



JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: March 26, 2025

County Name: Inyo

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BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. 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:

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Jeff Thomson	jthomson@inyocounty.us	760-872-4111
Co-Chair <i>(If Applicable)</i>			
District Attorney's Office Representative	Dana Crom District Attorney	dcrom@inyocounty.us	760-878-0282
Public Defender's Office Representative	Gerard Harvey Public Defender	gbhlaw@gmail.com	
Department of Social Services Representative	Anna Scott Director HHS	ascott@inyocounty.us	760-873-3305
Department of Mental Health	Gina Ellis Asst. Director HHS	gellis@inyocounty.us	760-873-5888
Office of Education Representative	Barry Superintendent	bsimpson@inyocoe.org	760-873-3262
Court Representative	Judge Susanne Rizo	Susanne.Rizo@InyoCourt.ca.gov	760-872-3038
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. & Inst. Code § 1995(b).))</i>	Steven Dondero	donderosteven86@gamil.com	661-859-8318
	Jose Garcia	ijosegarcia@icloud.com	760-920-3588
	William Taylor	Willietaylor101691@gmail.com	760-937-4347
Additional Subcommittee Participants			

Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):

During the February 19, 2025, JJCC SB 823 Sub-Committee meeting, AB 505 was discussed regarding the opportunity to select a co-chair of the SB 823 Sub-Committee. During the discussion it was decided that there was no need to select a co-chair.

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

Meeting Date 1: February 19, 2025

Meeting Date 2: March 26, 2025

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable:

Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote.

March 27, 2025

Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b):

The plan was discussed by committee members. The plan was drafted by the probation department and reviewed by the committee members. A vote to approve the plan was made by committee members.

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

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

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

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

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

Inyo County has only had ■ youth in the past 15 years serve commitments at DJJ. None in the last 10 years. Inyo County had no Youth committed to DJJ in 2024.

In the last decade, Inyo County Probation Department has utilized a risk and needs assessment tool to help probation officers identify youth strengths and weaknesses as well as their risk to reoffend. Since implementing the tool, juvenile caseload numbers have fallen dramatically. The following statistics represent caseloads for 2024:

60 youth under supervision.

- 36 youth on formal probation
- 24 youth on informal probation

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

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

Out of Custody Referrals for Youth not on Probation Status

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

Evidence-Base Screening for Felony and Misdemeanor Referrals

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

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

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

Lower-level Interventions for Youth on Probation Status

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

In-Custody Dispositional Options for Intervention

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

PART 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, 2024, at the end of your response (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(D)(2) and (d)(8)):

Facility

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

Youth Supervision

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

Medical Services

Medical services will be provided by facility staff.

Behavioral Health Services

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

Educational Program

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

Health Services

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

Evidence-Based Programs Offered

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

PART 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, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8))

Inyo County will receive the SB823 Block Grant minimum of \$250,000 per year. It is recommended that a trust account be created for the Probation Department and that the funds are allocated if there is a need for the support and care of a youth needing long term commitment services, including specialized treatment services, during fiscal year 2025/2026. For now, the reserve funds will accumulate until there is a commitment need. This will financially prepare the County to be able to secure a long-term commitment when we have one.

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

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

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8))

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

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8))

Inyo County Probation is committed to prioritizing family and community engagement. Research demonstrates that a strong bond with family and/or community support is essential for positive development and successful reintegration. Inyo County will also work to remove financial or logistical barriers in place to ensure that these relationships are maintained while the youth is in custody, such as considering providing funds and resources

to family members for travel and lodging to Tuolumne County or any other county that we enter a regional contract with. Family engagement will begin at the earliest possible stage of the youth's commitment. In fiscal year 2025/2026, this will primarily happen through the MDT process; Families will be encouraged to be involved in the youth's treatment throughout the youth's commitment.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8))

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

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma- informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8))

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

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by non-governmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8))

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

In Fiscal year 2025/2026, Inyo County Probation is committed to exploring the role community providers can play to assist with the identification and provision of the specific services, programs, and needs of the target population. Additionally, Inyo County recognizes the need to allocate resources towards capacity-building for community providers to better serve the realigned population and will explore this more in the next phase.

PART 5: FACILITY PLAN (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(4))

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 need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

Inyo County Probation has a current contract for detention beds with Tuolumne County and El Dorado County. The youth will be housed at either the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility, which is in Sonora, California or the South Lake Tahoe Juvenile Treatment Center, South Lake Tahoe, California. Both facilities have the capability to house male and female youth. Youth will be classified and assigned to units based on gender, age, offense, and special needs.

The Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility will be the preferred Secure Youth Treatment Facility however the needs of the youth will determine actual commitment location. The treatment program developed by Tuolumne County is intended to be viewed in its totality as a tier program where the residential placements are its most restrictive phase. Within its facility, youth may progress through levels to gain access to greater incentive. Post-release community supervision and community-based services will fall within Inyo County's conceptualization of its tiered programming, but this facility is outside of Inyo County's direct control.

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

PART 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, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

Inyo County Probation is committed to the retention of youth within the Juvenile Justice System, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system, and appropriate steps to avoid net widening. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Sub-Committee in partnership with the Inyo County Probation Department will work with the District Attorney's Office to help develop strategies to help keep youth in the juvenile system when appropriate. Inyo County does an exceptional job of maintaining youth in the juvenile system. As indicated in the above sections, in Fiscal Year 2025/2026, Inyo County Probation is prepared to serve all youth who would have otherwise been committed to DJJ.

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, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))

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

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, 2024, at the end of your response:

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

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response:

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

PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2024: (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.

Inyo County has secured contracts with the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility in Tuolumne County and the South Lake Tahoe Juvenile Treatment Center in El Dorado County for detention beds. There were no 707(b) offenders in FY24-25 and there were no SYTF commitments in FY24-25.

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