



# JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

## MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

**Date:** May 1, 2024

**County Name:** Tulare

**Contact Name:** Gina Rizza

**Telephone Number:** (559) 608-9236

**E-mail Address:** grizza2@tularecounty.ca.gov

## BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 established 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. Section 1995 was amended by Assembly Bill 505 (Ting, Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023.) This template has been updated to reflect those amendments which will be in effect on January 1, 2024. All citations are to the law as amended. The statutory language can be found [here](#).

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. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(a).)

County plans are to be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995. OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required planning process prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

There are nine sections to the plan:

Part 1: Subcommittee Composition

Part 2: Target Population

Part 3: Programs and Services

Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block

Grant Funds

Part 5: Facility Plan

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

Part 7: Regional Efforts

Part 8: Data

Part 9: Other Updates

**PART 1: SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS (WELF. & INST. CODE §§ 1995 (B) AND (C))**

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Kelly Vernon Chief Probation Officer	KVernon@tularecounty.ca.gov	(559) 608-9000
Presiding Judge of Tulare County Juvenile Court	Hon. John Bianco Judge	JBianco@tulare.courts.ca.gov	(559) 730-5000
District Attorney's Office Representative	Janet E. Wise Assistant DA	jwise@tularecounty.ca.gov	(559) 636-5362
Public Defender's Office Representative	Ron Westphal Assistant PD	RWestphal@tularecounty.ca.gov	(559) 636-4500
Department of Social Services Representative	Francena Martinez Director of Human Services, HHSA	FMartinez@tularecounty.ca.gov	(559) 624-8000
Department of Mental Health	Joseph L. Hamilton MH Clinic Administrator	JHamilto@tularecounty.ca.gov	(559) 788-1211
Office of Education Representative	Joseph Andrade Court Schools Principal	JAndrade@tcoe.org	(559) 735-1629
Court Representative	Hon. Sylvia Hanna Judge	SHanna@tulare.courts.ca.gov	(559) 730-5000
Three Community Members <i>(defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system" (Welf. &amp; Inst. Code § 1995(b).))</i>	Adam Peck Executive Director	APeck@tularecounty.ca.gov	(559) 713-5200
	Galen Quenzer CEO	Galen.Quenzer@bgcsequoias.org	(559) 592-4074
	Mary Escarsega- Fechner Executive Director	Mary.Escarsega- Fechner@cset.org	(559) 732-4194
<b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)): This was discussed at the SB 823 subcommittee meeting on 4/16/24, and it was determined that a co-chair will not be needed at this time.

Provide the dates of the last two meetings that the subcommittee convened to discuss your county's JJRBG plan?

Meeting Date 1:

Meeting Date 2:

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable: October 4, 2023.

Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote. April 16, 2024

Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b): A subcommittee was formed to develop the plan, which was comprised of multiple members who have direct knowledge and experience working with the target population, those who have experience with researching and interpreting the SB 823 law and/or requirements, those who are charged with finding vendors that can provide the necessary services for the target population, and a team of writers to prepare the plan. The subcommittee met on multiple occasions to brainstorm ideas and to share information for the plan. Finally, the subcommittee community members were provided with a draft of the plan for review, and any recommendations for revisions were incorporated into the plan.

## PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(1))

Briefly describe the County's realignment target population supported by the block grant.

*The "target population" is defined as "youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code." (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1990(b))*

Tulare County will use the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) funds to support the target population, which includes youth having different ages and genders, whose most recent adjudicated offense falls within WIC 707(b) and is defined under WIC 1990(b), whereby the Court finds that less restrictive alternative dispositions are not suitable.

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

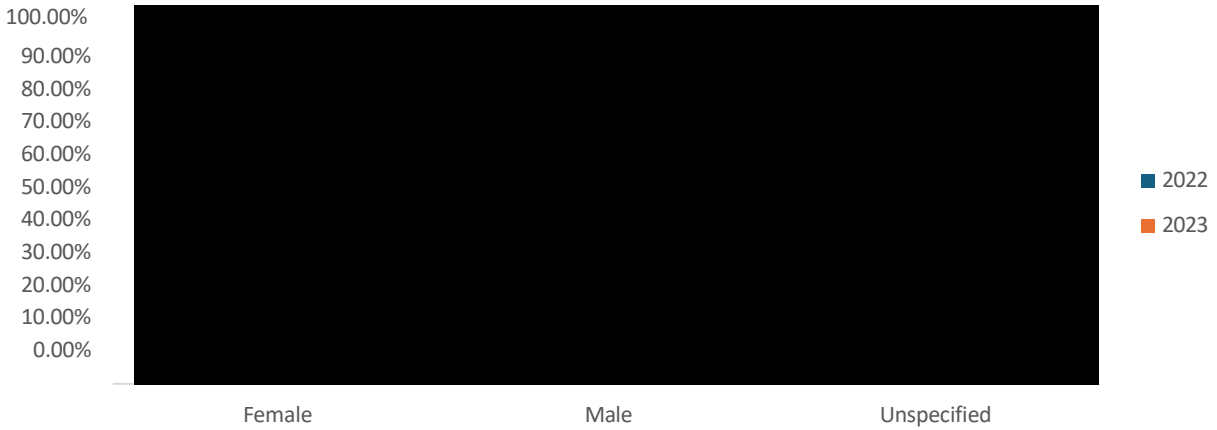
### **707(b) Offense**

In 2022 and 2023, collectively, there was a 19% increase in the population of juveniles adjudicated and receiving at least one disposition for an offense described in subdivision (b) of section 707. The average number of juveniles adjudicated that received at least one disposition for a 707(b) offense from 2022 through 2023 is 46, with Hispanics constituting a significant portion of the population. The respective ages of those who had the highest frequency of being adjudicated and dispositioned for a 707(b) offense in both 2022 and 2023 were 15, 16, and 17, and the two-year average for this group was 10.5, 11.5, and 10.5, respectively. The figures and tables below show the breakdown of the above population by gender, ethnicity, age, offense category, and court dispositions per year.

**Table 1. Gender of Youth Adjudicated with 707(b) Offense**

Gender	2022	2023
Male		
Female		
Unspecified		

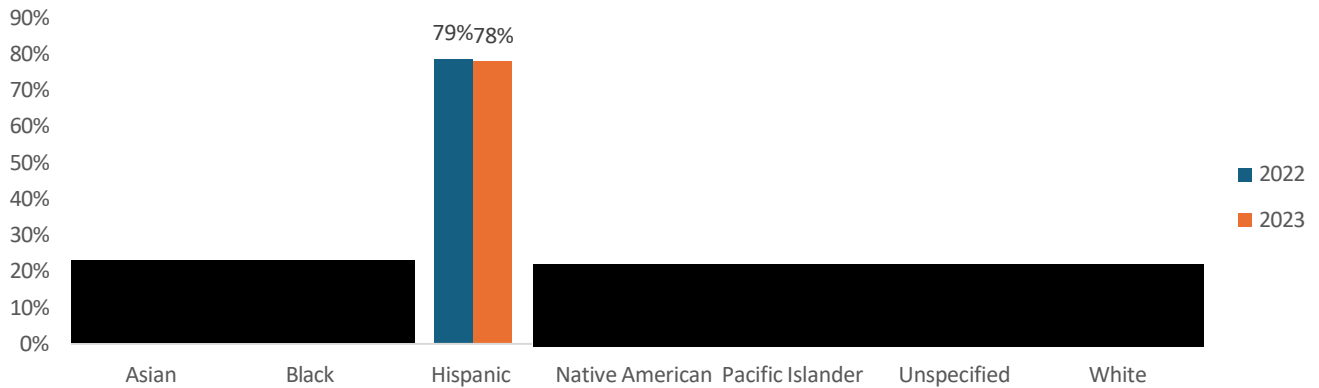
**Figure 1. Gender of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**



**Table 2. Ethnicity of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**

Ethnicity	2022	2023
Hispanic	33	39
White		
Black		
Asian		
Pacific Islander		
Native American		
Unspecified		

**Figure 2. Ethnicity of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**

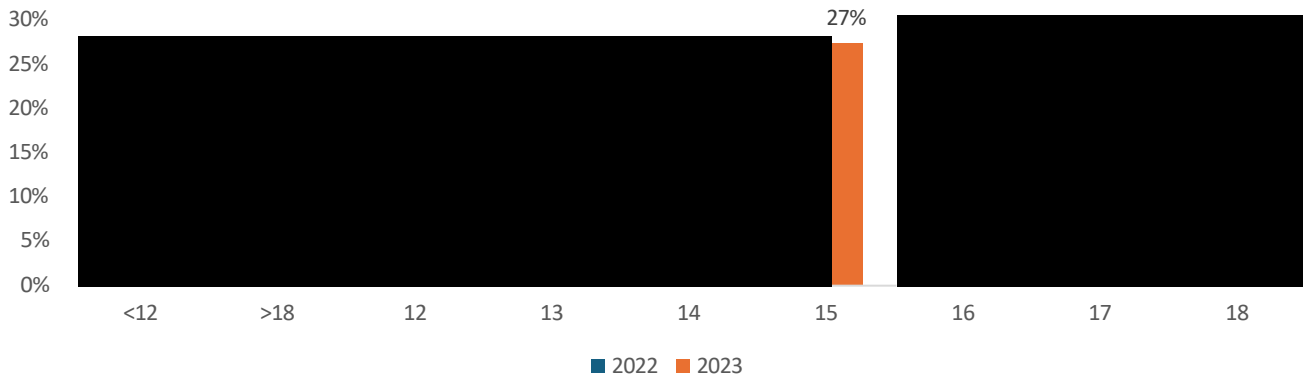


**Table 3. Age of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**

Age	2022	2023
<12	0	0
12	0	0
13	1	1
14	1	1
15	1	14
16	2	13
17	1	12
18	1	1
>18	0	0

There could be more than one count for a youth if said youth committed more than one offense but at a different age.

**Figure 3. Age of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**

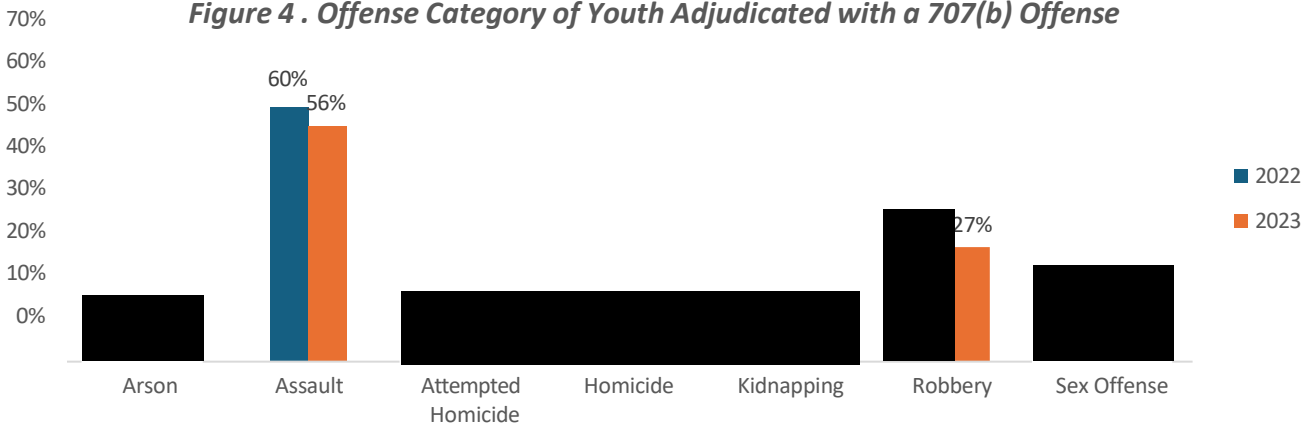


**Table 4 . Offense Category of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**

Offense Category	2022	2023
Homicide	1	1
Robbery	13	17
Assault	30	35
Attempted Homicide	0	0
Kidnapping	0	0
Sex Offense	0	0
Arson	0	0

There could be more than one count for a youth if said youth committed more than one offense but at a different time.

**Figure 4 . Offense Category of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**



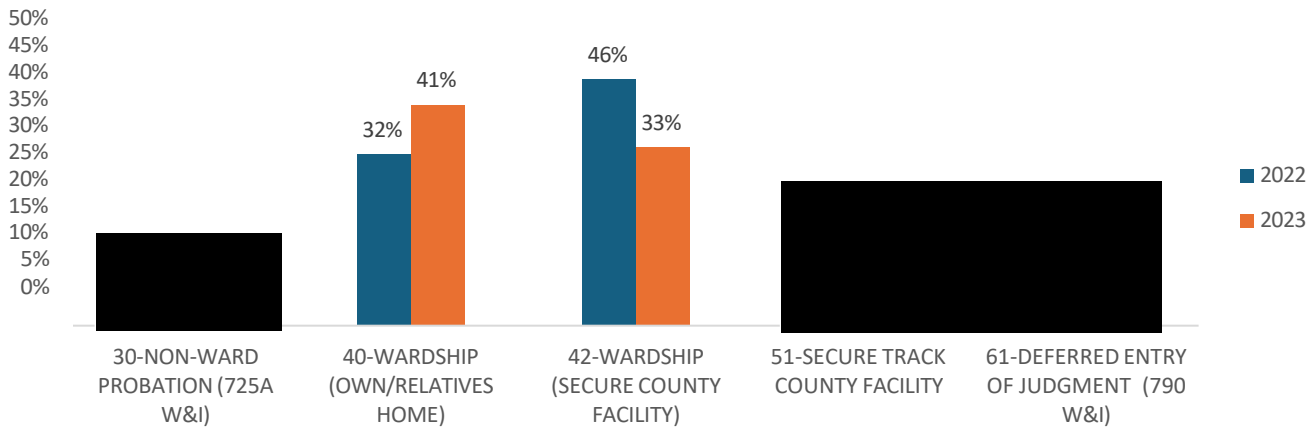
More than half of the youth population adjudicated with an offense described in subdivision (b) of section 707 falls under the assault category in both years 2022 and 2023. The second-highest offense category is robbery, with an average of 15.

Furthermore, as noted in Table/Figure 5 below, the percentage of the youth adjudicated with a 707(b) offense whose disposition is SYTF/51-Secure Track County Facility is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], respectively. This shows a percent decrease of [REDACTED]% from 2022 to 2023. The percentage of the youth with the highest disposition category, 42-Wardship, is 46% and 33%, respectively. This shows a 9% decrease in 2023 from 2022.

**Table 5. Court Dispositions of Youth Adjudicated with 707(b) Offense**

Court Disposition	2022	2023
51-Secure Track County Facility	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
61-Deferred Entry of Judgment (790 W&I)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
42-Wardship (Secure County Facility)	23	21
30-Non-ward Probation (725a W&I)	0	[REDACTED]
40-Wardship (Own/Relatives' Home)	16	26

**Figure 5. Court Dispositions of Youth Adjudicated with a 707(b) Offense**



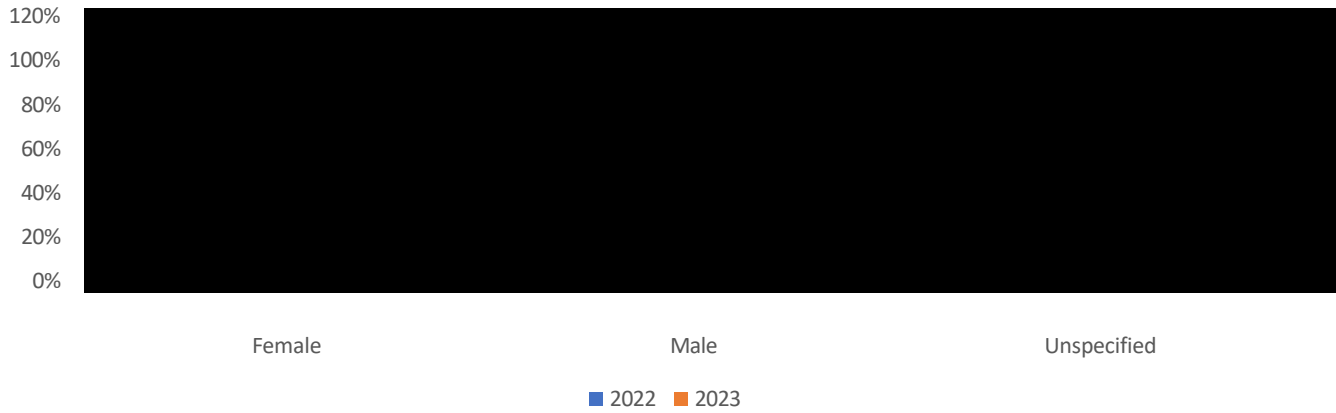
**290.008 Offense**

In the years 2022 and 2023, there has been a 450% increase in juveniles (all were male) who were adjudicated with an offense as described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code, with the majority being Hispanic for both years. Also noteworthy is that out of all juveniles adjudicated with 290.008 offenses, [REDACTED] given the court disposition of DJJ or SYTF. The figures and tables below show the breakdown of the above population by gender, ethnicity, age, and court disposition per year.

**Table 6. Gender of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**

Gender	2022	2023
Male	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Female	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Unspecified	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**Figure 6. Gender of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**



**Table 7. Ethnicity of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**

Ethnicity	2022	2023
Hispanic		
White		
Black		
Asian		
Pacific Islander		
Native American		
Unspecified		

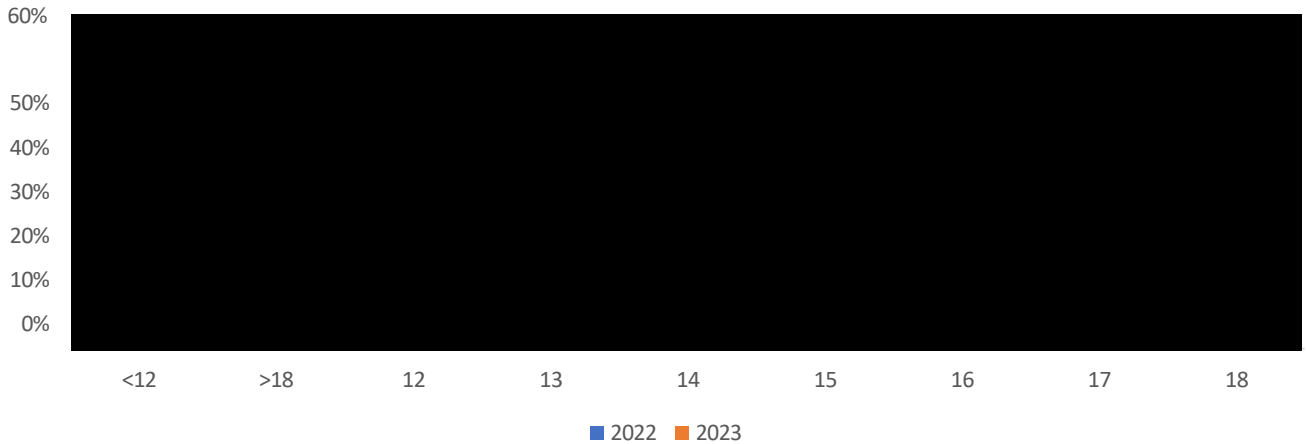
**Figure 7. Ethnicity of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**



**Table 8. Age of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**

Age	2022	2023
<12		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
>18		

**Figure 8. Age of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**

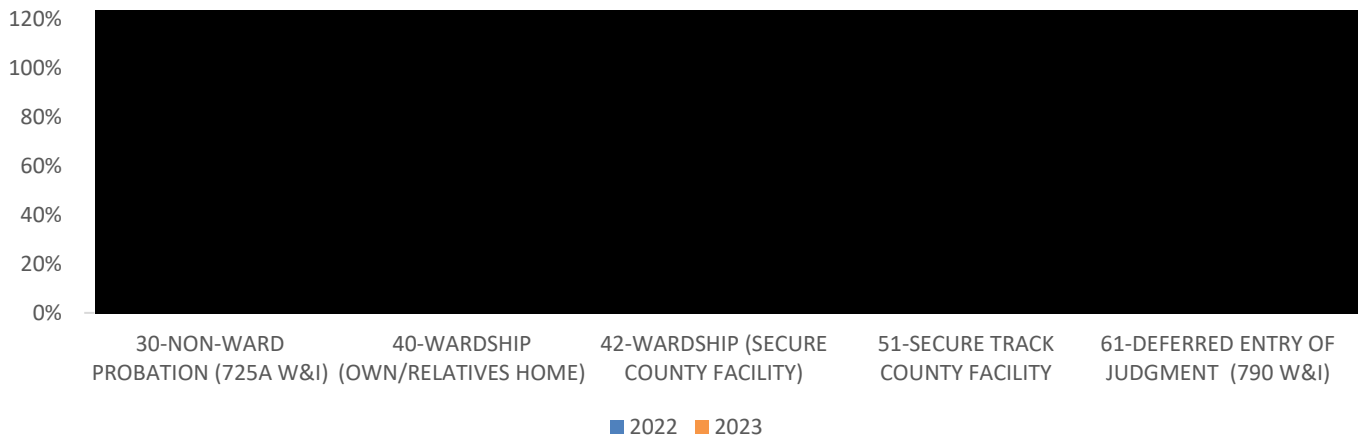


**Table 9. Court Disposition of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**

Court Disposition	2022	2023
51-Secure Track County Facility		
61-Deferred Entry of Judgment (790 W&I)		
42-Wardship (Secure County Facility)		
30-Non-ward Probation (725a W&I)		
40-Wardship (Own/Relatives' Home)		

■ youth was adjudicated in 2022 but the court disposition didn't occur until 2023.

**Figure 9. Court Disposition of Youth Adjudicated with a 290.008 Offense**

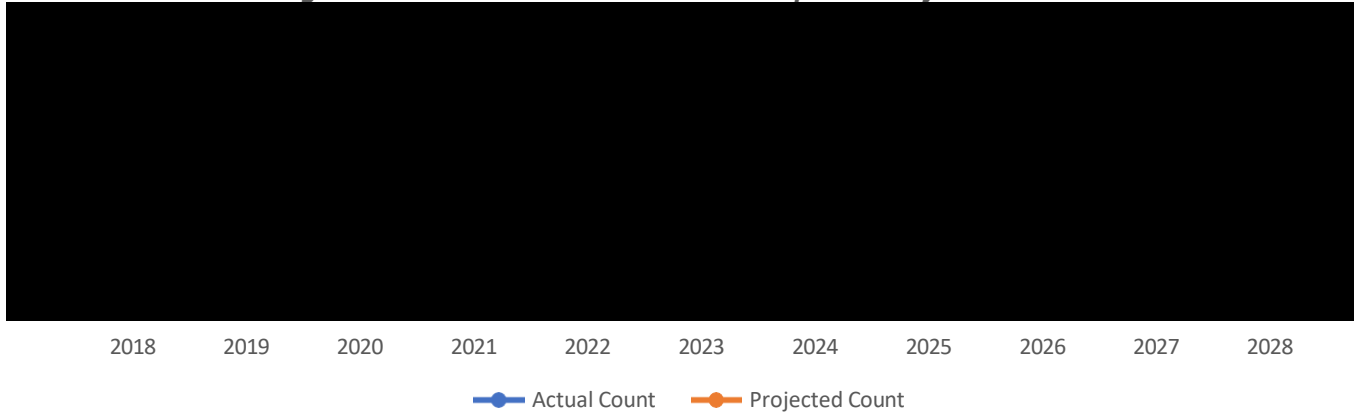




**SYTF**

The figure below shows the distinct number of youth under the County's supervision committed to DJJ/SYTF from 2018 to 2023 and a 5-year forecast based on a 5-year rolling average. It is important to note that juveniles with multiple commitments in a year are counted only once using their first commitment in the current year (i.e. juveniles who were already in a SYTF at the beginning of the calendar year and who received a new commitment for a new offense in the current year are counted using age, gender, and identity at the time of the first commitment in the current year. The average number of juveniles who received a disposition of DJJ/SYTF between the years 2018 to 2023 is ■.

*Figure 10. Juveniles who Received a Disposition of DJJ or SYTF*



**Table 10. Gender of Youth who Received a Disposition of DJJ/SYTF**

Gender	2022	2023
Male	■	■

**Table 11. Ethnicity of Youth who Received a Disposition of DJJ/SYTF**

Ethnicity	2022	2023
Hispanic	■	■
White		
Black		
Asian		
Pacific Islander		
Native American		
Unspecified		

**Table 12. Age of Youth who Received a Disposition of DJJ/SYTF**

Age	2022	2023
<12	■	■
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
>18		

Describe the target population, disaggregated by programs, placements, and/or facilities to which they have been referred.

Historically, there have been limited opportunities to create effective pathways for youth transitioning from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and/or from local custody back to their communities following long periods of incarceration and/or secure confinement. To address this major gap and the need for off-site Juvenile Detention Facility residential units, the Probation Department, in collaboration with Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus (PHTP), entered into an agreement effective August 29, 2023, to provide a re-entry continuum of care program, the Step-Down Program, that enhances and expands housing and supportive services to youth in Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), or the target population.

Through this agreement with PHTP, contracted transitional living and supportive services are provided to youth in the Step-Down Program for SYTF. The Step-Down Program provides a 'step-down' process for SYTF youth as they transition from secure confinement back into the community. This program includes evidence-based risk and needs assessments, evidence-based programs, both in secure confinement and in community settings, and the inclusion of community-based partnerships able to provide tailored services for SYTF youth.

The contracted transitional living services of the Step-Down Program will mirror a proven foster care program, the Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus). THP-Plus, in accordance with SB 1252, offers former foster youth between the ages of 18-25 housing and supportive services for 36 cumulative months or until the age of 25, whichever comes first. However, the department recommends up to one year stay for SYTF youth to be consistent with transitional living arrangements previously offered to Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) parolees.

The contracted transitional living services provided to the target population by PHTP include housing, which can be apartments, condominiums, and/or single-family dwellings for SYTF youth between the ages of 18-25 who have transitioned from secure confinement to community for a period of up to twelve (12) months or upon the age of 25, whichever occurs first. The number of youth who have received services in this program since the effective date of the agreement is [REDACTED]

In addition, PHTP will also provide supportive services to SYTF youth including:

- Emancipation Savings Program
- Employment and Education Specialist
- Financial Aid Specialist
- Housing Specialist
- Life Skills Mentoring
- Money Management and Budgeting

## PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (WELF. & INST. CODE §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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(D)(2) and (d)(8)):

Tulare County utilizes the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), opened in 1999, to house the target population. JDF provides youth with facility structure and programs that promote responsibility, accountability, and positive change. JDF is a secure residential institution that has three (3) distinct pods and an operating capacity of 210. Each pod has four (4) units that are equipped with sleeping quarters, a day room for structured activities, and a designated classroom. Each pod has a multipurpose room that can be utilized for visiting, mental health counseling, and other purposes. Pod 2 has been designated to the target population.

The programs and services provided at JDF also align with the mission of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) in that they are trauma-responsive and culturally informed services that support the youth's transition into adulthood and help them become engaged members of their communities.

As a result of the passage of SB 823 and the official closure of DJJ in June 2023, there were [REDACTED] youth in Tulare County adjudicated to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and are thus receiving or have received housing and programming services locally. Accordingly, these realigned youth are provided with housing accommodations and a local continuum of care at JDF for program services that are dedicated to meeting their unique needs.

Providing a safe and secure environment is paramount to rehabilitation. It is not uncommon for youth to develop maladaptive behaviors in response to unsafe circumstances in their formative years, thus leading to committing crimes. Therefore, daily supervision and guidance are provided by Probation Correction Officers who have been trained in de-escalation, crisis intervention, and other techniques appropriate for managing youth in the facility. Tulare County also ensures that staff are trained in best practices in corrections.

Programs and services at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and their brief description are provided below:

### **Bookings, Intake, and Releases (BIR)**

There were [REDACTED] returned from DJJ as a result of the official closure in June 2023. Each underwent the booking process at the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility and a modified intake process, which includes a Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) to determine risk factors and to identify any potential needs, including mental health needs.


### **Vocational Education**

The Vocational Education Program has been designed to provide youth exposure to building trades, help them identify their interests and aptitudes, and prepare them for a career in their chosen industry. Currently, the Probation Department uses the Paxton/Patterson Program curriculum for the Vocational Education Program, which utilizes industry-standard equipment and is 70% hands-on, project-based learning. Additionally, the Paxton/Patterson Program is a University of California A-G-approved course (College Prep Elective).

Youth can enhance their skills and training in this program and be more competitive in the hiring process. The Probation Department plans on further expanding vocational programs and services available to realigned youth to provide additional opportunities to develop the skills and training experience needed to obtain employment and self-sufficiency upon release into the community.

The Vocational Education Program is provided in a vocational facility that is separate from the JDF where youth are housed. Youth enrolled in this program will be transported to and from the JDF to the vocational facility once the secure fencing is installed. Accordingly, the Probation Department has currently procured a contractor to install enhanced fencing and monitoring tools to ensure safety protocols are in place for both juveniles and staff during transport. The installation of enhanced fencing and security cameras project at JDF is expected to be completed in FY 2024-25.

There are 14 different trades that continue to be offered in the Vocational Education program:

	<p><i>Vocation Education Trades</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cabinet Making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Heating, Ventilation, &amp; Air Conditioning (HVAC)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Masonry</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Concrete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plumbing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drywall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Power Tools Operation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Electrical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roof Framing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finish Carpentry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tile Setting</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Green Construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wall Framing</li> </ul>

**Aftercare**

Youth who are committed to a facility commitment program become eligible to be placed on Aftercare, a re-entry program that allows the release of youth back to their home and/or community under intensive supervision. The goal of this program is a successful transition from facility confinement to home and community. Probation Officers provide oversight to ensure youth success and to ensure family and individual support services are provided.

In addition to the standard programs offered to youth in the facility, there also are specialized treatment programs available to those youth with more heightened needs and who would benefit from more tailored rehabilitative services. A brief description of the specialized programs offered is described below.

**1. Medical/Mental Health**

All in-custody youth continue to have access to mental health services and receive medical, vision, and dental services. In addition to these standard services, alcohol and other drug counseling, psychological evaluations, and psychotropic medication management are also available in this program. In addition, there are competency restoration services available, which offer youth individual sessions to address personality and/or cognitive challenges youth have exhibited.

**2. Cognitive Behavioral**

This program continues to provide training in cognitive restructuring to teach youth offenders effective problem-solving through deliberate decision-making. This program is structured as group therapy, with open-ended group sessions being conducted on a weekly basis. Each group consists of 12 participants who engage in exercises designed to address and develop skills in relationships, thoughts and actions, beliefs and attitudes, impulse behavior, vulnerabilities, and responses to conflicts.

**3. Substance Abuse/Mental Health/Cognitive Behavior**

In this program, the Matrix Model continues to be used to match addiction severity and level of functioning to the intensity of service. In addition, the Addictions Severity Index (ASI) and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Disorders, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (DSM-5) are used to assess client symptomology, treatment dosage, and diagnosis. Criminogenic needs are also incorporated and addressed in treatment and case conceptualization. Further, additional screening and assessment tools for mental health can be utilized including a clinical assessment, Beck Depression Inventory, and Hamilton Anxiety Scale.

#### 4. **Parenting**

The Nurturing Parenting – Nurturing Skills for Families (NSF) Program continues to be offered to youth who are parents. The NSF Program is based on psycho-educational and cognitive behavioral approaches to learning and focuses on “re-parenting” or helping parents learn new parenting skills to replace their existing maladaptive patterns. Participants in this program are given exercises to learn how to nurture themselves and build parenting skills.

#### 5. **Family Therapy**

The Probation Department continues to offer Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MFT) as applicable. MFT is a family-based treatment program for youth who struggle with drug and/or alcohol addiction. This prevention program addresses behavioral problems, like delinquency, that are common to youth with substance abuse issues.

#### 6. **Sex Offender**

The Adolescent Sexual Responsibility Program is an in-custody specialty mental health treatment program for youth who have committed a sexual offense, are wards of the court, and have been sentenced to a custodial program at the Juvenile Detention Facility. The program continues to include but is not limited to, ongoing risk assessments, individual counseling, and mental health rehabilitative services as deemed necessary and appropriate. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Tulare County Probation Department and a local regional hub, Fresno County, is expected to be in place by July 1, 2024. Tulare County will service youth locally with the exception of those in the target population who have specialized sex offender needs that are best provided by the local hub’s services.

#### **Programs and Vocational Training**

Tulare County has a contract in place with a service provider that provides mental health services at all Correctional Facilities. The Tulare County Probation Department is in the process of negotiating tailored cognitive behavioral services with a provider to ensure that the particular needs of the target population are met.

The Tulare County Probation Department has Probation Officer positions specifically dedicated to support programming services within the facility to the target population. The officers in these positions oversee programs and education offered to youth and ensure program fidelity. Officer duties 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.

In addition, these officers seek and research additional evidence-based programs to offer youth that will further expand on the vocational services already in place to provide realigned youth the opportunity to develop the skills and training experience necessary for obtaining employment and self-sufficiency upon release into the community. Furthermore, these officers collaborate with neighboring counties to evaluate program effectiveness.

A senior Probation Officer is responsible for collecting and evaluating program information and making recommendations for program improvements and effectiveness. Additional duties of this officer 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.

A Vocational Education Instructor from the Tulare County Office of Education continues to work in collaboration with Probation Officers at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) to ensure that in custody youth are provided with the opportunity to obtain training and skills development in various trades that are designed to facilitate employment in vocations that provide youth the chance to acquire self-sufficiency upon release from secure confinement into the community.

The following is a list of vocational trade workshops available:

- Audio Visual
- Building Maintenance
- Computer and Related Technologies
- Culinary Arts
- Landscaping and Gardening,
- Mill and Cabinet Work
- Plumbing



An example of a forthcoming planned upgrade at JDF for youth is a de-escalation room, which has been proven to be an essential tool for managing behavior in young offenders. This room is specifically designed to help calm down a juvenile who is in distress, out of control or exhibiting aggressive behavior. The de-escalation room is a safe space where the juvenile can go to regulate their emotions, take a break, and calm down. The room will be furnished with soft materials, calming music, and low lighting. Trained staff members will supervise the juvenile while they are in the room and provide support and guidance as needed. The de-escalation room is an important part of a comprehensive approach to juvenile justice reform, as it helps to reduce the use of force and promote positive outcomes for both the juvenile and the community.

### **Rising Scholar Program**

The Probation Department and Porterville College entered into an agreement on February 8, 2024, to provide the Rising Scholar Program for youth who have been committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), or target population, while in custody at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and/or while receiving supervision services from the Probation Department. The Rising Scholar Program provides (online) educational programs offered by Porterville College on behalf of Kern Community College District, which could lead to the attainment of a certification and/or a two-year degree.

### **Secure Youth Treatment Facility Step-Down Program**

The Probation Department entered into an agreement with Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus (PTHP) on August 29, 2023, to provide housing and supportive services for youth who are on probation and are participating in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), Step-Down Program. The Step-Down Program is up to 12 cumulative months or until the age of 25, whichever occurs first.

The Step-Down Program is a re-entry continuum of care program that helps to create a pathway for SYTF to transition back safely and successfully into the community by providing housing and support services to SYTF youth who have transitioned from in-custody (secure confinement) to aftercare (community) programming.

This program provides a “step-down” process for SYTF youth as they transition from secure confinement back into the community and includes evidence-based risk and needs assessments, evidence-based programs, and the inclusion of community-based partnerships that are able to provide tailored services for SYTF youth.

PTHP provides housing which can be apartments, condominiums, and/or single-family dwellings, to SYTF youth between the ages of 18-25 and who have transitioned from secure confinement to the community for a period of up to twelve (12) months or upon age 25, whichever occurs first. In addition, PTHP will also provide the following support services to SYTF youth:

- Emancipation Saving Program
- Employment and Education Specialist
- Financial Aid Specialist
- Housing Specialist
- Life Skills Mentoring
- Money Management and Budgeting

**PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(3))**

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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8))

Tulare County has a contract in place with a service provider that provides mental health services at all Correctional Facilities. Tulare County Probation Department will apply grant funds to ensure that customized mental health services that meet the particular needs of the target population are provided with said provider. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Tulare County Probation Department and a local Regional Hub, Fresno County, is expected to be in place by July 1, 2024. The department will use grant funds to refer those in the target population who have specialized needs and are determined to be better served by the Regional Hub to receive sex offender treatment services and/or tailored programs for females.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8))

The target population has a variety of programs and services available to them that are designed to address maladaptive behaviors and direct them to productive, prosocial behaviors. In addition, vocational programs and services are available to assist with obtaining gainful employment and self-sufficiency after the transition from facility confinement to community occurs.

The target population also has educational and vocational programs to equip them with the skills necessary to obtain gainful employment and self-sufficiency outside the confines of an institution. In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, Tulare County completed the construction of a state-of-the-art vocational facility that offers youth the opportunity to participate in job training and experience that can lead to employment in a host of vocations. The target population will continue to have access to this facility while being housed at the Juvenile Detention Facility.

Youth enrolled in the Readiness for Employment through Sustainable Education and Training (RESET) program will continue to be provided with job-readiness training and are assisted with completing or furthering their education in this program. Employment services provided in this program include exploration and guidance to help youth navigate through their career goals, assessment tools that identify areas of interest and aptitude, assistance with obtaining a valid California Identification, birth certificate, documentation to work in California, and job location services. Education services in the program include helping youth with obtaining a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) diploma.

**Juvenile Detention Facility Infrastructure**

Both indoor and outdoor infrastructure improvements are underway at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) to better accommodate the youth to whom we provide housing and program services. New furniture that will soften up the living units and help to fashion a more home-like environment was ordered for the areas where youth are housed, receive program services, and engage in indoor recreation. In addition, provisions are in place to allow for an increase in outdoor and physical activities. Recreational and athletic activities allow youth confined in a facility an opportunity to engage in activities common to others not in a confined environment, which is expected to lead to improved social skills by affording youth to work in teams and solve problems in a group setting and improve self-esteem by improving physical and mental health.

Infrastructure improvements include extending our secure fence around several acres of land connecting JDF (where the youth housing units are located) to our Vocational Education Building. The interior of the fenced area provides a secure environment for youth to engage in recreational activities and visits and/or for therapists to use during therapy sessions when appropriate. In particular, a landscaping project currently underway will include a recreational path, garden area, exercise room, therapeutic, and walking loop.

Amenities that the landscape project in the fenced area provide walking trails, shaded seating areas, benches, and picnic tables.

All of the new furniture that was ordered has been received and will be provided in all designated areas prior to July 1, 2024. The enhanced and extended fencing and installation of monitoring equipment is an ongoing project at this time due to the protocols required to hire contractors to install the fencing and cameras.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8))

The Tulare County Probation Department understands that youth with family support typically are better equipped for rehabilitation than those without this type of support. It is also understood that the more involved the youth's family is in the rehabilitation process, the more likely a successful transition to the community will occur. To this end, various treatment programs and services designed to meet the specific needs of realigned youth and their families and operational accommodations will continue to be available to the target population.

### **Operational Accommodations**

**Visits:** Visits are accessible to parents and/or legal guardians in accordance with the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). Visits are made available at the Juvenile Detention Facility, other appropriate facilities, and/or via video conference. Visiting consideration is extended to additional family members such as siblings, grandparents, spiritual advisers, and/or mentors. Additional privileges, such as extending visitation options to friends of youth, may be availed to the youth as they progress through the program. Youth who are a parent are given opportunities to visit with their children, including infants.

**Special Events and Engagements:** Onsite activities such as outdoor picnics, barbeques, and other recreational activities are available to the youth, particularly to those who have demonstrated a commitment to their program and have met eligibility criteria. Offsite activities for significant family events like births, graduations, and funeral services could also be made possible for those youth who have committed to their program, are accordingly progressing, and have met or are meeting eligibility requirements.

**Program Commitment Unit:** The Program Commitment Unit was developed, in part, to ensure program integrity. A Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) assigned to this unit will continue to be responsible for coordinating release plans, which include meeting with program youths' families on a regular basis to be up to date on current family dynamics. Additionally, the DPO will participate in multidisciplinary team meetings with those who are involved with providing program services to ensure a viable plan is developed for each youth prior to release. In the event it is determined that youth should be housed at a regional facility in another county, the DPO will be responsible for verifying basic necessities, counseling services, and family reunification services continue at the regional facility. Furthermore, the DPO is also responsible for ensuring that measures are in place to appropriately transition youth from the regional facility back into their home environment.

### **Parenting and Family Engagement will be offered through the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) and the Texas Institute of Behavioral Research at Texas Christian University (TCU).**

The curricula in this group are evidence-based and focus on helping youth gain family relationship skills, including communication methods, conflict resolution, responsibility, and respect. A component of the program teaches youth and their families critical skills including effective parenting skills, children's life skills, and family life skills. This training program is specifically designed for high-risk families, which are common among youth who have engaged in criminal activity that has led to being placed in the care of an outside entity such as a residential institution.

Another component of the program is designed for youth who have children and focuses on parenting skills, life skills, and family life. This program centers on strengthening parenting skills by helping parents recognize how learned behaviors and cultural norms can affect parenting approaches. The main goals of this program are to enhance positive parenting skills, involvement, responsibility, and commitment to family.



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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8))

### **Re-entry Support Plans**

It is expected that realigned youth will have a length of stay of about twenty-eight (28) months, which is consistent with the average length of stay at DJJ prior to its closure in June 2023. Tulare County will provide the target population with similar programs and services that were provided at DJJ in addition to new programs and services. Depending on the age of the realigned DJJ population, there may be individuals who no longer have legal obligations for parental care and custody. It is anticipated that a variety of transitional needs will be necessary to assist youth in this category to be released back into the community. Examples of needs include housing, food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and/or education support. Probation will work in collaboration with county partners and community-based organizations to assist in meeting these needs. Re-entry services and needs will be consistently under review to address any gaps in services or needs.

### **Support Plans for Youth Released to the Community**

Staff who directly interact with youth who are released to the community will continue to be involved in outlining and setting up custody and community needs upon release, coordinating services with designated partnering agencies, setting up and overseeing any pre-release meetings, and facilitating connections with outside entities like the Department of Motor Vehicles, Social Security Administration, Medi-Cal, and housing agencies.

### **Vocational Training**

Employment services available include exploration and guidance to help youth navigate through their career goals, offer assessment tools that identify areas of interest and aptitude, and provide assistance in obtaining a valid California Identification, birth certificate, documentation to work in California, and job location services.

The Probation Department has a state-of-the-art Vocational Education Center designed to provide facility-commitment youth with training and skills that can provide them with the tools and experience to obtain gainful employment. In addition, the Probation Department has partnered with the Tulare County Office of Education to implement Paxton Patterson Building Skills for the construction industry. In addition, the Probation Department partners with the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to provide youth an abundance of opportunities to develop their skills and to receive employment services such as resume writing and job searching.

### **Ongoing Educational Opportunities and Support**

Education services continue to include helping youth with obtaining a high school diploma or General Education Diploma. Once high school/general education requirements have been satisfied, the opportunity to enroll in local community colleges and/or vocational programs is available.

### **Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings (MDT)**

Each youth undergoes an orientation that includes an assessment conducted by an assigned Probation Officer who also goes over the program requirements with the youth. This officer typically supervises the youth during the duration of the youth's commitment program. Following orientation, an initial Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting (MDT) is done to assess the current level of the youth's needs, brainstorm the most appropriate programs and services to offer, and establish the mechanism of how the various services will be provided. The Multi-Disciplinary Team is comprised of Probation staff and partnering agencies from education, behavioral health, and family members. Additional MDT meetings are held to address any specific needs or concerns that arise during the youth's program.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8))

Tulare County and the Probation Department are committed to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). EBP asserts that occupational practices should be based on scientific evidence and use the most objective, balanced, and responsible research and data to guide policies and procedures. EBP also include a host of tried-and-true treatments and practices to reduce recidivism that have been validated by verifiable data.

An example of an EBP used by Tulare County Probation is the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) to develop a strategic supervision case plan that is based on the assessed youth's level of risk to re-offend (scoring is low, moderate, or high), the identified underlying factors that link to criminal behavior, and the strengths and specific needs of each youth assessed.

Tulare County continues to utilize treatment programs that follow current evidence-based practices. This includes cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and other programs that use a cognitive-behavioral approach that has been proven to address criminogenic needs and reduce recidivism. Examples of cognitive-behavioral programs include anger management/control, aggression therapy, substance abuse, parenting, family therapy, and problem-solving.

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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8))

Tulare County acknowledges that a collaborative effort with multiple stakeholders, including community-based organizations, educational institutions, vocational institutions, mental health providers, substance abuse providers, licensed counselors, and agencies that provide transitional housing, is needed to attain successful rehabilitation of realigned youth.

Despite collaborative efforts, there could be unexpected gaps in rehabilitative services that develop or are identified along the way. To this end, Tulare County Probation will set aside a portion of grant funds to have available for any future necessities.

Due to the age of some of the realigned youth that will return to Tulare County, there are expected transitional needs to ensure successful release to the community. Grant funds will be set aside to provide support to youth upon release to the community such as housing, clothing, transportation, education, vocation, and employment needs. Contracts with residential agencies, licensed therapists, substance abuse counselors, and/or community-based organizations are needed to provide these services.

In addition, Probation will continue to collaborate with various community-based service providers to refer youth to services in the following areas:

- Childcare Services
- Employment/Job Readiness
- Housing
- Legal Assistance
- Medical Services
- Support/Counseling Groups
- Transportation Services



Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment needs 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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

The Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), opened in 1999, is used to house and provide programs and services to the target population. JDF is a secure residential facility for youth of different ages, genders, and needs levels. JDF is operated by the Tulare County Probation Department twenty-four (24) hours per day, 365 days per year. In addition to holding youth pending court action, JDF provides secure confinement to youth pending delivery to other juvenile and adult justice jurisdictions and provides temporary housing to youth awaiting out-of-home placements and court-ordered commitments.

JDF has three (3) distinct pods and an operating capacity of 210. Each pod has four (4) units that are equipped with sleeping quarters, a day room for structured activities, and a classroom. Each pod has an additional room that can be utilized for visiting, mental health counseling, and other purposes. Pod 2 has been designated to the target population.

The Tulare County Probation Department utilizes the Caseload Explorer (CLE) case management system to maintain data that can be used to ensure appropriate housing for the target population (youth). It is the policy of the Department to ensure 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:

- Assaultive Behaviors
- Behavioral Health Needs
- Charges
- Criminal Sophistication Level
- Demographics – age, etc.
- Gang Involvement
- Severity of Offenses
- Specialized Counseling
- 707(b) Offenses

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.

JDF has the capacity to house and provide rehabilitative services and programs that address variable levels of offense severity and treatment needed for the target (SYTF) population in a safe and secure environment.

### **Staffing**

Probation staff and partnering agencies will ensure youth will be housed in a safe and secure environment. A brief description of those in charge of the care of youth while housed at JDF follows.

**Probation Staffing:** Staffing levels will adhere to the state staffing ratios. A combination of Probation Officers (PO), Probation Correctional Officers (PCO), Institutional Supervisors (IS), and Detention Service Officers (DSO) are onsite twenty-four (24) hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure the safety and security of youth and staff. These sworn personnel have received extensive training on how to appropriately respond to incidents, de-escalate tense situations, and write incident reports for documentation and statistical data purposes. In response to the severity of risk level associated with the DJJ realigned population, officers are to receive further training to adapt to the increased risk. This includes training on proper behavior in a juvenile correctional setting with a high-risk population, understanding underlying principles upon which the practice is based, and other techniques based on established literature shown to have positive outcomes.

In addition, cooks and facility maintenance staff are on-site to ensure that proper nutritional needs are met and that the facility is clean and sanitary.

**Behavioral Health Staffing:** Behavioral health staff are available daily during normal business hours and available on-call during non-business hours to address medical, mental, and emergency needs. In addition, youth can verbally or by written request ask for behavioral staff to address specific mental or medical needs.

**Medical Staffing:** Medical staff are on-site 24 hours a day and are available to provide timely and quality medical, dental, and vision services. Youth also can verbally request and/or inform staff of any medical needs and staff can make referrals to on-site medical staff for medical evaluations of youth. In addition, local hospitals and/or Urgent Care facilities are available to handle any medical needs not resolved at the facility.

### **Additional Safety Measures and Protocol**

**Prison Rape Elimination Act:** The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) hotline is available to youth in the facility. In addition, the Probation Department has policies and procedures in place to investigate any sexually based accusation or complaint in a time-sensitive and confidential manner. All concerns are taken seriously and are addressed accordingly. At any time during an investigation, law enforcement and/or other outside agencies might be called to conduct a criminal investigation. Victim Advocates are available should they be needed.

**Transgender Youth:** Policies are in place to ensure that transgender youth are treated respectfully and protected. Probation has updated intake and other forms, as well as the case management system, to include transgender as an option for gender identification. These measures are in place to help ensure housing, clothing, and supervision based on gender identification are in place.

**Special Education:** In collaboration with the Tulare County Superintendent of Schools, youth will have access to continued education and services. Schools work in concert with behavioral health providers, medical staff, and Probation to ensure each youth's individual education and program needs are met.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The Probation Department follows all legal protocols with respect to the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that the department and facility comply with all accommodations at all times, including intake, assessment, educational services, recreational activities, religious services, and release.

**Special Cases Meeting:** Special Cases Meeting (SCM) attendees encompass representatives from Probation, behavioral health, and medical staff. Each representative is charged with discussing any issues with youth in the facility, programming provided while in custody, and unmet medical and behavioral needs. SCM is also responsible for developing and brainstorming ideas/protocols and appropriate responses/remedies.

**Suicide Prevention:** Probation has policies and protocols in place to deter and prevent youth self-harm and/or suicide. Each youth completes a MAYSI-II questionnaire upon entry into any facility. This risk assessment tool is utilized to determine the youth's history, current state of mind, and potential for self-harm or suicidal ideation. Youth deemed to be an immediate risk are immediately assessed by behavioral health to determine program needs and supervisory objectives. Youth may be placed on Suicide Watch or Special Watch, depending on their needs. The level of monitoring and mental health services can be changed at any time during their stay with behavioral health's input and approval.

**Youth Grievances:** Youth are permitted to file a grievance at any time. Every grievance is taken seriously and handled in a timely manner.

## PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(5))

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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

The Tulare County Probation Department (Department) collaborates with Juvenile Justice stakeholders including the Tulare County Juvenile Court, Tulare County District Attorney, Tulare County Public Defender, and Community-Based Organizations (CBO) to provide youth entering the system opportunities that foster their success with the least restrictive level of intervention possible. These stakeholders work in concert to ensure equitable, legal, and consistent practices are applied to each youth.

Each individual case is evaluated before Court recommendations are made to ensure that best practices and services are applied to each youth. Youth who enter the juvenile justice system also undergo an assessment using the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) risk/assessment tool to determine the following:

- Level of risk to re-offend (categories are low, moderate, and high).
- Identify criminogenic needs (antisocial values and beliefs, antisocial peers, personality traits, etc.).
- Identify the youth's strengths and specific needs.

Probation Officers use information from the JAIS assessment to develop a strategic supervision case plan that is tailored to each youth. Identification of needs allows a proper match of services to fulfill said needs. For example, if identified needs highlight a lack of education, the officer assigned could avail education services such as attainment of GED for the youth. Some needs highlight employment needs. In this case, the officer could refer the client to agencies that provide career development services and/or initiate the processes to get the youth enrolled in vocational classes. Some examples of which youth can be referred to are Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) for education services, Community Services and Employment Training (CSET) for employment services, and Tulare County Boys and Girls Club to reinforce positive development.

Also, the Department continues to partner with local community-based organizations (CBO) to improve service accessibility for justice-involved youth and members of the community. The list of CBOs that provide services at Probation Connections, a centralized location, follows below:

- Alliant University
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central CA
- Boys and Girls Club
- Care Pregnancy Resource Center
- Central Valley Recovery Services
- Champions Recovery Alternative Programs
- CSET
- Family Services of Tulare County
- GEO Reentry Services
- HHS – Child Welfare Services
- HHS – Homeless MDT
- HHS – TulareWorks
- JDT Consulting
- Parenting Network
- Turning Point of Central CA
- Visalia Unified School District
- Workforce Development Board

Retention of the realigned population within the juvenile justice system and preventing them from transferring over to the adult criminal justice system can be realized by keeping the fidelity between practices and the underlying principles upon which they are based. If rehabilitation is developed and fostered through proper identification of needs and appropriate matching of services to fulfill said needs, the likelihood of successful outcomes for the target population is significantly increased.

## PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORT (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(6))

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

In the event that there is a need to utilize a Regional Hub, the Probation Department will ensure that the programs and services the Regional Hub offers adequately align with the needs of the youth.

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 continues 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.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Tulare County Probation Department and a local Regional Hub, Fresno County, is expected to be in place prior to July 1, 2024. Tulare County will service youth locally with the exception of the following specialized needs that will be contracted with the local Regional Hub:

- Sex Offender Services: Probation will contract with Fresno County for services for youth sex offenders as it has been determined that the Regional Hub has the types of programs and services available to best meet the unique needs of youth with these types of offenses.
- Programs for Females: the number of female youth committed to DJJ and/or the Juvenile Detention Facility in Tulare County is historically low. Thus, Probation will contract with the local Regional Hub where there is an array of programs and services to provide to female youth.

## PART 8: DATA (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(7))

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:

The Tulare County Probation Department is committed to having accurate and relevant data and recognizes that data collection and analysis are important for making informed decisions about what evidence-based practices, programs, and services to provide and to match said services to the appropriate population. The Department also understands that accurate and comprehensive data is paramount for transparency and for identifying trends and patterns. The Department utilizes a case management system for collecting data that is pertinent for officers to use as a tool to manage the juvenile population and to assess youth under their care to strategically develop individualized case plans, treatment programs, and services based on risk factors and specific needs.

The Probation Department has a Quality Improvement Unit (QI), which is comprised of a Supervising Staff Analyst, a Probation Administrative Specialist, a Probation Statistical Analyst, and (4) Staff Services Analysts who are dedicated to ensuring data integrity and oversight of grants and contracts that provide services to youth. Components of QI data integrity continue to include:

- System administration of the case management system used to house data.
- Preparing various statistical reports from data housed in the case management system as well as data from external sources.
- Oversight of the data entry in the case management system to ensure accuracy and completeness.

The Probation Department regularly provides statistical information to the State of California and to other agencies via the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS) and through the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC). In so doing, agencies that have a vested interest and involvement in juvenile offenders' treatment plans and rehabilitation are abreast of statistical trends and patterns (i.e., juvenile population numbers) and are provided information pertinent to directing resources and guiding decisions.

Statistical data compiled and entered in the case management system includes demographic information (race, gender, ethnicity, age, etc.), behavioral data (based on incident events and/or logs), and treatment programs and services. Management, officers, and analysts routinely review said data. The purpose of routinely collecting and regularly analyzing data is to ensure program fidelity, effectiveness, and equitable treatment; to assure efficacy; to evaluate and strategize for future planning.

The Probation Department recognizes that feedback from youth receiving services from Probation is necessary to understand their perspective and motivational factors and for the lines of communication to remain open. This information is important for officers and management to identify where treatment programs and services might be ineffective, and changes are in order.

The Probation Statistical Analyst and one (1) Staff Services Analyst were hired during the calendar year 2023 to bolster services in the QI unit.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:

The Tulare County Probation Department anticipates, based on the level of criminal offenses committed, that realigned youth will require intensive, individualized supervision, and treatment programs that offer the customized services that are most likely to lead to successful rehabilitation and release back into the community. Realigned youth will be monitored by staff and treatment providers on an ongoing basis and treatment data will be gathered and analyzed to assess the suitability and effectiveness of the program(s) youth are enrolled in; any necessary adjustments to ensure program efficacy will be accordingly done.

As such, outcome measures used as a metric for program and treatment success will continue to be primarily based on recidivism rates and completion of programs and probation. Recidivism, for the purposes

of measuring outcome, will be operationally defined as any subsequent disposition from the originating cohort variable data, such as the start of supervision, the resultant of a Violation of Probation (VOP), or a new charge. One-year, two-year, and three-year recidivism rates will be the standard metric. Likewise, program completion will also be another facet of success. Programs are contingent on each individual's needs; thus, enrollment cohorts will be determined (which, in turn, also brings to a measure of enrollment rate as another metric for success) and completion rates will be calculated. Although there is no current baseline established with respect to the DJJ realigned population, a baseline will be established using the first DJJ realigned population release cohort whereby a threshold for an acceptable rate of success will be determined. Successful completion of probation supervision (i.e., ended supervision without transferring to adult criminal justice) will also be calculated using completion cohorts per defined duration (e.g., per year, etc.).

As outcomes are determined, necessary adjustments will be made—if success goals are unmet, further examination of the success gap will be conducted. Services by itself will be studied, service-to-client matches will be examined, and fidelity between underlying program literature and practice will be monitored. Steps necessary to improve the likelihood of rehabilitation post-confinement will be taken.

## **PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2023: (WELF. & INST. CODE (D)(8))**

Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.

The Department ordered new furniture for the JDF to better accommodate the youth served at the facility, including the target population. The facility also has been painted and has had other upgrades done to fashion a more 'home-like' environment in the areas where youth are housed and receive program services. In addition, a landscaping project that will add to the outdoor experience at the facility is underway. This project includes adding walking trails, a garden area, and shaded seating areas with benches and picnic tables for youth and their families to enjoy. Furthermore, the Department is in the process of hiring contractors to complete an indoor/outdoor JDF infrastructure enhancement, which will provide secured fencing and monitoring equipment for the safe transport of youth to/from their housing to non-adjacent buildings for vocational and other services. The furniture on order was due to arrive at the end of March 2024 and is expected at any time and the landscaping project is anticipated to be completed by the end of April 2024.