



**SIERRA COUNTY**  
**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)**  
**JJCPA-YOBG ANNUAL PLAN**  
**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

This document is to serve as the updated Sierra County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) JJCPA-YOBG plan for the fiscal year noted above in compliance with Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institution Code Section 1961(b) which set forth a consolidation of the annual plans required for Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG).

The following plan is to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis through JJCC. As of July 1, 2024, all changes to the JJCPA component are to be reported to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) in lieu of the California State Board of State & Community Corrections (BSCC) per AB 169 Chapter 50. The combined plan describes all programs, placements, strategies, services, and system enhancements that will be supported with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the upcoming fiscal year. County plans are due to the OYCR at [OYCRgrants@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCRgrants@chhs.ca.gov) by May 1 prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year and then posted on the OYCR website as a public document. Plans do not need to be approved by the OYCR, nor do subsequent annual plans need to be approved by the local county board of supervisors.

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## **Legislative Background**

The JJCPA was implemented via Assembly Bill (AB) 1913, The Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Action of 2000, and codified by Government Code §30061. The purpose of AB 1913 is to provide California counties with funding to implement programs for at-risk youth, youthful offenders, and their families with the goal of early intervention and to support the implementation of programs and approaches demonstrated to be effective in reducing youth crime.

The YOBG was enacted in 2007 by Senate Bill (SB) 81. The purpose of the YOBG is to realign the supervision of non-violent, non-sexual and non-serious justice-involved youth from the former State of California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to local governments. YOBG funding is to also provide local governments with funding support for the supervision of this population. The realignment of youth from state facilities to local supervision in their county of residence allows their connection to community and family support systems to remain intact and undisturbed.

AB 1998 was enacted in September of 2016 to consolidate the JJCPA and YOBG submissions and streamline reporting requirements. AB 1998 dictates that the Juvenile Justice Combined Plan must be developed by the local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council in each county with the membership described in WIC §749.22.

## **Current JJCC Membership**

The Sierra County Multiagency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is currently composed of the following members (WIC 749.22):

Charles Henson, Chief Probation Officer/Chairperson  
Sandra Groven, District Attorney  
J. Lon Cooper, Public Defender  
Michael Fisher, Sheriff  
Sharon Dryden, Supervisor District 5  
Lori McGee, Assistant Social Services Director  
Sherrill Prinz-McMillan, Behavioral Health Director  
Derrick Koch, Community-based Drug and Alcohol program  
N/A, City Police Department  
James Berardi, County Superintendent, Office of Education  
Scott McCallum, At-large Representative of Community  
Vickie Clark, Representative of Community-based Organization providing services to minors-High Sierra's Family Services.

## **Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy**

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

### **A. Assessment of Existing Services**

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*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.*

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Law enforcement- Sierra County is served by a small (12 sworn with 8 active and two reserve, point in time) sheriff's office. The sheriff's office covers all aspects of law enforcement including the investigation of juvenile delinquency, crimes against children and participates in the county's SARB.

Probation- Sierra County is served by a probation department that currently consists of four (4) sworn staff which includes the chief probation officer and three (3) deputies. Both the chief and deputies respond to juvenile delinquency and truancy matters and do preventative work. There is always an on-call officer to respond during any non-business hours. Probation regularly attends county SARB meetings, the mental health advisory board and is involved in several interactive programs with the schools, the county JJC (currently defunct), and local community-based organization(s).

Education- Sierra County is served by an elementary school, a combined middle and high school and a combined K-12 school. There is an additional opportunity at the Sierra Pass Continuation School and adult education. Long Valley Charter Schools serves from neighboring Plumas County. Within the Loyalton High School there is a peer-to-peer peace mediation program, Peace ROARiers, that utilizes the principles of restorative justice that are physically and financially supported by probation JJCJA funds.

Mental Health- Sierra County is served by a small rural mental health department of which juveniles and adults can access services both in and outside of the justice system. Services range from a wellness center, peer counseling (onsite service in schools), traditional counseling services, psychological services, and medication management. Services are provided through a partnership of providers. Sierra County does not have an approved MHSA plan and therefore no mental health services available through MediCal. It is anticipated that this will be resolved as of June 1, 2025.

Health/ Social Services- Sierra County is served by two (2) private health clinics and a county health department that offers medical and dental checkup services to youth.

Drug and Alcohol- Sierra County is served by a county SUD department which provides services to juveniles and adults with MediCal who are in and out of the justice system. There are no inpatient programs or private outpatient providers in the county.

Other- Sierra County is served by a county tobacco prevention program, Friday Night Live program, several private youth afterschool/recreational programs, and a family resource center. County behavioral health also has a wellness center that is available to youth and in school peer support. Crisis services are provided by Nevada County/Auburn Counseling, in neighboring Nevada County through the Sierra County Crisis Line and Mobile Crisis Team after hours.

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

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Sierra County is a small rural community where there is no issue in communication among departments and resources.

## **B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas**

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

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Being a small rural community with several scattered populated areas there is no real "target" area that attracts a concentration of juvenile crime more than any other. The community of Loyalton and the surrounding areas typically see the brunt of juvenile delinquency and truancy due to the larger community being the bulk of the county youth population. Consequently, Loyalton Jr./Sr. High has been identified as a high service needs area for both delinquency and absenteeism. Loyalton Elementary School has been identified a high-risk absenteeism area.

## **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

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*Describe your county's juvenile justice 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.*

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Sierra County utilizes a strategy to address justice involved youth that focuses on preventing and deterring youth from needing to be placed in detention. Detention is only utilized when necessary and when other non-restrictive measures are not appropriate at the time. Sierra County focuses on providing and coordinating proper county and community-based resources to youth and families to better their prosocial interactions with one another and the community.

Consequently, there is a system of graduated responses that begin with the least restrictive measures, often when circumstances warrant intervention first, and increase when appropriate. If a youth has the necessity to begin in a more restrictive environment, resources are pooled to help assure that the youth can be supported in a transition to a less restrictive setting. Within the Sierra County justice system there is a priority to transition youth out of the formal system as soon as stability has been restored for the youth and/or family and the youth has demonstrated the ability to remain free of significant violation of law and/or remain within the control of the guardian(s).

#### **D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions**

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*Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year.*

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In FY 21-22, per SB 823, the Sierra County JJCC Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) Sub-committee had developed an initial JJRBG plan. Since then, an initial meeting to update the plan for FY 25-26 has occurred. This plan will also be revised for the targeted population and will utilize local resources when they can be utilized and out of area resources when necessitated. Although the JJRBG plan focuses on a different subset of offenders, the development of this plan has enabled Sierra County to identify and develop additional out of county resources and further the collaboration between counties to help provide a network of efficient and effective specialized services for youthful offenders.

In early 2024, the Sierra County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) dissolved due to the lack of community interest and availability. The Probation Department was hopeful then that the JJC would strengthen enough to be able to develop a new Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Commission (JDPC). Financial resources from JCPA were allocated in the budget to that group for prevention and intervention services that year but the group was unable to form. Since that time Sierra County has not had a JJC or JDPC. Therefore, at this time a budget allocation for those programs will not be part of this plan. If in the future JJC and JDPC can reestablish, a funding request will be brought to the JJCC to support that program.

In FY 24-25 student and staff interest and participation at the Loyalton Junior/Senior High schools was bolstered through JPCF funding for training and incentives. The Peace ROARiers program is fully operational and effective in reducing lower-level referrals to the probation department by managing lower-level conflict, delinquency, and truancy matters. The Peace ROARiers utilizes the principles of restorative justice and mediation programming. Funding supports the necessary personnel for the program, training, education, and guidance. This year's plan will continue to budget funding for these programs and probation will continue to collaborate for the sake of prevention and diversion from traditional justice system involvement.

This year a new award was added to a local CBO/NGO, High Sierra Family Resource Center. Historically funding was allocated for additional family counseling, however, due to changing funding streams, that need had been met. Therefore, funding for the HSFRC was reallocated towards youth camp scholarships.

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*If your Plan has not been updated this year, explain why no changes to your plan are necessary.*

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N/A

## **Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))

### **A. Information Sharing and Data**

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*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 those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.*

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Sierra County does not have a dedicated shared information system. Sharing of data and other relevant information is done person to person and is effective.

### **B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

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

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Yes

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*If no, please list the current vacancies that exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies occurred, and your plan for filling them.*

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N/A

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## **C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

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*Describe each program, strategy and/or system enhancement that will be supported with funding from JJCBA, identifying anything that is co-funded with Youthful Offender Block (YOBG) funding.*

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*Please see attachment "A"*

### **Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

(Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))

#### **A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders**

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*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.*

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Sierra County does not have its own juvenile detention facility. Two (2) contracts are in place with Placer County and Butte County to house these juveniles. These facilities have been utilized when appropriate and will continue to be utilized for youth requiring detention. Sierra's overall strategy is to keep youth out of the juvenile hall unless necessary, utilizing the least restrictive placements and interventions. Sierra County also incorporates a plan to provide appropriate services to youth and to families to prevent detention and to better the ability of the family unit to maintain positive prosocial functionality amongst themselves and the community.

#### **B. Regional Agreements**

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

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N/A

### **C. Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

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*Describe the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the YOBG program. Explain how they complement or coordinate with the programs, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the JJCPA program.*

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*Please see attachment "B"*

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**Attachment "A"**

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*JJCJA Funded Program(s), Strategy and/or System Enhancement*

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Below are the JJCJA funded programs:

**Program Name: Incapacitation**

Evidence Upon Which It is Based: Incapacitation, when used appropriately, is a proven tool to prevent and deter criminality. Description: Sierra County allocates \$4,500 (30 days) annually to fund juvenile hall detention.

**Program Name: Friday Night Live Program**

Evidence Upon Which It is Based: Friday Night Live (FNL) is a renowned national program that focuses on providing and teaching healthy prosocial lifestyles to prevent and to intervene in negative antisocial behaviors including truancy, substance abuse and delinquency.

Description: As was determined last year based off of the FY 23-24 analytical Youth Survey Findings by HCS, allocations this year will be \$4,500 to match the greater need for the program in recognition of its great proven value.

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**Attachment "B"**

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*YOBG Funded Program(s), Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement*

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Below are the YOBG funded programs:

**Program Name: Deputy Probation Officer salary and benefits.**

Evidence Upon Which It is Based: Description: Typically, the entire allocation of YOBG funds is allocated annually to fund our only juvenile probation officer. As of March 25, 2025, the department will have a vacancy for that position and existing staff will be reallocated and shared to meet the juvenile needs the best we can. Therefore 25% of this year's projected allocation of \$122,132 (\$30,533) will be utilized to fund an existing officer for these purposes. The remaining funds (\$91,599) will be held in reserve to support and train a dedicated juvenile officer replacement. If a suitable replacement is not brought on prior to the end of this plan's scope, funds can be utilized to support additional juvenile services and/or salary in the following fiscal year pending approval of the JJCC. Without these funds the department would likely not have a position to adequately address the needs of the juvenile population.

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**Approval of Plan**

As evidenced above, the Sierra County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council will continue to allocate JCPA and YOBG funding to provide and expand upon the essential programs and services to the targeted youth.

Adopted by The Sierra County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council by majority

vote on March 18, 2025.



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Charles Henson

Chief Probation Officer/IJCC Chairperson

March 18, 2025

Date

# SIERRA 25-26 JJCPA YOBG JJCC PLAN

Final Audit Report

2025-04-03

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