (gender identity and sexual orientation), Anatomy & Physiology, Healthy Relationships, Sexually Transmitted Infections 101, and Birth Control 101.
- **Ventura County Arts Council** provides art, poetry, and guitar classes. They have produced books with youth art and poetry and have completed three murals in the facility, two of which involved youth.
- **Radio broadcasting (107.9FM The Hall)** provides instruction on how to establish and maintain a localized radio station with a broadcasting radius that is limited to the grounds and buildings at the Juvenile Facilities. The Ventura County Arts Council in conjunction with CAPS Media plans to work with youth/TAYs to produce a show called Hall Talk. The goal for this partnership would be to create a workforce training experience for radio and TV.

- **Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard & Port Hueneme:** The Juvenile Facilities contains one of fourteen Boys and Girls Clubs, opened nationwide, within a detention facility. It is a Targeted Re-entry Program focusing on the development of programming for youth while in the facility with a goal of linking the youth to Boys and Girls Clubs in the community.
- **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Education and Mentoring** (Forever Found) is provided to our youth. They implement awareness programs, provide support and mentorship/advocacy to our youth. Warning signs are discussed as well as how to report them effectively. They are present at all Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings for youth identified as a concern for exploitation according to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT). Mentors talk weekly with their assigned youth and transition with them into the community for support.

Programming Conducted by Juvenile Facilities Staff Members:

- **Interactive journaling packets** are provided to the youth. They are evidenced based and address criminogenic needs. Topics covered over a three-month period include Substance Abuse Education, Reflections, Feelings and Relationships, Thinking, Values and Behaviors and Life Skills. The youth complete individual written packets while group discussion is guided by unit staff.
- **Paxton Patterson** (engine & construction) is also offered to our new target population. This program provides youth the opportunity to enhance their skills in construction to ultimately assist with obtaining employment upon release from custody.
- **New Beginnings** is a Parenting Program for teen parents to learn various parenting skills. Several parenting topics, such as language development, are discussed. The youth also can meet with their child (with guardian approval) to build a relationship and work on a family activity.
- **XLR8D Fitness Program** includes cardio, cross training, and education on nutrition.
- **JF Library Book Club Program** allows youth to read and discuss topics and issues discusses in a selected book. Youth will work on projects related to the significance of the book and will be required to present their interpretation and feelings of the book at the end of the program.
- **Music N' Society** provides opportunity for self-expression, growth and teaches the value of teamwork. This program provides youth the understanding of basic song structure and music theory utilizing guitar, drums, and bass. They explore lyrics, artists, and their contributions to society.
- **Futsal & Basketball** provide the youth opportunities to learn and play various sports.

- **American Prison Data Systems (APDS) Tablets** will offer individualized programming to our youth including online job and educational training. They can be utilized in conjunction with employment services to enhance the job application experience. The tablets also provide movies, addiction recovery, assistance with Reentry, financial literacy, anger management and the ability for video family visits.

Volunteers in Probation (VIP):

- **Religious Services** – Religious services from various denominations are offered to all youth in the facility.
- **Cross Training** – A program that focuses on heart conditioning (discovering beliefs and values), physical fitness (developing healthy bodies), social development (improving healthy relationships, spiritual development (promote spiritual discipline).

Per Senate Bill 92, within 30 days of making an order of commitment to a secure youth treatment facility, the Court shall receive, review, and approve an individual rehabilitation plan. This plan shall identify a youth’s needs in relation to treatment, education, and development, including any special needs the youth may have in relation to physical, mental, or emotional health, disabilities, or gender related or other special needs. The Court shall, during the term of commitment, schedule a progress review hearing for each Ward not less than once every six months.

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

1) 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.
- Promote healthy adolescent development for the target population (WIC 1995 (3) (B)).
- Address family engagement in programs for the target population (WIC 1995 (3) (C)).
- Address re-entry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population (WIC 1995 (3) (D)).
- Address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services for the target population (WIC 1995 (3) (E)).

Ventura County plans to apply grant funds to leverage and enhance existing practices and programming and create new practices, policies and services that promote healthy adolescent development of youth, through a strength-based, culturally proficient, trauma-informed, diversity, equity, and inclusion lens.

Targeted practices and programming to enhance and/or create include:

- 1) **Development of a Vocational & Career Center:** The targeted population will inherently have longer lengths of stay and will likely transition to a young adult while in the facility and upon release. We plan to convert a housing unit into a dedicated place to learn specific trades that leverage their strengths and have regional demand. Within the Vocational Center will be a functional Career Center for youth to assess and explore their strengths,

different trade certifications and career paths. We plan to work together with our Human Services Agency (HSA), Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), local Community Colleges and trade unions to develop the programs. We will also explore a partnership with Food Share to assist in operating the Senior Nutrition Garden and re-establish the Forklift Certification program.

We applied for and were awarded the one-time Youth Programs and Facilities Grant (YPFG) Program to apply to this endeavor. We plan to use grant funds for facility infrastructure needs and equipment, furniture, and computers for the Vocational Center.

- 2) **Mentorship Program**: We plan to use block grant funds to contract with a community-based organization to embed community mentors, with lived experience, within the facility to assist youth in every aspect of their stay in the facility: from detention, through their commitment and upon release. The mentors will engage youth daily to learn about their passions and goals and support them and their families to reach those goals while in the facility and with Probation and an Interface (pending grant) case manager through release and community reintegration. Because of their shared experience, they would be able to assist with easing anxiety and tension as they work through challenges and conflicts with this population. They would also play a pivotal role on the multi-disciplinary team that works with the youth and their families.

- 3) **Gang Intervention Program**: We plan to use block grant funds to contract with a community-based organization to deliver the (ARISE) gang program. ARISE is a six-week program that focuses on gang intervention and prevention. It is taught in a group setting, giving the participants experience listening to other viewpoints, voicing their thoughts and values, and working on team activities together. This program is evidence-based and will augment the facilities' cognitive behavioral programming that also addresses gang intervention. Engaging in an ARISE group teaches youth life skills such as communication, mediation and listening skills that they can apply in their daily lives. Lessons include:
 - Anger Management
 - Dropout Prevention
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention
 - Gun Awareness and Safety
 - Domestic and Sexual Abuse
 - How to Find a Job and Have a Successful Interview
 - How to Manage Money
 - Health and Hygiene
 - Tattoo Removal
 - How to end Gang Association Safely

- 4) **Reentry**: Several months prior to reentry, the multi-disciplinary team will coordinate with the Juvenile Services Division and parents to develop a transition plan. All aspects of the youth/TAY's transition will be captured in a reentry release plan. To ensure the youth/TAY is successful upon release, continued treatment services, job placement, transportation and

continued educational support will be incorporated into the reentry release plan. The continuum of care is vital for the success of our youth/TAYs who have some of the highest needs.

- 5) **Transitional Housing**: We will work with local CBOs and non-profits to expand housing opportunities for our youth/TAY populations who may not have stable housing prior to or upon release. We will also build off our partnerships with Human Services Agency and County Executive Office to leverage ongoing efforts within the County to address housing gaps and services. This Reentry service would be supported by case management services.
 - 6) **Facility Transformation to Campus Lifestyle**: Block Grant funds will be used to gradually convert housing units, common areas, and outside facilities to mimic a campus feel that promotes growth, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Probation will create an advisory team comprised of youth, community volunteers, local artists, and facility partners to develop a facility transitioning plan for a campus-style setting.
- 2) **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 195 (3) (F)):**

There are many community-based organizations contracted to provide services to this target youth/TAY population. Services and providers include:

- **Wellpath** – Health and Dental Care Services
- **Community Vision Optometric** – Community Vision Care
- **Women of Substance and Men of Honor (WOSMOH)** - Alpha Leadership Program and Healthy Lifestyles
- **Anew Therapeutic Services (ATS)** - Sex Offender Treatment Program
- **Canine Adoption and Rescue League (C.A.R.L.)** - Pawsitive Steps Dog Training Program
- **Planned Parenthood** - California Healthy Youth Act compliant sex education
- **Ventura County Arts Council** - Art, poetry, and guitar classes.
- **Ventura County Boys and Girls Club** – Operates onsite Boys & Girls Club
- **Forever Found** - CSEC Education and Mentoring

Interface Children and Family Services has applied for the **Second Chance Act Youth Offender Reentry Program** as well as **Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System** grants. If awarded, the Second Chance Program will assist with strength-based assessments of the youth/TAY population, assigning a case manager and provide comprehensive Reentry Services to the youth/TAY population before, during and after release from the facility. The gender specific programming will include direct services intended to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors for female youth/TAY residents at the Juvenile Facilities.

We have met with the Senior Nutritionist with the county's largest food bank, FOOD Share to develop a formal partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently being developed. This partnership will allow our youth/TAY residents to assist with planting, nurturing, and harvesting vegetables which are picked and sent to needy seniors throughout the county. The youth/TAY residents could also assist with irrigation, building planters and loading of food set for delivery to the community. We would also like to re-establish our forklift certification program through FOOD Share for our furlough eligible youth.

While we increase targeted programming for this population, we plan to use block grant funds to engage the community for these targeted services where appropriate through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Part 5: Facility Plan

- 1) 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)):

All youth in this target population will be housed at the Juvenile Facilities. They will have access to all commitment treatment and programming services offered at the facility. Secure Youth Treatment Facility Commitment youth/TAY residents will be initially housed in a secure single person room with their own bed and restroom facilities. The housing units are well lit, have high ceilings, an abundance of natural light, and an attached recreation area. Youth/TAY residents who maintain non-violent behavior towards other youth/TAY residents/staff, and who are engaged in programming, will be able to transfer to a less secure dormitory style housing unit on campus. All youth/TAY residents, despite housing units, will have access to common areas, unit recreation yards, gymnasium, vocational and career center, workout gym, Boys and Girls Club, library, Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR), and large recreation yards with basketball courts and a soccer field.

All youth/TAY residents will be assessed for appropriate housing. In general, younger youth (17 and younger) will be housed separately from the TAY population (18 and older), however, both populations will be assessed for appropriate housing. For example: A TAY resident who is finishing up high school, exhibits some immaturities and does not pose a danger to other residents, may be housed with the youth population. In general, female youth will be housed separately from the male youth. Due to staffing or security reasons, it may be necessary to have co-ed housing units at times. In general, secure housing commitments will be housed with regular commitments.

Facility transitioning plans to a campus style setting include, but are not limited to, carpet in the housing units, new furniture and paint color schemes, high school mascot and Providence Scholar's Program (college) branding on the gymnasium building, classrooms and courtyards, creation of a school facilitated ASB to give the youth/TAY residents a voice on campus activities, signage throughout the facility, and Information Display Monitors in each unit. Each committed youth/TAY will be issued their own tablet with targeted case management programming, the ability to self-program, watch movies, and play age-appropriate games. In addition, we will be converting a housing unit

into a Vocational and Career Center. The exterior grounds will also receive a campus like transformation with bench seating, a walking/running path, and potential work out stations and covered area(s). The details of these plans are not developed at this time, and the transformation will be incremental as funding is available.

An increase in supervision and programing staffing will be needed to deliver quality services safely. For security purposes, additional “no-climb” fencing in specific areas of the facility and an upgraded camera system will be necessary.

On Friday, June 11, 2021, the BSCC unanimously approved conditional funding for our grant application. Our County is eligible to receive a total of \$152,571.00.

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

- 1) 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)):

We plan to leverage existing programs and establish new programming and services to target the needs of this population and their families in a safe and positive environment. Youth/TAY residents in the facility will have the opportunity to choose multiple growth paths in which they would like to follow when they arrive. Some may choose a career path and would be able to spend time in the career center discovering their interests and talents and working with Steps-Y to apply for various jobs prior to release. They may also participate in our Paxton Patterson vocational training if interested in construction or engine repair. Some may choose to further their education and can participate in our Providence Scholars program, taking college courses while pursuing an AA/AS degree or trade certification. Coupled with one or more of the above paths, appropriate participants will have the opportunity to choose the path of mindfulness and recovery, working on themselves and their addictions in preparation for a community transition that includes sobriety and mental wellness.

With targeted, trauma-informed, and age-appropriate treatment/programming, a positive environment for growth, youth self-determination, and practices that are family focused and person centered, we will strive to reduce recidivism and promote healthy communities and family relationships with this population. We are committed to the fundamental principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all that we do including training, interactions with residents, partnerships with our facility service providers and members of the public who visit the JF. Beginning at admission and continuing throughout a youth/TAY’s stay with us, staff are trained to address them with their pronoun preference.

Part 7: Regional Effort

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

The County is in discussion with two neighboring counties (Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo) to create a tri-counties approach to managing this population. This may include the use of Los Prietos Boys Camp as a step-down facility for youth serving commitments in neighboring counties; youth referred for this option would be subject to meeting specified criteria set forth for this purpose, to engage in treatment and transitional programming in an open setting. In addition, the tri-counties approach would allow for youth who need a secure residential treatment environment but present with less imminent community safety risk, to be screened for the Coastal Valley Academy program in San Luis Obispo, and for youth/TAYs to serve their commitment in Ventura.

The plan will support state and regional efforts to offer targeted programs for youth/TAYs with specialized treatment needs and for out of county agencies to utilize any specialized programming offered at the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities.

Part 8: Data

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

Data will continue to be collected through the case management system by existing resources (Watch Commanders) at the facility and from service providers within the facility. To ensure the data collected is properly targeted and is evaluated in a meaningful and succinct way that allows for data-driven decision making and to be performance driven, we would seek to apply an analyst to oversee this process. Data will be measured and reviewed on a quarterly basis to determine if efforts need to be shifted if we are not meeting our performance measures and/or achieving our outcome goals.

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

Performance Measures:

- Number of youth/TAYs in program
- Number of multi-disciplinary case plans implemented within 30 days of commitment
- Programs and Services enrolled
- Programs and Services completed
- Number of multi-disciplinary community re-entry plans implemented within 60 days of release
- Community Re-entry programs and services referred upon release
- Community Re-entry programs and services enrolled 30 days upon release

Outcome Measures:

- Number of youth/TAY released with stable housing
- Number of youth/TAY released obtained employment within 90 days
- Number of youth/TAY continued education upon release
- Number of youth/TAY remaining in the community conviction-free for 12 months
- Number of youth/TAY remaining in the community conviction-free for 24 months