

# Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan<sup>1</sup>

**Date:** April 9, 2024

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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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<sup>1</sup> Updated November 2023 to add elements required by AB 505 (Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023)

## **Contents:**

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**Part 1: Subcommittee Composition**

**Part 2: Subcommittee Process Information**

**Part 3: Target Population**

**Part 4: Programs and Services**

**Part 5: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds**

**Part 6: Facility Plan**

**Part 7: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System**

**Part 8: Regional Efforts**

**Part 9: Data**

**Part 10: Progress Report**

**Part 1: Subcommittee Composition (WIC 1995 (b))**

List the subcommittee members, agency affiliation where applicable, and contact information. If the subcommittee has opted to select a co-chair, identify the co-chair

Agency	Check box if Co-Chair	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Thomson	<a href="mailto:jthomson@inyocounty.us">jthomson@inyocounty.us</a>	760-872-4111
District Attorney's Office Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Hardy District Attorney	<a href="mailto:thardy@inyocounty.us">thardy@inyocounty.us</a>	760-878-0282
Public Defender's Office Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gerard Harvey Public Defender	<a href="mailto:gbhlaw@gmail.com">gbhlaw@gmail.com</a>	
Department of Social Services Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anna Scott Director HHS	<a href="mailto:ascott@inyocounty.us">ascott@inyocounty.us</a>	760-873-3305
Department of Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gina Ellis Asst. Director HHS	<a href="mailto:gellis@inyocounty.us">gellis@inyocounty.us</a>	760-873-5888
Office of Education Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barry Superintendent	<a href="mailto:bsimpson@inyocoe.org">bsimpson@inyocoe.org</a>	760-873-3262
Court Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Judge Susanne Rizo	<a href="mailto:Susanne.Rizo@InyoCourt.ca.gov">Susanne.Rizo@InyoCourt.ca.gov</a>	760-872-3038
Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steven Dondero	<a href="mailto:donderosteven86@gamil.com">donderosteven86@gamil.com</a>	661-859-8318
Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Garcia	<a href="mailto:ijosegarcia@icloud.com">ijosegarcia@icloud.com</a>	760-920-3588
Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	William Taylor	<a href="mailto:Willietaylor101691@gmail.com">Willietaylor101691@gmail.com</a>	760-937-4347
<b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>				

**Part 2. Subcommittee Process and Meetings**

Define process utilized by subcommittee to determine whether or not a co-chair was desired ( WIC 1995(b)):

During the April 4, 2024, JJCC SB 823 Sub-Committee meeting, AB 505 was discussed regarding the opportunity to select a co-chair of the SB 823 Sub-Committee. During the discussion it was decided that there was no need to select a co-chair.

Provide dates of subcommittee meetings held during the year (WIC 1995(e)):

The JJCC SB 823 Sub-Committee was held on April 3, 2024. The next meeting to be scheduled at a later time. Meetings will be held 2 times each year.

Provide date plan was updated (WIC 1995(e)) and approved by the majority of the subcommittee (WIC 1995(c)):

The JJCC SB 823 Sub-Committee, reviewed and approved the plan on April 3, 2024, by unanimous vote.

**Part 3: Target Population (WIC 1995 (d) (1))**

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

Inyo County will target both male and female youth whose most recent adjudicated offenses are described in WIC 707(b) and is defined under WIC 1990(b), in cases where the Inyo County Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

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

Inyo County Probation anticipates serving youth who have been adjudicated of a 707(b) WIC offense(s) and who are aged 14 to 23, up to age 25 depending on the length of the disposition ordered by the Inyo County Juvenile Court. The initial estimates for year one are 0-1 males/females based on recent rates of commitments from Inyo County to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Inyo County currently has a contract with Tuolumne County’s Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility for both male and female youth. Inyo County will explore a contract with El Dorado County as an alternative.

Inyo County has only had [redacted] youth in the past 14 years serve commitments at DJJ. Inyo County had no Youth committed to DJJ in 2023.

In the last decade, Inyo County Probation Department has utilized a risk and needs assessment tool to help probation officers identify youth strengths and weaknesses as well as their risk to reoffend. Since implementing the tool, juvenile caseload numbers have fallen dramatically. The following statistics represent caseloads for 2023:

- 35 youth under supervision.
- [redacted] on formal probation
- [redacted] on informal probation

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

Several lower-level interventions provided by the Inyo County Probation Department are available to youth prior to any long-term commitment type program becoming necessary. However, at times the serious nature of the adjudicated offense(s) and consideration for public safety will outweigh the opportunity for youth to be tried in lower-level options. A brief description of the Probation Department's continuum of care is described below:

### **Out of Custody Referrals for Youth not on Probation Status**

Inyo County Probation receives approximately ten referrals a month. Each referral is reviewed by a Deputy Probation Officer or Supervisor to determine what, if any, action will be taken. Referrals to other services or warning letters are sent to parents of youth with no prior record for any report received alleging charges that carry no confinement time and some low-level misdemeanors.

### **Evidence-Base Screening for Felony and Misdemeanor Referrals**

Inyo County Probation uses the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to screen youth referred for most misdemeanor offenses that carry confinement time and for referrals on felony offenses. The PACT is an evidence-based, risk/needs assessment and case planning tool implemented to assist officers in accomplishing four basic objectives:

- Determine the level of risk for re-offending (low, moderate, or high) to focus resources primarily on moderate and high-risk youth.
- Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so rehabilitative efforts can be tailored to address youths' unique assessment profiles.
- Develop a case management plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
- Re-assess at 6-month intervals to allow staff to determine if targeted factors change because of the targeted interventions.

The PACT assists in guiding initial decision-making regarding referrals. Dispositions of cases that have been screened by a Deputy Probation Officer include referrals to the District Attorney for filing or sending a letter for an intake with a probation officer and relevant referrals to community work service in lieu of any further action. Felony referrals are reviewed by the District Attorney's office. Once on probation status, the PACT case plan is updated regularly by the assigned Probation Officer.

### **Lower-level Interventions for Youth on Probation Status**

Once youth have been adjudged wards of the Juvenile Court, lower-level interventions may be appropriate for redirection prior to consideration for a commitment to a local custodial program. These options include Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) (it should be noted DEJ youth are not adjudged wards at time of DEJ disposition), community service, and school-based services. These interventions are typically ordered by the Juvenile Court in conjunction with terms of probation-based supervision of youth while they live at home in the community. Prior to considering any out of home placement in a non-secure setting, a referral to Inyo County's Family Intensive Response and Strengthening Team (FIRST) is made. FIRST is Inyo County's version of wrap around services where multiple resources are available to keep youth and families together. Out-of-home placements including secure detention are used as an option of last resort for youth whose parent/guardian is unable to properly provide care for them or where the home is unsafe or unsuitable.

### **In-Custody Dispositional Options for Intervention**

Youth determined to need in-custody treatment can be committed by the Juvenile Court to local custodial programs. Inyo County currently contracts with Kern, Tulare, Eldorado, and Tuolumne Counties for custodial detention and commitments of youth. These youth are composed primarily of those who, because of their level of delinquent behavior and risk to reoffend, require in-custody service provision and supervision. Upon release, most youth return to the community under Inyo County Probation supervision.

### **Part 4: Programs and Services (WIC 1995 (d)(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:

#### **Facility**

Inyo County Probation has a current contract for detention beds with Tuolumne County to utilize their Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility (MLRJDF) location in Sonora, California. It is anticipated that Tuolumne County will also become a Secure Youth Treatment Facility provider for the DJJ realigned population.

#### **Youth Supervision**

To provide rehabilitative services to these youth, safety and security must be a core tenant. Youth will only be able to thrive when they feel safe and secure. Juvenile Corrections Officers (JCO) will provide this population supervision and guidance in day-to-day activities. Services will be provided to youth by facility staff.

#### **Medical Services**

Medical services will be provided by facility staff.

#### **Behavioral Health Services**

Specialized facility staff will be the primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. It is hoped that Inyo County can facilitate online/zoom Mental Health service to help with the reentry process to maintain a relationship through the youth's commitment.

#### **Educational Program**

Facility education staff will operate the on-site educational program. In MLRJDF the Gold Ridge Education Center provides: English/language arts and social sciences, math, science, and health, fine arts/foreign language and electives, and specialized educational services. In addition, they provide credit recovery services, an emphasis on project based learning, and academic tutoring. They also have a donated library and book club.

#### **Health Services**

Facility staff will be responsible for medical services and dental services.

#### **Evidence-Based Programs Offered**

Contracted facility staff will provide various programs. Currently MLRJDF offers the following evidence-based programs: Boy's Council, Girl's Circle, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Motivational Interviewing, Interactive Journaling, Seeking Safety (treatment for youth with PTSD and co-occurring substance use disorder), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DTB).

**Part 5: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds (WIC 1995(d)(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:

Inyo County will receive the SB823 Block Grant minimum of \$250,000 per year. It is recommended that a trust account be created for the Probation Department and that the funds are allocated if there is a need for the support and care of a youth needing long term commitment services, including specialized treatment services, during fiscal year 2024/2025. For now, the reserve funds will accumulate until there is a commitment need. This will financially prepare the County to be able to secure a long-term commitment when we have one.

Justice-involved youth have a high prevalence of mental health disorders, trauma, environmental stressors, and family instability. The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice indicates that approximately 66% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health disorder. The rate of trauma these youth have experienced suggests a trauma-informed approach should be applied as a universal intervention that creates a healing environment suitable to rehabilitation and prosocial development. Provision of mental health and psychosocial interventions are most effective when individualized to the needs of the youth, involve family, and are culturally competent. Inyo County Health and Human Services' (HHS) Behavioral Health division will provide individualized assessment of treatment needs and coordinate provision of services either virtually or in-person as needed. HHS will seek additional licensed staffing resources, as necessary.

Inyo County will ensure that any facility that is used to provide commitment services to the DJJ realigned youth will have qualified staff who use research-based trauma informed programs consistent with mental health best practices.

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(d)(3)(B)):

Inyo County will utilize grant funds to secure a bed(s) for youth who are ordered by the Juvenile Court to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). Inyo County does not have a SYTF and therefore would need to use grant funds to contract with a California County that does have the services and programs that would meet the individual youth's needs. Inyo County will use grant funds to support any reentry services the youth will need upon release from a SYTF. These services will promote healthy adolescent development such as learning life skills, providing mental health and physical health services, and any educational services that may be appropriate. This includes allocating funds to support Behavioral Health and the Office of Education providing services to the realigned population, as well as offering evidence-based programming to the realigned population.

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

Inyo County Probation is committed to prioritizing family and community engagement. Research demonstrates that a strong bond with family and/or community support is essential for positive development and successful reintegration. Inyo County will also work to remove financial or logistical barriers in place to ensure that these relationships are maintained while the youth is in custody, such as considering providing funds and resources to family members for travel and lodging to Tuolumne County or any other county that we enter a regional contract with. Family engagement will begin at the earliest possible stage of the youth's commitment. In fiscal year 2024/2025, this will primarily happen through the MDT process; Families will be encouraged to be involved in the youth's treatment throughout the youth's commitment.

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(d)(3)(D)):

In 2016, due to declining numbers of youth in secure detention and the need to house fewer juveniles, the Inyo County Juvenile Detention Center was transitioned from a full-service juvenile hall to a special purpose juvenile hall. Inyo County used the opportunity of declining juvenile numbers in the juvenile hall to completely redesign the way that juvenile services are being offered to Inyo County youth and their families. The highly trained and skilled juvenile hall employees were moved out of the custody setting and into the communities to provide more services to more youth. Instead of closing the facility and having to lay off staff, the Probation Department shifted staff and resources to reach more youth with services and programs. With the transition away from secure detention, Rehabilitation Specialists (formerly Juvenile Corrections Officers) work with the youth to help them transition into the community throughout the reentry process. They help the youth with the employment process from teaching the youth how to fill out a job application to video recording mock interviews. Reentry and reintegration planning begins at the earliest possible stage of the youth's commitment. Our successful Drug Court model will be a guide for reentry planning. Local employers have been overly supportive in hiring those on probation while knowing probation staff have been able to insure a sober living atmosphere by drug testing numerous times a week. Inyo County Probation will also work closely with The Inyo County Office of Education to engage the youth in the newly created Adult Education program that will have academic and vocational training for young adults.



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

A trauma-informed approach is required when working with this population. Inyo County Probation will be contracting with another County to provide these services and programs to the realigned DJJ youth. Upon reentry to Inyo County, trained probation staff will utilize trauma informed and culturally responsive services to the youth in their care, as well as approaches to reduce provocation of trauma-responses. The selected programming is designed to support the use of effective emotional regulation and coping strategies to reduce impulsivity, aggression, and social isolation. In 2020, the Inyo County Probation Department joined Inyo County Health and Human Services, Bishop Indian Head Start and the Owens Valley Career Development Center in a three-year Trauma-Informed Care learning Collaborative with the Traumatic Stress Institute. Inyo County Probation Department has committed to trauma informed care practices throughout the organization and continues to work with the Traumatic Stress Institute.

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(d)(3)(F)):

Inyo County Probation is committed to awarding a percentage of the funding to qualified community-based providers to support the realigned youth. However, community-based organizations are limited throughout Inyo County. To ensure reentry planning and continuity of services, community-based providers should be included at the earliest stage of the youth's commitment.

In Fiscal year 2024/2025, Inyo County Probation is committed to exploring the role community providers can play to assist with the identification and provision of the specific services, programs, and needs of the target population. Additionally, Inyo County recognizes the need to allocate resources towards capacity-building for community providers to better serve the realigned population and will explore this more in the next phase.

## **Part 6: 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(d)(4))

Inyo County Probation has a current contract for detention beds with Tuolumne County and the youth will be housed at the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility, which is in Sonora, California. The facility will house both male and female youth. Youth will be classified and assigned to units based on gender, age, offense, and special needs.

The treatment program developed by Tuolumne County is intended to be viewed in its totality as a tier program where the residential placements are its most restrictive phase. Within its facility, youth may progress through levels to gain access to greater incentive. Post-release community supervision and community-based services will fall within Inyo County's conceptualization of its tiered programming, but this facility is outside of Inyo County's direct control.

As more Counties develop secure track plans for the realigned DJJ youth, Inyo County will evaluate each program for the appropriate service and programs that will best address the needs of a DJJ realigned youth.

## **Part 7: 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(d)(5)):

Inyo County Probation is committed to the retention of youth within the Juvenile Justice System, in lieu of transfer to the Adult Criminal Justice System, and appropriate steps to avoid net widening. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Sub-Committee in partnership with the Probation Department will work with the District Attorney's Office to help develop strategies to help keep youth in the juvenile system when appropriate. Inyo County does an exceptional job of maintaining youth in the juvenile system. The last youth that was transferred to the adult Court was approximately 14 years ago. As indicated in the above sections, in Fiscal Year 2024/2025, Inyo County Probation is prepared to serve all youth who would have otherwise been committed to DJJ.

**Part 8: Regional Effort**

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

Inyo County currently contracts with Tuolumne County and the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility for detention beds and will be exploring other facilities and programs as they are developed.

**Part 9: Data**

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

The data collected will utilize existing databases. This data will be utilized to drive future decision making and be reviewed on a semi-annual basis.

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

We will be developing performance and outcome measures to determine the results of the program. These outcome measures will be reviewed on a regular basis.

**Part 10: Progress Report**

Provide a description of the progress made regarding any elements described in Parts 2-9 and any objectives and outcomes in the plan that was submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Supervision in the previous calendar year. (WIC 1995(d)(8)).

Inyo County has secured a contract with the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility for detention beds. There were no 707(b) offenders in FY23-24 and there were no SYTF commitments in FY23-24.

A County trust was created to secure block grant funds to use when the need arises.