



JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: March 27, 2025

County Name: San Benito

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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
San Benito County Probation Department	Ashlyn A. Canez, Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	acanez@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4070
Co-Chair (If Applicable)	n/a		
San Benito County District Attorney's Office	Victor Alfaro, Deputy District Attorney	valfaro@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4120
San Benito County Public Defender's Office	Pamela Brown, Public Defender	pamelabrownlaw@gmail.com	(831) 313-1933
San Benito County Health and Human Services Department	Joshua Mercier, Deputy Director	jmercier@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4190
San Benito County Behavioral Health Department	Dana Edgull, Behavioral Health Director	dedgull@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4020
San Benito County Office of Education	Krystal Lomanto, County Superintendent	klomanto@sbcoe.k12.ca.us	(831) 637-5393
San Benito County Superior Court	J. Omar Rodriguez, Presiding Judge	orodriguez@sanbenitocourt.org	(831) 636-4057
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>)	Diane Ortiz, CEO of Youth Alliance	diane@youthall.org	(831) 636-2853
	Colleen Grimes, Juvenile Justice Commissioner	colleen@degrimes.com	(831) 902-7604
	Rita Campbell, Juvenile Justice Commissioner	rcampbell@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 801-8531
Additional Subcommittee Participants			
San Benito County Probation Department	John Oliveira, Assistant Chief	joliveira@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4070
San Benito County Probation Department	Sabriena Tobia, Program Manager	stobia@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4070

San Benito County Probation Department	Jonell Casada, Program Manager	jcasada@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4050
San Benito County Probation Department	Renee Hankla, Reentry Program Manager	rehankla@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4070
San Benito County Probation Department	Lorraine Carrasquillo, Director of Administrative Services	lcarrasquillo@sanbenitocountyca.gov	(831) 636-4070

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

The selection of a subcommittee co-chair was placed on the agenda for open discussion at the March 21, 2024, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) subcommittee meeting. At that time, there was open dialogue amongst all stakeholders regarding the need and desire to select a co-chair. A decision was made by all subcommittee members that a co-chair was not necessitated at this time. This has not changed since last year's plan was submitted.

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

Meeting Date 1: August 8, 2024

Meeting Date 2: February 13, 2025

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable: April 3, 2025

Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote: April 3, 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 Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) Plan was brought forth amongst the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee members on February 13, 2025. Each JJCC Subcommittee member was asked to review the plan and provide feedback, edits, questions, etc. by the subsequent meeting date. This topic was added to the JJCC Subcommittee agenda for the following subsequent meetings held on April 3, 2025, and open discussion was facilitated regarding the contents detailed in the JJRBG Plan. The proposed edits for the JJRBG Plan were discussed and amended as needed to finalize 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))

The San Benito County Probation Department will provide community-based custody, care, and control of youth adjudicated for violating an offense described in sections 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), 290.008 of the Penal Code, and secure track treatment youth.

San Benito County will target both male and female youth whose most recent adjudication offense is described in WIC 707(b) and is defined under WIC 1990(b), in cases where the juvenile court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

San Benito County also has a secondary target population that will be supported by the block grant, with the Partners Achieving Change Together (PACT) program. Each youth will have an individual specialized case plan providing them with intensive services in an attempt to alleviate the risk of being placed in the Youth Services Center (YSC).

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

San Benito County is a small, rural county with a population of 69,159 (*July 1, 2024, U.S. Census estimate*). The county has a 20-bed youth facility located in Hollister, CA. Currently, the facility does not have the capacity to host youth from other counties. San Benito County will be developing contracts with other counties in the region or within geographical proximity that have the available resources to be a host county and agree to serve youth when a higher level of care is needed. San Benito County has contracted with Sonoma County as of 2023.

San Benito County has committed [REDACTED] youth to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in the last ten years. San Benito County Probation has been successful at treating the majority of youth in the community and in the YSC, providing intensive services to help prevent higher levels of care. Prior to the 2020 DJJ commitment, the last youth sent to DJJ was in 2010. In order to protect the identity of this individual, the demographics for this youth will not be presented.

However, for the fiscal year of 2023-2024, there have been a total of nineteen (19) youth arrested for a serious or violent offense pursuant to 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions code. These 19-youth varied in dispositional outcomes. The low number of youth committed to DJJ in San Benito County reflects the dedicated time and effort put into each of these cases by the juvenile probation division. The juvenile division has proven to be successful in using a least restrictive means approach.

Demographic information on the 19-youth served has been analyzed. Please note that not all youth were adjudicated, as this data reflects youth arrested for 707(b) WIC offenses. The demographic information from this group of youth shows [REDACTED] of youth were male; [REDACTED] were female; youth ranged in age between 14 to 17 years, with [REDACTED] being 14 or younger; [REDACTED] being 15 years old; [REDACTED] were 16 years old; and [REDACTED] of the youth were 17 years old at the time of the commission of the offense. Of this population, the identified race/ethnicity was 84.3% Hispanic/Latino, [REDACTED] Caucasian/White and [REDACTED] were other. The most serious offenses included assault (245(a)(4) PC); robbery (211 PC); attempted murder (664/187 PC); lewd and lascivious acts (288 PC) and rape (261 PC).

Considering the number of youth arrested for 707(b) WIC offenses each year, it is estimated that there may be [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] youth committed to secure-track programming annually. Based on historic data, it is anticipated that these youth will be primarily male, Hispanic/Latino or White, ages 14 or older, and committed for the aforementioned crimes.

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

Youth identified as meeting the criteria for secure track programming are assessed utilizing the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). The PACT identifies the youth's top criminogenic needs, which targets the areas that need to be addressed to achieve successful outcomes and identifies their relative level for risk to

reoffend in the community. Criminogenic needs are defined as “needs seen as causing criminal behavior,” and are assessed over eight categories: substance abuse; criminal associates; antisocial behavior; antisocial personality; family; criminal thinking; employment/school; and leisure/recreation. Based on the PACT assessment results, youth and families are often referred to San Benito County Behavioral Health Department for intensive mental health and/or substance abuse treatment services. Youth may also be referred to the county Interagency Review and Placement Committee (IRPC) if at risk of removal from their home. Youth may also be referred to community-based programs, such as, New Hope for Youth, for strength-based programming or parenting classes.

The PACT tool is not specifically designed to accurately measure risk for recidivism for sex offending youth. As a result, and per statute, all sex offenders are assessed using the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool–II (JSORRAT-II), designed for use with youth ages 12 to 17 years at the time of their most recent offense. This tool is also used when determining appropriate programming for sex offenders. The probation department may elect to use the Static-99R assessment tool for sex offenders over the age of 18 who are assessed as moderate to high-risk. These youth are often referred to sex offender treatment programs out of county, as our local resources are limited, and do not offer this type of treatment.

San Benito County does not have a local Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) for delinquent youth; therefore, youth requiring this level of care have historically been placed out of county. If a youth has been removed from the custody of their parents, family preservation and family reunification are common goals for the juvenile court to consider when determining disposition. The San Benito County Probation Department applies graduated sanctions before considering removing a youth from their home; however, there are instances when immediate removal is necessary. Typically, several attempts are made to prevent home removal by community-based supervision and case plan services tailored to meet the needs of the youth and family. The probation department coordinates Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, refers youth for a Qualified Individual (QI) assessment, and presents the case before the IRPC prior to recommending any placement disposition to the court.

There are no probation ranches or camps in San Benito County and the sole facility for detention is the San Benito County YSC. Based on this, there have been no referrals to any other facilities. DJJ commitments were rare and reserved only for youth who were unamenable to local community-based services and presented serious concerns for maintaining the safety of the public.

The San Benito County Probation Department has taken a least-restrictive means approach to working with youthful offenders and this has been demonstrated in prior years. For fiscal year 2024, a total of [REDACTED] youth were adjudicated as Wards of the Court for 707(b) offenses. [REDACTED] youth returned home to their families and remained in the community. [REDACTED] of these youth was placed in the PACT wraparound program and remained in the community.

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)):

The San Benito County Probation Department will provide a safe and secure facility with trauma-informed services available for court-committed youth up to the age of 25 that are identified as needing secure track programming. The Youth Services Center (YSC) is a linear facility that limits housing feasibility between secure track youth and non-secure track youth. In the event that the YSC is unable to accommodate a youth,

contracted facilities will be used to ensure needs are met. Services will provide rehabilitative treatment designed to reduce recidivism. These services provide opportunities to address personal, social, physical, mental health, educational, career technical education, and independent living skills needs. Youth will be prepared for a successful reentry into the community.

The probation department works with San Benito County Behavioral Health (SBCBH) to utilize mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services that are available through county programs. In addition, probation contracts with local providers to deliver services within the YSC and for youth transitioning back into the community. While in the facility, services include trauma-informed substance use treatment services; mental health services; culturally responsive/bilingual services; and supportive services for families.

The following evidence-based and promising programs are available to meet the needs of the youth. These include, but are not limited to:

San Benito County Probation Department:

- Case Supervision Services
- Assessments
- Case plans
- Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings
- School reentry plans/Transition meetings
- PACT wraparound services
- Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)
- Intensive case management supervision
- Transportation to and from school, as needed for the youth and family
- Referrals to community-based services

San Benito County Youth Services Center (YSC):

- System of care collaboration across partner agencies.
- Services that promote individual responsibility and accountability for youth
- Programs based on incentives.
- Training and monitoring skills to help youth learn community values and positive behavior
- Family visitation programs to facilitate strengthening familial relationships/bonds.
- Career training
- College preparation

Believe to Achieve Program:

- 17-week program based on the book by Howard "H" White. "See the Invisible, Do the Impossible" Teaching teens the importance of visualizing their dreams, setting goals, making sacrifices, and doing the work to achieve those goals.

Life-Skills:

- Teaching teens social skills, how to look for a job, resumé building, job interview role playing. It also teaches about money budgeting and cost evaluation.

Life Project:

- Faith-based programs and services
- Teen Recovery: a program that brings hope to teens by helping them to find healing from the pains of life, recovery from addiction, building healthy relationships, and finding their purpose in life.
- Transition plans: with the assistance and feedback of probation staff, a transition plan is developed to create goals, identify a youth's dreams, link to resources, and create a plan to overcome hurdles while transitioning out of custody.

Juvenile Work Service Program (JWSP):

- Youth complete community service hours as directed by the juvenile court; Juvenile Review Board (JRB), and/or probation department.
- Youth perform community service activities to meet the needs of the county and/or community partner agencies.

Change Company:

- Cognitive journals interactive journaling encourages self-change. Participants will explore the connection between their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, and learn practical strategies for improving their thinking style.

Placements:

- No youth have been placed in a local Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). San Benito County does not have any STRTPs.
- No youth have been placed in local probation ranches or probation camps. San Benito County does not have any ranches or camps.
- Housing will vary based on the identified needs of the youth; risk level; case plan requirements; programming requirements; recommendations of the Qualified Individual (QI), recommendations by the Interagency Review and Placement Committee (IRPC), recommendations by the Child and Family Team (CFT), and overall safety of youth within the facility.

San Benito County Behavioral Health Department:

- Mental health services: Mental health intake, treatment plan development, individual counseling, family counseling, group counseling, residential services, etc.
- Full-Service Partnership (FSP)
- Full-Service Partnership Transitional Age Youth (FSP TAY)
- Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS)
- Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS): TBS is an intensive, short-term mental health service available to children and youth who have serious emotional problems and are at risk of out-of-home placement. TBS is available to individuals under 21 who have full-scope Medi-Cal.
- Crisis Intervention: 24-hour response services to help resolve crisis situations.
- Case Management Services: Clients are linked to needed medical; dental; educational; social; vocational; rehabilitative; employment; transportation; and other community services as needed.
- Medications
- Esperanza Center
 - Transition Age Youth Drop-in Center
 - LGBTQ+ Youth Resource Center and Safe Space
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Services
- Substance Abuse ASAM Assessment
- SUD Outpatient Treatment services for youth
- Prevention programs such as Friday Night Live
- Co-occurring groups at juvenile hall for youth
- SUD treatment groups within the local high schools/alternative school sites.

Youth Alliance:

- Case management services
- Mentorship
- Employment
- Interviewing skills
- Education services
- Truancy
- Self-esteem
- Gang involvement
- Homelessness

Community Solutions:

- Offers counseling for youth that are victims or struggling with mental health issues, domestic violence, and/or sexual/physical assault.
- Solutions to violence (Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence)
- Crisis intervention
- Creating a safety plan
- Emergency safe housing/temporary shelter
- Advocacy of rights
- Accompaniment to SART exams, interviews, court proceedings, etc.
- Human Trafficking Crisis
- 24-hour Crisis Hotline-Crisis intervention
- Safety Planning and Confidential Shelter
- Advocacy and coordination of services
- Accompaniment to interviews, Court, etc.
- Criminal Justice
- Coordination of support services
- Family counseling
- Parenting classes

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))

The San Benito County Probation Department will provide comprehensive treatment related to mental health, substance use, and trauma needs. Individuals who need sex offender-specific treatment may be referred to treatment in neighboring counties. Whenever possible, San Benito County has historically served sex offenders within the community and through home removal using placement/out-of-home care treatment programs. Commitments to the San Benito County Youth Services Center (YSC) for sex offenses are infrequent. When available in neighboring counties, the duration of residential juvenile sex offender treatment may range between 12 to 24 months. Mental health and trauma services will remain available to all residents housed in the YSC regardless of commitment status, and in compliance with statute and Title 15 regulations.

Through the use of SB 823 grant funds, the probation department expanded services and introduced evidence-based wraparound services targeting areas of need, in order to help build youth resiliency, stability, and rehabilitation. The program developed is Partners Achieving Change Together (PACT). The mission of this wraparound service team is to provide youth and their families support and services through a collaborative effort and tailoring services to each individual youth. The PACT team will work with moderate to high-risk youth that have complex needs to ensure they have access to appropriate services and supports. The team will strive to reintegrate youth back into society and thrive within their community. The team will collaborate with those relevant in the youth's life to develop goals, build natural supports, and overcome challenges or barriers. Upon return to the community from a secure track program, youth will be provided individualized step-down services. Through family engagement, determination, and coordination of services, the vision of the team is to build a foundation for a better life.

The PACT Team will encompass the following members:

- Deputy probation officer: supervises moderate to high risk / high need youth.
- Clinician: mental health and substance use treatment services

- Family Advocate: community-based organization member local to the San Benito County community that is a liaison for the youth's family/parents/guardians/caregivers.

Associated/contributing members to the PACT Team may include:

- Substance abuse counselor
- School counselor/teacher or Student Support Services Manager
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP)/Special Education (SPED) Coordinator
- Educational Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) counselor
- Social Worker (SW)
- Juvenile Institutions Officer (JIO)/ YSC Staff
- Community Solutions Advocate
- Reentry Case Manager
- Child & Family Team (CFT) facilitator
- Public Health Nurse (PHN)
- Medical provider nurse/staff

The PACT Team will convene bi-weekly for meetings at the San Benito County Probation Department and/or YSC based on the needs of the youth and their family. At these meetings, the following may be reviewed or addressed:

- Updated school records (grades, behavior or discipline, attendance, and I.E.P. or 504 plans)
- Progress reports/ meeting notes (probation aide or intern)
- Program attendance and participation updates
- Treatment updates for mental health and substance use services
- Review of assessment(s) and case plan objectives
- Complete Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) referrals as needed
- Referrals and linkage to community resources
- Scheduling of meetings or CFT's
- Court orders compliance updates (community service, curfew, testing, etc.)
- Victim services as needed (i.e., CSEC youth, DV victims, etc.)
- Parenting class referrals or parenting education groups by the family advocate
- Follow-up after court proceedings, meetings, appointment(s) for the youth and family
- Updated information on parents' concerns, barriers, successes, self-care, etc.

The PACT Team may address the following, including but not limited to:

- Complex needs of youth and their families (complex trauma)
- Youth engagement and participation in services
- Decreased substance use
- Improving communication in families, specifically between youth and their parents/legal guardians/caregivers
- Promoting positive social relationships for the youth and their family
- Providing support for youth to make healthy choices in the community
- Helping the youth and their family's perception of services provided be positive and productive
- Diverting siblings from delinquent involvement with the justice system
- Diverting youth from incarceration for technical violations
- Assisting in reentry and transition from incarceration to community supervision
- Improving mental health and physical wellbeing of the youth
- Assist youth and families to access necessary medical services (i.e., medical, and dental check-ups, vision screening, hearing screening, shots, medication, etc.)
- Providing life skills training to prepare for independent living
- Assisting with the completion of high school curriculum or GED (educational skills)
- Assisting with obtaining and maintaining employment
- Assisting with further advanced education, trade school, vocational training, etc.
- Assisting in obtaining secure and stable housing
- Linkage to community resources based on individual needs of the youth and family

- Reducing recidivism

The PACT Team may complete the following risk/needs assessments as needed for each youth:

- Positive Achievement for Change Tool (PACT) assessment
- Mental Health & Substance Use Assessments
- Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Questionnaire
- CSE-IT Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Identification Tool (CSEC assessment)
- CANS - Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment
- Psychological evaluations
- Static-99R - Actuarial Assessment Instrument for Adult Male Sexual Offenders (for youth aged 18 and older)
- Static Risk Assessment (SRA)/Offender Needs Assessment (ONA) for youth 18 and older

The PACT Team will complete a treatment/case plan:

- Individualized with youth and family
- Using a trauma-informed and culturally responsive approach

Service delivery of the PACT Team will be:

- Youth and family driven
- Culturally relevant and responsive
- Trauma informed
- Strength-based
- Solution-focused
- Data-driven and evidence-based
- Modeled after wraparound community services

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))

The San Benito County Probation Department intends to use grant funds to facilitate evidence-based programs and services. As noted above, the Probation Department currently has a variety of services and interventions available to youth in the Youth Services Center (YSC) and in the community, which are administered by trained staff and through local community-based organizations. The funding from this grant will assist the probation department in providing a clinician and family advocate for the Partners Achieving Change Together (PACT) wraparound program and will support additional training for staff.

Services will be designed to divert youth from the adult criminal system. Strategies will include, but not be limited to, coordinating services for youth, family, and support persons through the service team to reduce recidivism, and help prevent incarceration in the adult jail and/or prison system. Community-based services will be delivered to youth, whenever it is possible to keep the youth in the community and out of juvenile detention. Electronic monitoring services have been enhanced to include Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring for youth transitioning out of custody that require additional supervision in the community.

In addition, the program may provide diversion services to support the youth and family to help reduce recidivism. Diversion may include coordinating services with schools, social workers, behavioral health treatment services, counselors, the Esperanza Wellness Center, and family support services. Similarly, creative programs will be utilized to support healthy choices and promote recovery and wellness (e.g. Life Skills, Garden Program, Cognitive Journaling, Sacred Rok, Restorative Justice, Health & Nutrition, etc.).

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))

The San Benito County Probation Department is dedicated to securing services for youth and families that promote wellbeing and assist in our goal of rehabilitation. The Youth Services Center (YSC) will be working closely with juvenile probation officers in an effort to provide youth and their families with supportive and necessary transition services. Family engagement is a key part of this transition process, and the probation department intends to engage with families at an early stage of the detention process as well as throughout their transition to aftercare.

Grant funding will support virtual visitation and programming, which will be utilized to support the facilitation of ongoing family engagement. Virtual visitation and programming will aid in breaking down family communication barriers and supporting the youth's pro-social connections. This approach also supports Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings to support individual rehabilitation planning and case management services. CFTs place youth and families in the center of the planning process and encourage natural support to unite around the shared hopes and goals of the youth and family. CFTs help support the youth and family to identify their strengths, develop plans to address unmet needs, and utilize community resources to achieve positive outcomes.

Family engagement services may also be addressed through family mapping to identify what the family and youth need, including parenting classes, restorative justice, cognitive journaling, and assisting families to gain access to technology. A resource guide and Google Map have been developed to include resources for youth in the community to inform families about the services available to them. These resources help educate parents to be aware of and engage in needed services. Grant funding will finance the position of a family advocate in the PACT team who will work one-on-one with the youth and their family. As a representative of the family, they will be the voice of the family in all PACT meetings. The family advocate will work to engage parents in relevant school events such as Back-to-School Night, parent teacher conferences, reentry school meetings, etc. They serve as the liaison between the youth's family, the school, and various community service providers. For youth and families, where their native language is a barrier to receiving services, the family advocate can assist in locating translation services. The family advocate may also link parents to services provided by First 5 of San Benito, such as the Family Impact Center or literacy services offered through the county library.

Grant funding may be used to help support community-based services and telehealth, when possible. In addition, a portion of funding would be available to allow flexible spending for youth and families when needs arise. Flex funds would be used to ensure opportunities and support to youth and families by providing linkage to community-based pro-social activities. In addition, program staff may have the ability to purchase items necessary for success in various domains such as education, employment, family functioning, mental health, vulnerability, and delinquency.

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))

The San Benito County Probation Department will provide a comprehensive transitional program focused on reentry and independent living. The probation department collaborates with local providers for transitional services for youth who are returning to the community. These services include case management services, mentoring, behavioral health services, parenting courses, education support, and supervision services.

These services are family-centered, strength-based, and outcome-oriented to support youth transitioning from a secure track treatment program to home. The target population is youth and their families with complex and enduring needs. Whenever possible, services will be provided in the home, or preferred locations of youth. Services will be provided in a manner that meets the needs of the family's schedule.

Technical career educational services will be available to support older youth to develop skills to meet their career and/or educational goals. These programs assist in facilitating employment and/or access educational opportunities at the local community college or other post-secondary educational institutions. The Higher Aspirations Program, offered through Gavilan College, empowers formerly justice involved individuals to aspire higher in their education goals. The program offers peer mentorship for youth from formerly incarcerated Gavilan College students. It provides opportunities for food to be provided, gas cards for transportation, and access to technology or books needed for classes. The program also provides an academic counselor that is designated to working with formerly incarcerated or justice involved students to help them navigate their educational goals. Youth referred to this program will receive referrals to resources, such as record expungement.

The probation department is dedicated to facilitating successful transition from commitment in the Youth Services Center (YSC), or higher levels of care, to the community. The PACT team will engage youth throughout their commitment and develop reentry plans to prepare youth to return to their home community by connecting them with services and supports. They will work closely with YSC staff throughout the length of stay for each youth. Services will be provided upon release as needed, which may include case management and referrals to mental health, substance use, and vocational services. A number of resources are available including community college courses, GED preparation, vocational training, and other skills such as resume development.

Current housing services available in San Benito County are limited to Community Services and Workforce Development (CSWD), Housing Authority for low-income families, and the California Fair Employment and Housing Development.

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))

San Benito County provides a number of different evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive treatment to support youth and families to achieve positive outcomes. Youth will be assessed using the Positive Achievement for Change Tool (PACT), in addition to other risk assessment tools as appropriate. A family mapping process will be utilized to identify the family or supportive caregivers necessary to address the needs of youth and help develop service plans and required treatment. Additional programming may include the implementation of Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) for youth which targets anti-social cognitions and includes practical exercises for youth to identify their criminal thinking errors and replace them with prosocial patterns of behavior. Probation staff have been trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques and apply them when interacting with youth both in and out of custody.

Culturally responsive services are available to the community of San Benito County with over 62.4% (*U.S. Census Bureau as of July 1, 2023*) of the general population identifying as Latino. Probation and other service agencies and providers have bilingual, bicultural staff available to deliver services in the person's primary language. Language assistance also includes translating court documents and other materials into Spanish, to meet the needs of the youth and families. These strategies ensure equitable access and delivery of culturally relevant services.

A response matrix will be utilized to help officers to consider other options before returning a youth to custody, whenever possible. For low or moderate-level offenders, this strategy will help develop culturally sensitive, trauma-informed services to help keep youth out of the system. The team will work closely with the district attorney to divert youth, whenever possible. This approach will be based on the probation officer's judgment, level of offense, family involvement, youth's involvement in the community, and other factors that help support diversion to community-based programs.

Families will be supported throughout the youth involvement with probation, to provide skills, teach communication and behavioral management skills, and promote healthy outcomes for the youth and family.

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))

The San Benito County Probation Department will utilize a portion of grant funding to contract with community-based clinical practitioners and organizational providers to deliver culturally responsive services including support for youth and families to successfully transition home, or an alternative placement, offer career technical education programs, and provide mentoring services. In addition, other services available from the county include system of care through the Interagency Review and Placement Committee (IRPC), including mental health and substance use treatment services, and trauma-informed counseling services. These services will be available to meet the needs of the youth and families as needed.

Services will be delivered in a strength-based, family-centered, and culturally competent manner. Services will support youth to achieve positive outcomes, including developing employment and education goals and facilitating youth to meet educational goals and attain employment. Trauma-informed counseling services will be offered to youth and families who have an identified need beyond services already available to them (either through private insurance or probation referrals). All these services will be available in the community and within the Youth Services Center (YSC) facility.

Grant funds will be applied through an established contract with a licensed clinician at an estimated budget of \$80,000.00 per year. This position will provide ongoing therapy to youth in custody and as they transition out of custody. It will also allow for psychological evaluations to be completed in a timely manner, when deemed necessary. A community-based organization (CBO) contract will also be developed to hire a full-time family advocate position at an estimated budget of \$35,000.00 per year. This advocate works closely with the youth's parents, or legal guardians, and is available to assist in providing services after hours and on the weekends when there is a crisis. The family advocate serves on the Partners Achieving Change Together (PACT) team. They collaborate with the PACT team to address youth and family needs and address risk factors that have resulted in a youth committing a delinquent offense in the community. As a representative of the family, the advocate is the voice of the family in all PACT team meetings. They work to engage parents in relevant school events and serve as the liaison between the youth's family, the school, and various community service providers. Lastly, a full-time probation officer will be dedicated to serving the target population with the oversight of a supervisor and the assistance of a probation aide, as needed.

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))

It is the intent of the San Benito County Probation Department to house identified youth who are committed in accordance with SB 823 within the jurisdiction of the secured setting at the existing San Benito County Youth Services Center (YSC). The current 20-bed facility has limitations in separating youth of different classifications, with all youth being housed in one unit. When youth detained in the facility have incompatible programming needs, they will be separated to the extent possible. Committed youth whose individual needs cannot be met with the available local resources will be placed with another qualified youth detention facility where the services meet the individual's required needs. With strategic scheduling, youth will be housed within the facility with the use of direct supervision and services targeted to address individual needs. Additional security measures will be implemented to accommodate this population, which have included security camera upgrades and enhanced Wi-Fi service to be used for wireless security and communication devices. Residents will be assessed using the Positive Achievement for Change Tool (PACT) assessment, in addition to other risk assessment tools as appropriate.

The Partners Achieving Change Together (PACT) team will collaborate with YSC staff to adhere to best practices and provide the following services:

- Ongoing case management and supervision of youth beginning at initial intake
- Completion of a validated risk/needs assessment
- Development, implementation, and monitoring of a comprehensive case plan
- Use of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral interventions
- Evidence-based programming and practices
- Imposition of incentives and sanctions to promote positive behavior change and improve outcomes

Individual rehabilitation planning and supervision practices of committed youth address key issues such as risk, responsivity, competency development, reparation of harm, community protection, family dynamics, adolescent development, and services to address criminogenic needs.

These goals will be attained by adhering to the following objectives:

- Individual rehabilitative planning and commitment/supervision practices that address risk, need and responsivity.
- Providing youth with appropriate treatment services based on identified criminogenic needs.

Facilitating community safety through the containment of youth committed for violations of crimes specified in Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

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))

The San Benito County Probation Department will utilize evidence-based and promising practices focused on improving outcomes of youth while also ensuring public safety. The development of competent programs in the Youth Services Center (YSC) and in the community will be an essential part of reaching this goal. The probation department will provide individualized case planning and programming in the least restrictive environment, whenever feasible, to successfully reduce recidivism and continue to serve youth within the juvenile justice system.

The development of the PACT team and providing wraparound services to this target population is an important step in reaching these goals. Historically, in reviewing the data of youth arrested for 707(b) WIC offenses, the San Benito County Probation Department has transferred approximately [REDACTED] youth per year to the adult system between fiscal years of 2015 through 2021. As of fiscal year 2021-2022, and through December of 2024, San Benito County has [REDACTED] [REDACTED] transferred over to the adult criminal justice system.

Research has demonstrated that justice system-involved youth are more successful when they remain connected to their families and communities. Justice system-involved youth who remain in their communities have lower recidivism rates and they are more prepared for their transition back into the community. The San Benito County Probation Department plans to facilitate the retention of the target population by providing a safe and secure facility that promotes and provides rehabilitative treatment designed to reduce recidivism; provide opportunities to address personal, social, physical, mental health, educational, career, and independent living needs; and prepare them for a successful reentry to their community. A key component of successful reentry is ensuring that justice-involved youth are housed close to their families and within their communities while they receive age-appropriate treatment, which allows the family to engage in treatment concurrently. Family and prosocial community ties play an important role in rehabilitation planning for each resident.

There are a number of facility improvements that have been completed to assist secure track youth who will be subject to longer commitments. The grant funds received through SB 823 Part B have been used for the following facility improvements to create a more home like environment: updated flooring, upgraded ceiling, and new paint, new desks in the school classroom, new furniture to include a desk in each youth's room, and an upgrade to the laundry room sink. For increased safety and security in the facility, these grant funds will also be used to update the camera system, enhance fencing, and update lockers. To enhance the programming in the facility, grant funds will support the purchase of additional garden supplies, a culinary cart, and a new refrigerator.

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))

The San Benito County Probation Department has contracted with Sonoma County Probation Department through a cooperative agreement to access services when a higher level of care or specialized programming, is needed. When youth are placed out of county, probation will support the youth and ensure connections with the youth's family and other natural supports remain intact, to help achieve positive outcomes and ensure a smooth reentry plan is in place. This will help facilitate a successful transition back into the community and support the youth and family to be successful. San Benito County is also in the process of developing a contract with Fresno County to provide a host county partnership. We have also invested in technology, through the purchase of tablets, to support detained youth in promoting positive connections with their families and communities.

We have finalized a contract as of June 4, 2024, with the State of California-Department of General Services for services rendered through the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (Fire Camp), as provided through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

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:

Data collection for program performance will be acquired through San Benito County Probation Department's data information systems, as well as data collected from community-based organizations and clinical providers to meet the state and federal performance reporting requirements. Data may also be gathered through various assessments completed on the target population (i.e., ACE questionnaire). Data collected will also be disaggregated by age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, and primary language.

The Partners Achieving Change Together (PACT) team will also be collecting data for the target population served. The PACT team will develop a Pre and Post survey for youth enrolled in the wraparound services program. The survey will encompass several questions with respect to educational goals, career planning goals, treatment goals, etc. The outcomes measured by the team may include, but not be limited to the following:

- Number of youths graduating from high school/GED
- Number of youths who obtained employment
- Number of youths who maintained employment for six months or more
- Number of youths employed part-time
- Number of youths employed full-time
- Number of youths enrolled in college courses
- Number of youths who were arrested for a technical violation (777 WIC)
- Number of youths who were arrested for a new misdemeanor offense
- Number of youths who were arrested for a new felony offense
- Number of youths who were adjudicated on a new offense (misdemeanor or felony)
- Number of youths who successfully terminated off probation/wardship
- Number of youths who unsuccessfully terminated off probation/wardship
- Number of youths adjudicated for a 707(b) offense versus a lesser offense (pled down)
- Number of youths who transferred to the adult criminal court system

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:

Data will be collected and analyzed to demonstrate the number of individuals served, types of services received, and key outcome measures. Outcome measures will include length of time in the Youth Services Center (YSC); recidivism; entry into host county programs; length of time in host county programs; entry into the adult justice system; family involvement; reentry into the community; employment; education; and stable living situation.

Recidivism is defined as a new delinquency or criminal/delinquency referral, petition/complaint, or adjudication/conviction during years one, two and three after release from the program. Entry into the adult system includes youth entering the adult criminal court system for a new crime occurring after turning 18 years of age, and (reported separately) youth transferred to the adult criminal justice system under 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions code.

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.

Not applicable.