

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act - Youthful Offender Block Grant
2024 Expenditure and Data Report
 Due Date (*on or before*): October 1, 2024

On or before October 1, 2024, each county is required to submit to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) a report on its Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) programs during the preceding year. For JJCPA this requirement can be found at Government Code (GC) Section 30061(b)(4)(C) and for YOBG it can be found at Welfare & Institutions Code Section (WIC) 1961(c). These code sections both call for a consolidated report format that includes a description of the programs and other activities supported by JJCPA and/or YOBG funds, an accounting of all JJCPA and YOBG expenditures during the prior fiscal year, and countywide juvenile justice trend data.

Prior to submitting this report save the file using the following naming convention: "**(County Name) 2024 JJCPA-YOBG Report.**" For example, Sacramento County would name its file "Sacramento 2024 JJCPA-YOBG Report".

Once the report is complete, attach the file to an email and send it to: OYCRgrants@chhs.ca.gov. All reports will be posted to the OYCR website. We encourage you to review your report for accuracy before sending it to the OYCR. Please do NOT change the report form to a PDF document.

A. CONTACT INFORMATION

COUNTY NAME	DATE OF REPORT
Merced	8/26/2024

B. PRIMARY CONTACT

NAME	TITLE
Chris Henn	Chief Probation Officer
TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
209-385-7560	Christopher.Henn@countyofmerced.com

C. SECONDARY CONTACT (OPTIONAL)

NAME	TITLE
Joel Daffron	Deputy Chief Probation Officer
TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
209-385-7523	Joel.Daffron@countyofmerced.com

COMPLETING THE REMAINDER OF THE REPORT:

The report consists of several worksheets. Each worksheet is accessed by clicking on the labeled tabs below. (You are currently in the worksheet titled "**CONTACT INFORMATION**".) Complete the report by providing the information requested in each worksheet.

On the worksheet "**REPORT 1**," you will pull data directly from your Juvenile Court & Probation Statistical System (JCPSS) Report 1 that you received from the California Department of Justice (DOJ) for 2023. Similarly, for the worksheet labeled "**REPORT 3**," you will pull information directly from your 2023 JCPSS Report 3. On the worksheet "**ARREST DATA**," you will obtain data from the DOJ's Open Justice public website.

On the worksheet "**TREND ANALYSIS**," you will describe how the programs and activities funded by JJCPA-YOBG have, or may have, contributed to the trends seen in the data included in REPORT 1, REPORT 3, and ARREST DATA.

On the "**EXPENTITURE DETAILS**" worksheet, you are required to provide a detailed accounting of actual expenditures for each program, placement, service, strategy, or system enhancement that was funded by JJCPA and/or YOBG during the preceding fiscal year. This worksheet is also where you are asked to provide a description of each item funded.

COUNTYWIDE JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA for:**Merced***In the blank boxes below, enter the data from your Report 1 received from DOJ as titled below:*

Referrals of Juveniles to Probation Departments for Delinquent Acts, January 1 - December 31, 2023
 Age by Referral Type, Gender, Race/Ethnic Group, Referral Source, Detention, Prosecutor Action, and
 Probation Department Disposition Report 1

Probation Department Disposition

Informal Probation	80
Diversions	-
Petitions Filed	189

Gender (OPTIONAL)

Male	521
Female	259
TOTAL	780

Race/Ethnic Group (OPTIONAL)

Hispanic	507
White	116
Black	97
Asian	5
Pacific Islander	-
Indian	3
Unknown	52
TOTAL	780

Please use this space to explain any exceptions and/or anomalies in the data reported above:

The Department has seen an increase in the number of youths placed on informal probation compared to the previous year, a trend attributed to the end of Covid restrictions. This shift has allowed probation staff to meet with youth and address lower-level offenses informally, rather than referring cases to the District Attorney's Office for criminal petitions.

In the blank boxes below, enter the data from your Report 3 received from DOJ as titled below:

Juvenile Court Dispositions Resulting From Petitions for Delinquent Acts, January 1 - December 31, 2023
Age by Petition Type, Sex, Race/Ethnic Group, Defense Representation, Court Disposition and Wardship Placement
Report 3

Petition Type

New	189
Subsequent	-
TOTAL	189

Court Disposition

Informal Probation	4
Non-Ward Probation	17
Wardship Probation	78
Diversion	-
Deferred Entry of Judgement	39

Wardship Placements

Own/Relative's Home	-
Non-Secure County Facility	-
Secure County Facility	-
Other Public Facility	-
Other Private Facility	-
Other	78
California Youth Authority*	-
TOTAL	78

Subsequent Actions

Technical Violations	28
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Sex (OPTIONAL)

Male	156
Female	33
TOTAL	189

Race/Ethnic Group (OPTIONAL)

Hispanic	136
White	26
Black	18
Asian	1
Pacific Islander	-
Indian	-
Unknown	8
TOTAL	189

Please use this space to explain any exceptions and/or anomalies in the data reported above:

* The JCPSS reports show "California Youth Authority," however it is now called the "Division of Juvenile Justice."

COUNTYWIDE JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA for:**Merced**

*In the blank boxes below, enter your juvenile arrest data from last year (2023).
Arrest data by county can be found at or use your County's recorded information:*

<https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data>

Arrests

Felony Arrests	160
Misdemeanor Arrests	159
Status Arrests	146
TOTAL	465

Gender (OPTIONAL)

Male	286
Female	179
TOTAL	465

Race/Ethnic Group (OPTIONAL)

Black	60
White	53
Hispanic	337
Other	15
TOTAL	465

Please use this space to explain any exceptions and/or anomalies in the data reported above:

ANALYSIS OF COUNTYWIDE TREND DATA for:

Merced

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(C)(iv) & WIC Section 1961(c)(3)

Provide a summary description or analysis, based on available information, of how the programs, placements, services, strategies or system enhancements funded by JJCPA-YOBB have, or may have, contributed to, or influenced, the juvenile justice data trends identified in this report.

The end of COVID-19 restrictions has enabled probation officers to directly engage with juveniles, addressing referrals from law enforcement agencies without needing to forward cases to the District Attorney's Office for criminal proceedings. This shift has been significantly supported by JJCPA-YOBB funding, which has facilitated the expansion and enhancement of community-based programs designed to offer preventive and rehabilitative services outside traditional detention settings.

A notable example is the opening of the Pathways to Success building in June 2024. This facility not only houses Community-Based Probation Officers who address truancy and status offenses but also serves as a hub for vocational training, employment services, and life skills development. Importantly, referrals to the center can come from schools and other local organizations in Merced County, broadening access to its resources beyond just law enforcement channels.

These JJCPA-YOBB-funded programs have positively influenced juvenile justice data trends by providing structured and targeted interventions for youth. By enhancing access to a range of supportive services and fostering stronger community and collaborative partnerships, these initiatives have contributed to more effective case management and improved outcomes for the youth involved.

ACCOUNTING OF JJCPA-YOBG EXPENDITURES for:**Merced**

Use the template(s) below to report the programs, placements, services, strategies, and/or system enhancements you funded in the preceding fiscal year. Use a separate template for each program, placement, service, strategy, or system enhancement that was supported with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds. If you need more templates than provided, click on the "Add EXPENDITURE DETAIL Forms" tab.

Start by indicating the name of the first program, placement, service, strategy, or system enhancement that was funded with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds last year. Next indicate the expenditure category using the drop down list provided in the Expenditure Category portion on each of the templates.

List of Expenditure Categories and Associated Numerical Codes

	Code	Expenditure Category	Code	Expenditure Category
Placements	1	Juvenile Hall	5	Private Residential Care
	2	Ranch	6	Home on Probation
	3	Camp	7	Other Placement
	4	Other Secure/Semi-Secure Rehab Facility		
	Code	Expenditure Category	Code	Expenditure Category
Direct Services	8	Alcohol and Drug Treatment	26	Life/Independent Living Skills Training/Education
	9	After School Services	27	Individual Mental Health Counseling
	10	Aggression Replacement Therapy	28	Mental Health Screening
	11	Anger Management Counseling/Treatment	29	Mentoring
	12	Development of Case Plan	30	Monetary Incentives
	13	Community Service	31	Parenting Education
	14	Day or Evening Treatment Program	32	Pro-Social Skills Training
	15	Detention Assessment(s)	33	Recreational Activities
	16	Electronic Monitoring	34	Re-Entry or Aftercare Services
	17	Family Counseling	35	Restitution
	18	Functional Family Therapy	36	Restorative Justice
	19	Gang Intervention	37	Risk and/or Needs Assessment
	20	Gender Specific Programming for Girls	38	Special Education Services
	21	Gender Specific Programming for Boys	39	Substance Abuse Screening
	22	Group Counseling	40	Transitional Living Services/Placement
	23	Intensive Probation Supervision	41	Tutoring
	24	Job Placement	42	Vocational Training
	25	Job Readiness Training	43	Other Direct Service
	Code	Expenditure Category	Code	Expenditure Category
Capacity	44	Staff Training/Professional Development	48	Contract Services
Building/	45	Staff Salaries/Benefits	49	Other Procurements
Maintenance	46	Capital Improvements	50	Other
Activities	47	Equipment		

For each program, placement, service, strategy, or system enhancement, record actual expenditure details for the preceding fiscal year. Expenditures will be categorized as coming from one or more of three funding sources - JJCPA funds, YOBG funds, and other funding sources (local, federal, other state, private, etc.). Be sure to report all JJCPA and YOBG expenditures for the preceding fiscal year irrespective of the fiscal year during which the funds were allocated. Definitions of the budget line items are provided on the next page.

And, as previously stated, we strongly suggest you use Spell Check before returning to the OYCR.

ACCOUNTING OF JJCPA-YOBG EXPENDITURES for:**Merced**

Salaries and Benefits includes all expenditures related to paying the salaries and benefits of county probation (or other county department) employees who were directly involved in grant-related activities.

Services and Supplies includes expenditures for services and supplies necessary for the operation of the project (e.g., lease payments for vehicles and/or office space, office supplies) and/or services provided to participants and/or family members as part of the project's design (e.g., basic necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and shelter/housing; and related costs).

Professional Services includes all services provided by individuals and agencies with whom the County contracts. The county is responsible for reimbursing every contracted individual/agency.

Community-Based Organizations (CBO) includes all expenditures for services received from CBO's. **NOTE:** *If you use JJCPA and/or YOBG funds to contract with a CBO, report that expenditure on this line item rather than on the Professional Services line item.*

Fixed Assets/Equipment includes items such as vehicles and equipment needed to implement and/or operate the program, placement, service, etc. (e.g., computer and other office equipment including furniture).

Administrative Overhead includes all costs associated with administration of the program, placement, service, strategy, and/or system enhancement being supported by JJCPA and/or YOBG funds.

Use the space below the budget detail to provide a narrative description for each program, placement, service, strategy, and/or system enhancement that was funded last year. *To do so, double click on the response box provided for this purpose.*

Repeat this process as many times as needed to fully account for all programs, placements, services, strategies, and systems enhancements that were funded with JJCPA and/or YOBG during the last fiscal year. Keep in mind that this full report will be posted on the OYCR website in accordance with state law.

And, as previously stated, we **strongly suggest you use Spell Check** before returning to the OYCR.

ACCOUNTING OF JJCPA-YOBG EXPENDITURES for:

Merced

1. Program, Placement, Service, Strategy, or System Enhancement

Name of program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement (Required):	Bear Creek Academy		
Expenditure Category (Required):			
	JJCPA Funds	YOBG Funds	All Other Funds (Optional)
Salaries & Benefits:		\$ 1,510,000	
Services & Supplies:		\$ 398,000	
Professional Services:			
Community Based Organizations:			
Fixed Assets/Equipment:			
Administrative Overhead:			
Other Expenditures (List Below):			
TOTAL:	\$ -	\$ 1,908,000	\$ -

Provide a description of the program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement that was funded with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the preceding fiscal year. For example, you might want to include information on the types of youth served, prevention services you provided, your accomplishments, any barriers encountered, and what specifically JJCPA and/or YOBG funds paid for.

Probation operates the Bear Creek Academy (BCA) Camp Program. The BCA program comprises 30 beds dedicated to the Long Term (LT) and Youth Treatment Programs (YTP). The BCA works with at-risk youth with great potential to be productive community citizens. The academy has five phases with an estimated length of one year (LT) to two years (YTP). For program completion, youth must complete a required number of points (in-custody portion) or time (aftercare portion) to pass each phase. Points are rewarded on an evaluation system, rating the youth's participation in the academy elements with an opportunity to earn up to 50 points daily. The mission of the BCA is to strive to make positive changes in how youth committed to the academy think and behave to prepare them to return to their families and community and live a delinquent-free life.

The Secure Track Program provides specialized care and rehabilitation for youth offenders previously sent to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). With the closure of the DJJ and implementation of SB 823, which mandated that youth offenders be housed locally rather than in state facilities, this program aims to offer a comprehensive approach to treatment and education. The Secure Track Program aims to rehabilitate youth offenders within their local communities, helping them to reintegrate successfully and reduce recidivism.

Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds two (2) Deputy Probation Officers in the Juvenile Justice Correctional Complex, and their primary responsibility is to interface with youth participating in BCA's in-custody portion. The BCA Officer's roles and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Routinely assists in conducting criminogenic risk/needs assessments of each youth to identify risk factors related to reoffending as well as strengths and protective factors that might mitigate those risk factors
- Works closely with the youth and other multi-disciplinary treatment team members to develop treatment goals, case plans, and transition plans
- Transport youth to appointments and community-based vocational/educational programs and services
- Monitors and documents the youth's progress toward their rehabilitation goals and communicates with the multi-disciplinary team members regarding the youth's progress in meeting their treatment goals and potential barriers to the reintegration process
- Prepare case reports for court
- Facilitates/co-facilitates weekly intervention groups
- Participates in the Review Board for youth assigned to the BCA Program.

The Review Board comprises a Deputy Probation Officer, a Supervising Juvenile Institutions Officer, and a Program Manager. The group meets weekly to discuss and review all academy movements and disciplinary

actions that resulted in a loss of points in the academy. The Review Board will convene a special hearing if the regular board meeting is not within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

ACCOUNTING OF JJCPA-YOBG EXPENDITURES for:

Merced

2. Program, Placement, Service, Strategy, or System Enhancement

Name of program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement (Required):	JJCPA Funded Officers, Probation Assistant		
Expenditure Category (Required):			
	JJCPA Funds	YOBG Funds	All Other Funds (Optional)
Salaries & Benefits:	\$ 1,027,150		
Services & Supplies:	\$ 295,180		
Professional Services:			
Community Based Organizations:			
Fixed Assets/Equipment:			
Administrative Overhead:			
Other Expenditures (List Below):			
TOTAL:	\$ 1,322,330	\$ -	\$ -

Provide a description of the program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement that was funded with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the preceding fiscal year. For example, you might want to include information on the types of youth served, prevention services you provided, your accomplishments, any barriers encountered, and what specifically JJCPA and/or YOBG funds paid for.

The officers assigned to the Juvenile Field Supervision Services Unit utilize the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to determine what level of supervision a youth will receive. Supervision by risk level is a fundamental principle of evidence-based supervision supported by extensive research. Moreover, the Probation Department utilizes a Response Matrix to bring more uniformity and objectivity to the Deputy Probation Officer's response to a client's behavior. Nevertheless, the primary role of our Deputy Probation Officers is to keep communities safe and act as change agents by mobilizing youth into change and action, utilizing other evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing and facilitating cognitive-behavioral treatment programs. Currently, the Juvenile Field Services Unit comprises seven (7) Deputy Probation Officers who partner with various law enforcement and community service agencies to supervise high and moderate-risk youth.

The Community Based Deputy Probation Officer (CBDPO) provides prevention, early intervention, and diversion services to all areas of Merced County. The CBDPO targets at-risk, low-level youth cited out by a law enforcement agency or referred by school districts. The CBDPO seeks to apply constructive, evidence-based interventions to hold the youth accountable for inappropriate and criminal behavior, as well as address the criminogenic needs of the youth when possible. The CBDPO is the point of contact for all school districts within the County of Merced. It acts as the primary representative of the Probation Department to participate in School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). The CBDPO is also the point of contact for our partnership with the Merced County District Attorney's Office Supporting Attendance and Families through Education (SAFE.) Program. All truancy referrals are assigned to the CBDPO for intake and investigation. Merced funds three (3) CBDPO positions through JJCPA. In June 2024, the Pathways to Success building officially opened, which houses the three CBDPO positions: a Probation Program Specialist, a Peer Support Specialist, an employment technician, and staff from various agencies, all dedicated to offering comprehensive wraparound services.

The assigned Probation Assistant (PA) has met the expectation as outlined by the agency to include monthly contacts in the office or by phone, home visits (as needed and conducted by DPO's), monthly collateral contacts/resources referrals, monthly victim contact, and drug/alcohol testing and searches (as needed and conducted by DPO's). Additionally, the PA will limit their supervision activities for low-risk youth to monitor compliance with the conditions of release, if applicable, and respond appropriately to any changes in circumstances.

Also, youth are offered the opportunity to participate in the following programs:

- oTeen Outreach
- oRe-Direct
- oRise Program
- oGraffiti Abatement Program
- o3rd Millennium Classroom
- oLeadership for Life
- oYouth Accountability Board (YAB)
- oLearn. Inform. Network. Know. (LINK)
- oDoWith
- oWeCan
- oSupportive Ongoing Services (SOS)

ACCOUNTING OF JJCPA-YOBG EXPENDITURES for:

Merced

3. Program, Placement, Service, Strategy, or System Enhancement

Name of program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement (Required):	Rise to Higher Grounds Café		
Expenditure Category (Required):			
	JJCPA Funds	YOBG Funds	All Other Funds (Optional)
Salaries & Benefits:			
Services & Supplies:			
Professional Services:	\$ 178,660		
Community Based Organizations:			
Fixed Assets/Equipment:			
Administrative Overhead:			
Other Expenditures (List Below):			
TOTAL:	\$ 178,660	\$ -	\$ -

Provide a description of the program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement that was funded with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the preceding fiscal year. For example, you might want to include information on the types of youth served, prevention services you provided, your accomplishments, any barriers encountered, and what specifically JJCPA and/or YOBG funds paid for.

Rise to Higher Grounds Café/Rise Program: The Bear Creek Academy (BCA) Long Term Program (LT) and Youth Treatment Program (YTP) offer a comprehensive approach to preparing youth for the culinary industry. Participants are eligible to enroll in the Merced County Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Culinary Essentials program, a unique opportunity. The Mobile Coffee Cart program aims to provide an opportunity for youth currently detained and completing an in-custody program to learn skills related to customer service, handling cash, barista, merchandising, stocking, and other tasks oriented towards daily operational duties. Once youth have learned the necessary culinary skills in the classroom/kitchen lab and have obtained their Food Handlers certification card, they can utilize their skills in the mobile coffee trailer to gain hands-on culinary experience and customer service training through interaction with customers from the general public. Participation in the program is based on behavior, status within the BCA LT/YT program, and overall drive to partake in and contribute to the program's success. Youth receive employability skills training followed by paid work experience. Participants will be prepared for employment in the local labor market with their culinary training, food handler's certification card, experience in the mobile coffee trailer, and work experience with a local culinary establishment.

- Participants attend several weeks of Employability Skills Training facilitated by a credentialed Career Technical Education teacher and/or a Job Development Training Technician.

- The training is held off-campus at the Merced County Office of Education administration complex and/or Merced County Probation Department's Administrative Office to assist students with transitioning from school to a sheltered work environment before placing them at local businesses for paid work experience.

- Upon completion of Employability Skills Training, students can be placed in the mobile coffee trailer, paid work experience program, or additional occupational training.

ACCOUNTING OF JJCPA-YOBG EXPENDITURES for:

Merced

4. Program, Placement, Service, Strategy, or System Enhancement

Name of program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement:	Lifeline Community Development Corporation		
Expenditure Category:			
	JJCPA Funds	YOBG Funds	All Other Funds (Optional)
Salaries & Benefits:			
Services & Supplies:			
Professional Services:			
Community Based Organizations:	\$ 65,068		
Fixed Assets/Equipment:			
Administrative Overhead:			
Other Expenditures (List Below):			
TOTAL:	\$ 65,068	\$ -	\$ -

Provide a description of the program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement that was funded with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the preceding fiscal year. For example, you might want to include information on the types of youth served, prevention services you provided, your accomplishments, any barriers encountered, and what specifically JJCPA and/or YOBG funds paid for.

LifeLine Community Development Corporation (CDC) is a non-profit, community-based organization that works with people on the margins of society, focusing on under-resourced neighborhoods. They offer a strength-based approach and engage with community members to provide resources that help them rediscover their natural gifts and talents to help them move forward. Events funded included field trips to the San Jose Museum, various local libraries, playgrounds, arcades, swimming, and neighborhood gatherings, all focusing on prosocial skill building for youth in underserved communities. Lifeline CDC increased its outreach for FY 2023/24 and opened an additional community center in another underserved area of our county.

ACCOUNTING OF JJCPA-YOBG EXPENDITURES for:

Merced

5. Program, Placement, Service, Strategy, or System Enhancement

Name of program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement:	Youth Leadership Institute		
Expenditure Category:			
	JJCPA Funds	YOBG Funds	All Other Funds (Optional)
Salaries & Benefits:			
Services & Supplies:			
Professional Services:			
Community Based Organizations:	\$ 35,756		
Fixed Assets/Equipment:			
Administrative Overhead:			
Other Expenditures (List Below):			
TOTAL:	\$ 35,756	\$ -	\$ -

Provide a description of the program, placement, service, strategy or system enhancement that was funded with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the preceding fiscal year. For example, you might want to include information on the types of youth served, prevention services you provided, your accomplishments, any barriers encountered, and what specifically JJCPA and/or YOBG funds paid for.

The Merced County Probation Department implemented the Cactus Flower Art Program. The purpose is to expand and enhance the quality and cultural relevance of the arts programs for current and previous justice-involved youth in the service area of Merced County and to reduce juvenile delinquency, recidivism, and other problems and high-risk behaviors. The Merced County Probation Department will coordinate program activities with a sub-recipient, Youth Leadership Institute (YLI), dedicated to building youth leadership to serve communities by solving pressing social issues.

The Cactus Flower Art Program is the next step for youth who have completed Moving Forward. Both are YLI-developed, using a blend of El Joven Noble, Positive Youth Development (PYD), and Culturally Relevant Pedagogy (CRP). Both programs are healing initiatives that draw on Indigenous practices to find alternative forms of healing through talking circles (Moving Forward) and art (Cactus Flower), leading to meaningful youth and family partnerships through art. Youth participate in storytelling that leads to artistic expression, a reflective process to examine their values, beliefs, culture, and traditions, and how they impact their family, their chosen family, and the person they want to become. Programs also explore Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the influence that has on how they react to stimuli and their environment. Art experts will facilitate the creation of projects.

Program components include learning about and exploring various artistic mediums, such as spoken word, canvas paintings, oral storytelling, poetry, photography, murals, abstract art, embroidery, etc. Art is a tool for youth to use their voice for activism, healing, and helping family members, other youth, and community members avoid following a path that leads to being system-involved.