

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act & Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG)

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.

Contents

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act & Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG)	1
2025 Consolidated Annual Plan	1
INSTRUCTIONS:.....	1
Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A)).....	3
A. Assessment of Existing Services	3
B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas	10
C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy	14
D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions.....	18
Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)).....	19
A. Information Sharing and Data	19
B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils:	20
Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) – (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a).	20
A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders.....	20
B. Regional Agreements.....	23
Part IV. JJCPA/YOGB Co-Funded Programs, Strategies, and/or System Enhancements	23

Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

A. Assessment of Existing Services

Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.

The San Bernardino County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) encompasses partnerships between various diverse agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout the county to provide prevention, intervention, and re-entry services designed to serve at-risk and system-involved youth and their families. Many resources are strategically positioned for early interaction, with the hope that youth can avoid the juvenile justice system entirely. From the first point of contact with any of our partners, efforts to deter youth from the criminal justice system and preserve family unity take precedence. Attempts are made to wrap the family with trauma-informed services so an effective and all-inclusive outcome can be achieved. However, when this cannot be accomplished, and young people find themselves justice-involved, JJCC partners continue to work with youth and their families by merging strengths and leveraging resources within county agencies and CBOs to assist the youth and their families with successful navigation through the system, completion of supervision and/or detention, and re-entry into the community. An individualized plan with various services is developed to plan an effective path forward. No single entity could effectually address these needs alone. Through abundant partnerships and a willingness to work together toward a shared goal, youth and families achieve success. The following are a few examples of the varying collaborative relationships the San Bernardino County JJCC engages to provide services/resources to youth and their families.

Countywide Gangs and Drug Task Force: The San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force is dedicated to leading efforts in preventing and reducing gang membership and drug use throughout San Bernardino County. This is achieved through coordination, collaboration, and communication among education, law enforcement, the criminal justice system, elected officials, private enterprises, and the community. Their mission is to combat the alarming trends of gangs and drug abuse that negatively impact neighborhoods and communities. The Task Force provides information, resources, and support to address the challenges faced by families and youth affected by gang-related activities and substance abuse. They also offer resources and college scholarships to empower students and provide hope for their future.

Children's Policy Council: The purpose of the Children's Policy Council is to improve coordination, planning, communications, and cooperation among children and youth-serving agencies. The

Children's Policy Council is composed of the department heads or designees of county agencies providing services to children or administering such programs, as well as, representatives from outside the county government structure including, but not limited to: the Board of Supervisors; Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Human Services; Child Care Resource Center; Children and Family Services (CFS); Children's Fund, Inc.; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); District Attorney (DA); Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc.; Preschool Services Department; Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court; Probation Department; Public Defender (PD); Department of Public Health; San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS); Transitional Assistance Department; Children's Advocacy Group; Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino; Sheriff's Department; Loma Linda University Medical Center; First 5 San Bernardino; Department of Child Support Services; and United Way/211. Together, this collaborative group is committed to strengthening the systems that support the health and happiness of youth in our county. This work helps to pave a path to success for our youth.

Mentoring Task Force: This task force connects at-risk and system-involved youth served by DBH, CFS, and Probation with mentors through community-based mentoring agencies and coordinates a mentoring network.

The Homeless, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP): This program is a collaborative effort among Probation, Child and Family Services (CFS), and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) that provides homeless intervention and prevention services to youth aged 12 to 24. Young people may qualify for these services if they are involved with the juvenile justice system or have previously received assistance from any of the three partner organizations. Available services for youth and their families include move-in assistance for apartments or homes, rental assistance, hotel vouchers, and other financial support to prevent homelessness.

Smart Start Program: The Smart Start Program is provided by the California Highway Patrol and takes place monthly for youth living in or around San Bernardino. Both the parent and their child must attend the class and engage in discussions with the officer. The program has a 2-hour curriculum to prepare young drivers to operate vehicles responsibly. Participants will learn about safe driving practices, the rules of the road, and the requirements for obtaining a new driver's license. Additionally, new driver education classes are available. Youth who have received traffic citations are also welcome to participate.

Children's Fund: A collaboration among various county agencies and community-based organizations, the Children's Fund supports at-risk youth who lack basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, and other social development assistance.

Juvenile Justice Programs: A collaboration between Probation and DBH aims to combine resources to create a comprehensive and effective continuum of behavioral health care for adolescents with mental illness. Multidisciplinary teams work closely with youth and their families and with agency partners such as Child and Family Services (CFS), the District Attorney (DA), the Public Defender (PD), and the Juvenile Delinquency Court. Together, they develop

advocacy plans tailored to each youth's treatment needs, facilitating access to community resources.

For instance, DBH's Forensic Adolescent Services Team (FAST) provides behavioral health services to youth detained at the Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (CVJDAC) or the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), known as A Restorative Integration for Successful Engagement (ARISE). Services offered include intake and screening, triage, assessment, medication support, crisis stabilization, individualized treatment plans, multidisciplinary team connections, and reintegration assistance. For youth in the community, a social worker and a drug/alcohol counselor are available. They work to promptly identify the needs of the youth and their families, providing referrals for necessary services such as clothing, food, bedding, groceries, appliances, reintegration planning, job search assistance, transportation to job interviews, and help with rent and utility payments.

Juvenile Justice Community Reintegration (JJCR): JJCR is a partnership between Probation and DBH to address the behavioral health needs of youth transitioning out of the CVJDAC. This initiative focuses on creating a personalized reintegration plan for each youth that addresses their specific treatment requirements and connects them to community resources. The goal of JJCR is to offer management and intervention services that empower families with youth involved in the juvenile justice system, ensuring they receive the necessary behavioral health support to build resilience.

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Governing Board: Created for advisory and oversight functions related to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which included the Family First Prevention Services Act. Members of this board include Probation and CFS personnel. The objective of the FFPSA governing board is to 1) Enhance support services for families so children and youth can remain at home; 2) Reduce the use of congregate care placements by increasing options for prevention services; and 3) Create increased oversight and requirements for placements and 4) Enhance the requirements for congregate care placement settings. A County Comprehensive Prevention Plan was created and is in the process of implementation.

System Improvement Plan (SIP) Joint Committee: This committee was established to create and implement the System Improvement Plan (SIP) for all foster youth within Child and Family Services (CFS) and Probation. The SIP aims to utilize data measures to identify strengths and barriers while building upon previous progress to enhance outcomes for children and their families. The process involves a comprehensive county self-assessment, workgroups, focus groups, training plans, and implementation strategies.

Youth Action Project (YAP): This program offers job readiness training, professional development, career coaching, and paid work experience to at-risk juveniles and youthful offenders, helping them discover their passions and build marketable skills.

One on One Learning/Professional Tutors of America/Studentnest/Thrive Academics: These four programs provide tutoring services to offer educational support beyond the standard school

curriculum. They are designed to help students achieve grade-level proficiency or enhance their existing academic skills. The tutoring services are specifically intended to improve the academic success of youth, including those at risk of delinquency.

Greater Hope Foundation for Children: This program offers individual therapy, child abuse therapy, trauma-informed care, behavior treatment, parent anger education/management, life skills, and cognitive behavioral therapy.

White Stone Counseling Center: This program offers therapy for trauma, loss, and educational issues.

A New Beginning Therapeutic Solutions Counseling Center: This program provides individual and group therapy, family therapy, sex offender therapy, grief therapy, gender dysphoria therapy, and domestic violence therapy.

Bridge Vision: This program offers individual, group, family, grief, and domestic violence counseling.

The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center: This program offers individual, group, family, and specialized counseling for sex offenders.

Metzli Counseling: A counseling resource dedicated to mental health awareness workshops, including psychoeducation on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), self-esteem groups, trauma-informed yoga, and inner child healing/creative expression groups. This program also offers horticultural therapy.

Life Builders: This program offers individual, group, family, grief, gender dysphoria, and domestic violence therapy. They also provide resources for family reunification, mediation, anger management, substance abuse, phobias, psychotic disorders, and life skills.

Youth Hope: This program offers individual, family, grief, and domestic violence counseling. They also offer therapy for anger management, depression, and dysthymia treatment.

Highlander's Boxing Club: This club offers a dynamic program called Iron Strong, led by a motivated coach. The program focuses on developing social and emotional skills through fitness training and stress reduction in a safe and supportive environment. It promotes positive youth development and employs a trauma-informed approach to impact people's lives positively.

CHORDS: This program features a music production studio and a podcast room to help students learn the basics of podcasting and DJing. The curriculum also emphasizes film production, covering aspects such as movie script writing, video treatments, lighting education, short film creation, and content development. Additionally, students will explore hip-hop, dance, and introductory drumming. For instance, the 12-week film class teaches students how to write and format a story into a script, copyright their scripts, develop intellectual properties, and acquire acting, producing, and directing skills.

Operation New Hope: The mentoring and coaching program features a curriculum to enhance cognitive life skills, provide gang intervention and prevention services, and teach anger management, financial literacy, and employment readiness. The program prepares youth for entry-level, age-appropriate job opportunities. One key component is a 10-week class called “The Beat Within,” which offers workshops that allow youth to share their ideas and life experiences while developing critical thinking skills and social-emotional literacy. The curriculum covers important topics such as job acquisition tips, work permits, completing job applications, meeting potential employers, submitting applications, the callback and interview process, dressing for success, being a good employee, taking on odd jobs, and exploring self-employment options for teens. Additionally, the program provides employment preparation services, including referrals for youth aged 18 to 23.

San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD): The San Bernardino County Probation Department and SBCCD collaborate to offer vocational training and transitional work programs for youth who are currently in detention and those living in the community. The programs available include Utility Line Clearance, Arborist Training, Forklift Certification, OSHA 10 Certification, Entry-Level Construction Training, Certified Nurse Assistant Training, Home Health Aide Training, Food Handler’s Certification, Acute Care Nursing Assistant Training, Career and Industry Exploration Certification, Career Preparation, Career Success, and Personal Growth, Development, and Wellness. These offerings aim to help the youth and their families build successful and stable futures. SBCCD also collaborated with Probation to develop the Youth Educational Stipends (YES) Program to help at-risk or system-involved youth with post-secondary or vocational training.

SB Fatherhood: This mentoring and coaching program provides educational services for fathers of all ages. It utilizes the 24/7 Dad/Fathering curriculum to enhance the knowledge, behavior, and skills necessary for effective fatherhood. Participants will explore their own experiences as fathers, learn about the five essential characteristics of a 24/7 Dad, and discuss important topics such as what it means to be a man, expressing and managing emotions, men's health, communication, the role of a father, children's development, and appropriate discipline strategies. The program also offers special events, including a Daddy and Daughter dance, Father’s Day weekend celebrations, and International Men's Day activities.

Simple Solutions: This resource provides group therapy for youth focused on helping them become successful community members. Participants learn to embrace their cultural identities, develop independence, and maintain stable living arrangements. Key topics include avoiding gang involvement, illegal drug use, and criminal activity. The curriculum features art therapy for self-exploration, creative journaling, healthy relationships, and sports mindfulness. Additionally, the program incorporates the Change Companies curriculum with interactive journal instruction. It also offers The Barbering Theory, a 10-week course that teaches detained youth skills in hair cutting, grooming, and business, promoting personal growth, self-esteem, and positive mental health.

The Love Program: This powerful mentoring and coaching program is specifically designed to drive self-development through engaging workshops that enhance awareness and build leadership skills. With a strong focus on self-empowerment, academic success, and strategic career planning in STEM fields, the staff is committed to creating a robust environment where students can survive and thrive. This program is crafted to deliver impactful outcomes, including cultivating self-love, self-esteem, and empowerment, while reinforcing essential communication and critical thinking skills. Participants will sharpen their leadership capabilities and set meaningful short- and long-term goals to guide their futures. A key aspect of their offerings is the "6 Universal Laws of Survival," a transformative 12-week mentorship program that equips students with vital knowledge in budgeting, saving, and money management. Additionally, youth will receive powerful mentorship focused on mastering anger management and achieving their life goals.

Advantage Public Institute: This counseling program offers screenings and intervention groups focused on general mental health from a cultural perspective. It addresses the identification of emotions, triggers, coping strategies, and self-care techniques for managing depression, anxiety, and trauma. For instance, the Empower Girls program is a 9-week class for young women who have faced challenging circumstances. This program emphasizes the principles of healthy living and encourages participants to explore topics such as education, motivation, personality, resilience, wisdom, effort, and responsibility. The Empower Girls program aims to strengthen young women by improving their self-image, enhancing their attitudes, reducing defiance, and nurturing a vision for their future.

Dvine Intervention: This mentoring/coaching/self-development training program aims to inspire youth to be more successful. It provides life skills development, self-improvement, active listening training, anger management, creative problem solving, public speaking, stress management, emotional intelligence, and body language. It also focuses on dealing with difficult people in the workplace, work-life balance, organizational skills, goal setting, influence and persuasion at work, financial literacy, and how to become a successful entrepreneur.

Moses House Ministries: This resource offers a Nurturing Fathers class to teach parenting and nurturing skills, healthy family relationships, and child development. In addition, another program provided is Nurturing Families, a trauma-informed and nationally validated family systems intervention that focuses on bonding and attachment, healthy relationships, emotional regulation, healing and recovery, empathy and self-awareness, sense of belonging, self-identity, and self-worth, age-appropriate expectations of children, and dignified discipline alternatives.

Life Builders, Inc.: This program empowers youth and provides group therapy services for individuals facing behavioral challenges at home and school. It offers family management and problem-solving skills to help improve these situations. The program aims to reduce incidents of substance abuse and undesirable behaviors while increasing awareness of mental health issues and fostering positive environments. The program helps participants develop interpersonal, emotional, and intellectual skills using group therapy and cognitive behavioral techniques.

Additionally, it features the YES Program, a healing curriculum that explores the connection between trauma and involvement with the justice system. This curriculum covers topics such as building safety and trust, emotional regulation, communication skills, self-esteem, and identity, addressing feelings of shame and guilt, trauma processing, resilience, and post-traumatic growth, as well as future planning and community reintegration.

Empowering Success Now: This program offers career pathway exploration, including introduction to career development, career opportunities, career planning, goal framework, fundamentals of career execution, entrepreneurial mindset, developing resilience and adaptability, and embracing a growth mindset. This program also provides youth engagement, pro-social community service activities, educational, social, and life success strategies, employment preparation, employment readiness training, and social and professional etiquette.

Telios: This community-based resource offers life skills classes focusing on money management, budgeting, saving, spending, and overall usage of an individual's money. Additionally, it offers training that educates participants on topics like computer coding, computer graphics, web design, and business office productivity. It also includes Microsoft certifications in Word, Excel, and Access programs.

Inland Empire Rebound: This program employs a mentoring and coaching approach using the “My Brother's Keeper” curriculum. It offers participants the structure and guidance necessary for success by developing individualized plans and wraparound services. Mentors provide one-on-one support to encourage healthy alternative behaviors that promote successful reentry, personal growth, and social well-being. Additionally, they help participants build and strengthen social connections with their families and communities.

Young Visionaries: This mentoring/coaching program provides an anger management component, gang intervention/prevention services, gang circles, youth leadership development conferences, creative arts, life skills, acting and improv, cognitive life skills, community service opportunities, and victim impact classes.

Citrus Counseling Services: This resource offers group therapy that allows individuals to think differently about their problems, organize the change they need, and develop a pattern to recognize how their present problems can be related to past experiences. They work to help provide a plan for the individual to take steps for change in their life. They also offer an Equine Therapy program incorporating horses into the therapeutic process. Youth will engage in activities such as grooming, feeding, and leading a horse while being supervised by a mental health professional. This therapy aims to help people develop emotional regulation, self-confidence, and responsibility skills.

Victor Community Support Services: This group facilitates Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs). These collaborative partnerships are formed to meet the needs of youth and ensure the family's voice, choice, and ownership of the individualized case plan. This team can include the

youth, parents, caregivers, relatives, county social workers, probation officers, behavioral health clinicians, and anyone else the family has identified as a supportive member in the youth's life.

Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration amongst the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.

San Bernardino County is fortunate to have strong communication and collaboration as a fundamental foundation for all activities involving our youth and their families. Whether through structured meetings, contracts, events, or day-to-day operations, our partners remain committed to enhancing and expanding our communication and collaborative processes. Regular communication strengthens existing partnerships and fosters the development of new services for youth and families.

A collaborative approach is supported by Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), contracts, protocols, coordinated workgroups that evaluate proposed services, planning and implementation teams, and meetings to oversee existing programs. Our Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) often participate in planned community events to introduce and inform all partners about the services provided by their organization.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department's Programming Unit also continues to oversee, track, and manage the services offered to youth and families. This unit facilitates quarterly meetings with contracted community providers and interacting agencies to ensure fidelity. These meetings allow team members to come together to discuss things like services provided and billing regulations, and they also offer a platform to discuss the integration of new services, new ideas, or differing collaborations. The Programming Unit has also streamlined processes and support to ensure efficiency and consistency of services. JJCC Members and/or sponsored/contracted CBOs can also update the group during JJCC quarterly meetings in FY25/26 to share what they are working on for the youth, their families, and the community. The Probation Programming and Automated Systems teams continue collaborating with the County Innovation and Technology Department to create a Probation Programming System to streamline all information and processes into one access point for CBOs, Community Partners, and Providers.

B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.

San Bernardino County spans approximately 20,105 square miles, making it the largest county in the contiguous United States. As of 2023, it has an estimated population of 2.2 million, with 25% of residents under 18. Between 2022 and 2024, the research unit of the Probation Department queried all law enforcement agencies in San Bernardino County to gather statistical data on juvenile arrests, including those related to violent crimes. This data did not include traffic citations, minor drug offenses, or victimless crimes. Out of the top twenty (20) agencies, eleven (11) reported an increase in juvenile arrests from 2022 to 2024. This contrasts with nineteen (19)

agencies that showed an increase in the previous Annual Report covering a crime query from 2021 to 2023.

Top 20 SB County Law Enforcement Agencies	Juvenile Arrests 2022	Juvenile Arrests 2023	Juvenile Arrests 2024	Total Juvenile Arrests 2022-2024	Crime % Increase from 2022 to 2024
AV Unified School District Police	78	63	61	202	-21.79487%
Hesperia Unified School District Police	69	90	106	265	+53.6232%
Rialto PD	142	217	210	569	+47.8873%
Ontario PD	215	202	192	609	-10.69767%
Sheriff - Victorville	169	252	239	660	+41.4201%
Sheriff - Victor Valley	56	66	63	185	+12.5%
Sheriff - Rancho Cucamonga	231	294	219	744	-5.19481%
SB City Unified School District Police	173	167	199	539	+15.0289%
Chino PD	114	128	129	371	+13.1579%
Redlands PD	69	119	77	265	+11.5942%
Upland PD	49	55	103	207	+110.204%
Barstow PD	75	74	84	233	+12%
Sheriff - Chino Hills	65	83	51	199	-21.53846
Fontana Unified School District Police	227	166	165	558	-27.3128%
San Bernardino PD	188	184	161	533	-14.3617%
Sheriff - Hesperia	32	53	90	175	+181.25%
Sheriff - Yucaipa	54	42	40	136	-25.92593%
Sheriff - Apple Valley	61	56	63	180	+3.27869%
Fontana PD	144	129	129	402	-10.41667%
Montclair PD	63	51	49	163	-22.2222%

In reviewing the statistical data, countywide juvenile crime referrals increased by 10.7% from 2022 to 2023, but then decreased slightly by .655% from 2023 to 2024. Additionally, while eleven (11) agencies' juvenile crime statistics increased over the last three (3) years, it is noteworthy to disclose that nine (9) agencies showed a decrease in juvenile crime, ranging from 5% to 27% over the last three (3) years.

Countywide Juvenile Crime Referrals by Year	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024	Total
	2,621	2,902	2,883	8,406

Countywide juvenile arrest data shows only a 10% increase between juvenile arrests from 2022 to 2024, compared to a 71% increase reported in the previous Annual Report's crime query from 2021 to 2023.

Although juvenile crime statistics for nine (9) of the agencies surveyed have declined over the past three (3) years, much work remains to be done. Regardless of whether juvenile crime has increased or decreased, the mission of the Juvenile Justice Collaborative Committee (JJCC) and the County of San Bernardino remains focused on utilizing resources for early prevention and providing support before youth enter the justice system. This long-term goal involves leveraging partnerships with diverse agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) to offer prevention and intervention services to these youth and their families as soon as possible.

By engaging resources that are strategically positioned for early intervention, the hope is that youth can avoid negative life pathways such as gang involvement, substance abuse, and entry into the juvenile justice system. Studies have demonstrated that improving skills surrounding connection to others can enhance prosocial engagement and reduce antisocial interactions.

The following are examples of a few impactful programs that the Probation Department and our JJCC partners facilitate to drive meaningful change:

- Let's End Truancy is a collaborative, multi-agency program to combat the truancy rate within the San Bernardino County and City School Districts. The District Attorney (DA), Public Defender (PD), probation officers, school personnel, and community resources cooperate to work with the youth and their families to bring awareness to the youth's truancy and its impact on their overall chances for success. The program aims to increase students' average daily attendance while reducing the negative impacts caused by truancy, including juvenile delinquency. The program is dedicated to working holistically with students and families to identify the root cause of their truant behavior by implementing a goal-oriented strategy to improve short- and long-term attendance. This program targets youth in grades K-12 who are struggling with their school attendance.

- School Probation Officers are essential to a comprehensive strategy to support students. They work closely with the San Bernardino County School District's teachers, administrators, and parents to create a safe learning environment and identify at-risk youth who may require services. Truant behavior can often lead to poor academic performance, school dropouts, delinquency, and eventually adult criminality. This proactive approach addresses these issues and aids crime prevention within schools. The presence of a school probation officer on campus enables staff to promptly address emerging concerns and potentially prevent issues from escalating in the future. School probation officers collaborate to supervise and guide students, helping them make positive decisions, mediate conflicts, resolve disputes, prevent fights, and promote peaceful interactions. They work to ensure that all students feel safe on campus. Additionally, they guide at-risk youth away from the criminal justice system by providing mentorship, resources such as pro-social activities, and on-campus classes for minor behavioral infractions. Overall, school probation officers serve as a vital support system and positive role models for young people.
- CBOs and our partner agencies exist throughout the county to ensure access to services for youth and families. These programming services and resources improve the likelihood of success and decrease involvement in the justice system, potential recidivism, and/or sustained system involvement. DBH referral services are provided, classes and resources from community providers are offered, and agencies can provide a venue for these services and prosocial activities for youth and families.
- Youth Accountability Boards (YAB) are collaborative programs between the Probation Department and community partners working with families to divert first-time, low-risk youth from further interaction with the criminal justice system. The YAB panel members meet with youth and their families to discuss the circumstances that led to the behavior and how the situation could have been avoided by making better choices and surrounding themselves with peers on a positive path. Youth are often assigned to complete community service hours, educational programs, essays, or other rehabilitative activities within a 4- to 6-month period. The goal is to promote positive and pro-social activities and thought processes to assist in refocusing their life path.

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

Describe your county's juvenile justice action strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well as a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

San Bernardino County's juvenile justice strategy aims to unite city and county agencies, community-based organizations, and local law enforcement in a collaborative effort to provide positive opportunities for youth and their families. The strategy emphasizes access to essential resources and enhances educational and healing opportunities through services such as counseling, mentoring, rehabilitative classes, educational and vocational programs, and prosocial activities. This approach advocates for preventative and supportive services that help youth and families build resilience and avoid entering the justice system.

Furthermore, by strengthening existing family dynamics and fostering new skills, county partners aim to develop a comprehensive response to crime prevention for at-risk youth and those already involved in the juvenile justice system. The County believes that the more equipped youth and their families are, the more successful they will be in creating positive life pathways. In order to achieve this, county resources are strategically positioned for early intervention, aiming to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system altogether. From the initial contact with any partner organization, efforts prioritize directing youth away from the criminal justice system and maintaining family unity. Families are provided with trauma-informed services to ensure a comprehensive and effective outcome.

However, when juvenile justice involvement is impossible to avoid, the county and community partners continue supporting the youth and their families. They work together to leverage strengths and resources, assisting with successful navigation through the system, completion of supervision or detention, and re-entry into the community.

Here are some examples of the great interventions and programs we use in our graduated response to help us achieve these goals:

The Mentoring Task Force facilitates the connection of at-risk and system-involved youth served by DBH, CFS, and Probation with mentors through community-based mentoring agencies and coordinates a Mentoring Network.

The Homeless, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) is a collaborative program between Probation, CFS, and DBH that provides homeless intervention and prevention services to youth between 12 and 24 years old. Services that may be accessible to the youth and their family are move-in assistance for an apartment or home, rental assistance, hotel vouchers, and other financial assistance to prevent the youth from becoming homeless.

Children's Fund is a partnership between numerous county agencies that assist at-risk youth who lack necessities, including food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, and other equal opportunity and social development assistance.

The Juvenile Justice Program is a collaboration between Probation and DBH to combine resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness. Multi-disciplinary teams work closely with youth and their families, in addition to other agency partners like CFS, the DA, the PD, and the Juvenile Delinquency Court, in the development of an advocacy plan for each youth that will best meet their treatment needs and provide access to community resources.

The Youth Action Project (YAP) provides at-risk juveniles and youthful offenders with job readiness and professional development training, career coaching, and paid work experience that enables them to find their passion and develop marketable skills.

The Highlander's Boxing Club employs an upbeat, coach-led program, Iron Strong, that teaches social and emotional skills development through fitness training and stress reduction in a safe and supportive learning environment. The program promotes affirmative youth development and uses a trauma-informed approach to positively change people's lives.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Juvenile Intervention Program (JIP) is for parents or guardians who need intervention in their youth's life. Youth are exposed to the realities of jail life and are also taken to the Coroner's Division to see the realities of death. During this time, the parents receive information on various topics such as parenting styles, communication, drug and alcohol recognition, gang awareness, and addressing various teenage problems. This program is designed to address criminal and/or negative behavior, provide collaboration between law enforcement and the community and schools, increase understanding and awareness of the criminal justice system, and emphasize the legal consequences of violating the law.

DBH provides crisis walk-in centers and crisis stabilization units for urgent mental health needs for individuals of all ages. This may include risk assessments, interventions, and evaluations for hospitalization when necessary. They are open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, including holidays. Additionally, DBH runs the Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT), a community-based mobile response program for children and adults experiencing a psychiatric emergency. DBH also has many outpatient services regionally based throughout the county. Additionally, the STAY (Serving Transitional Age Youth) is a short-term crisis residential facility available to youth aged 18-26.

The San Bernardino County 241.1 committee is a collaborative effort between CFS, Probation, DBH, the PD, and the DA. The mission is to address cases where a youth appears to fall within the description of both Welfare and Institutions Code 300 and Welfare and Institutions Code 602. Through a jointly developed written protocol, the committee aims to determine which status (dependent child or ward of the court) serves the best interest of the youth and the community. Staff from all agencies discuss and exchange information about the minor's behavior, parental

capacity, community safety, and family needs to determine which services would create a more beneficial outcome.

The Probation Department's Community Service Team (CST) plays a vital role in supporting young people who have been arrested for minor offenses. Established with the mission to guide youthful offenders away from the juvenile justice system, CST provides essential preventative services. The team works informally with cases before they reach the Juvenile Delinquency Court, typically through a positive six-month agreement involving the youth and their parents. During this time, CST officers actively monitor progress, ensuring adherence to constructive terms like educational activities, community service, writing letters of apology, and attending counseling sessions. This collaborative approach helps young individuals learn valuable lessons and fosters a brighter future for them and our community.

The Youth Accountability Board (YAB) Program is a diversion initiative primarily led by volunteer community members in partnership with the Probation Department. Members of the YAB panel meet with youth and their families to promote accountability for the youth's actions. Participants are assigned tasks such as completing community service hours, engaging in educational programs, writing letters of apology, composing essays, or participating in other rehabilitative activities over a period of 4 to 6 months.

School Probation Officers are currently assigned to 13 school districts throughout the County, serving thousands of youths in middle schools, high schools, and community day schools. This collaboration allows school staff and probation officers to work together to identify and meet the needs of students and their families and to potentially deter delinquent behavior. School personnel and probation officers collaborate to address challenging behaviors among students on campus through mentoring, building professional relationships, and providing intervention and prevention services, which include prosocial activities. The focus is on recognizing and rewarding positive and often incremental achievements, despite existing barriers. In some cases, the strong bonds formed between students and school probation officers have inspired these students to mentor their peers and encourage them to reconsider inappropriate behavior.

The House Arrest Program (HAP) is frequently used when a young person is taken into custody. The Court, the Attorney's Office, and the Probation Department assess whether the youth can be released back into the community to stay with their family while awaiting further court hearings. This program offers limited probation supervision services, allowing the youth to maintain their familial connections and essential support systems during the court process.

The Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (CVJDAC) and the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), known as A Restorative Integration for Successful Engagement (ARISE), are the facilities where youth may be detained or committed following an arrest. During a youth's stay at these facilities, the primary goal is to provide the tools and rehabilitative resources necessary to prevent recidivism and support successful reintegration into society. Collaboration with our partner county agencies, community-based organizations (CBOs), and volunteers in our

community is key to providing these resources. The CBOs facilitate classes and support the youth during their day and evening programs. Mentors and one-on-one meetings with supportive CBO staff and volunteers are also utilized, focusing on targeted goals for each youth. Our overall aim is to assist youth in developing decision-making skills through role modeling, counseling, individual and family therapy, and cultivating a sense of personal responsibility. By helping youth better understand themselves through specialized programs, we strive to foster healthy thinking and appropriate behavior patterns. This helps them lead fulfilling lives and avoid returning to the criminal justice system.

Formal probation and re-entry community supervision programs are commonly used after a court decision or release from custody. The Probation Department collaborates with partner county agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide resources, education, and supervision aimed at helping youth and their families successfully interact within the community. Some of the programs that may be utilized include:

- 1) Success First/Early Wrap is a collaborative program involving Probation and DBH that concentrates on serving youth with emotional and behavioral needs and those with mental health issues. The program focuses on strengthening the whole family so at-risk and system-involved youth can remain in the home. This is a team approach with a probation officer, therapist, parent partner, DBH, CFS, school officials, and community members identified by the family and team as a strengthening force.
- 2) Girls Court is a collaboration among the Court, Probation, the DA, and the PD to provide specialized services for female youth who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation or exhibiting increased at-risk behaviors. The goal of the program is to build self-esteem and empower female youth. Various presentations, interpersonal discussions, and workshops are provided to aid in rehabilitation, confidence-building, and health-conscious choices. Our partner CBOs often provide services, resources, and classes in conjunction with the team's focus.
- 3) Drug Court and CITA (Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents) are specialty courts focusing on alcohol, drug, and mental health concerns. They use a team approach with collaborative interaction between allied agencies such as the Court, Probation, DA, PD, DBH, CFS, contracted treatment providers, and CBOs. The team is focused on the goal of reducing incarceration, decreasing recidivism, advocating for treatment services, and enhancing community protection.
- 4) Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO) works with young people aged 13-17 and their families. This collaborative effort between Probation and DBH combines resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness in or out of custody.
- 5) The Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) is a collaboration between DBH, CFS, Children's Network, the DA, the PD, the Department of Public Health, the County

Superintendent of Schools, the Sheriff's Department, and the Juvenile Court. This team approach is crucial to the group's success. The Probation Department also provides specialized case supervision services for adolescent youth involved in or at risk of being sexually exploited.

- 6) Juvenile Intensive Supervision and Specialized Caseloads are targeted toward specific treatment concerns or when offenders need more singular direction or require more focused case management methods. For example, a specialized caseload of youth who have been arrested for possession and/or use of a firearm, youth who are adjudicated for sex offenses, and specialized caseloads revolving around human trafficking victims, CFS-involved youth, mental health, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.
- 7) Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Caseload consists of youth who were committed and incarcerated at DJJ and those discharged by the California Juvenile Parole Board from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).
- 8) ARISE Community Supervision Caseload consists of youth committed to ARISE and those granted re-entry supervision by the Juvenile Court.

Placement and Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) are utilized when diversionary, community-based, and pre-placement preventative services are exhausted or deemed inappropriate. These programs offer short-term residential therapy within the community, providing structured treatment in a less restrictive environment than custodial settings.

Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs) are used for youth committed to ARISE when they can transition from a secure treatment facility to a less restrictive environment. This could include options such as a halfway house, a camp or ranch, or a community-based residential or nonresidential service program.

D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year:

The County's plan remains fundamentally the same; however, partner agencies, community providers, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are continually working to develop and add new resources, classes, therapies, preventative interventions, and prosocial activities as the need arises or to enhance the options available to our youth and their families. In addition, several new MOUs have been fully executed with the JJCC members, and as such, even more vital services will become available during FY 25/26. The goal is to continually strengthen and expand the community resource base, ensuring that youth and families have access to the necessary services to help prevent entry into the criminal justice system or to support successful completion and reintegration for those already involved.

Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))

A. Information Sharing and Data

Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how that data is used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.

A long-established goal for our county agencies is to create efficient methods of cross-system data sharing. Over the years, and as needed, participating organizations have formed multiagency disciplinary teams with system partners to coordinate case planning for youth associated with specific populations/programs. As external factors often limit our data sharing ability, we continue strategizing and working within these limitations to inform best practices. In addition, the county law and justice group continues to discuss and strategize further on sharing client information between appropriate county agencies and creating a more seamless data transition.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department utilizes Caseload Explorer (CE) to document the case management services and activities related to juvenile offenders while complying with jurisdictional security and judicial requirements. CE also tracks active referrals, past and present caseworkers, and relevant statistical data, including services offered and provided in conjunction with the Probation Department. Our partner agencies that operate within the Probation system can access documents and review information pertinent to their job duties. Additionally, CE can interface with other agencies and the Court's information database system. All information within CE is confidential. Data accessed by authorized users is shared only with individuals who have a legitimate need to know and are following state and local regulations regarding using the California Law Enforcement Tracking System information. This authorized information-sharing among agencies promotes collaboration and facilitates effective case management practices.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department utilizes a dedicated Research and Programming Unit to query statistical data gathered from CE and other agency partners. The Research Unit generates custom-designed queries that provide precise data displayed in a manner easily interpreted by all staff. Some reports are used by supervision and management to inform and steer department strategies. The data provided also measures performance outcomes. This information, as applicable, can also be shared with other county and JJCC partners as allowed. The Research Unit also compiles data through the Microsoft Access database on youth referred and receiving services that are not justice-involved. The Programming Unit analyzes data from youth pre- and post-test surveys to ensure programming fidelity and identify any service gaps.

B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils:

Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code Section 749.22?

Yes No

If not, please explain what vacancies exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies began, and your plan for filling them:

The San Bernardino County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Board consists of the following members:

- 1) Probation Department: Tracy Reece and Kyle Borg
- 2) County Administrative Office/Board of Supervisors: Valerie Clay and Illiana Rodriguez
- 3) Public Defender: Richard Sterling and Daniel Edber
- 4) Sheriff's Department: Laura Addy
- 5) District Attorney: Robert Brown and Jill Gregory
- 6) Children and Family Services: Jeany Glasgow and Jonathan Byers
- 7) Department of Behavioral Health: Timothy Hougen and Gayle Morrow
- 8) Redlands Police Department: Rachel Tolber and Stephen Crane
- 9) County Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Scott Wyatt and Myrlene Pierre
- 10) Juvenile Court Presiding Judge: Lynn Poncin
- 11) Community Member at Large: This position is vacant due to self-resignation on February 25, 2025. The committee is currently working on filling it.
- 12) Community-Based Drug/Alcohol Program: (Inland Valley Recovery Services) Tina Hughes
- 13) Community-Based Organization (Youth Action Project): Kimberly Knaus and Mara Montelongo

Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) – (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a).

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

Describe your county's overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders who are not eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this Plan relates to or supports that strategy.

San Bernardino County's overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) offenders is similarly aligned with the overall juvenile justice plan, which is to provide prevention and intervention services at the earliest possible contact point to deter youth from entry into or prolonged engagement with the juvenile justice system. However, when this cannot be accomplished, and youth do find themselves justice-involved, agency and community partners continue to work with the youth

and their families by integrating strengths and leveraging resources within the county agencies and CBOs to assist the youth and their families with successful navigation through the system, completion of supervision and/or detention, and re-entry into the community. An individualized plan with various services is developed to design an effective path forward.

On the preventative front, regularly implemented educational and prosocial activities open to all community youth and their families allow them to engage with CBOs and county and city agencies to learn what services and resources are available to them. Youth who become involved in delinquent behavior often show early warning signs such as academic struggles, behavioral problems, or exposure to trauma. Early intervention through access to services can help inform youth about the different pathways to access success and can help mitigate the emerging risk factors before they escalate into delinquency. For example, in conjunction with allied partners and our community-based providers, the Probation Department holds community resource fairs where local youth and their families can gather needed resources, listen to speakers, and engage with local services. By providing information, resources, and support to address the challenges faced by families and youth, the goal is to continue to supplement and strengthen the community base so that youth and families can access the services they need to avoid involvement in negative life choices. In addition, the Probation Department, in partnership with community-based organizations, holds regional Summer Camps, offering resources, programming, and activities for local youth and their families. Each Summer Camp is a week-long event scheduled for July/August in each of the county's three (3) regions (Central, West End, and the High Desert). The camps aim to promote prosocial alternatives focused on prevention and education while offering a variety of fun and informative experiences that encourage positive involvement in the community, healthy lifestyle choices, healthy relationships, and exposure to new experiences.

Probation services and resources are available for youth and families throughout the county. In FY25/26, the Probation Department will begin working with a newly contracted provider to help manage and outsource juvenile resources to get an even wider preventative reach. Creating a one-stop juvenile center that can serve as a hub for programming, classes, counseling, community service opportunities, pro-social activities, and resources can improve the likelihood of success and decrease involvement in the justice system, potential recidivism, and/or sustained system involvement. Youth can also complete community service by working with charitable organizations, setting up, breaking down, and cleaning up for events, along with participating in clothing, food, and toy drives, and assisting with giveaway distribution.

Once a youth becomes involved in the juvenile justice system, the approach remains to utilize the least restrictive option available via a graduated method.

Diversionary options, when appropriate, such as the Probation Department's Community Service Team (CST), will often step in when youth are arrested for low-level offenses. This unit handles matters informally when the Juvenile Delinquency Court has not adjudicated a youth and typically includes a six-month informal agreement with the youth and their parents. The youth may also be referred to the Youth Accountability Board (YAB) program, which offers a diversion option run

by volunteer community members in collaboration with the Probation Department. Youth are assigned to complete community service hours, educational programs, apology letters, essays, or other rehabilitative activities within a 4- to 6-month period.

Formal probation and re-entry community supervision programs are commonly used following a court ruling or release from custody. Probation utilizes the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) tool to assess the youth's risks, needs, and strengths. This evidence-based, gender-responsive tool determines the most suitable supervision level and helps staff identify the treatment and re-entry programs that best address the youth's needs. Additionally, the Probation Department collaborates with partner county agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide resources, education, and supervision, facilitating successful community interactions for the youth and their families. Youth placed on court-ordered probation will be monitored in the community instead of being detained under terms and conditions set by the court. Supervision generally includes methods such as home compliance checks, monitoring school attendance, regular meetings with the youth and their parents, case management services, educational and trauma-informed classes, exposure to prosocial activities, mentoring, and individual and family counseling. In certain circumstances, the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology may also be employed as a progressive measure to redirect delinquent behavior. Furthermore, probation officers may recommend court-ordered custody time to address a probation violation or a new law violation.

As previously mentioned, some of the supervision and specialty programs that may be used are:

- Success First/Early Wrap is a collaborative program involving Probation and DBH that concentrates on serving youth with emotional and behavioral needs and those with mental health issues. The program focuses on strengthening the whole family so at-risk and system-involved youth can remain in the home. This is a team approach with a probation officer, therapist, parent partner, DBH, CFS, school officials, and community members identified by the family and team as a strengthening force.
- Girls Court is a partnership with the Court, Probation, the DA, and the PD to provide specialized services to female youth who are considered vulnerable to sexual exploitation or experiencing an increase in at-risk behaviors. The goal of the program is to build self-esteem and empower female youth. Various presentations, interpersonal discussions, and workshops are provided to aid in rehabilitation, confidence-building, and health-conscious choices. Our partner CBOs often provide services, resources, and classes in conjunction with the team's focus.
- Drug Court and CITA (Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents) are specialty courts focusing on alcohol, drug, and mental health concerns. Using a team approach, with collaborative interaction between allied agencies such as the Court, Probation, DA, PD, DBH, CFS, contracted treatment providers, and CBOs, it is focused

on the goal of reducing incarceration, decreasing recidivism, advocating for treatment services, and enhancing community protection.

- Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO) works with young people aged 13-17 and their families. This collaborative effort between Probation and DBH combines resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness in or out of custody.
- The Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) is a collaboration between DBH, CFS, Children’s Network, the DA, the PD, the Department of Public Health, the County Superintendent of Schools, the Sheriff’s Department, and the Juvenile Court. This team focus is crucial to the group's success. The Probation Department also provides specialized case supervision services for adolescent youth involved in or at risk of being sexually exploited.
- Juvenile Intensive Supervision and Specialized Caseloads are targeted toward specific treatment concerns, or when offenders need more singular direction, or require more focused case management methods. For example, a specialized caseload of youth who have been arrested for possession and/or use of a firearm, youth who are adjudicated for sex offenses, and specialized caseloads revolving around human trafficking victims, CFS-involved youth, mental health, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.
- Placement/Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) are used when diversionary, community-based, and pre-placement preventative services have been exhausted or are inappropriate. These are short-term residential therapeutic programs within the community that provide structured therapy in a less restrictive setting than custodial sanctions.

B. Regional Agreements

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOGB funds.

None.

Part IV. JJCPA/YOGB Co-Funded Programs, Strategies, and/or System Enhancements

Let’s End Truancy (LET)

Education is one of the most significant contributing factors to ending cycles of abuse, addiction, incarceration, poverty, and many other negative early experiences. Youth who become involved in the justice system often show early warning signs such as academic struggles, behavioral

problems, or exposure to trauma. Early intervention with access to services can help inform youth about the different pathways to access success and can help mitigate the emerging risk factors before they escalate into delinquency or more serious criminal behavior.

LET is a collaborative, multi-agency program designed to combat the truancy rate within the San Bernardino County and City School Districts. The District Attorney (DA), Public Defender (PD), probation officers, school personnel, and community resources cooperate to work with the youth and their families to bring awareness to the youth's truancy and its impact on their overall chances for success. The program aims to increase students' average daily attendance while reducing the negative impacts caused by truancy, including juvenile delinquency. The program is dedicated to working holistically with students and families to identify the root cause of their truant behavior by implementing a goal-oriented strategy to improve short- and long-term attendance. This program targets youth in grades K-12 who are struggling with their school attendance.

The LET process may include mediation, school visits, and mentoring. SARB (Student Attendance Review Board) meetings may also be utilized to successfully contact families in person, online, and in a hybrid format. The goal is to locate and assist students and their families with little to no contact/engagement with their assigned school sites and classes. At SARB meetings, students and their families receive referrals, tutoring, and counseling to address anxiety or lack of motivation. They can also work with the team to obtain basic needs such as transitional housing. Pre-paid gift cards are often used as an incentive to recognize students who have demonstrated improved attendance and engagement at school after involvement in the SARB process.

The DA and PD LET units have also partnered with Youth Courts to address low-level delinquent behavior at the school level and keep minors out of Juvenile Delinquency Court when appropriate. The DAs served in both an advisory and participatory capacity. The PD office uses Social Service Practitioners (SSPs) to provide a strength-based and family systems-oriented intervention strategy. SSPs meet with students and families in their communities to establish long-term connections with local resources and support services such as food resources, job/employment options, scholarships, counseling and mental health referrals, mentorship, and tutoring. Additionally, SSPs implement Parent Engagement at partnered school districts. Parent Engagement is facilitated by an assigned SSP, who works with the school district to create a program that effectively targets children struggling with school attendance. Parent Engagement is a set curriculum designed to engage parents in their child's academic progress, focusing on ending truancy. The program takes a proactive approach and tailors the curriculum to specific needs that arise.

School Probation Officers

School probation officers are essential to a comprehensive resource strategy, working alongside teachers, administrators, and parents to create a safe learning environment. They focus on identifying at-risk youth and those in the system who may need services. Truancy can often lead

to poor academic performance, school dropouts, delinquency, and, ultimately, adult criminal behavior. A proactive approach through the presence of a school probation officer can help prevent these issues and contribute to crime prevention in schools. Having a school probation officer on campus enables staff to address emerging concerns promptly, which can help avoid future escalation. These officers collaborate with school staff to supervise and guide students, promote positive decision-making, mediate conflicts, resolve disputes, prevent fights, and foster peaceful interactions. They play a crucial role in ensuring that all students feel safe at school, particularly at-risk youth, by steering them away from the criminal justice system. This support includes providing resources such as pro-social activities, on-campus classes for minor behavioral infractions, and mentoring.

Schools with an assigned probation officer in San Bernardino County report high levels of satisfaction with the program. The program aims to provide prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation services to students exhibiting concerning behaviors or those identified as needing assistance. It also includes youth who self-report challenges related to behavioral issues, mental health, expulsion, attendance, and educational performance. School probation officers may contact students and make referrals for appropriate services, including tutoring, individual or family counseling, component classes, attendance support, and School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meetings. They may also coordinate home visits with school attendance review teams and actively participate in SARB meetings.

Youth and Family Programming

Probation has four youth DRCs that are strategically placed throughout the county to ensure access to services for youth and families. They serve as a hub for programming and resources that can improve the likelihood of success and decrease involvement in the justice system, potential recidivism, and/or sustained system involvement. They provide DBH referral services, offer classes and resources from community providers, and provide a venue for prosocial activities for youth and families. It also allows youth in the system to meet with their probation officers.

Each DRC provides access to specialized services, programming, and activities for both system and non-system-involved youth and their families. Probation partners with various county agencies and CBOs to provide the resources offered. For example, a few of the classes accessible at the DRC's include Anger Management, Drug and Alcohol, Truancy, Gang Intervention/Prevention Services, Cognitive Life Skills, Graffiti, Shoplifting, Curfew, Bullying, Victim Awareness, Weapons Diversion, Petty Theft, Deceptions (human trafficking awareness), Healthy Relationships, Work Readiness, Forklift/OSHA Certification, Food Handler's Certification, CPR/First Aid, ROP/US Forestry Program, Automotive Program, Traffic Safety, JOBTEC (Job Skills), Boy's Council, and Girl's Circle. Youth may also be offered tutoring or other specific counseling or programming that is determined to be culturally competent, community-oriented, and/or gender specific.

The DRCs also work with county and community partners to provide a restorative justice-focused community services program. Participating youth complete community service by working with charitable organizations, setting up, breaking down, and cleaning up for events, along with participating in clothing, food, and toy drives, and assisting with giveaway distribution. Probation provides meals, transportation to and from, appropriate supervision, and recognition upon completing their community service obligation. Some of the Community Service events include Thanksgiving turkey giveaways, multiple holiday toy drives, fall backpack and school supply giveaways, Earth Day clean up, and A Flag for Every Hero Memorial Day Event.

The DRCs also continue to organize and host summer day camps for youth in various regions as a pro-social alternative, exposing them to positive and engaging learning opportunities. Summer Camp offers youth a variety of fun and educational experiences that promote becoming involved in the community, healthy lifestyle choices, healthy relationships, and exposure to new experiences.

In FY25/26 the Probation Department will be working toward a system improvement that will allow for collaboration between the Probation Department and a qualified professional and/or community-based organization (CBO) that can act as a Program Administrator and oversee the development, management, and coordination of subcontracted non-residential programs with an array of treatment and rehabilitative services. The program will be designed to offer evidence-based services that target risk/need criteria strongly correlated to preventing criminogenic behavior and/or re-offending tendencies and to provide at-risk youth and their families with the programs and resources to support successful foundations. The outsourcing of this vital function would shift these duties from the sworn probation officers working at the DRCs who currently complete these tasks along with regular supervision and probation duties and would allow for an external Program Administrator to manage the scheduling and delivery of treatment, rehabilitative, educational, and vocational services, and to oversee organization and implementation of pro-social activities and events for at-risk youth and/or their families. As such, this would provide for a more seamless, consistent, and streamlined presentation of service delivery and ensure the youth and their families receive focused, quality assistance based on their specific risks and needs. In addition, it will help limit duplicative efforts and prioritize resources by housing these services under one roof with the goal of a one-stop service delivery arena. While Probation's DRCs currently endeavor to meet these needs, existing infrastructure and design combine the service milieu with enforcement operations, and officers also must often balance on-site service provision with needs-based referrals, given that not all essential services can currently be co-located in the existing environment.

The Program Administrator would be responsible for developing a comprehensive strategy to work with relevant county partners and CBOs to provide evidence-based programs and strategies that have been found to reduce concerns such as recidivism and substance abuse and promote pro-social behavior. They will also be able to assist with transportation for youth and/or their

families and provide client interaction and daily tracking, including documentation of interactions, attendance, or lack thereof.

House Arrest Program (HAP)

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, house arrest can reduce disruptions in the lives of youth, helping them maintain their education and social connections. This approach can decrease the social and psychological costs associated with incarceration and allow young people to remain connected to their families and communities. Keeping youth in their homes while awaiting court hearings alleviates the financial burden on the justice system and ensures limited supervision and accountability. The House Arrest Program (HAP) provides an alternative to custody, allowing youth to stay in their home environment during court proceedings. HAP employs risk-specific guidelines to determine eligibility and participation in the program. Probation staff assigned to HAP offer monitoring, which may include electronic monitoring and limited supervision. Probation officers collaborate with the parents of justice-involved youth to supervise, monitor, and encourage compliance with house arrest rules. This supervision includes documenting behaviors and adherence to program guidelines. Additionally, HAP may involve the youth in community-based programs when they identify areas of concern and/or to support their rehabilitation.

Diversion Programs/Community Supervision/Intensive Supervision

San Bernardino County addresses non-707(b) offenders by offering community services and resources as part of its intervention and prevention strategy. Once a young person becomes involved in the justice system, the focus shifts to utilizing the least restrictive options available. Eligible youth can participate in diversion programs or receive probation, allowing them to be monitored in the community instead of being detained. Supervision may include home compliance checks, monitoring school attendance, and providing prevention, intervention, and rehabilitative services for both the youth and their families. The Probation Department has established long-standing collaborations with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) partners and CBOs to offer various programs and resources that support community supervision.

Community Service Team (CST)

According to the Annie Casey Foundation, “Juvenile diversion programs and approaches hold youth accountable for their behavior without resorting to legal sanctions, court oversight, or the threat of confinement. Regardless of the form diversion takes, its goal is for young people to mature into adulthood without being derailed by the negative impacts of involvement in the juvenile justice system, including a criminal record that can severely damage their future opportunities for employment and higher education. Furthermore, when youth assessed as low risk are diverted, they are 45% less likely to re-offend compared to similar youth undergoing formal court processing.”

CST was established to divert young offenders from the juvenile justice system through the use of preventative services. Typically, CST handles cases involving low-level offenses. The Probation CST unit addresses these matters informally for youth who the Juvenile Delinquency Court has not adjudicated. Its authority is derived from W&I Code 654, which allows for a six-month informal agreement with the youth and their parents. The CST officer monitors the youth's performance and adherence to the stipulations outlined in the agreement. These stipulations may include educational components, community service hours, apology letters, counseling, or other appropriate measures. The youth is usually referred to a partner agency or CBO to help complete the various components of the agreement.

Youth Accountability Boards (YABs)

The Youth Accountability Board (YAB) works with families to divert first-time, low-risk youth away from further involvement with the criminal justice system. YAB panel members meet with the youth and their families to discuss the circumstances that led to the behavior and explore how better choices and positive peer influences could have helped avoid the situation. As part of the process, youth are often assigned community service hours, educational programs, essays, or other rehabilitative activities to complete within a 4- to 6-month period. The goal is to encourage positive behaviors and thought processes that help the youth refocus their life path. Once they successfully fulfill these requirements, the case is returned to the probation officer, closed, and the youth's record is sealed.

Wraparound/Success First/Early Wrap Success

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, studies indicate that wraparound services effectively reduce the need for out-of-home care, are more cost-effective, and positively impact students' performance in school. Additionally, wraparound services may help reduce disparities in outcomes for youth of color. The Success First/Early Wrap program is a collaborative initiative between Probation and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). It aims to support youth with emotional and behavioral needs, as well as those facing mental health challenges. This program lasts between 4 to 6 months, does not require detention findings or insurance, and serves youth on either Informal or Formal Probation.

The program focuses on strengthening the entire family to ensure that at-risk and system-involved youth can remain at home. It takes a team approach that includes a probation officer, a therapist, a parent partner, representatives from DBH, Child and Family Services (CFS), school officials, and community members identified by the family as supportive resources. The team meets regularly with the youth and their family to coordinate services, develop new coping skills, and assist the family and youth in addressing persistent emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges. Our partners and CBOs often provide services, resources, and necessary classes in conjunction with the team's efforts.

Girls Court

According to the Center for Children and Youth Justice, girls involved in the justice system have a history of trauma and other adverse childhood experiences that are more pronounced than those of their male counterparts. For these girls, experiencing adversity is strongly linked to delinquent behavior and other high-risk activities, including involvement in trafficking and gangs. Additionally, issues such as learning disabilities and adolescent pregnancy among justice-involved girls are associated with a higher risk of mental health challenges, substance use, and a greater dependency on public assistance in the future. Girls Court is a collaborative initiative involving the Court, Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, and Public Defender's Office. It aims to provide specialized services to female youth who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation or are exhibiting increased at-risk behaviors. The program's goal is to build self-esteem and empower these young women. Various presentations, interpersonal discussions, and workshops are offered to facilitate rehabilitation, boost confidence, and promote healthy choices. Our partner community-based organizations often provide services, resources, and necessary classes in collaboration with the overall team.

Drug Court and CITA (Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents)

These specialty courts focus on issues related to alcohol, drugs, and mental health. Research shows that drug courts can significantly reduce recidivism rates among participants. According to the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have mental health disorders. Therefore, a collaborative team approach involving agencies such as the Court, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, Department of Behavioral Health, Child and Family Services, contracted treatment providers, and community-based organizations is essential. This team aims to reduce incarceration, lower recidivism rates, advocate for treatment services, and enhance community safety. The ultimate goal is to work together to eliminate future criminal behavior and improve the quality of life for youth dealing with drug or alcohol addiction and/or mental health issues.

Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO)

The INFO program works with youth aged 13-17 and their families. This is a collaborative effort between Probation and DBH, which combines resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness in or out of custody. Positive outcomes have been realized in that youth who complete the program serve fewer days in detention after the program, have fewer sustained misdemeanors or felony offenses, and recidivate fewer times after the program. Some of the services provided are intake/screening, triage, assessment, medication support services, crisis stabilization, individualized treatment plans, multidisciplinary team linkages, and reintegration.

Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE)

Probation participates as part of the San Bernardino County CASE Executive Steering Committee, which includes representation from DBH, CFS, Children's Network, the DA, the PD, the Department of Public Health, the County Superintendent of Schools, the Sheriff's Department, and the Juvenile Court. The collaboration between the involved stakeholders is crucial to the success of this group and helps promote shared goals, a robust system of services for victims of human trafficking, and education of the public. The Probation Department also provides specialized case supervision services for adolescent youth involved in, or at risk of, being sexually exploited.

Juvenile Intensive Supervision Caseloads

Youth who are system-involved are often assigned to a probation officer who specializes in providing supervision in the community. This enables the youth to stay in the home, which helps maintain the family unit's cohesion. Probation officers may also refer the youth and their families to community-based services supported by an individualized case plan created with their input.

In addition to general supervision caseloads and caseloads targeted toward specific treatment concerns, the Probation Department also has several specialized supervision caseloads for offenders who need singular direction or require more focused case management methods. For example, a specialized caseload of youth who have been arrested for possession and/or use of a firearm. This program works with highly sophisticated, active juvenile gang members who require intensive supervision by highly trained probation officers. In addition, youth who are adjudicated for sex offenses may be placed on a specialized caseload. As previously mentioned, the Probation Department also has dedicated caseloads revolving around human trafficking victims, CFS-involved youth, mental health, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.

Placement/Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs)

When diversionary, community-based, and pre-placement preventative services have been exhausted or are inappropriate, youth are screened for suitability and medical necessity eligibility for placement into an STRTP. These are short-term residential therapeutic programs within the community that provide structured therapy in a less restrictive setting than custodial sanctions. The focus is on ensuring youth receive appropriate rehabilitative services to address individual needs. Upon completion of the treatment program, the youth receive 6 months of Wraparound services to provide supportive resources to the entire family while the youth transitions into permanent living arrangements in the community.

Recidivism Prevention and Growth Services at the Youth Detention Centers

Whether a youth is detained at the Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (CVJDAC) or committed to our Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), A Restorative Integration for Successful Engagement (ARISE), the primary goal is to provide the tools and rehabilitative resources necessary to prevent recidivism and support successful reintegration. The depth of

collaboration with our partner county agencies, CBOs, and volunteers in our community allows these resources to be available for our youth. Our CBOs facilitate classes and offer resources to the youth inside the facilities during their day and evening program time. Mentors and one-on-one meetings with supportive CBO and volunteer staff with targeted goals for the youth are also utilized. The aim is to assist youth in developing individual decision-making skills through role modeling, counseling, individual/family therapy, and personal responsibility. By helping the youth better understand themselves through specialized programs, the primary objective is to foster healthy thinking and appropriate behavior patterns that result in a happy and productive life that eschews a return to the criminal justice system.

Some of the programs/resources available while youth are in custody include anger management, podcasting, computer graphics, barbering, job development, the YES program, the Iron Strong program, mentoring, Operation New Hope, Communication Building, Music Production, Music and Self-expression, Sport Mindfulness, My Brother's Keeper, The Road We Travel, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Self-Care, financial literacy, music theory, Nurturing Fathers, Nurturing Families, Empower Girls, Victim Impact, Gang Intervention, Cognitive Life Skills, Film class, Career Pathways, Healthy Relationships, Computer Coding, Six Universal Laws of Survival, therapy and creative writing, Spanish classes, and K-9 therapy.

Re-entry Continuity for Incarcerated Youth

Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Caseload:

This caseload consists of youth who were committed and incarcerated at DJJ and those discharged by the California Juvenile Parole Board from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Before DJJ closed on June 30, 2023, probation officers visited the two DJJ detention facilities and one fire camp bi-monthly. They also worked closely with DJJ staff, focusing on pre-release rehabilitation plans and identifying and connecting youth to services. The youth on this caseload are now supervised in the community, focusing on successful reentry and reintegration.

ARISE Community Supervision Caseload:

This caseload consists of youth committed to ARISE and those granted re-entry supervision by the Juvenile Court. The Probation Department currently has a dedicated ARISE Re-entry Coordinator who supports the youth with initial rehabilitative services. Re-entry supervision officers conduct bi-weekly visits at ARISE for youth who are still incarcerated and routine home visits for youth who have been granted the opportunity to return to their homes or move to a less restrictive program. The overall goal is to help with successful reintegration into the community by ensuring the youth are closer to their families and receive age-appropriate, evidence-based treatment to help reduce the likelihood of the youth re-entering the criminal justice system. During re-entry supervision, the youth, Probation Department, CBOs, county and state human service providers, and the youth's personal support network collaborate to help them adjust back into the community.

Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs)

Youth who are committed to ARISE may have the opportunity to be transferred from the secure youth treatment facility to a less restrictive program, such as a halfway house, a camp or ranch, or a community residential or nonresidential service program. In making the determination, the Court will consider the youth's overall progress in relation to the rehabilitation plan during the period of confinement in a secure youth treatment facility. They will also consider the programming and community transition services to be provided, or coordinated by the less restrictive program, including, but not limited to, any educational, vocational, counseling, housing, or other services made available through the program. The purpose of a less restrictive program is to facilitate the safe and successful reintegration of the ward into the community.

The Probation Department currently partners with several LRPs.

- **Boys Republic:** This is a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian school and treatment community for youth. Since its founding in 1907, it has guided more than 32,000 at-risk teenage boys and girls toward productive, fulfilling lives. At its central school and farm in Chino Hills and residential and day treatment centers in other communities, Boys Republic and its companion program, Girls Republic, help youth find the resources and skills to begin meaningful lives independently. Boys Republic seeks to give adolescent youth with behavioral, educational, and emotional difficulties an opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for a responsible, self-directed life within the community. Every attempt is made to involve family members in the rehabilitation process and bring about family reunification. Boy's Republic considers the development of academic, vocational, and social skills essential so that all youth returning to the community can feel confident in their ability to be successful and productive citizens.
- **Coastal Valley Academy (CVA):** Located in San Luis Obispo, CVA is a custody commitment camp for 14 to 17-year-old male and female youth who are moderate to high risk and need residential treatment. Youth are ordered to stay 6-12 months and receive intensive case management, treatment, and educational services through collaboration with a local treatment provider, Family Care Network, and the County Office of Education. While CVA is located onsite at Juvenile Hall, it is completely separated in terms of programming, having its own classroom, recreation yard, and living unit. The physical features of the unit are more homelike and provide a safe and effective alternative to group homes, engaging the families in the treatment and reunification process. Youth participate in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings and individual, family, and group treatment. CVA staff are trained in Comprehensive Substance Abuse Curricula designed by the University of Cincinnati and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Both treatment staff and CVA Probation Officers facilitate groups. Youth participate in pro-social activities, including off-site activities, community service projects, and home passes.

- Pine Grove: The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LAC FIRE), jointly operate 35 conservation camps, commonly known as fire camps, located in 25 counties across California. CDCR employees oversee the fire camps, which are all minimum-security facilities. Camp participants support state, local, and federal government agencies as they respond to all types of emergencies, such as fires, floods, and other natural or manmade disasters. Crews also maintain parks and assist with sandbagging during flood-fighting operations and reforestation. After release, the program paves the way for several job opportunities and benefits, including advanced training and criminal record expungement. These pathways allow formerly incarcerated individuals to seek professional emergency response certifications previously unavailable to them.
- California Conservation Corps: A state agency that enrolls youth aged 18-25 for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. The CCC puts youth and the environment together to benefit both. The young adults of the CCC work hard to protect and restore California's environment, respond to disasters, and become stronger workers, citizens, and individuals through their service.

Literacy 4 Life (L4L)

A partnership between the Sheriff's Department and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS), the L4L Program aims to impact youth of incarcerated parents by working to rebuild the loss of the youth-parent bond that follows incarceration. The program also seeks to build literacy in both the youth and the incarcerated parent. By the nature of this program, every youth who participates is the youth of an incarcerated parent, and every inmate who participates is a parent of an at-risk youth. Under the direct supervision of the literacy coaches, the youth of the incarcerated parent are brought into a day-care-like setting within the jail system. The youth are reunited with the incarcerated parent for a weekly one-hour learning session. Using the Footsteps 2 Brilliance application, the youth and the parent read and learn together using tablets and books, play music together, dance, and sing. Educational field trips are also a component of this program. For example, the youth and the incarcerated parent learn about zoo animals and then take a trip to the zoo. The incarcerated parent can share the field trip experience virtually with their youth.

Community Access Program (CAP)

CAP will enable San Bernardino County Schools to provide access to justice-involved youth or youth who are at risk of becoming involved in the justice system to programs and opportunities not offered at traditional school sites. CAP will allow the school to interact more closely with youth at risk of truancy through home visits and wellness checks to ensure students regularly attend school. In addition, since job skills development and job placement are key interventions

to improving attendance, reducing truancy, raising graduation rates, reducing crime, and ensuring a successful transition from high school to college and/or a career, the CAP program will provide SBCSS the resources/vehicles they need to transport the students to job training programs, job fairs, jobs, higher education opportunities, and various field trips. The program aims to increase average daily attendance and student achievement/graduation rates while reducing the negative impacts caused by truancy and lack of resources, which can often include juvenile delinquency.

The Go Ruck Tribe 'N Training, Jiu Jitsu, and Mental Well-Being Program

The Redlands Police Department will run this program as an after-school event fostering physical challenges, social and community fitness, and mental well-being among local youth. It will be overseen by on-duty personnel and community members, offering Go Ruck Tribe 'N Training, Jiu Jitsu, and mental well-being exercises. It will operate twice a week, one day consisting of a preprogrammed Go Ruck workout and Jiu Jitsu, while the second day will focus on Go Ruck training and emphasize mental health and leadership. Redlands Police Department will collaborate with local high school counselors and teachers to select at-risk local youth to participate alongside Redlands Police Department employees and community members. This comprehensive program will be unique to the local community because it will provide physical and mental growth with mentorship and guidance. Implementing Jiu Jitsu, taught by department practitioners, would allow youth to work on decision-making in high-stress environments, focus and concentration, respect, humility, and personal safety. The feeling of personal safety is critical in one's daily success, as it can minimize bullying, build confidence, and create a more positive daily outlook.

Children Deserve Success Program

This is a collaboration with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) to enhance four existing programs:

- 1) The University of Redlands Student Success Partnership: This program will serve current and former justice-involved youth placed in Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP) in all regions of San Bernardino County to provide workshops, activities, leadership training, and other activities via the Saturday Success Academies, the Wellness Summit, Expanding Horizons College and Career Conference, and Summer Success Academies. The goal is to enhance academic skills and expose youth to learning opportunities and academic experiences that result in high school graduation and enrollment in post-secondary colleges, universities, or career technical programs.
- 2) California State University of San Bernardino Office of Pre-College Programs: This partnership will primarily work with the First Star and CALSOAP programs for youth on probation, youth in foster care, and youth experiencing homelessness. Youth will receive academic support and enrichment, participate in workshops rooted in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM), participate in project-based learning to build foundational skills in communication, conflict resolution, problem-solving, and

leadership, mentoring, and networking, college/career readiness support and life skills training.

- 3) San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Student Counseling Services: This partnership will provide SBCSS probation youth and foster care youth with career days, college readiness support, educational case management, transitional services, life skills training, job/vocational aid support, and peer support.
- 4) Give Something Back Pre/Post College Mentoring Program: This partnership will provide monthly school-based mentoring sessions to small groups of middle school and high school youth in participating school districts which include San Bernardino Unified School District, Fontana Unified School District, Hesperia Unified School District, Colton Unified School District, Redlands Unified School District, and Victor Valley Unified School District. This adds up to approximately 100 individual schools and 1000 youth. Mentoring sessions will consist of developmental themes to encourage and empower youth to meet the challenges of being successful students and citizens. This program also includes 2 field trips per year that provide educational or cultural experiences, such as participating in a college tour or visiting a museum. In addition, youth who participate may be eligible for a scholarship.

Juvenile Program Administrator

This system improvement will identify and allow for collaboration between the Probation Department and a qualified professional and/or community-based organization (CBO) that can act as a Program Administrator and oversee the development, management, and coordination of subcontracted non-residential programs with an array of treatment and rehabilitative services. The program will be designed to offer evidence-based services that target risk/need criteria strongly correlated to preventing criminogenic behavior and/or re-offending tendencies and to provide at-risk youth and their families with the programs and resources to support successful foundations. The outsourcing of this vital function would shift these duties from the sworn probation officers working at the DRCs who currently complete these tasks along with regular supervision and probation duties and would allow for an external Program Administrator to manage the scheduling and delivery of treatment, rehabilitative, educational, and vocational services, and to oversee organization and implementation of pro-social activities and events for at-risk youth and/or their families. As such, this would provide for a more seamless, consistent, and streamlined presentation of service delivery and ensure the youth and their families receive focused, quality assistance based on their specific risks and needs. In addition, it will help limit duplicative efforts and prioritize resources by housing these services under one roof with the goal of a one-stop service delivery arena. While Probation's DRCs currently endeavor to meet these needs, existing infrastructure and design combine the service milieu with enforcement operations, and officers also must often balance on-site service provision with needs-based referrals, given that not all essential services can currently be co-located in the existing environment.

The Program Administrator would be responsible for developing a comprehensive strategy to work with relevant county partners and CBOs to provide evidence-based programs and strategies that have been found to reduce concerns such as recidivism and substance abuse and promote pro-social behavior. They will also be able to assist with transportation for youth and/or their families, and will also provide client interaction and daily tracking, including documentation of interactions, attendance, or lack thereof. Additionally, they will provide such things as monthly measurable outcome reports to assess progress and change, conduct monthly instructor reviews, administer, collect, and provide participant pre-test/post-tests and/or surveys, deliver quarterly program reviews displaying the numbers of participants who have been referred, enrolled, and attended each type of service, including those that were removed with the reason for removal. They shall complete or utilize the designated assessment tool approved by Probation and provide an annual program review displaying trending data from the quarterly review.

Housing Support and Navigation Initiative

This program will expand upon a successful Housing Navigation Initiative that supports families involved with Child Welfare Services and former foster care young adults between the ages of 21-24. With the allocation of this funding, CFS will provide direct housing support and housing navigation to prevent youth from being removed from their families, support families during the reunification process, and divert youth from the justice system. For young adults, the goal is also to provide stability and offer programs such as living skills to help them maintain their independence. Staff members (also known as Housing Navigators) provide housing navigation and work with homeless/at-risk families and young adults. Staff will assist in identifying financial resources and provide direct assistance in securing long-term, stable housing. Housing Navigators will assist families in locating properties, advocate on the family's behalf with landlords, issue housing vouchers, and pay for housing-related costs, including security deposits, rent, utilities, basic household goods, and associated moving costs. Housing Navigators, working in conjunction with CFS social workers, help families/young adults develop a plan to become independent and self-sustaining. The plan includes identifying and referring clients to appropriate resources. Homelessness alone is not a reason for the removal of youth from their parents/guardians. However, research shows that poverty, financial stress, unemployment, and low income serve as stressors that lead to child abuse, neglect, and other forms of maltreatment. Statistics demonstrate that approximately 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness each year in the United States. Approximately 57% of those are estimated to have prior records of foster care, juvenile justice involvement, or both.

Homeless assistance programs are essential to keeping families housed. This, in turn, provides youth with a more solid foundation from which to succeed and not feel the need to participate in illegal activity. Homelessness creates challenges, such as hunger, possible violence, and lack of parental attention, which can impact a youth's well-being from an early age. Families experiencing homelessness often lack access to housing subsidies and supportive services. Many have experienced domestic violence. Unfortunately, these situations place individuals on the path of

entering or returning to the judicial system as they see no other means of survival. CFS will monitor outcomes for 1) families who have had referrals closed prior to removals due to finding appropriate housing, and 2) families who have been able to reunify quicker than expected due to a lack of housing no longer being a barrier. CFS will collaborate with Probation to determine if assisting a family with housing deterred the youth from becoming involved in the justice system. With young adults, if they have an open case, CFS will be able to determine if assistance with housing 1) deterred the young adult from becoming involved in the justice system and 2) was able to maintain stable housing.

Mentoring for CFS Youth at Risk of Juvenile Justice Involvement

CFS will create an innovative mentoring/counseling program for youth with open CFS cases who are at risk of juvenile justice system involvement. The mentoring program, which will be established through contracts with CBOs, may include mentors who have experience in overcoming and healing from trauma similar to that experienced by CFS youth. The benefits to the youth will include learning effective strategies for regulating their emotions; building positive relationships; changing negative core beliefs about themselves; a reduction in risky behavior; healing from past trauma(s); learning alternative coping strategies regarding substance abuse; and developing social and emotional resilience to be successful in life, work, and school. The target population for this program will include youth with complex needs who regularly spend time in CFS offices awaiting placement because of the same maladaptive behaviors that put them at risk of juvenile justice system involvement. Mentors will be incorporated into Child and Family Team Meetings to support the youth in safely transitioning from CFS office/shelter settings to appropriate placements where they may stabilize and flourish while in care. Mentors will also promote connections for youth with loved ones who positively impact their lives but who may not be able to care for them directly. Contracted services will be tailored to the needs of the youth.

Statistics demonstrate that approximately one-fifth of the prison population in the United States is comprised of former foster youth. Approximately 70% of youth who exit foster care as legal adults will be arrested at least once by the age of 26. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that mentoring has been shown to improve a young person's life and self-esteem. Proper mentoring can also reduce depression, aggression, and delinquent acts. Mentoring can be utilized as an effective measure to prevent youth with complex care needs from entering the justice system at any age. A four-year randomized controlled trial, conducted in 2018 by the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health, revealed notable reductions in arrest rates (with mentees 51% less likely to be arrested) and substance use (41% less likely to engage in substance use) among Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) participants after 18 months. The study observed improvements in various developmental areas, including enhanced school engagement, self-control, social skills, grit, self-advocacy, and family functioning.

Trauma-informed mentoring as a juvenile justice diversion strategy will effectively improve child welfare and juvenile justice outcomes. San Bernardino County CFS will measure program effectiveness in the following outcomes: 1) improvement in placement stability, including a decrease in placement changes, a decrease in time awaiting placement in a CFS office or shelter; 2) improvements in permanency of the youth, including a decrease in timeframes to permanency and increases in number and percentage of youth who achieve permanency. CFS will work with San Bernardino County Probation to develop a method to determine the number and percentage of participating youth diverted from the juvenile justice system. CFS will also measure the program's value from the youth perspective through qualitative interviews.

Extracurricular Programs Sponsored by the Public Defender and Children's Fund

Youth involved in the juvenile justice system face many challenges. Those at risk of becoming justice-involved include children experiencing poverty, abuse, neglect, mental health challenges, and/or parents who have been incarcerated. Additional risk factors associated with youth ending up in the juvenile justice system are cognitive deficits, low school involvement, living in poverty, or being a runaway or homeless. Scientists have recognized the significant role of organized, extracurricular activities in child development and socialization. An ever-growing body of research suggests that extracurricular participation is linked to a broad range of positive outcomes for youth including socialization (Mahoney, 2000), school performance (Roeser & Peck, 2003), avoidance of violence (Jiang & Peterson, 2012), identity development (Dworkin et al., 2003) self-esteem (McGee et al., 2006), health (Fredricks & Eccles, 2010), physical activity (Halpern, 2003), and civic orientation (Denault & Poulin, 2009).

However, participation in extracurricular activities comes with barriers that many youths who are justice-involved or are at risk of becoming involved need assistance to overcome. Participation in extracurricular activities requires a financial commitment. Registration fees vary by activity, and although a fundraising component may be available, youth may not have the support network to participate in fundraising. They are unlikely to approach their parents/caregivers/friends/family to purchase chocolate bars, a script, a ticket for a car wash, etc., knowing that food and housing are their priorities. Beyond the registration fees, equipment and uniforms can burden struggling families. As such, the Public Defender (PD) in conjunction with Children's Fund will be working to provide a minimum of 200 youth at risk of, or already involved in the juvenile justice system, with everything they need to participate in extra-curricular and/or recreational diversionary activities and programs for one year, two seasons, or two activities throughout the year.

The Placement Project

The Placement Project was established to provide additional support for juveniles placed in out-of-home care, aiming to ensure their well-being and progress throughout their placement. A designated Social Service Practitioner (SSP) is assigned to each minor in out-of-home placement, with a commitment to maintain regular contact, typically monthly. During these interactions, the Social Service Practitioner addresses any concerns or issues that may arise between the minor's

scheduled review hearings, which could include emotional and/or behavioral challenges. The SSP is integral in monitoring the minor's overall well-being, advocating for their needs, and ensuring they receive the necessary services and support to thrive during their placement. The primary objective of the Placement Project is to facilitate and support the minor's journey toward a successful reintegration into their community. Through the ongoing support of an SSP, the program works to provide stability, guidance, and resources that enable the minor to progress toward a positive future and a seamless transition back into their community.