

# Fall News

## A Message from our Director

The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) continues to implement the mission and vision of SB 823 by strengthening our technical assistance (TA) team to share a diverse array of knowledge and expertise with our partners across California. Interested in learning more? Our list of TA subject areas<sup>[OBJ]</sup> and how to access our TA in the [OYCR Website](#).

In the last couple of months, OYCR has also conducted site visits to community-based organizations (CBOs) that are supporting their communities around the state. One of our goals this year is to visit as many Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs) and One Stop community centers as possible so that we can survey the landscape and help connect community organizations to county government partners.

The County Coordination Unit (CCU) staff remains actively engaged in supporting the Ombuds Helpline by handling complaint intakes. Their participation in various county meetings, including those in Monterey, LA, and Santa Barbara counties, demonstrates their commitment to collaboration and information-sharing.

Additionally, CCU will continue to attend county public meetings and meet with local CBOs. The foundation that this unit has built for OYCR is invaluable and we are benefitting from their steady presence and TA support at the local level. We are certain that we will continue to build a solid foundation that reflects a trauma informed, positive youth development intervention that focuses on restorative justice, healing, and youth success as our north star<sup>[OBJ]</sup>.



**Judge Katherine Lucero (ret.) Director**

Office of Youth and Community Restoration  
California Health and Human Services Agency

## Recent News

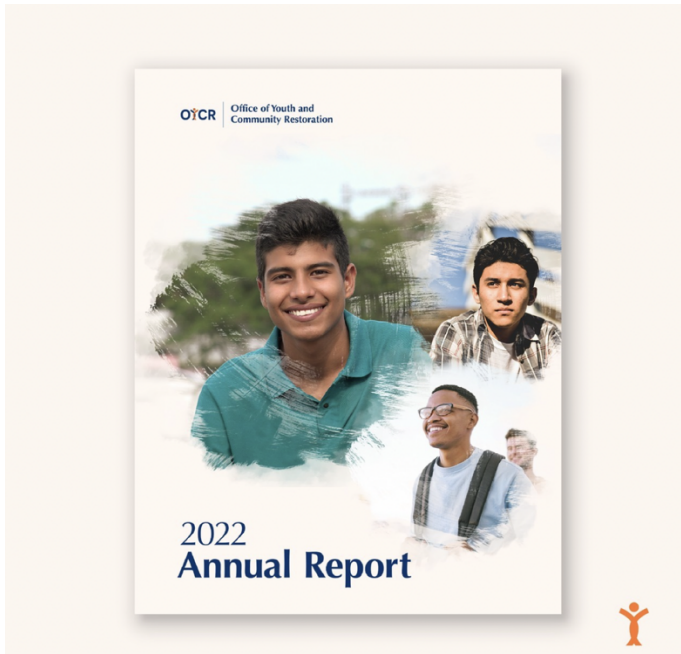
---



### **OYCR Launches Brand New Website!**

This fall, OYCR launched our new website. There, you can browse educational materials, job opportunities, and mental health resources as well as the latest

research and data that informs the work we do. Our site is also a hub for info on OYCR and upcoming programming and events. Check it out [the new OYCR Website](#).



## **2022 Annual Report is Here!**

OYCR is proud to share our 2022 Annual Report with you, showcasing the positive transformation of California’s youth justice system. We’ve developed this report as part of our commitment to transparency in our work. We hold a sincere belief that open communication and sharing expertise are essential elements for building a sustainable way forward for our justice-involved youth.

Born out of SB 823, OYCR has aimed to ensure that youth are given the care and support they need. This shift in state policy underscores our collective belief that

every youth who encounters the justice system has the potential to realize their dreams and make positive contributions to their communities.

This comprehensive report on our first full year of operation provides insights into our work and the progress we've made to contribute to safer communities and a more equitable juvenile justice system in California. It also looks forward to the goals we've set for the year ahead. Discover the [full report](#).

## **OYCR Technical Assistance Initiative: Imperial County Reaches 0 Girls Incarcerated**

Earlier this year, OYCR and Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) announced the four counties selected via a competitive process to participate in the Ending Girls' Incarceration through California's Action Network (the Action Network).

Imperial County has reached their goal of zero girls incarcerated. Through their participation in the Action Network, they committed themselves to implementing equitable policies and gender-responsive programming to immediately reduce girls' incarceration.

More information on girls' incarceration in California can be found on [Vera's website](#), where users can explore the data and compare their county to others across the state.



## Partnership with Sierra Health Empowers Communities to Support Youth

OYCR has launched a new technical assistance partnership, committing to invest \$3 million to strengthen community-based programs for youth.

This partnership with The Center at Sierra Health Foundation will build out community infrastructure and increase capacity at CBOs to better serve youth who are involved in the justice system.

Read more [in the OYCR Website](#).

### OYCR Ombuds

**Need assistance?** Live staff answer calls Monday-Friday from 8AM-5PM PT, and you can leave a message 24/7.

- Toll-free telephone number: 1(844)402-1880
- Physical mailing address: 1215 O Street, MS-08, Sacramento, CA 95814

- Email address: [OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov)

**New Ombudsperson:** OYCR is excited to announce the hiring of our new Ombudsperson — Alisa Hartz. She will transition into this role and lead the Ombudsperson Division as of January 15, 2024. Many of you have had the pleasure of working with Alisa as she is an existing member of OYCR's team as our Chief of Staff/Counsel, bringing a breadth of experience to this position both in her former professional roles, as counsel to the Ombudsperson Division and as an informal member of the team during our search for a new Ombudsperson.

OYCR would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Ahmed Nemr, Chief of the Ombudsperson Division, for his steadfast and dependable leadership in the division during our search. Mr. Nemr's many years of ombuds experience and his wide-ranging expertise will continue to add great value to the Ombudsperson Division as it reaches full staffing levels.

**Job Opportunity:** We are hiring a Staff Services Manager I in [Alameda](#).

**Youth Bill of Rights.** Together with a diverse group of stakeholders, OYCR developed a Youth Bill of Rights publication to inform youth of their rights. These publications are now FREE to counties and must be used to orient youth to their rights, and be posted in classrooms, living units, and visitation areas.

The OYCR Ombudsperson Division will be publishing an age-appropriate, youth-and family-friendly version of the Youth Bill of Rights for posting and distribution to youth in juvenile facilities in California. In the meantime, you can access [the temporary document](#).

# Events

## Positive Youth Justice Webinar

On Monday, November 6, OYCR hosted a zoom webinar alongside Dr. Jeffrey Butts, Director of the Research and Evaluation Center at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, about best practices for encouraging healthy youth development. You can find the [recording of this webinar](#).

## Breaking Barriers Integrated Care Symposium

From Tuesday, November 14, to Thursday, November 16, OYCR attended the Breaking Barriers Symposium in Sacramento. Breaking Barriers believes that in order to truly uplift California's youth and their families, unity and collaboration is paramount. We were honored to have attended and listened to such incredible speakers who share our collective goal of restorative youth justice through accountability and healing. Read more about the symposium [on the Breaking Barriers California Website](#).

---

# OYCR Team and Updates



**We're Hiring!**

## Active OYCR Recruitment Efforts

- Health Policy Division — OYCR is in the process of hiring a Health [Program Specialist I](#) and [Health Program Specialist II](#) in [Sacramento](#).

## OYCR Funding Opportunities

- [Less Restrictive Placement \(LRP\) Grant Invitation](#)

OYCR is currently accepting proposals from county probation departments and community partners who are innovating ways to assist youth in Secure Youth Treatment Facilities transition into less restrictive programs (LRP). OYCR will award grants on a flow basis until December 31, 2023.

## Partner Resources/Highlights

---

## **Grant Job Training for Youth with Justice Involvement: A Toolkit – National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC)**

The NYEC designed a toolkit directed at practitioners and leaders in the juvenile justice system and others with limited familiarity with the workforce development system. This toolkit outlines evidence-based practices in youth workforce development and provides an overview of the workforce system funded under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). It also makes recommendations for how to make WIOA-funded services work better for youth with justice involvement at the local level and lays out some key steps to forming effective interagency partnerships. Access the [toolkit PDF](#).



### **Young Women's Freedom Center**

For almost three decades, Young Women's Freedom Center has empowered young women and gender-expansive youth who have been involved in the justice system by providing quality mentorship, training, and employment opportunities. Youth who complete YWFC programs are 85% less likely to recidivate, and 90% of them maintain employment and reach their educational goals. Read more about YWFC and their incredible work [on the Young Woman Free website](#).



### **Youth Alliance**

By providing a continuum of support and clear leadership pathways, Youth Alliance empowers youth to effect positive change in their communities. OYCR is proud to work with and support Youth Alliance and community-based organizations across California. Learn more about Youth Alliance's work [on the Youth Alliance's Website.](#)

### **SBCS San Diego**

We are constantly in awe of the incredible work that SBCS does for San Diego youth. SBCS partners with probation to provide trauma informed, restorative programming in San Diego County's Youth Development Academy. OYCR is proud to work with and support community-based organizations across California like SBCS who provide youth the resources and skills they need to reach their full potential. Read more about SBCS's amazing work [on their website.](#)