



**Fresno County Probation Department  
JJCPA - YOBG Annual Plan**

**May 2025 – May 2026**



## **Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act & Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG) FY 2024-2025 Consolidated Annual Plan**

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### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(b) call for consolidation of the annual plans required for JJCPA and YOBG.

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan.

The rest of this document is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. Please use this template or ensure your submission meets the accessibility standards by reviewing either the Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF checklists published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website here [Accessibility Conformance Checklists | HHS.gov](#). Your submission will be posted to the OYCR website once it is confirmed to meet the accessibility standards.

**Once the report is complete, attach the file to an email and send it to: [OYCRgrants@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCRgrants@chhs.ca.gov).**



# Fresno County Probation Department

## JCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025

### Contents

Part 1. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy .....	4
Section A: Assessment of Existing Services .....	4
Law Enforcement .....	4
Probation .....	4
Education .....	11
Mental Health .....	12
Substance Use .....	13
Social Services and Reentry Support .....	14
Section B: Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas .....	17
Disparities in Services by Area .....	18
Insufficient Access and Availability of Culturally and Gender-Responsive Mental Health Services .....	18
Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services .....	19
Limited Data Collection and Sharing .....	20
Section C: Juvenile Justice Action Strategy .....	20
Section D: Comprehensive Plan Revisions .....	22
Part 2. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JCPA) .....	24
Section A: Information and Data Collection .....	24
Section B: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils .....	24
Section C: Funded Program, Strategies and/or System Enhancements .....	25
Part 3. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)- (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a)) .....	26
Section A: Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders .....	26
Risk Principle .....	26
Need Principle .....	26
Responsivity Principle .....	27
Specialty Caseloads .....	27
Reentry .....	27
Section B: Regional Agreements .....	28
Section C: Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements .....	29
Part 3 References .....	31

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



## Part 1. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy

### Section A: Assessment of Existing Services

Fresno County Probation Department (FCPD) partners with a diverse group of county public agencies and community-based organizations to provide services designed to prevent and intervene with at-risk youth, address the needs of youth in the juvenile justice system, and develop plans and broker resources for reentry to the community. This section describes the services most frequently relied upon in an effort to support the needs of the youth and families that are in contact with FCPD.

#### Law Enforcement

Fresno County criminal justice agencies view the role of addressing the needs of youth in our community as requiring a collaborative approach. Law enforcement efforts are most present in a proactive approach to reducing youth entrance into the juvenile justice system. There are two organizations that offer programs to assist our youth with needed resources. They are the Fresno Police Chaplaincy, Resilience Center and Stop Teen Exploitation and Liberate through Hope (STEALTH) program. The Resilience Center provides professional support for children who have been exposed to violence and are identified at high need for services. STEALTH provides outreach to youth and their family when habitual runaway episodes have occurred. Homeless and runaway youth frequently are arrested for theft and assault. Chen (2006) found that over half of youth with an initial runaway episode are subsequently arrested. Additionally, a sample of runaway and homeless youth have an average of 4.4 arrests. Group and mentoring opportunities are available for families and are designed to meet the needs of these families to interrupt this cycle.

The Fresno Police Department participates in the Fresno Police Activities League (PAL). Youth and police participate in positive activities including boxing, soccer, gaming, and learning how to use computers. The program serves to increase trust between law enforcement and youth, while engaging them in positive leisure activities. Another program FPD has is the PIVOT Program, which is geared towards teaching elementary school students how to be resilient and better deal with adversity.

The Fresno Police Department's Student Resource Officer (SRO) Unit provides support to both the student and their parents during re-entry; they are there to offer guidance to the student as they proceed through the re-entry process and provide the student with a point of contact should they have any questions or problems. The SRO officers have been accepted into their individual school families, some are now serving as athletic coaches and others participate on faculty boards and committees at their school sites.

#### Probation

FCPD practices the philosophy of probation having a dual role. The traditional responsibility of monitoring youth and holding them accountable to the conditions of supervision, while also helping them by connecting them with services and operating as an agent of change are equally valued. In furtherance of that belief, FCPD continues to be contracted with the University of Cincinnati (UC) to

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



enhance the utilization of evidence-based practices. UC continues to provide the infrastructure, technical assistance, and training to support FCPD work groups in developing strategies to implement a variety of effective practices. This involved an upgraded behavior management system (sanction and incentive protocols), case plan goals driven by assessment of needs, and contact appointments targeting criminogenic needs utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions.

FCPD works towards reducing youth involvement in the juvenile justice by evaluating their needs. The Evaluation of Imminent Risk and Reasonable Candidacy (EIRRC) is used to determine if a youth is at risk of going into foster care. If it is determined the youth is not at risk of removal, the youth is then assessed with a validated risk assessment, the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), that categorizes youth into low, moderate, or high risk for recidivism.

DPOs provide supervision for youth that may be at lower risk for recidivism, however, have many psychosocial needs. The ability to connect the youth and their family to services is a vital contribution to the community and may reduce the likelihood that the youth continue to engage in at risk behaviors. For this reason, FCPD has implemented the Assessment Team comprised of DPOs who conduct the appropriate assessment on youth who have committed a new law violation and have been set for disposition. This helps with making appropriate recommendations that address the youth's criminogenic needs. It also expedites the implementation of services to provide even more details on supports that can be put into place to help youth and family.

FCPD offers opportunities for youth to participate in Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), and Diversion. In collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Court, youth may be placed on Community Justice Conferencing /Restorative Justice, Court ordered Informal Probation, or Deferred Entry of Judgement (DEJ). A variety of factors determine eligibility for these alternative options to traditional probation services including the severity of the charge, risk level, and youth and family needs.

FCPD contracts with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools to provide services for the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) for non-probation youth. TIP officers are assigned to the east and west Fresno County school districts of Kerman, Golden Plains, Firebaugh, Mendota, Laton, Washington Union, Caruthers, Washington Colony, Orange Center, Pacific Union, Sanger, Raisin City, Coalinga-Huron, and Violet Heinz Education Academy school sites. Working closely with School Administrators and School Attendance staff, their goal is to reduce truancy, improve student attendance and actively participate in Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) hearings.

The goal of the FCPD Diversion program of supervision (Welfare & Institutions Code 654) is to reduce recidivism of youth by providing services and support without the need to enter the formal court process. The program redirects youthful offenders from being formally processed in the juvenile justice system and identifies ways of addressing the behavior. This program is offered to those who have been alleged to have committed a qualifying offense and provide these youth and their family services to address the situation that brought the youth within the juvenile justice system. Referrals to community-based services helps families build their protective factors, levels of

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



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communication and connects them with extended natural supports within their community. Upon successful completion of the program the youth's record is sealed.

FCPD supports a restorative justice approach to raise youth awareness of the consequences of their actions and support making restitution for those actions. Community Justice Conferencing provides a Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) that uses a restorative justice approach, provides mediation, and increases restitution services.

Informal probation is a post-filing diversion program under Welfare & Institutions Code 654.2 (WIC 654.2). With this program, a petition (a formal case) is filed with the court and the youth is informally supervised for up to six months. Informal probation is often available for first-time offenders and less serious offenses.

In lieu of jurisdictional and disposition hearings, the court may grant a Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) provided that the youth admits each allegation and waives time for the pronouncement of judgment. Upon the successful completion of the terms of probation, no sooner than 12 months and no later than 36 months from the date of the youth's referral to the program, the court shall dismiss the charge or charges against the youth.

FCPD continues to operate several specialty courts and/or caseloads to address the unique needs of the youth under their supervision. For those youth that have needs related to mental health, or intellectual and developmental disabilities, there is a Family Behavioral Health Court. The goals of the court are to connect youth with serious mental illness to treatment services, take into consideration their mental health concerns, and provide a more intensive treatment and supervision partnership.

FCPD has DPOs designated to work with females who have been identified as at risk of human trafficking. This determination is made through the administration of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT, pronounced "See It"). Those youth that are identified as possible or clear concern may be referred to Unity Court. This specialized hearing allows for the linkage of at-risk youth to a wide array of resources. Unity Court is a collaborative effort which includes representatives from Breaking the Chains, Department of Behavioral Health, Focus Forward, Fresno County EOC - Central Valley Against Human Trafficking, District Attorney, Public Defender, and the Central Valley Justice Coalition. This proceeding is voluntary, serves a positive and supportive role. The DPO undergoes training on how to detect, serve, and advocate for those vulnerable to human trafficking.

FCPD has a dedicated caseload for youth who are on probation for a sex-related offense. FCPD is contracted with The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of the Greater Boston, Inc. (CPC) to provide services to this population. There are three psychometric tools to identify treatment needs in regard to sexual offending, including: 1) Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol, 2) Protective and Risk Observations for Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR) and 3) Structured Assessment of Violence Risk Youth (SAVRY). CPC will create case plans for each participant, and which will be reviewed periodically during a multidisciplinary team meeting to include FCPD.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



School-based probation has led to a well-established partnership between FCPD and school districts. FCPD strategically places DPOs in the communities where the youth live, thereby, reduce the burden on families to report to the probation office. This is particularly helpful in the rural areas of the county. The DPO has the added advantage of observing the youth in a more natural environment and can note their daily behavior, study habits, attendance, and adjustment with their peers. The school appreciates the added support, as the DPO is available to intervene as situations demand and allows for more expedited resolution. The family is frequently integrated in discussions towards solving problems that otherwise would hinder the youth's progress academically, behaviorally, and socially.

In addition to allowing for this collaborative approach between the family, school, and FCPD, school-based probation allows for interventions and programming, i.e., restorative justice, youth court, and evidence-based practices. The DPO is also available to encourage and support youth's involvement in extracurricular activities (sports, assemblies, clubs, etc.). Having DPOs in the school expands the frequency of informal and formal contacts resulting in improved communication, rapport, and support.

DPOs are placed at mainstream high schools (Bullard, Sunnyside, Roosevelt, Edison, Farber Educational Campus, McLane, Fresno, Hoover, and Phoenix) in the Fresno Unified School District, the largest school district in Fresno. By extension, there is greater access to local elementary, middle, and alternative high schools in the area. One DPO serves Sanger Unified School District, two DPOs serve Kings Canyon Unified School District, and one DPO serves Violet Heintz Education Academy (VHEA).

In summary, school based DPOs provide the following:

- Intervention in crisis situations involving youth on juvenile probation
- Coordinate re-entry efforts for youth returning from youth facilities
- Coordinate interventions with the schools and other agencies
- Serve as an agency of change with disruptive or truant youth to reduce risk of entry into the juvenile justice system
- Assist in the prevention and management of disruptive behavior by all youth

These efforts have the goal of providing for the unique needs of the youth on probation, reducing entrance of youth into the justice system, and improving the school environment for all youth.

As mentioned, several high schools within Fresno County are involved in Youth Court. This continues to be a promising approach for first-time offenders who are held accountable by their peers. There is a Youth Advisory Council that is actively engaged, as well as an adult group that provides coordination and training for the youth involved. A Fresno County Superior Court judge holds hearings on campus. Because teens understand teens best, the jurors in these hearings are fellow students. These jurors work with the judge to impose sanctions that help the youth understand the impact of the offense on his or her family, school, and community.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



The DPO has the option of using Youth Court as an alternative to referring a formal petition to the Juvenile Court. This approach is utilized as evidenced by the handling of 59 in 2022/2023, 63 in 2023/2024, and 37 thus far in 2024/2025 (partial year) reflecting its value to FCPD, school, court, and youth involved.

In addition to the assigned DPOs, there are Probation Technician positions that are instrumental in connecting youth to services. The services provided include supporting the DPOs, assisting with placements, collecting DNA, monitoring Global Positioning System (GPS) compliance, and connecting youth to prevention and intervention services. Partnership with the courts, schools, families, law enforcement and public and community-based agencies is essential to the comprehensive services provided for youth referred to FCPD.

The FCPD has a designated deputy probation officer who attends monthly Child Abuse Review Team (CART). The team is comprised of members from the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), Department of Social Services (DSS), Family Court Services, FCPD, and the James Rowland Crime Victim Assistance Center. The mission of the team is to ensure the safety of children at risk of victimization by a parolee, probationer, post-release community supervision offender, mandatory supervised released offenders, and youthful offenders. The objective of the team is to provide ongoing communication and open exchange of information among participating agencies in an effort to reduce further child victimization. In doing so, bi-monthly multi-agency review team meetings are held for ongoing assessment of child abuse related cases. The collaboration also provides on-going education and training on child abuse related topics and cross training related to each agency's function and legal parameters.

FCPD works closely with families, treatment providers, law-enforcement agencies, school districts, the district attorney's office, the public defender's office, and the Child Abuse Review Team (C.A.R.T.) to ensure the youth's compliance with conditions of supervision. The FCPD has a long-standing working relationship with various agencies which includes justice partners, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, and various community victim advocacy groups, the Fresno Police Department and other law enforcement agencies in the County of Fresno.

FCPD offers the following evidence based rehabilitative services to youth housed in the juvenile facility (Juvenile Justice Center). For youth with significant needs and pose a higher risk for recidivism, FCPD offers the New Horizon Commitment Program on the Juvenile Justice Campus (JJC). This program is supported through contracted services and includes an individualized comprehensive plan to reduce risk of reoffending. The core cognitive behavioral intervention delivered on the unit is Thinking for a Change. This 25-session structured, manualized program is divided into three key areas (cognitive restructuring, social skills, and problem solving). Lowenkamp, et.al (2009) found a statistically significant reduction for recidivism for program completers compared to a matched control group who did not receive the intervention. Findings indicate that across groups, younger and higher risk youth were more likely to be arrested for a new offense during the follow-up period, compared with older and lower risk youth. This suggests that more intensive dosage may be necessary for improving outcomes. The New Horizons program provides

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



additional programming utilizing a cognitive behavior approach, as well as the use of core correctional practices by FCPD staff. Mental health, family and substance use services are provided in group, family, and individual modes of delivery. As discharge nears, a reentry case plan is established and includes assistance with enrollment in higher education programs, vocational opportunities, or employment readiness services. The field supervising officer provides regular contacts and ongoing reassessment to continue building on the benefits the youth gained while in the program.

Additionally, youth that complete the program on the Juvenile Justice Campus Floyd Farrow Substance Abuse Unit (SAU) are placed on a specialty caseload to support their reentry into the community. This allows for improved transition from the institution into the community, as well as greater continuity in the treatment goals.

Fresno County Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF/Secure Track) Cultivating Healthy Choices and Independence (CHI) is a program-based commitment for youth 14 years of age or older, whose most recent offense, for which they have been adjudicated, is listed in WIC 707(b). In determining whether a commitment to SYTF is appropriate, consideration shall be given as to whether a less restrictive alternative disposition is suitable in providing rehabilitation to the youth.

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools maintains a partnership agreement with the State Center Community College District and its respective colleges regarding instructional services for Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment courses are offered on campus whereby high school students may earn high school credits and community college credits concurrently. The courses vary from bearing one to three college credits. CSU/UC transferrable courses are available for Dual Enrollment on campus.

Another important resource for youth residing at the Juvenile Justice Campus is Chaplaincy services. In addition to be available for spiritual services and pastoral counseling, several positive events are provided. Youth are invited to participate in youth camps, holiday celebrations, car shows, and other positive social activities. FCPD welcomes and supports community involvement in the lives of the youth in their care and views reentry as a vital collaborative process between the department and the community.

Providing supportive services to youth and their families as they reenter the community is a priority for Fresno County. Beginning at booking of a youth into custody, plans will be developed to prepare families for the return of their children upon release. This includes the work of Social Workers, Peer Support Mentors, and contracted community supports to work with youth and family, both in custody and post-release, as we will strive to fulfill reentry plans at home and in the community. Individualized reentry case management plans will strengthen families, potentially preventing younger siblings from entering the juvenile justice system and provide a clear pathway to success for youth reentering the community. The focus on re-entry will be bolstered by connecting youth to trusted messengers and community-based organizations while in custody to help bridge youth to services when they are released.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



Probation has applied for and received PATH 3 funding for justice involved youth. CalAIM enhanced care management (ECM) services will be utilized to identify social determinants of health (SDOH) and access to care issues that may be encountered when released and will connect youth to an ECM provider prior to their release who will be able to assist and support youth post-release in receiving necessary services. Probation will leverage CalAIM services to connect youth to health care providers, governmental agencies, and community-based organizations when needed. Probation will utilize CalAIM to connect youth to trusted messenger community-based organizations.

Contracted provider, Focus Forward partners with Project Rebound at Fresno State to bring interns with lived experience to support youth in their Pipeline to Opportunity (higher education) program. Focus Forward also partners with the CA Justice Leaders AmeriCorps program through Impact Justice to connect young professionals with lived experience to youth in all Focus Forward programs to youth in and out of custody. They also run the Youth Council which is a group of in-custody youth who have been voted in by their unit to ensure youth have a platform to utilize their voice and advocate for change at the JJC. The mission statement, in the words of the founding youth council members, is as follows: "To make sure youth are heard regarding programming and services offered at the JJC and by the JJC once youth are released. Youth Council's goal is to make sure youth are receiving services that will help them make better decisions and terminate probation successfully." Currently, the Youth Council is on a hiatus, but it is expected to resume in the Fall of 2025.

Before the youth are released from custody a transition meeting is held with the youth and parent, the supervising DPO and collaborative partners. The goal is to reintegrate the youth into the community, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety through addressing the educational, employment, healthcare, and family relationship needs of the youth re-entering the community by providing support and connection to needed services in the community prior and after the youth have been released.

The effectiveness of re-entry programs by tracking the percentage of youth who are in stable housing, in educational programs, and working when they are released, as well as by surveying youth regarding adequacy of access of physical health, mental health and substance use services prior to and after release, remains a challenge due to our internal systems being limited in the ability to collect data. Further, to have the capability to do so, data points need to be identified and incorporated into the FCPD case management system.

In summary, FCPD is invested in connecting youth to services to reduce the risk to the community and youth by providing direct interventions and connecting families to community-based organizations to meet their needs. With these practices, Fresno County juvenile court and FCPD services remain resolute in their stance to limit involvement and future penetration into the juvenile justice system whenever possible. The objective remains to manage a case at the least restrictive level to reduce the criminogenic effects of court involvement, juvenile record, and detention.

The FCPD implementation of Evidence-Based Practices is centered on the philosophy of utilizing resources to address criminogenic needs to reduce recidivism. One of the major challenges with

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



this population is keeping them engaged in efforts to change behaviors and adopt pro-social attitudes. Grounded in cognitive behavioral psychology, incentives reinforce compliance with probation conditions. Studies including those by the National Institute of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, confirm rewards from praise to tangible benefits, enhance rehabilitation. Effective incentive programs set clear criteria, provide timely rewards, and gradually increase responsibility. By balancing external rewards with intrinsic motivation, these approaches support long-term behavioral change, helping juvenile offenders reintegrate into society while addressing developmental and environmental challenges.

The incentive system includes verbal reinforcement up to property and monetary incentives. In addition to assisting youth/young adults, we will also provide positive family activities to assist in the transfer to internal motivators.

## Education

The Fresno County Superintendent of School (FCSS) operates both court and community school programs, all of which are fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, designed to support justice-involved youth in completing their high school education and/or transitioning to other appropriate educational programs. The Alice M. Worsley Court School provides educational services on the Juvenile Justice Campus to middle and high school students, and now also provides educational services to young adults on campus as identified through the juvenile justice realignment process. Career Technical Education (CTE/Regional Occupation Program (ROP) courses and offered and were established based on the need for high quality technical and career training opportunities for our young people.

The CTE/ROP courses currently offered include 1) Welding Fabrication and Application and 2) Environmental Horticulture Science, Industry certifications in Welding, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Safe Serve food-handlers are also offered in the school program. With anticipated growth of our young adult population with high school diplomas, the school in partnership with FCPD, may be expanding CTE course offerings to potentially include: expanding agricultural offerings to include animal husbandry, pre-apprenticeship opportunities, Pinegrove Fire Camp, Building Trades, and Microsoft Office Systems (MOS) certification. JJC is committed to offering expanded Career Technical Education (CTE) course offerings that offer fulfilling career opportunities upon graduation.

The Fresno County Superintendent of School maintains a partnership agreement with the State Center Community College District in its respective colleges regarding instructional services for Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment courses are offered on campus whereby high school students may earn high school credits and community college credits concurrently. The courses vary from bearing one to three college credits. A CSU/UC transferrable course was added to the available Dual Enrollment courses on campus in the Spring of 2022.

The Violet Heintz Educational Academy (VHEA) is a community school for students in Fresno County who are identified by FCPD or their home school district as needing more intensive services in a

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



smaller school setting. The site provides a collaborative approach between FCSS and FCPD, and referring school districts to provide behavioral, mental health wellness services, and/or substance use intervention services for students who attend at this campus. Student referrals may be a result of non-attendance in the students; district of residence, expulsions from district programs, or FCPD referred. Grade 7-12 students receive instruction that is tailored to meet their individual academic needs as determined by local and state assessment data. VHEA continues to partner with FCPD, community-based organizations, students, and their families to enhance needed supports to allow the student to demonstrate progress in attendance, school engagement, and behavioral and academic growth. In addition, the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) of the Office of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools is a resource which identifies students with non-attendance patterns with several school districts and contact the family to identify potential needs that contribute to the truancy. The goal for VHEA students is for their successful transition to their district of residence after a semester or a school year, though students may satisfy their high school graduation requirements and earn a diploma.

Focus Forward's Pipeline to Opportunity (P2O) program supports youth both in-custody and post release with higher education support services, including barrier removal, access to technology supports and academic mentors. Academic mentors are specifically trained to assist students with tutoring, goal setting, and navigating resources and programs at Fresno City College. Services include but are not limited to College Orientation, Student Portal Navigation, support with grade and assignment monitoring, and support with the Financial Aid application (FAFSA). Focus Forward is working with Fresno City College and Clovis Community College to expand and increase higher education opportunities for youth in custody and out of custody.

## Mental Health

The Family Behavioral Health Court (FBHC) was mentioned earlier as an FCPD supported initiative for youth who have mental health or intellectual developmental disability (IDD). Identified youth have a diagnosed serious mental disorder (major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, mood/anxiety disorders) or an intellectual disability (autism, or organic brain disorder) that contributed to delinquent conduct. As indicated, this is a partnership with FCPD and several county agencies and community-based organizations. The design includes a court-supported treatment plan for adjudicated youth.

- The team consists of DPOs, a FBHC Coordinator, defense counsel, deputy district attorney, a Department of Behavioral Health clinician, and the juvenile court judge. A comprehensive assessment is conducted to determine eligibility and suitability to the program. An individualized treatment plan is developed based on the needs of the youth and family. These plans are created and maintained by the Child Family Team (CFT) comprised of the youth, family, and a multidisciplinary team. Goals are set to address challenges in school, within the family, and the youth's mental health or IDD diagnosis. Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is an evidence-based case management system shown to reduce severity of psychiatric symptoms, improve general functioning, and reduce duration and frequency of psychiatric

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



hospitalizations (Vijverbert, R. et.al, 2017). The approach includes an intensive level of treatment including 24/7 availability that includes:

- Crisis response
- Individual, group, and/or family therapy
- Parenting coaching
- Behavioral coaching
- Substance use prevention and treatment services
- Educational and vocational services
- Medication management
- Case management services

The providers are involved for approximately one year depending on the individual needs and circumstances of the family, and include three stages, assessment, intervention, and stabilization. Program completion results in successful closure of probation, as well as reduction of community supports, as appropriate.

In addition to the DPO making referrals for youth with mental health needs, Fresno County has an initiative to identify youth and link them to behavioral health agencies. This project, All 4 Youth, is provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and FCSS. FCPD supports and assists as needed in these recommendations.

Mental health providers are available for general caseloads and in the JJC. Wellpath provides coordination and direct services ranging from crisis response to ongoing psychiatric and behavioral health care. Wellpath staff are available daily in the JJC for crisis response, assessment, therapy, and psychoeducational services for the youth. They serve as a resource for staff in assisting in developing a plan that increases the safety and success of youth in their care as well as linkage to aftercare treatment with Community Based Organizations. Wellpath coordinates with Mental Health Systems and Focus Forward to conduct treatment with a collaborative approach.

## Substance Use

Community-based organizations provide the treatment interventions in the Floyd Farrow Substance Abuse Unit (SAU) in JJC. This designated treatment unit provides for group and family interventions, mental health services, and individual appointments with a substance use disorder counselor. Case management and case planning services include the use of cognitive behavioral interventions and motivational interviewing to reduce the risk of continued substance use and lower recidivism. Youth are on a designated probation caseload upon discharge to support the reinforcement of the strategies learned in the program and referral for aftercare services. Family Youth and Alternatives (FYA) provide the substance use services in the community and use a cognitive-behavioral and motivational interviewing approach in treatment delivery.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services were extended to include youth beyond the age of 17. SUD is not a stand-alone JJC program defined by a set number of days allowing youth to receive SUD services based on assessed need and does not require youth to be screened/committed to SAU

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



program to receive SUD services. Detained youth going through the judicial process are screened for substance use by a contracted medical provider and then referred for appropriate level of voluntary services provided by a community-based organization while in custody, which can be carried over to a commitment that does not require being committed to SAU.

## Social Services and Reentry Support

There is an array of services for youth who lack family support and need placement or support. The FCPD has a strong relationship with the Department of Social Services (DSS) in the coordination of placements and other resources.

Through this collaboration, DSS offers placement support for both familial and community placements, assisting in the approval process which prioritizes the safety and well-being of youth under Probation supervision. DSS also administers the Independent Living Program, which provides young people with essential life skills, educational support, and career readiness to facilitate a successful transition to adulthood.

In recognition of economic and social challenges faced by many families, DSS provides critical assistance to those experiencing financial, medical, housing, and food insecurities. This support is delivered through a variety of programs, including CalWORKs, Welfare-to-Work, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Family Stabilization Program, and Cal-Learn. Furthermore, Probation utilizes DSS funded community-based services through their partnerships with organizations such as Neighborhood Resource Centers, ensuring access to localized support systems that address immediate and long-term needs.

Both the FCPD and DSS are signatory members of the Children's System of Care Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and active participants in the Interagency Placement Committee. These collaborative frameworks facilitate coordinated service delivery and interdepartmental communication to better serve youth and their families. Additionally, both agencies are key partners in the Child Well-being Continuum, a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing the safety, stability, and long-term success of children and families through integrated responsive service provision.

This ongoing partnership between the FCPD and DSS reflects a shared commitment to improving outcomes for youth and families by providing holistic support and fostering collaborative, multi-agency solutions to address the diverse needs of the community. In addition to housing and emergency service's needs, several agencies partner with FCPD to provide for mentoring and emotional support.

The Boys and Girls Club provides pre-release and post-release services for youth at the Juvenile Justice Campus (JJC) including social and life skill building, vocational and career development and psycho-educational programming. This includes character development, leadership, recreational opportunities, and positive leisure opportunities in their community. They promote academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The goal is to provide a safe haven

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



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for youth to promote and enhance their development by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness and a sense of belonging that will assist them in discovering their great futures.

Focus Forward currently provides mentoring services, utilizing community volunteers and interns. In recent years, Focus Forward has partnered with Impact Justice and Fresno State's Project Rebound program to place interns and AmeriCorps members at Focus Forward to support mentoring and other programs. These partnerships have increased the number of mentors who have lived experience with the juvenile justice system. Mentors provide social-emotional support to youth while pending trial, during adjudication, and during the re-entry process. Mentors meet with youth typically one day a week for one hour to give guidance and to support youth in meeting their goals. In the 2024 calendar year, 86 youth were provided with 1,020 mentoring services by 29 mentors. An estimated 46% of mentoring services were conducted in Commitment, 43% in Detention, and 11% in the community. An estimated 138 youth participated in 28 Life Skills workshops led by mentoring staff and volunteers. Workshops cover a variety of topics from self-care, emotional intelligence, maintaining a home to community resources, time management, and many more.

Focus Forward has two social workers supporting youth in probation foster care placement who work within FCPD to provide coordinated reentry and case management services to the youth and families/caregiver/treatment facility. They coordinate Child Family Team (CFT) meetings to discuss progress and additional needs presented by the youth and family. A plan is developed to address any identified needs and make linkages or provide direct services to support the success of the participants. To develop this plan, treating clinicians or Focus Forward Social Workers will conduct a Child Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) assessment within 30 days after being placed. This CANS is presented and discussed amongst all parties to develop a case plan for the youth and family during the CFT meetings. This plan is followed and developed with the team and can be modified should the youth and family's needs change. Focus Forward also provides parent education services to youth and family who have family reunification orders, per their case plan. In addition, a preventative approach to keep juvenile justice youth from entering the foster care system (placement), has been implemented in which the Focus Forward Placement staff supports and facilitates CFT meetings for youth who have yet to identify a family to be reunited with post release. This service aligns with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), in efforts to keep families together.

Focus Forward also has 4.5 full time equivalent staff to provide comprehensive reentry and case management services to youth committed to the Juvenile Justice Campus for a minimum of 45 days, as well as their families. They coordinate wrap-around reentry services with youth and their families in an effort to reduce recidivism among youth committed at the Juvenile Justice Campus. Focus Forward staff assess youth upon their commitment and assign a case manager to develop case plan goals in six key areas of rehabilitation: Academic Education, Life Skills, Mental/Behavioral Health, Workforce, Safety and Relationships. Families of the youth are also offered case management services, which include an assessment, an individualized reentry plan, resources and referrals to needs-based programming in the six key areas. Youth and families are offered separate case

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



managers to guide their individualized case plans and case management services are continuously provided at least 60-90 days after release. Groups on financial literacy (Money Habitudes), teen parenting education (Nurturing Skills for Teen Parents and Just Beginning baby bonding program); job readiness, healthy relationships (Safe Dates), and family sessions (Nurturing Parenting for Parents w/Adolescents) are also provided in custody. Additional services that have resumed after program disruptions due to COVID-19, include out-of-custody excursions and "Siblings Day" events. Recent excursions include a trip to UC Merced and Fresno State, where youth were given a campus tour to encourage higher education pursuits and learn about available programs and support services. Siblings Day is a special event, inviting additional members of youth's family to attend a themed session to bond over activities, food and festivities. Focus Forward leads a multi-disciplinary monthly meeting called "Youth Services" meeting to bring on-campus providers together to collaborate on committed youth and ensure services are not duplicated. Social Workers and the Family Advocate meet with both youth and family upon youth's release for ongoing case management including home visits, community service opportunities and referrals to community-based services. Staff guide and encourage youth to engage in prosocial activities including community resource fairs, Focus Forward holiday events, and Focus Forward sponsored group outings such as to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, "game night", bowling at Fresno State, the Underground Gardens and more.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



## Section B: Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

FCPD is committed to meeting the needs of youth in an effort to reduce entrance in the juvenile justice system and/or to limit further involvement into the criminal justice system. While the services detailed in the prior section are effective in meeting needs, the department is invested in expanding services to fill gaps, improve resources, and respond to additional concerns in the community. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Phased Response Plan Subcommittee was convened on December 18, 2024, February 13, 2025, March 26, 2025, and April 9, 2025, to identify needed areas to focus on in the coming year.

### Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council- Phased Response Plan Subcommittee

Name	Agency
Rosalinda Acosta	Probation Department, Deputy Chief
JoAnna Edwards	Public Defender's Office
Emma Rasmussen	Department of Behavioral Health
Joanna Litchenberg	Focus Forward
Phillip Menchaca	Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Galen Rutiaga	District Attorney's Office
Kimberli Smith	Department of Social Services
Lt. Matt Alexander	Sheriff's Office
Mindy Casto	Fresno Police Department, Chief
Marilyn Watts	Fresno County Juvenile Justice Commission
Debra Rush	Breaking the Chains
Sergio Coronel	Youngsters For Change/CJC
Angel Duarte	GEO Reentry Services

This collaborative process resulted in the identification of the following areas to further develop over the upcoming year.

- Disparities in Services by Area
  - The eastern and western regions of the county continue to have limited access to services and public transportation .
- Insufficient Access and Availability of Culturally and Gender-Responsive Mental Health Services
  - Support is needed to assist agencies to expand programming that is responsive to the population served, as well as leveraging collaborative opportunities to share resources.
- Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services
  - Needed programs include:
    - Core programming to lower recidivism

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



- Crisis de-escalation
- Programming for Gang Impacted Youth
- Identify at risk CSEC youth at the entry level
- Limited Data Collection and Sharing
  - Information sharing is hampered by outdated and disconnected data systems.

## Disparities in Services by Area

Effective programs collaborate and form connections with other agencies to provide a complement of services that are flexible enough to meet the unique needs of families. Many times, rural areas have limited resources or there are accessibility concerns for families in more remote parts of the county. Service coverage continues to include school-based probation, reporting opportunities in local police departments, telephone or video conferencing options, field visits by DPOs, and utilization of the Mobile Probation Services van.

FCPD has expanded the availability of services throughout the county by supporting remote/virtual services for treatment. This includes using the Mobile Probation Services Center Grant program. FCPD has expanded services to the rural communities of Selma, Coalinga, and Orange Cove. FCPD will continue to reach out to other rural locations to serve those who reside in the eastern and western areas of the County of Fresno. The two vans are equipped, with telecommunications, and other technology needed to operate mobile probation service centers to assist youth and their families. The vehicles will be used in inner-city and rural areas such as public libraries, county buildings, homeless shelters located near homeless encampments, and community sponsored events. The goal is to assist youth and families that need assistance with probation compliance due to barriers. By taking the vans out to locations in inner-city and rural areas, FCPD would overcome the transportation barrier by taking services to the youth and their families using evidence-based techniques which could include assessments, referrals to address their criminogenic needs, case plan reviews, maintaining contact orders and reducing unnecessary justice involvement to youth.

FCPD is contracted with GEO Reentry Services to provide substance abuse, anger management and gang intervention programming utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions. The program places heavy emphasis on skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development. The groups are designed for youth who are in the juvenile justice system and demonstrate a need on the risk assessment. Services are offered in the community setting and offers in person and virtual services for those in rural areas.

## Insufficient Access and Availability of Culturally and Gender-Responsive Mental Health Services

FCPD continues to take a stance that inclusion and respect be at the core of every interaction with the youth and their families. In probation, the philosophy of cultural responsiveness is seen in several ways. We are comprised of a diversified staff. It is essential that all youth can look to staff for relatable role models and opportunities to talk with adults with a shared cultural experience. Community-



based organizations that specialize in or work with specialty populations are represented in the network of providers utilized by FCPD. In addition, at the Juvenile Justice Campus there is an effort to reflect a variety of cultures most represented among the youth in the artwork that is displayed, stories and books available, menus and snacks, as well as providing cultural heritage events or activities.

While there are some options available to provide a culturally relevant and gender-responsive experience for youth in our care, this opportunity needs to be more expansive, available, and affordable. FCPD will develop opportunities for agency collaboration to better meet the cultural and gender needs of the families served, to include the LGBTQ population. To ensure this is prioritized, published RFPs will include a provision that services are expected to be delivered in a culturally and gender-responsive style.

### Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services

Reducing youth antisocial behavior, social skill and emotion regulation deficits, problems with family and peer relationships, gang affiliation, substance misuse, mental health issues, self-harm, poor academic performance, aggression and violence requires a comprehensive plan that utilizes proven models of intervention delivered with fidelity. Currently, the availability of programs that incorporate evidence-based practices, and structured interventions based on a cognitive-behavioral model needs further expansion. This emphasis on EBP interventions will also be stated as a requirement within RFPs released by FCPD.

FCPD continues to contract services with GEO Reentry Services and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Greater Boston, Incorporated as previously mentioned in this report. Additional evidence-based enhancements proposed for the upcoming year include the adoption of a structured crisis de-escalation model for FCPD, Positive Action (classroom curriculum) and Family Systems Trauma Model and/or Multisystemic Therapy (MST).

FCPD has implemented a comprehensive Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) model to provide for on-going monitoring and enhancement of implementation of evidence-based services. Each FCPD division will identify targets for improvement, develop action plans, and monitor for desired outcomes or indicators. A system for reviewing and supporting implementation enhancements for community-based partners will be an essential element in the CQI Plan. One gap in our understanding of what practices are effective and evidence-based, is to identify what drives racial and ethnic disparities in justice-involved youth. Collecting and reporting data on race and ethnicity related to participation in or assignment to a broad range of programs as well as in dispositions, will inform decision-making that can reduce disparities. For this reason, FCPD is committed to considering race and ethnicity data when determining evidence-based practices.

Community based resources are limited in evidence-based programing for gang impacted youth up to age 25. Youth impacted by gangs in the juvenile justice system lack the sophistication, organizational structure, and gang politics compared to gangs in adult institutions. FCPD is committed to seeking out community-based resources and work to address this identified need.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



FCPD recognizes there is a gap in identifying youth who may be at risk of commercial sexual exploitation upon entry into the detention facility. FCPD will work in collaboration with the Juvenile Institution administration to identify an assessment tool and provide the training to better serve the needs of this population.

## Limited Data Collection and Sharing

The Juvenile Division data management system continues to be improved upon to accurately capture and collect data. There is no county-wide data base or established relationships for shared data among partners. This hinders the ability to ensure the services provided to a family are congruent, comprehensive, and avoid duplication. Sharing information among county agencies and community-based partners is also inadequate. Limitations in access to information by the court, FCPD, and providers reduces the efficiency and accuracy of decision-making. Improvements in communication through a shared data system will continue to be an option for exploration.

Due to improvements in the FCPD case management system, it is anticipated that the data collection processes can be replicated resulting in more accurate and reliable data. The next step is the training of FCPD staff on entry of information into the FCPD case management system.

## Section C: Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

FCPD is an integral component of the juvenile justice system. FCPD perform intervention, prevention, investigative and supervision services of youth who have been noticed or identified by the juvenile justice system. FCPD's Intake Unit is the gatekeeper of law enforcement referrals and determines the appropriate course of action within the system. Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) determine the pathway for the youth. They utilize evidence-based assessments to develop an individualized case plan built from the protective factors and needs identified from the assessments.

Juvenile Supervision services are provided for youth placed on formal probation by the Juvenile Court. The Evaluation of Imminent Risk and Reasonable Candidacy (EIRRC) is used to determine if a youth is at risk of going into foster care. If it is determined the youth is not at risk of removal, the evidence-based assessment (PACT) is used. It continues to inform specific goals to lead to outcomes of successful supervision and recidivism reduction. Based on the risk to reoffend, DPOs work collaboratively with the youth, family, and community organizations to develop an appropriate case plan that will meet their needs. DPOs are instrumental in ensuring youth are receiving support and progressing with educational goals, treatment needs, and meeting the orders of the court. DPOs prioritize service selection based on the use of evidence-based options within the youth's home community. DPOs serve the metropolitan and rural communities within Fresno County and work collaboratively with the organizations, schools, and law enforcement agencies from those areas. This coordinated work between these partners increase information sharing and consistency of approach to better meet the needs of the family and the community.

FCPD provides services to youth that have been ordered by the Court into out of home placement pursuant to WIC 727(a). Upon the youth turning the age of majority and with placement orders, they are eligible to receive extended foster care services, commonly referred to as AB12 services, while

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



under the supervision of the FCPD. Mandatory monthly contact with youth is performed by the Placement DPO to ensure the identified needs of the youth are being met along with continuing efforts to offer reunification services to the youth and family. Every effort is made in identifying a least restrictive, family-like environment for youth whenever possible. Continuing to remain at the forefront of placement services for youth is the continued implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), this includes developing resource families and conducting meaningful Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings with those involved in the youth's life.

During the CFT's, if there are no relatives or supporting adults who can provide placement services to the youth, a Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs continue to be an option considered for youth that have been ordered to receive Placement services.

FCPD continues to utilize SB 163 wraparound services, a family-focused, strength-based program developed as an alternative to out of home care, while also offering in-home supportive services. This allows an opportunity for the treatment team, youth, family, and supportive individuals to work together with the family and youth allowing the youth to remain in the home with the aim of family stabilization and permanency.

In addition, FCPD adheres to the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). This was established to help strengthen the youth's home-based options and avoid removal from the home. One of the primary goals is to complete thorough family finding efforts, pursuant to WIC 628(d). The probation officer will reach out to the youth's family, including extended family, to advise them the youth is at imminent risk of entering foster care placement, and if they can assist by providing support and/or take the youth into their home with a written plan of care.

Additionally, a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting will be conducted pursuant to WIC 706.5 and 706.6, to review the strengths and needs of the youth, and determine if another family-based setting could provide effective and appropriate care, in the least restrictive environment. Using a team-based approach, the probation officer in conjunction with the probation social worker will collaborate with partnering agencies such as Focus Forward, Mental Health and liaisons for the youth's education, to consider additional options for the youth and develop a case plan.

If it is determined that a short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) is appropriate and recommended, then the DPO completes a comprehensive referral to the Qualified Individual (QI) at the Department of Behavioral Health. Additionally, the DPO will present the case to the Interagency Placement Committee (IPC), for STRTP approval.

FCPD remains focused on strategies for reduction of youth entering the juvenile justice system by utilizing a range of options. The intent is to address the needs of youth without bringing them formally into the justice system. As such, juvenile probation services may include hearings for youth for competency determination, findings of deferred entry of judgement or informal supervision (with or without court orders), and probation without wardship. For this reason, FCPD has an assessment team comprised of DPOs who complete the appropriate assessments on youth who have admitted to a new law violation and have been set for disposition. This team moves FCPD forward in having

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



an evidence-based assessment prior to the youth's disposition hearing. FCPD is contracted with Noble Software Group, LLC and the following assessments are available and utilized by DPOs: Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT), Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI), PACT (Pre-Screen), PACT (Full Screen) and the R-PACT.

## Section D: Comprehensive Plan Revisions

The JJCC Phased Response Plan Subcommittee reviewed the focus areas which identified gaps, leading to revisions for this year. Opportunities continue to be hindered to maintain programs due to ongoing staffing issues.

Collaboration and coordinated care across engaged agencies is essential in the effective provision of services. The system strives to be flexible in meeting the unique needs of the families. This effort is more challenging in rural areas with limited resources and accessibility concerns for families in more remote parts of the county. Current efforts to provide more service coverage include school-based probation, telephone or video conferencing options, field visits by, and utilization of the Mobile Probation Services van.

FCPD continues to utilize the two mobile units to connect with youth and their families by going to them and eliminating the barrier of transportation. FCPD is currently providing these remote services to the communities of Selma, Orange Cove and Coalinga.

FCPD will continue to work on expanding the availability of services in the eastern and western parts of the county by supporting more satellite sites to provide treatment services, more frequent use of evidence-based practices when field visits are conducted, and training providers to deliver relevant programming in agencies located in these areas. Treatment modalities/curricula and contracted providers will be required to ensure their programs are rooted with evidence-based principles.

As mentioned in the sections on Disparities in Services by Area and Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services, FCPD will explore opportunities to collaborate with county agencies and organizations. Serving as a liaison between these groups positions the department to build pathways to the establishment of new or expanded services for justice-involved youth and families.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



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## Part 1 References

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- Vijverbert, R. Ferdinand, R., Beekman, A., and Van Meijel, B. (2017) The Effect of Youth Assertive Community Treatment: A Systematic PRISMA Review. *BMC Psychiatry* 17:284-302.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



## Part 2. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

### Section A: Information and Data Collection

The Juvenile Division data management system continues to be improved upon to accurately capture and collect data. There is no county-wide data base or established relationships for shared data among partners. This hinders the ability to ensure the services provided to a family are congruent, comprehensive, and avoid duplication. Sharing information among county agencies and community-based partners is inadequate. Limitations in access to information by the court, FCPD, and providers reduces the efficiency and accuracy of decision-making. Improvements in communication through a shared data system will continue to be an option for exploration.

FCPD provides information to and receives annual data from the California Department of Justice by means of the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS). In addition, annual data surveys are conducted through the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and monthly statistics gathered from the current data base. All shared information and data are used to direct resources and guide decision making within the FCPD management team. This function will be expanded with the implementation of a departmental CQI Plan that will target quality improvements based on the developmental abilities of the units.

### Section B: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils

Yes, we have a JJCC.

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



## Section C: Funded Program, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

OVERVIEW OF JJCPA AND YOBG FUNDING PROGRAMS						
PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE		TYPE OF SERVICES			
	JJCPA	YOBG	PREVENTION	INTERVENTION	IN CUSTODY	AFTERCARE/RE-ENTRY
School Based DPOs	X		X	X		
VHEA	X		X	X		
Family Behavioral Health Court	X		X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus: Substance Abuse Unit	X	X	X	X	X	X
DPO Assigned to Youth who commit Sex Related Offenses	X		X	X		
DPOs Assigned to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	X		X	X		
DPOs Assigned to Informal Probation DPOs (Court Ordered)	X		X	X		
Reentry and Case Management (Social Workers)	X		X	X		X
Training, Coaching, TA, and Oversight for EBP and CQI		X	X	X	X	X
Juvenile Justice Campus: New Horizons Program (NHP)		X			X	X
Intensive Probation Supervision		X	X	X		X
Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)		X	X	X		
Truancy Intervention Program	X		X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus Boys and Girls Club		X	X	X	X	X
Community Justice Conference		X	X	X		
Juvenile Mentoring Program	X		X	X	X	X
Assessment Team	X		X	X		
Diversion	X		X	X		
Incentives		X		X		
Child Welfare Mental Health Provider Court		X		X		

Evidence Upon Which it is Based: Please refer to Part I for evidence.

Description: Please refer to Part I for program description(s).



## Part 3. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)- (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))

### Section A: Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

FCPD seeks to provide services that ensure public safety while addressing the unique needs of the youth placed on supervision. This philosophy drives the decisions related to detention, commitment, informal or formal supervision, and case planning decisions. FCPD relies on guidance from a large body of research that indicates that recidivism reduction is best achieved through the use of a validated risk assessment to determine intensity of services, focus on criminogenic need areas as targets for change, and utilization of proven interventions implemented with quality and fidelity (Andrews, et.al. (1990), Gendreau, P. (1996), Gendreau, P. et.al., (2002)). The department strives to apply these principles from a policy level and in day-to-day decisions that provide for the best services to the community and the individual youth.

#### Risk Principle

The risk principle states "who" should be treated. Under this principle, youth's level of risk should be evaluated using a validated risk assessment tool. More intensive treatment services should be reserved for those who are assessed to be at a high to moderate risk of re-offending in the future. Low risk offenders should be given minimal service. Including low risk individuals in more intensive services can disrupt their lives (i.e. family, school, employment) and can increase their risk of re-offending in the future (Andrews et al., 1990).

FCPD uses the PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool) and other previously identified assessment tools to assess all youth on formal supervision. The tool measures a youth's risk and protective factors across 12 domains (aggression, alcohol and drugs, attitudes/behavior, criminal history, employment, family, living arrangements, mental health, relationships, school, skills, and use of free time). Risk of recidivism is categorized into low, moderate, and high risk to reoffend (<https://www.noblesg.com/assessments.html>). Select staff have been identified as trainers to allow for greater efficiency in training DPOs and greater sustainability of the tool.

In further implementation of the risk principle, FCPD Juvenile Division has developed a workflow that determines supervision based on risk need. This change allows for a more focused supervision of the youth based on risk.

#### Need Principle

Second, the need principle states "what" should be treated. The most effective treatment programs identify and target those domains that have been shown to be correlated to criminal behavior. These risk factors, or criminogenic needs, are dynamic. They can be changed while static factors, like prior criminal history, cannot be changed. Research has identified a number of criminogenic needs that should be targeted. They include anti-social attitudes, values, beliefs, peer associations, personality, education/employment, family, substance abuse, and leisure/recreation. These should be the focus of individual case plans while they are on supervision. Luong, D. and Wormith, J.S. (2011) found that having a validated risk assessment without developing a case plan to address the

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



elevated criminogenic needs does little to reduce recidivism. Therefore, FCPD continues to utilize an assessment team was created which is comprised of DPO's who conduct the appropriate assessment on youth who have committed a new law violation and have been set for disposition. This helps with making appropriate recommendations that address the youth's criminogenic needs and provide even more details on supports that can be put into place to help youth and family.

## Responsivity Principle

Finally, the responsivity principle indicates "how" treatment services should be delivered. This principle can be divided into two components. Under specific responsivity, the goal is to remove particular barriers and set offenders up for success while they are receiving treatment. In particular, an offender's learning style or motivation level can limit an offender's ability to benefit from treatment. Therefore, these issues should be identified and addressed by practitioners. Treatment services should be matched to offenders according to these characteristics (Andrews et al., 1990). The second component, general responsivity posits that practitioners should implement a treatment modality that most youth respond well to. Cognitive-behavioral therapy strategies have been shown to successfully change behavior when they are designed and implemented with high fidelity (Andrews & Dowden, 2006).

The use of evidence-based practices is an important consideration in the provision of treatment services. Those providers that contract with FCPD primarily apply a cognitive behavioral model in their services delivery. Evidence-based curricula includes Cognitive Behavioral Interventions – Substance Use (youth), Free Your Mind (Core Curriculum) and additional modules on Emotion Regulation, Mental Toughness, and Gang Intervention and Peers, and I Decide (treatment program for Juveniles who commit Sex-related offenses). Existing services will continue to be utilized to provide for mentoring, case management, restorative justice, and mental health services.

## Specialty Caseloads

To better meet the needs of youth and families, the court and FCPD have developed several specialty caseloads. To provide for more frequent contact and convenience, several schools will continue to have an on-site probation officer. The Violet Heintz Educational Academy (VHEA) will continue to provide an option for youth who are less successful in the traditional school environment. There are specialized caseloads for the Family Behavioral Health Court (FBHC), juveniles who commit Sex-Related Offenses, and for youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

## Reentry

Out of home placement results in disengagement from family, school, and their community. This disruption may result in a loss of connection and stability upon discharge. For youth that are in probation foster care placement or spend time in the JJC, FCPD makes every effort to prepare and support that person's reentry into the community. The goal is to reduce recidivism upon their return to the community. The process starts as early as possible as the youth transitions from the institution or placement and return to the home. Services are coordinated to ensure clear communication between the family and all involved agencies. This effort is led by a contracted social worker from Focus Forward, and involves the designated DPO, family, youth, school representative, and relevant

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



service providers. In 2021, Focus Forward Reentry Services launched as a collaborative service model between the Fresno County Probation Department (Probation) and Focus Forward. Focus Forward's staff partners with Probation and community organizations to ensure the effective delivery of services inside the JJC, in homes, and during the in-custody phase as well as in the community for several months following their release while they are on active probation. Reentry Services pairs a Youth Social Worker and Family Support Advocate to youth committed to the JJC and their families. Youth and family clients receive ongoing services geared toward education, life skills, medical and behavioral health, job training, public safety, and relationships. Focus Forward staff utilize evidence-based programming as well as case management with the goal of lowering recidivism for juveniles in Fresno County. With the passage of SB823, Focus Forward expanded its Reentry Services program to serve the SYTF youth with Reentry Services. However, due to capacity, Focus Forward's Reentry Services for SYTF youth start at 90 days before their release.

In addition to ensuring stability in housing, school, and other basic needs, the assigned DPO continues to address treatment needs through the use of evidence-based practices, and referrals to address unmet needs or aftercare. FCPD seeks to provide more intensive services to youth that are higher risk for recidivism and pose the greater risk to the community based on their criminogenic and responsibility needs.

## Section B: Regional Agreements

N/A

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



## Section C: Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

OVERVIEW OF JJCPA AND YOBG FUNDING PROGRAMS						
PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE		TYPE OF SERVICES			
	JJCPA	YOBG	PREVENTION	INTERVENTION	IN CUSTODY	AFTERCARE/RE-ENTRY
School Based DPOs	X		X	X		
VHEA	X		X	X		
Family Behavioral Health Court	X		X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus: Substance Abuse Unit	X	X	X	X	X	X
DPO Assigned to Youth who commit Sex Related Offenses	X		X	X		
DPOs Assigned to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	X		X	X		
DPOs Assigned to Informal Probation DPOs (Court Ordered)	X		X	X		
Reentry and Case Management (Social Workers)	X		X	X		X
Training, Coaching, TA, and Oversight for EBP and CQI		X	X	X	X	X
Juvenile Justice Campus: New Horizons Program (NHP)		X			X	X
Intensive Probation Supervision		X	X	X		X
Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)		X	X	X		
Truancy Intervention Program	X		X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus Boys and Girls Club		X	X	X	X	X
Community Justice Conference		X	X	X		
Juvenile Mentoring Program	X		X	X	X	X
Assessment Team	X		X	X		
Diversion	X		X	X		
Incentives		X		X		
Child Welfare Mental Health Provider Court		X		X		

# Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2025



**Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:** FCPD uses the JJCPA funds for a program that focuses on school-based interventions, as well as other specialized supervision caseloads for youth who are on probation. The services provided with JJCPA funds coordinate with the Youthful Offender Block Program by enabling FCPD to provide a wide range of needed services ranging from intervention to intensive supervision services.

**Description:** Please refer to Part I for program description(s).



### Part 3 References

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