

TULARE
COUNTY
PROBATION



Consolidated **ANNUAL PLAN**

JJCPA-YOBG • 2025 - 2026

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SECTION 1 - Background

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was implemented via Assembly Bill (AB) 1913, the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act 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 juveniles with the goal of early intervention and to support the implementation of programs and approaches that effectively reduce juvenile crime.

This law established a Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF) in each county to receive allocations. Fifty percent of the monies received into the SLESF will be used to implement a comprehensive multi-agency juvenile justice plan developed by each county's local juvenile justice coordinating council (JJCC). Members of the JJCC, as described in §749.22 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), are required to develop and implement a continuum of county-based responses to juvenile crime.

The JJCC for each county must include the Chief Probation Officer as chair and representatives from the following entities:

- District Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Sheriff's Department
- Board of Supervisors
- Social Services
- Mental Health
- Community-based drug and alcohol programs
- City Police Department
- County Office of Education or a school district
- At-large community representative
- Nonprofit community-based organization providing services to minors

The plan must identify the resources and strategies for providing an effective continuum of responses for the prevention, intervention, supervision, treatment, and incarceration of male and female justice-involved youth. It must also include strategies to develop and

implement locally — or regionally based out-of-home placement options for juveniles described in WIC §602.

Juveniles described in WIC §602 are as follows:

“Except as provided in Section 707, any minor between 12 years of age and 17 years of age, inclusive, when he or she violates any law of this state or the United States or any ordinance of any city or county of this state defining crime other than an ordinance establishing a curfew based solely on age, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge such person to be a ward of the court.” To qualify for the funding on a non-competitive basis, each county’s comprehensive, multi-agency juvenile justice plan must include the following components:

- Assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk youth, justice-involved youth, and their families.
- An identification and prioritization of the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas in the community that face significant public safety risks from juvenile crime, such as gang activity, daylight burglary, late-night robbery, vandalism, truancy, controlled substances sales, firearm-related violence, and juvenile substance abuse and alcohol use within the council’s jurisdiction.
- A local juvenile justice action strategy that provides a continuum of responses to juvenile crime and demonstrates a collaborative, integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk and justice-involved juveniles.
- A description of the programs, strategies, or system enhancements proposed to be funded.

Youthful Offender Block Grant

The Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) was enacted in 2007 by Senate Bill 81. The YOBG's purpose is to realign the supervision of nonviolent, nonsexual, and nonserious justice-involved youth from the State of California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to local governments and provide local governments with funding support for this population. The realignment of youth from state facilities to local supervision in their counties of residence allows their connection to community and family support systems to remain intact and undisturbed.

Since its inception, an allocation has been provided each year to enhance the capacity of local communities to implement an effective continuum of responses to juvenile crime. The allocation is calculated based on a formula that gives equal weight to a county’s juvenile population and the number of juvenile felony dispositions. The funds can be used to

enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, drug and alcohol, and other services to provide supervision and rehabilitation for juveniles no longer eligible to be committed to the DJJ.

As specified in WIC §1961, each county must submit a juvenile justice development plan to describe the proposed programs, strategies, and system enhancements for the next fiscal year. The plan shall include the following:

- A description of the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded by the block grant allocation.
- A description of how the plan relates to or supports the county's overall strategy for dealing with justice-involved juveniles who have not committed an offense described in WIC §707(b).
- A description of any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported by the block grant allocation pursuant to this chapter.
- A description of how the programs, placements, services, or strategies identified in the plan coordinate with multiagency juvenile justice plans and programs.

Assembly Bill 1998

Assembly Bill 1998 was enacted in September 2016 to consolidate the JJCPA and YOBG submissions and to streamline reporting requirements.

Each county's municipal juvenile justice coordinating council must develop the combined plan with the membership described in WIC §749.22. The plan should be reviewed and updated annually and no longer requires approval from the Board of Supervisors. The plan or update must be submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections by May 1st each year. The format is specified by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), and it consolidates the annual comprehensive Juvenile Justice Multiagency Plan with the annual Youthful Offender Block Grant Plan.

SECTION 2 - Tulare County Juvenile Justice System

The Tulare County Juvenile Justice System comprises several agencies directly responsible for various system functions. These agencies include law enforcement, the Office of the District Attorney (District Attorney), the Office of the Public Defender (Public Defender), Tulare County Juvenile Court (Juvenile Court), and the Probation Department (Probation). The primary function of these agencies as they relate to the Juvenile Justice System is described below.

Law enforcement provides the first response to emergencies and other threats to public safety. Officers investigate suspected juvenile delinquent activity and determine the appropriate next steps pursuant to WIC §626. These may include 1) release of the minor without any further action, 2) delivery or referral of the minor to a public or private agency to provide shelter care, counseling, or diversion services, 3) release of the minor upon the execution of the promise to appear before a Deputy Probation Officer, and 4) deliver custody of the minor to a Deputy Probation Officer. The officer, however, is to make the least restrictive alternative if it does not conflict with public safety.

When a youth is brought to the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) by law enforcement, Probation, pursuant to WIC § 652 and 653, completes an investigation which consists of completing assessments such as JAIS Risk Assessment, MAYSI-2, and Release Status (to determine if the minor is safe enough to be released to the community or if the minor is to be detained at the facility and have the case be referred to the District Attorney). As an alternative to facility detention, some youth may be released on home supervision or electronic monitoring (EM) while pending the judicial process; the least restrictive alternative is to be considered if it does not conflict with public safety to prevent further involvement with juvenile justice. The minor will be given a disposition if the charges are valid in the adjudication hearing. If placed on probation, the Probation Department then supervises the minor as specified by the terms of the Court.

The District Attorney is responsible for filing petitions in accordance with WIC § 650 after an investigation is completed and when it is determined appropriate based on the information received from other agencies. The District Attorney represents the community at all subsequent Juvenile Court hearings.

The Public Defender represents youth in juvenile justice hearings resulting from petitions filed by the District Attorney and related to WIC §602. Alternatively, a court-appointed or private attorney may be employed for this purpose in the place of a Public Defender attorney.

The Juvenile Court is responsible for hearing facts, making findings, and providing a disposition for petitions filed by the District Attorney related to WIC §601 and §602.

SECTION 3 - Assessment of Current Youth Service Resources

Each county or city department needs assistance to combat juvenile crime effectively. To provide programming and services to meet the emerging needs of youth, the department partners with various available community resources to support a continuum of services that build upon our capacity to reduce juvenile delinquency through prevention, early intervention, supervision, treatment, incarceration, and community reintegration programs.

Accordingly, Tulare County has in place a Multiagency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (MJJCC) comprised of the following: The Chief Probation Officer, representatives from the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Department, Board of Supervisors, Health and Human Services Agency, Visalia Police Department, County Office of Education, community-based drug and alcohol programs, and an at-large community representative. This extensive list of partners collaborates to provide for the protection and safety of the community, accountability for delinquent acts, and to build competencies in juveniles that encourage reformation from delinquency to responsible members of the community.

The following is a description of these programs and partnerships:

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Non-Custody Intake Unit

The Tulare County Probation Department's Non-Custody Intake Unit (NCIU) is an out-of-custody intake and early intervention program focusing on diverting offenders from the Juvenile Justice System. The functions of the diversion program include the following:

- Law enforcement agencies throughout the County refer youth alleged to have committed crimes.
- Deputy Probation Officers conduct investigations, commonly consisting of interviews with youths and their parents, reviewing the crime report, and other necessary research.
- Juveniles are then either referred to the District Attorney's Office for consideration of formal filing or the juveniles are placed on Informal Probation, pursuant to Section 654 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- Juveniles with Informal Probation are offered counseling and out-of-custody services to deter further delinquency.
- Reports are submitted to the Court to provide suitability recommendations for the juveniles considered for Informal Probation pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 654.2 and 654.3.
- Juveniles are provided with the opportunity to clear their record.

- Incentives may be utilized to reward positive behavior and encourage continued compliance.
- Five (5) Deputy Probation Officers are assigned to this unit.
- This diversion program was initiated in 1977 and, in 1996, received a National Association of Counties Achievement Award.

Although the NCIU provides services to the entire county, it also contracts with the cities of Dinuba and Visalia. The Visalia Police Department has a full-time Non-Custody Intake Deputy Probation Officer who contributes 50 percent towards their salaries and benefits. The City of Dinuba has a part-time Non-Custody Intake Deputy Probation Officer and reimburses the Probation Department for 50 percent of wages and benefits for 16 hours per week. These Deputy Probation Officers have a unique opportunity to identify and address the needs of youth upon entry into the juvenile justice system.

Campus Probation Officer Program

In 1994, the Tulare County Probation Department created the Campus Probation Officer Program. It was designed in response to an increase in the rates of truancy and delinquency and a desire by school districts to develop a close working relationship with law enforcement and the Juvenile Court to provide prevention and early intervention support services for students. A collaborative effort between the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the Tulare County Juvenile Court, the Tulare County Probation Department, and local school districts. The program has grown from one (1) assigned Deputy Probation Officer in 1994 to four (4) positions in FY 2025 – 26. In 1998, this program was awarded the National Association of Counties Achievement Award.

Family Preservation Program

Youths at risk of removal from their home or with significant issues are referred to the Family Preservation Program. The focus of this program is to identify the needs of both the youth and the family and to provide wraparound support and intervention services in the home environment. The Family Preservation/ Placement Programs:

- Strengthen and unify the families of youth who have had contact with the Juvenile Justice System.
- It is a community-based program that applies to a model where the family unit is observed, evaluated, and treated to keep the family intact.
- Utilizes strength-based, family-centered, community-based, intensive, individualized case planning and management model strategies.

- Employs a team-based approach that includes instrumental people in the youth's formative years, such as family, social support networks, faith-based entities, service providers, other community-based representatives, and anyone else the youth or family identifies as an instrumental influence.
- It is a collaborative partnership with Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Behavioral Health to ensure the most appropriate individualized services are provided to the family.
- Creates positive outcomes, including developing problem-solving skills, coping skills, and the youth's and the family's self-efficacy.
- Integrates youth into the community while building/ maintaining the family's social support network.
- Utilizes incentives to reward positive behavior and encourage continued compliance.
- Four (4) Deputy Probation Officers are assigned to work in the Family Preservation Program Unit.

Placement Unit

Sometimes, a youth who is a ward of the Court on Probation is placed outside the home when their family cannot care for their needs. This occurs when the Court orders the Deputy Probation Officer to supervise the minor's care, custody, and control. Any minor placed outside of the home is designated as a foster child.

The Placement Unit is responsible for the following tasks:

- Completes a report containing information regarding the need for placement and the corresponding case plan submitted to the Court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 706.5
- Places Court-ordered youth into the homes of suitable relatives, non-related extended family members, a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), or a licensed Resource Family.
- Visits all Probation foster children at least once a month, regardless of location.
- Develop individualized case plans, including a plan for permanency, with the youth and the family.
- Utilizes incentives to reward positive behavior and encourage continued compliance.
- One (1) Deputy Probation Officer is assigned to this unit.

Team Supervision Unit

Youth adjudicated wards of the Court and placed on Probation are supervised by the Team Supervision Officers.

The Team Supervision unit is responsible for the following tasks:

- Provides supervision to support the youth and family via service referrals, including, but not limited to, counseling to address substance use disorder, anger management, education issues, family and/ or individual counseling, and appropriate diversion classes.
- Deputy Probation Officers support the youth's progress through compliance monitoring, random drug and alcohol testing, and searches.
- Utilizes the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS), an evidence-based assessment tool, to determine the youth's risk, strengths, and needs for a strategic supervision case plan.
- Utilizes incentives to reward positive behavior and encourage continued compliance.
- Three (3) Deputy Probation Officers are assigned to this unit.

Juvenile Detention Facility

The Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) opened in September 1999, serving both male and female youth populations. The facility consists of three (3) pods, each containing four (4) separate units, for a total rated capacity of 210. The facility provides safety and security, affording the protection of the people of Tulare County for both the community and the youth detained. While in the facility, the goal is to provide structure and programming that promotes responsibility, accountability, and positive change. Family visitation for two (2) hours once per week allows the family unit to be preserved.

Programming components include the following:

- Educational advocacy, attendance monitoring, middle school, high school, career programs, and a diploma program provided by the Tulare County Office of Education
- Mental health assessment and counseling
- Medical assessment and treatment services
- Home detention
- Direct provision of, and referral to, prevocational and vocational training

- Individual, family, and group counseling
- Individual therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy 2.0 curriculum
- Drug and alcohol counseling, individual counseling, and family counseling
- Physical education provided by Probation Department personnel
- Aftercare services as youth transition back into the community and reintegrate into their families
- Information and referral regarding the availability of community services
- Case management
- Transportation related to any of the services described in WIC §18221(b)
- Access to post-secondary education via the Rising Scholars Program provided by Porterville College
- California Service Dog Academy provides no-cost training and instruction on proper handling techniques for service dogs in training.

A portion of the facility is dedicated to detention beds for youth arrested and detained by the Court until their disposition and/ or are awaiting custodial or foster care placement. The Commitment Program is utilized for the treatment of high-risk youth offenders who would previously have been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice and medium-risk youth in need of intensive services in custody.

In addition to housing youth, JDF has a modern kitchen that provides three (3) hot meals and a snack for the facility. There is an on-site laundry facility, allowing the staff to meet the needs of the JDF. The JDF is equipped with a medical clinic staffed with medical personnel to provide medical coverage 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week, with additional space for medical professionals, mental health staff, psychiatrists, and dentists. Six (6) Deputy Probation Officers are allocated to programming and aftercare, with two recent vacancies.

Commitment Program Aftercare

The Aftercare Program consists of services to reintegrate youth who complete the residential component of the Commitment Program. Aftercare is designed to ease the transition into the community and reunite the youth with their family. Aftercare collaborates with the Tulare County Office of Education and community partners to provide services to youth and their families. Intensive supervision is provided by the Probation Department Aftercare Officer. This transition from detention to release offers the opportunity to reassess needs, identify risks, build upon strengths, and establish links to community resources. This, coupled with intensive supervision, immediate accountability, and family engagement, is the foundation

for successful re-entry. Two (2) Deputy Probation Officers are assigned to the Aftercare portion of the program, and three (3) Deputy Probation Officers are assigned to the Residential portion of the program.

Quality Improvement Unit

The Probation Department has a Quality Improvement Unit (QI), which is comprised of a Supervising Staff Analyst, a Probation Administrative Specialist, a Probation Statistical Analyst, four (4) Staff Services Analysts, and an Administrative Aide who are dedicated to ensuring data integrity and oversight of grants and contracts that provide services to youth. Components of QI data integrity continue to include:

- System administration of the case management system used to house data.
- Preparing statistical reports from data housed in the case management system and data from external sources.
- Oversight of the data entry in the case management system to ensure accuracy and completeness.

The Probation Department regularly provides statistical information to the State of California and other agencies via the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS) and through the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC). In so doing, agencies with a vested interest and involvement in youth offenders' treatment plans and rehabilitation are abreast of statistical trends and patterns (i.e., juvenile population numbers). They are provided with information pertinent to directing resources and guiding decisions.

Statistical data compiled and entered in the case management system includes demographic information (race, gender, ethnicity, age, etc.), behavioral data (based on incident events and/ or logs), and treatment programs and services. Management, officers, and analysts routinely review said data. The purpose of routinely collecting and regularly analyzing data is to ensure program fidelity, effectiveness, and equitable treatment, assure efficacy, and evaluate and strategize for future planning.

The Probation Department recognizes that feedback from youth receiving probation services is necessary to understand their perspective and motivational factors and for the lines of communication to remain open. This information is essential for officers and management to identify where treatment programs and services might be ineffective and where changes are in order.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Office of the District Attorney's North County Prosecutions division has dedicated Juvenile Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) who prosecute all countywide youth felony and misdemeanor cases. Comprised of three (3) DDAs and an Assistant DDA, this group of

attorneys handles everything from traffic matters to homicides, rapes, gang crimes, and vehicular manslaughter.

These DDAs review police reports, participate in the transfer hearing process, and facilitate traditional prosecutions, including trials. The court may find first-time offenders eligible to participate in a Deferred Entry of Judgment program, which allows minors to have their crimes expunged if certain conditions are met. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, obeying all laws, attending school, completing community service, and receiving favorable reports from the Probation Department.

Serious and violent offenders are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, which could include transfer to adult criminal court. In addition, probation violators are held accountable for failing to obey court orders.

The Victim Witness Bureau helps victims of these crimes, serving over 9,000 victims annually in Tulare County.

TULARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

School Resource Officers

The Sheriff's Office provides School Resource Officers to select schools. Cutler-Orosi Unified School District has two (2) assigned full-time school-based Deputy Sheriff Officers. Porterville Unified School District and Tulare Joint Unified High School District are assigned one (1) full-time school-based Deputy Sheriff Officer. Oak Valley Union School District and Oak Valley Union School District have a .5 full-time equivalent (FTE) school-based Deputy Sheriff Officer assigned.

Youth Development Unit

The Tulare County Sheriff's Office Police Activities League (TCSO PAL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to create safer communities by fostering positive relations between local law enforcement and the young residents residing in the unincorporated areas of Tulare County by providing youth aged 8 – 18 with mentorship opportunities, sports and recreational activities, and Explorer-oriented training.

TULARE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY (HHSA)

Behavioral Health Services

Children's mental health clinics provide services that help youth with mental illness manage their symptoms and avoid crises. The goal is to give children and families compassionate, culturally sensitive mental health services that nurture hope, strength, and healthy relationships at home, school, and the community. To do so, Mental Health uses a "whatever it takes" approach to support the wellness and recovery process. Tulare County provides direct services at one children's clinic located in Porterville, and they contract with

community-based children's clinic providers to make behavioral health services available throughout the county to children and youth. Services are based on being eligible for Medi-Cal and meeting medical necessity criteria.

The community-based children's clinics include the following:

- Aspiranet
 - Visalia
- Courage to Change
 - Exeter
- Kings View
 - South Tulare County Mobile Unit
 - South Tulare County One-Stop
- Porterville Youth Mental Health Services
 - Porterville
- Success in Recovery
 - Visalia
- Tulare County Office of Education Behavioral Services
 - Visalia
- Hope Horizons Mental Health
 - Tulare
 - Lindsay
 - Dinuba
 - Visalia
 - Exeter
 - Woodlake
 - Porterville

- Turning Point-Central Tulare County One-Stop
 - Central Tulare County
- Turning Point-Dinuba Children’s Services
 - Dinuba
 - Cutler-Orosi
- Turning Point-North Tulare County One-Stop
 - North Tulare County
- Turning Point-Sequoia Youth Services
 - Farmersville
 - Woodlake
 - Exeter
 - Three Rivers
 - Lemon Cove
 - East Central Tulare County
- Turning Point-Visalia Youth Services
 - Visalia
- Turning Point-Visalia Youth Services South
 - South Visalia
- Uplift Family Services
 - Tulare County

Alcohol and Drug Programs - Prevention Services

Tulare County HHSA provides community-based outreach and culturally relevant informational services to address alcohol and drug problems. They provide capacity-building training and education to empower and mobilize neighborhood work groups to create safe and healthy communities that prevent underage drinking and drug use. They

subcontract with treatment providers to implement the Tulare County Strategic Plan to reduce underage drinking in our communities.

Children of Promise Project

Tulare County HHSA's Children of Promise Reconnecting Youth Program is a federally funded program to assist youth to remain abstinent or delay the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, decrease adverse consequences of Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and gang involvement, increase commitment to school, and increase bonding with family, peers, teachers, and caring adults. They offer Reconnecting Youth (RY) and Coping and Support Training (CAST) in non-traditional settings in the community. Students learn about enhancing their self-esteem and improving decision-making, personal control, and interpersonal communication skills.

Independent Living Program

The Independent Living Program (ILP) is a federal and State-funded program to prepare foster youth aged 16 – 21 years to emancipate from the foster care system. ILP provides training in life skills, anger management, domestic violence, child abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and several other courses to approximately 500 youth every year, of which approximately 80 are emancipated.

Wraparound

Child Welfare Services (CWS) contracts with Aspiranet, a community-based organization, to provide wraparound services to eligible CWS and Probation youth and families in Tulare County. Wraparound is an evidence-based program designed to serve families with multiple complex needs that may threaten their stability, well-being, and ability to keep their child(ren) safely in the home. Wraparound is a family-centered, strength-based, and needs-driven process for creating individualized services and support for children and their families.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 contains federally mandated activities associated with identifying and protecting children and youth at risk of sex trafficking. Senate Bill 855 directs child welfare agencies to take a lead role in addressing the needs of youth identified as being involved in human trafficking. Locally, CWS has spearheaded the effort by implementing a local interagency protocol to describe how agencies will act to address the immediate and long-term needs of trafficked youth. Probation is a Steering Committee member and attends multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings for Probation CSEC-identified youth or youth at risk of becoming CSEC. Deputy Probation Officers routinely utilize a CSEC screening tool to help identify children and youth who have been or are being commercially sexually exploited. In addition, CWS contracts

with Family Services of Tulare County, a community-based organization, to provide a youth center to serve as a “safe haven” drop-in center for CSEC.

Continuum of Care Reform, Child and Family Team Meetings

Probation partners with CWS to conduct Child’s Needs & Service Placement Child and Family Team meetings on an initial and continuous basis, and as needed afterward. This collaboration has allowed the development of a unified process that guides the practice of both CWS and the Probation Department in service delivery and decision-making and builds on the placement matching process for youth by taking in critical elements of existing initiatives and practices. Tulare County children, families, and resource families are guided through tumultuous events and transitions to prevent placement disruptions while in care. The collaborative process aims to understand better the events and behaviors that brought the children and families into services. It also helps identify the underlying needs that affect their safety, permanency, and well-being. Working in unison to identify strengths and concerns is essential for engagement with families, building connections, and providing access to adequate services that support their overall well-being and help them achieve their full potential. Depending on the type of placement and needs of youth in foster care, core services may include arranging access to specialized mental health treatment, providing transitional support from foster placement to permanent home placement, and supporting connections with siblings and extended family members.

TULARE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) exists to serve, support, encourage, develop, and consistently improve numerous programs and services to benefit over 100,000 students in 44 school districts across Tulare County.

TCOE offers an array of unique services, all collectively designed to determine the needs of Tulare County schools and to deliver identified services in the most effective manner possible, which include:

- Friday Night Live
- After-School Programs
- School-to-Career
- Services for Education and Employment (SEE)
- Character Counts
- Court/ Community Schools
- La Sierra Military Academy

- University Preparatory High School
- Educational Resource Services (ERS)
- Library Services
- Migrant Education Program
- Impact Center School
- School Health Programs

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Community-based organizations, cities, and school districts throughout Tulare County have entered several partnerships to provide services for at-risk youth. These partnerships have developed into community-based programs that offer a myriad of activities.

Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Tulare County

Big Brothers/ Big Sisters provides a mentoring program that connects adult volunteers with at-risk youth aged 6 – 16 for three (3) hours each week for one year. Services are provided in Tulare.

Family Resource Centers

There are seven (7) Family Resource Centers (FRC) in Tulare County that are operated by five (5) separate community-based organizations and school districts. These FRCs offer various services that improve families' lives by providing support and empowerment through the centralized delivery of social, educational, health, advocacy, and other support services. These sites offer individual, family, and group counseling, parenting classes, in-home parent education, support groups, resources and referrals, family health and wellness, and assistance with basic needs. The following is a list of the FRCs and their locations:

- **Parenting Network** – Located in Dinuba, Porterville, and Visalia
- **Community Services Employment Training, Inc. (CSET)** – Located in Tulare and Earlimart
- **Cutler-Orosi Joint Union School District, Family Education Center** – Located in Orosi
- **Lindsay Unified School District, Healthy Start Family Resource Center** – Located in Lindsay
- **Woodlake Unified School District, Family Resource Center** – Located in Woodlake

Family Services of Tulare County

- **Children’s Counseling Center**

Family Services of Tulare County is a community-based organization that offers free or low-cost mental health services for children or youth between the ages of 0 and 18 who have been abused or exposed to violence in their home or community. The Center is a safe place for children and teens to express their fears and concerns, gain confidence and self-esteem, strengthen their resiliency, and heal themselves from the challenges they may encounter. Child Therapists help children and teens maximize health, find hope, and begin healing through talk, play, and art. Other areas of specialty include coping with divorce or remarriage in the family, loss of significant people or attachments, and relationship and communication issues with parents and siblings.

- **Parenting Resources and Support**

Family Services provides a spectrum of parenting education resources that keep children safe by equipping parents with healthy, well-balanced parenting skills. Parent educators teach free parenting classes for community members and travel to homes and correctional facilities to work with parents from all walks of life.

Family Services provides free “Nurturing Parenting” classes for interested community members at locations throughout Tulare County. The evidence-based curriculum is used and taught in English and Spanish. The Nurturing Parenting curriculum is also conducted at the Juvenile Detention Facility as programming for parenting youth.

- **Human Trafficking Services**

Family Services offers a continuum of services to adult and youth victims of both labor and sex trafficking, including comprehensive case management, crisis counseling, shelter, emergency financial assistance, criminal justice support, information and referral, ongoing mental health services, and legal advocacy. Family Services has continued and expanded its outreach and education efforts, partnering with Child Welfare Services and the Tulare County District Attorney’s Office to provide coordinated training to law enforcement, service providers, and other groups.

Community and Teen Centers

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias**

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Sequoias offers a youth development program that instills a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and influence through education and career development, the arts, character and leadership development, health, skills, sports, sports, fitness, recreation, and pregnancy prevention for youth aged 6 – 18.

Services are provided in Exeter, Farmersville, Ivanhoe, Strathmore, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodlake.

- **City of Visalia Parks and Recreation Department**

The City of Visalia provides a drop-in youth center at the Manuel F. Hernandez Community Center. The center offers after-school activities in tutoring, recreation, sports, arts and crafts, and science programs for kindergarten through 12th-grade students.

- **City of Dinuba Community Services**

The City of Dinuba provides five (5) drop-in youth centers that offer after-school tutoring, recreation activities, arts and crafts, and lunch and snacks for 1st through 8th graders. Services are provided at Roosevelt, Lincoln, Kennedy, Jefferson, and Wilson Elementary Schools.

- **Diane Hodges Community Center**

Proetus, Inc. operates the Diana Hodges Community Center with a drop-in youth center for youth aged 6 – 18. Services include, but are not limited to, the following: tutoring, mentoring, access to computers and the Internet, pregnancy prevention education, gang prevention and intervention training, sports and recreational activities, arts and crafts, and special projects such as community gardens, boxing club, and bike repair program. Services are provided for youth from Dinuba, London, Traver, and the surrounding area.

- **Porterville Community Youth Center**

Porterville Community Youth Center is a drop-in youth center that offers tutoring, computer use, arts and crafts, a game room, a gymnasium, an athletic field, a basketball court, field trips, holiday social gatherings, a snack bar, and other recreational activities for youth aged 10 – 18. Services are provided in Porterville.

- **Wittman Village Community Center**

The Visalia Police Athletics League (PAL) operates a youth drop-in center at the Wittman Center in the Lincoln-Oval Park neighborhood of Visalia. The center's activities aim to provide a positive and safe alternative for young people. Services include, but are not limited to, basketball, boxing instruction, computer games, bicycle repair, a leadership academy, and science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) programming for youth aged 7 – 17.

SECTION 4 – Identifying Needs and Prioritizing Focus Areas

Tulare County Demographics

The County of Tulare is in the Central Valley and ranks as the seventh largest California county in land area, encompassing 4,824 square miles. The county is primarily widespread and rural, creating a challenge to get vital services to the communities most in need. Rural communities in California have long suffered poverty and socioeconomic isolation. Due to the rural nature of Tulare County, services need to be improved for up to ~70% of the population who reside outside of Visalia, the central city hub of Tulare County. According to U.S. Census Bureau Estimates, Tulare County has an estimated population of 481,052 in 2024, an increase of 1,584, or .33%, from 2023. The 2024 estimated youth population in Tulare County, ages 0 – 17, was 141,429.

Tulare County predominantly comprises a young, Hispanic, Spanish-speaking, and undereducated population, with a significant portion living in poverty (2019 - 2023) American Community Survey – 5-Year Estimates. Youth struggle with multiple risk factors that threaten their future, such as poverty, lack of access to healthcare, lack of education in the family structure, cultural and linguistic isolation, substance abuse, and one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the US, with its intergenerational implications. In Tulare County, 23.0% of the children live in food-insecure households (Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, July 2021). As of January 2024, the unemployment rate in California was 5.2%, according to data from the Employment Development Department (EDD) released on March 7, 2024. In contrast, Tulare County's unemployment rate for the same month was 11.0%, as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics via the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (FRED) in the series "Unemployment Rate in Tulare County, CA.

The "Portrait of California" report, published in 2011 by the American Human Development Project (authored by Sarah Burd-Sharps and Kristen Lewis), categorizes parts of California, including areas within Tulare County, as among the lowest in the human development metrics of education, health, and income, using the American Human Development Index (HDI). The report divides California into five distinct socio-economic groups, with "The Forsaken Five Percent" representing the bottom 5% of the state's population in terms of HDI scores. Low educational attainment, poor health outcomes, and median earnings comparable to those in the U.S. in the early 1960s characterize this group.

Specifically, the report highlights Porterville and the eastern portion of Tulare County as falling within "The Forsaken Five Percent," with an HDI score of 2.59, significantly below the state average. It notes that 45% of adults in this group did not complete high school, and it compares their overall well-being to that of the U.S. in the late 1970s, a generation behind the national average at the time.

Tulare County's demographic composition is predominantly Hispanic or Latino (67.0%), with White alone (not Hispanic or Latino) accounting for 25.9% of the population. Other racial groups include Asian alone (4.2%), Black or African American alone (2.4%), and American Indian and Alaska Native alone (2.9%), according to the U.S. Census Bureau- 2019 – 2023. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. For 2022, Hispanic children represented ~71.5% of the child population compared to 22.5% White, 2.5% Asian American, 1.1% Black, and 0.6% Native American/ Alaska Native (kidsdata.org).

Despite Tulare County being a leading producer of dairy products and agricultural revenues in California and the United States, many residents face economic hardship. In 2023, the percentage of families and individuals in Tulare County whose income over the past 12 months fell below the poverty level was 18.2%, exceeding California's statewide rate of 12.2% by 6.0 percentage points. The median household income in Tulare County was \$64,474, compared to California's \$91,905 (in 2023 inflation-adjusted dollars), meaning Tulare County households earned, on average, just 70.15% of the income of the typical Californian household during the same period, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 – 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Additionally, twelve small communities in Tulare County rank among the top 50 highest unemployment rates out of 933 communities, cities, and towns in California. As of January 2024, the most recent data available, Tulare County's unemployment rate stood at 10.2%, placing it 55th out of 58 counties in California, per the Employment Development Department (EDD).

Rural communities in California have long suffered from persistent poverty and socioeconomic isolation. Teen birth rates in the San Joaquin Valley remain significantly higher than state and national averages. According to the most recent data from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for 2022, the birth rate for teenagers aged 15 – 19 in Tulare County was 25.1 births per 1,000, while the statewide rate for the same age group was 11.6 births per 1,000 (CDPH, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2023). Nationally, the teen birth rate for 2022 was 13.9 births per 1,000, as reported by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS, 2023). Barriers such as geographic isolation, poverty, cultural differences, language challenges, and lack of insurance continue to hinder effective outreach and communication with these underserved and often uninsured populations.

Youth residing in blighted low-income areas are generally considered to be at higher risk for involvement in delinquency. 70% of the youth on the Tulare County Probation Department caseload are from the cities of Visalia (26%), Tulare (17%), Porterville (16%), and Dinuba (11%).

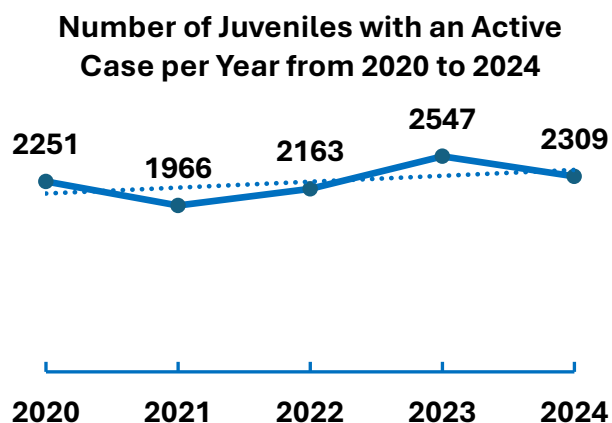
Gangs remain a pressing concern and a persistent threat to public safety across the United States. According to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) study, *Responding to Gangs: Evaluation and Research* (published in 2002 and still a foundational reference for gang-related research), street gangs continue to pose a pervasive challenge in American cities, contributing significantly to violent crime and community disruption. More recent data from the National Gang Center, drawn from the National Youth Gang Survey (NYGS) up to 2020,

indicates that gang-related activities account for a disproportionate share of violent crimes, including homicides, in urban areas while also fostering fear through acts such as vandalism, graffiti, drug trafficking, and property crime. In Tulare County, California, the Sheriff's Office reported in a 2023 *Visalia Times-Delta* article that the region is home to approximately 7,000 known gang members and associates, with the majority being Hispanic gang-related individuals. This includes over 30 Hispanic gang subsets, comprising roughly 5,000 members, reflecting the ongoing dominance of these groups in local gang activity as noted in historical sheriff's statements from 2018 and reaffirmed in recent coverage of violent incidents like the 2023 Goshen massacre.

Probation Juvenile Data

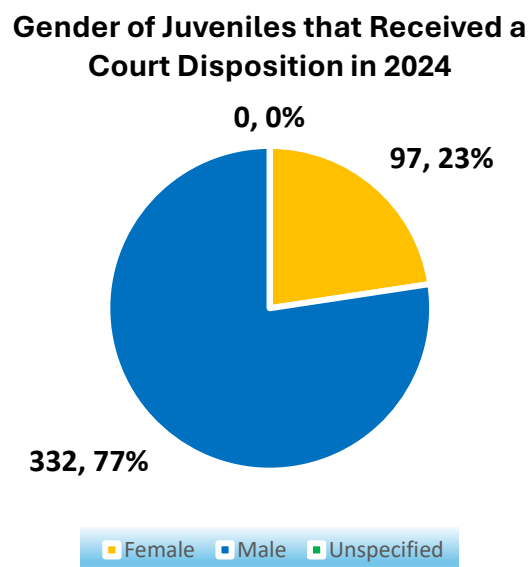
Active Juvenile Cases in 2024:

Data shows that Tulare County Probation Department had 2309 youth with at least one active referral or filed petition during 2024. The number of juveniles with at least one active referral or filed petition in Tulare County shows an average annual increase of 2.6% from 2020 to 2024. However, the annual change from 2023 to 2024 shows a 9.3% decrease in the number of juveniles with an active referral or filed petition in Tulare County.



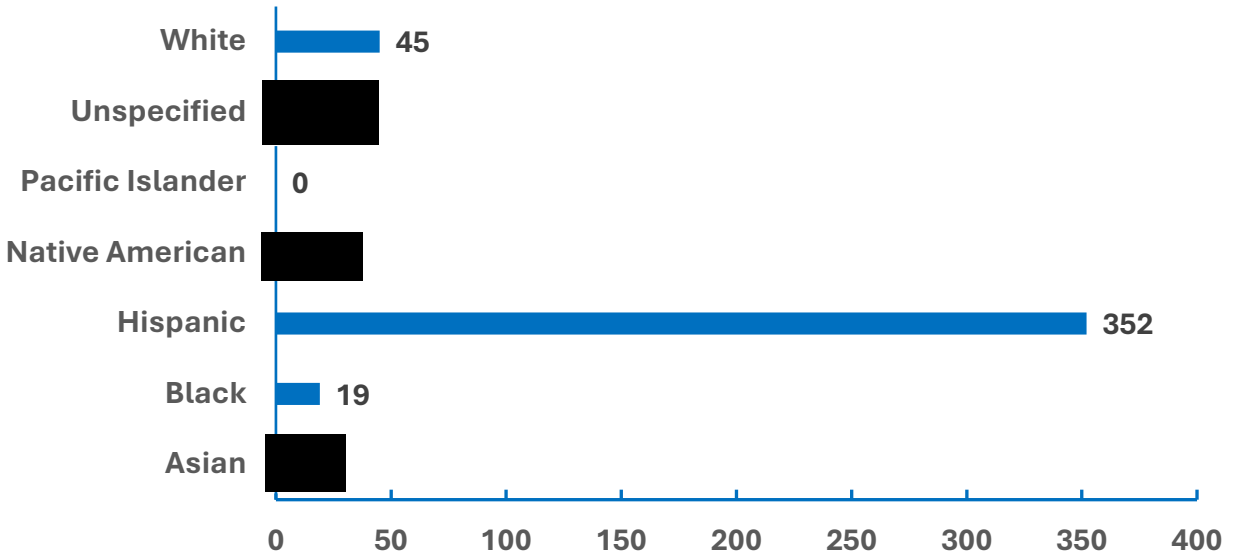
Juvenile Dispositions in 2024:

In 2024, 429 juveniles received at least one non-dismissal court disposition, including court-imposed informal probation (e.g., WIC §654.2) and formal probation. Of those that received at least one disposition during 2024, 332 (77.4%) are male, 97 (22.6%) are female, and 0 (0%) are of unspecified gender. As for ethnicity, most juveniles who received at least one non-dismissal court disposition in 2024 are Hispanic, with a count of 352 or 82.2% of the population. The next largest is White, with a count of 45, or 10.5% of the population. The rest of the ethnicities that compose the population make up the remaining 7.2%. As for the age of the youth that received a court disposition in 2024, juveniles 16 years of age are most frequent, with a count of 113, or 25.5% of the population. This is followed by juveniles 17 years of age with a count of 112 (25.2%)

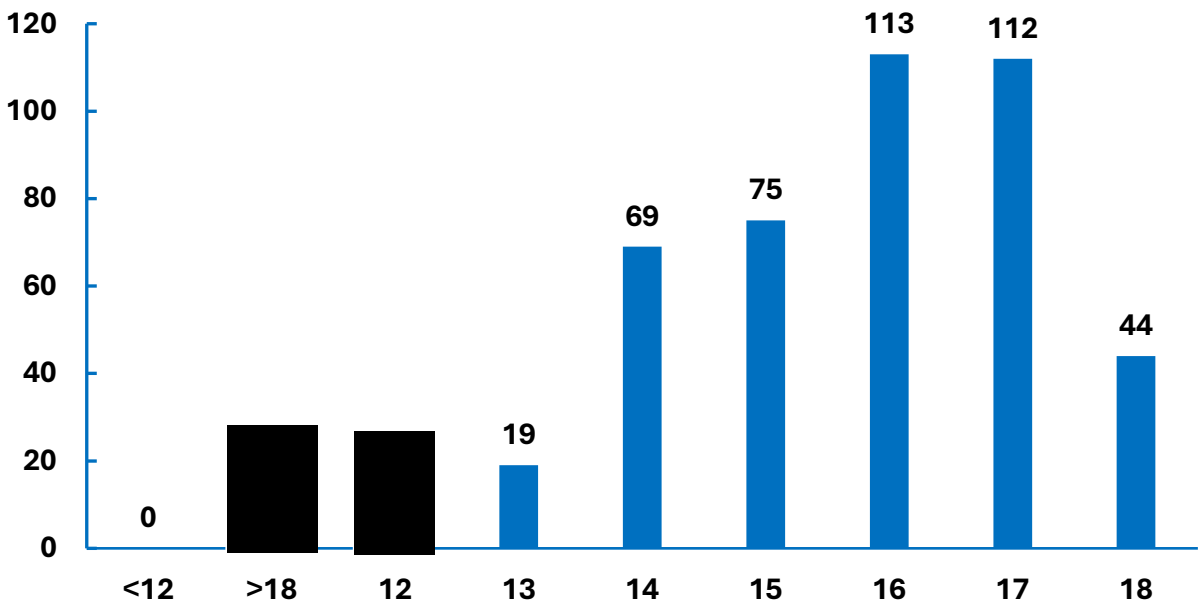


and juveniles 15 years of age with a count of 75 (16.892%). The rest of the age groups comprise 32.4% of the population.

Ethnicity of Juveniles that Received a Court Disposition in 2024

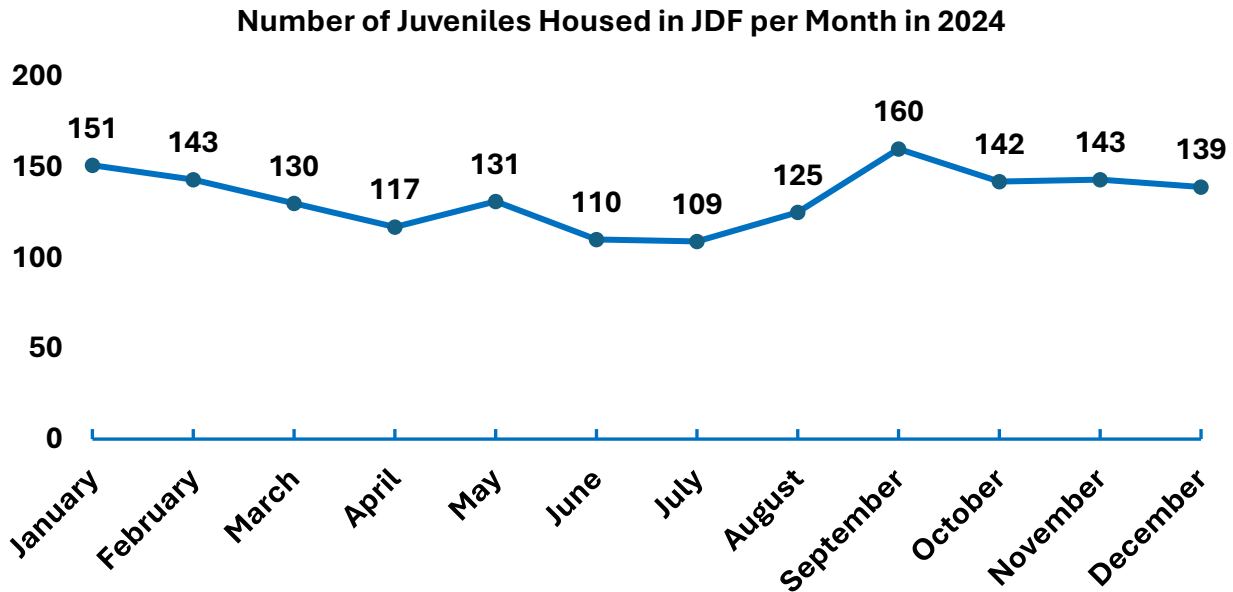


Age of Juveniles that received Court Disposition in 2024



2024 Juvenile Detention Facility Population:

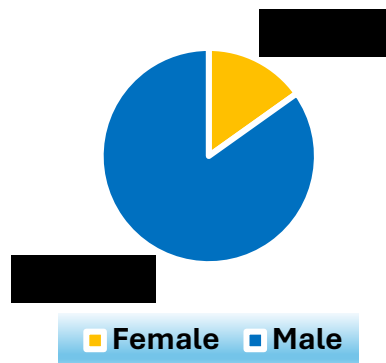
The Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) has a bed capacity of 210. In 2024, JDF had an average of 133 juveniles housed per month and an average of 72 juveniles housed per day per month. There was an observed -0.002% change per month, with the most significant percentage decrease of 16% in June and the largest percentage increase of 28% in September. September is observed to have the highest number of juveniles housed in a month, with a count of 160 juveniles, and the lowest in July, with a count of 109 juveniles.



2023 Juvenile Recidivism Rates:

Juveniles who have received at least one court disposition that resulted in formal probation were checked for subsequent sustained charges and resultant court dispositions to establish recidivism rates. Of the 205 that received at least one court disposition that resulted in formal probation in 2023, 66 received subsequent sustained charges. It resulted in a subsequent court disposition within the first year of receiving their initial formal probation, yielding a 1-year recidivism rate of 36.1%. Of those who recidivated within the first year, [REDACTED] were male, and [REDACTED] were female. Also, for those who

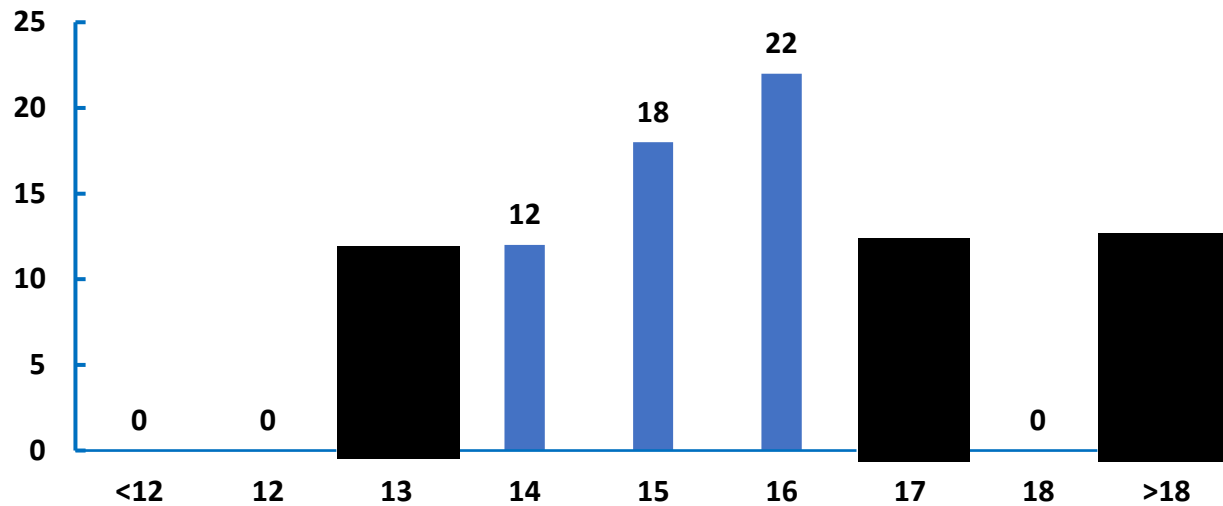
Gender of those that Recidivated Within One Year of Receiving a Court Disposition for Formal Probation in 2023



recidivated within the first year, 56 (84.8%) were Hispanic, 5 (7.6%) were White, and 4 (6.1%)

were Black. As for the ages of those that recidivated within the first year from being placed on formal probation in 2023, [REDACTED] were juveniles 17 years of age at the time of their initial disposition, 22 (33.3%) were 16 years of age, 18 (27.3%) were 15, 12 (18.2%) were 14, [REDACTED] were 13 years of age.

**Age of those that recidivated Within One Year of Receiving Court
Disposition for Formal Probation in 2023**



2024 Juvenile Caseload by Zip Code:

70% of the juveniles on the probation juvenile caseload in Tulare County live in Visalia (26%), Tulare (17%), Porterville (16%), and Dinuba (11%). The following table shows a breakdown of the zip codes where most of the 1,599 juvenile probationers live.

Zip Code	City	Total	Percentage
93257	Porterville	343	16%
93274	Tulare	382	17%
93277	Southwest Visalia	167	8%
93291	Northwest Visalia	264	12%
93292	Northeast Visalia	138	6%
93618	Dinuba	203	11%
Unspecified/ Outside of Tulare County	N/A	102	5%

SECTION 5 - Local Juvenile Justice Collaboration, Objectives, and Action Strategy

As an institution responsible for public safety, the juvenile justice system should be the final authority in case management and sanctions decisions. However, the juvenile justice system needs help to provide for the treatment of youths' complex needs. In recognizing that such conditions exist, many communities have collaborated and formed inter-organizational partnerships that share expertise, resources, and responsibilities to work together to meet a youth's identified and individualized needs. Such efforts ensure that services are accessible to the target population and relevant to the community's unique strengths, needs, and available resources. These systems must be carefully coordinated to ensure cooperation, buy-in, and accountability from all participating entities. In the County of Tulare, system collaboration with agencies includes, but is not limited to, Tulare County Probation Department, Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency, Tulare County District Attorney's Office, Tulare County Office of Education, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, Public Defender's Office, and several community-based organizations with the following objectives:

Objective 1:

Establish programming that supports youths' re-entry from a residential facility, provides appropriate recreation and socialization opportunities, and deters youth from further criminal acts by developing protective assets.

Objective 2:

Provide a continuum of swift, certain, and consistent sanctioned programs and services to improve the safety of all community members.

Objective 3:

Provide effective services and programs for youth that reduce the rate of recidivism as measured by repeat offenses and/ or program failure.

Objective 4:

Develop an effective collaboration model that utilizes several partners' strengths, talents, expertise, and services cost-effectively.

Objective 5:

Develop positive relationships between students and law enforcement through frequent engagement.

Action Strategy

To achieve these objectives, Tulare County is focusing its combined efforts on the following to prevent, control, and reduce juvenile law violations:

1. Systematically utilize juvenile-focused, evidence-based assessment tools to provide information on the risk of recidivism, priority needs, and specific supervision strategies based on youth characteristics. Probation utilizes the following evidence-based assessment tools for youth:
 - Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS)
 - Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – 2 (MAYSI 2)
 - Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool – II (JSORRAT-II)
2. Identification and implementation of evidence-based programs. The following evidence-based programs are currently implemented:
 - Matrix Model for Teens and Young Adults
 - Multidimensional Family Therapy
 - Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
3. Relationships and participation with collaborative partners
4. Providing graduated sanctions and consequences that are appropriate, effective, and proportionate to the offense and the swift and consistent application of sanctions or consequences.
5. Supporting a structured Aftercare Program for youth offenders returning to their communities after incarceration through counseling and supervision.

SECTION 6 – Information Sharing and Data

An integrated case management strategy is critical to reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. This strategy coordinates the various service needs of youth from the time they enter the juvenile justice system until they no longer require intervention. This approach connects the youth with necessary resources as they move through the juvenile justice system. Various researchers have found that under this approach, they receive improved access to services, achieve more significant goals, stay longer in treatment, and improve outcomes compared to standard treatment services.

The Tulare County Probation Department uses Caseload Explorer (CE) as its case management system. This system has allowed real-time data to be shared across the department in conjunction with its ability to produce statistical reports. In 2019, the Probation Department, in partnership with the Tulare County Information Communications & Technology Department, developed and launched the Probation Juvenile and Adult Universes in SAP Crystal Reports for Enterprise to build improved reports with a planned complete transition to Microsoft Power BI by the end of the 2025 calendar year. These applications allow Probation to create reports that provide comparative data to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies. This data is shared with our justice partners to improve existing programs and strategies.

SECTION 7 – Comprehensive Plan Revisions

1. JJCPA Funded Program Deletions from Fiscal Year 2024 – 25 Plan. These programs were included in the Fiscal Year 2024 – 25 Plan but will terminate effective June 30, 2025.

- Juvenile RESET Program
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentorship Program
- Youth Credit Recovery Program
- Mending Fences at JM Ranch

2. JJCPA Funded Program Additions for the Fiscal Year 2025 – 26 Plan

- Campus Probation Officer Program for five (5) local school districts
- Pro-Youth- Targeted Gang Prevention Education and Positive Youth Development Opportunities

3. YOBG Funded Program Addition for the Fiscal Year 2025 – 26 Plan

- Educational Tablet Program

SECTION 8 – Programs to Be Funded By JJCPA

1. Family Preservation Unit

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Family Preservation Unit is based on a model that has been successfully implemented and extensively evaluated in San Francisco County. Research shows that community-based services are often more effective than traditional residential placement facilities in achieving better outcomes for troubled youth, most notably in reducing the likelihood of repeat offenses. Family Preservation assesses clients' therapeutic needs and refers them to appropriate programs in the community that will best suit each youth.

Description:

The Family Preservation program is designed to strengthen and unify the families of youth who have had contact with the Juvenile Justice System and have high mental health needs. The program serves youth probationers with complex needs through intensive case management services, family engagement, and community collaboration. This community-based program applies to a model where the family unit is observed, evaluated, and treated together to keep the family intact. The primary focus of this program is to identify the needs of both the youth and the family and to provide wraparound support and intervention services in the home environment. This program utilizes strength-based, family-centered, intensive, and individualized case planning and management model strategies. Family Preservation also employs a team-based approach, involving people who are instrumental in the formative years, including, but not limited to, family members, social support networks, faith-based entities, parenting classes, service providers, and other community-based representatives in the planning and implementation process. Positive outcomes include the development of problem-solving skills, coping skills, and self-efficacy of the youth and family. Finally, there is an emphasis on integrating the youth into the community and building/ maintaining the family's social support network. The program consists of four (4) full-time Deputy Probation Officers with a caseload ratio of 1:20.

This program continues to provide participating youth with support in meeting their clothing, nutrition, and travel needs through vouchers and incentives to reward positive behavior and encourage continued compliance. There are instances when other community systems have been exhausted. However, youth may still need clothing for school, access to food when away from home, or the ability to travel to court-required appointments. Additionally, funding would be used to share the cost of youth involved in prosocial activities. Providing a youth's basic needs and allowing them to participate in typically cost-prohibitive activities can be tied to positive outcomes.

2. Commitment Program Aftercare

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Commitment Program Aftercare is designed to reduce recidivism and increase re-entry services for youth aged 12 – 18 who have committed offenses and are placed in our residential portion of the program. The National Institute of Justice has long recognized and studied this system.

Description:

The Aftercare Program was created to identify and assist high-risk juvenile offenders in gradually transitioning from secure confinement into their community. The overall aim of the program is to prepare youth for progressively increased responsibility in the community. It incorporates family-focused, strength-based principles in evidence-based practices such as Functional Family Therapy. Youth in the Commitment Program Aftercare are assessed and reassessed using the evidence-based Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS). This assessment considers offense typologies and leads to developing a case plan that includes targeted services and interventions to assist youth in successfully transitioning into their community and home environments.

Participating youth may be provided with vouchers to meet their clothing, nutrition, and travel needs. In instances when community systems have been exhausted, youth may still need clothing for school, access to food when away from home, or the ability to travel to court-required appointments. Funding may be used to share the cost of youth involved in pro-social activities. Providing a youth's basic needs and allowing them to participate in typically cost-prohibitive activities can be tied to positive outcomes.

Two (2) assigned Probation Officers provide intensive supervision and support to the youth and family, including, but not limited to, bi-weekly face-to-face contact, coordinating counseling/ treatment, and parenting classes before release from the residential phase of the program. Contacts and visit frequency with the youth will increase or decrease based on the risk level scored on the reassessment, compliance with programming, and abstaining from reoffending.

3. Out-of-Custody Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program utilizes the evidence-based Matrix Model for Teens and Young Adults to match severity and level of function with type and intensity of service, the Addictions Severity Index (ASI), and the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5 to assess client symptomology, level of treatment dosage, and diagnosis. Evidence-based individual and family therapy

includes Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Multidimensional Family Therapy.

Description:

The Department contracts with Champions Alternative Recovery Programs, Inc., to provide Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services to juvenile offenders who are struggling with substance use. The goals of this program are to provide substance use treatment to juvenile probationers referred by Tulare County Probation, decrease substance use-related recidivism, reduce symptomology related to substance use and/or mental health, and provide family sessions for parents/ caregivers to address systemic trauma, reunification, communication, boundaries, and prosocial change.

Screening and assessment for substance use symptomology are essential components of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) system adopted by Champions. The ASAM criteria are a comprehensive set of guidelines for assessment, service planning, placement, continued stay, and transfer/ discharge of patients with addiction and co-occurring conditions. The ASAM criteria are used as a guide to 1) assist clients from assessment through treatment, 2) work with the client to determine goals, 3) help rank and rate the client's risks using the criteria's multidimensional approach to determine where to focus treatment and services, and 4) determine intensity and frequency of service needed using the criteria's detailed guides to levels of care.

Specifics of the program include:

1. An Individualized Treatment Plan addresses the youth's treatment needs. It is based on assessments, collateral information, and documentation.
2. Intensive Case Management: This includes a Case Plan that aligns with the Individualized Treatment Plan to ensure that the youth receive guidance and monitoring of action steps toward goals.
3. Community supervision by the Probation Department: Champions and Probation collaborate to ensure the risk assessment results are incorporated into the Case Plan for the youth's treatment needs.
4. Mental Health Services (includes individual therapeutic interventions as needed):
 - a. Addresses the developmental needs of youth.
 - b. Addresses psychological maturity.
 - c. Includes Multidimensional Family Therapy (MFT) as applicable.

5. Substance Abuse Services (includes group alcohol/ drug treatment):
 - a. Incorporates the Matrix Model for Teens and Young Adults, which is a proven, evidence-based, and flexible intensive outpatient program for alcohol and drug treatment that works for people between the ages of 13 and 25. It uses cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and motivational interviewing (MI) to teach patients to analyze events and change thoughts, behaviors, and lifestyles related to alcohol and other drug use. This model includes group and individual sessions and urine analysis.
6. Educational Services (includes a cooperative agreement with the County Department of Education to ensure that youth have their educational service needs met):
 - a. Development of a transition strategy/ plan for reentry into school
 - b. Participation in SARB/ IEP/ 504 plans (for those students with such needs)
 - c. Participation in disciplinary meetings

4. Therapeutic Behavioral Services

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) is an intensive, individualized, one-to-one behavioral mental health service available to children/ youth with severe emotional challenges and their families. Traditionally, TBS is a service provided to youth who have full-scope Medi-Cal and meet the criteria. It is used in conjunction with another mental health service. It can make the difference in averting the need for a youth to have a higher level of care or assisting a child to transition to a lower level of care successfully.

TBS is based on Functional Behavioral Analysis and is founded on the assumption that challenging behaviors do not occur in a vacuum and that there is a reason for their occurrence. Behaviors arise in response to an identifiable event and are weakened or strengthened by consequences. Actions are a form of communication; "misbehavior" might be adaptive given the circumstances.

Description:

The Tulare County Probation Department contracts with JDT Consultants, Inc. to provide TBS to youth with challenging behaviors that put them at risk of re-offense. TBS will be provided as a preventative measure before problematic behaviors escalate to requiring intensive mental health treatment. TBS can also assist youth transitioning from a juvenile detention center to a placement or family home. Behaviors that may result in a referral for TBS services include one or more of the following:

- Poor impulse control
- Poor or impaired judgment
- Oppositional behaviors towards caregiver directions
- Aggression toward peers or adults
- Fighting with peers and teachers
- Extreme and unremitting anxiety or isolation
- Unsafe or self-injurious behavior

The Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) service delivery model provides short-term and intensive behavioral interventions to children and their caregivers in a strategic manner to increase symptom management and develop replacement behaviors for the maladaptive ones. TBS is designed to help children/ youth and their parents/ caregivers (when available) manage these behaviors utilizing short-term, measurable goals based on the child and family's needs. Caretakers learn new ways of reducing and managing challenging behaviors, strategies, and skills to increase behavior that will allow children/ youth to succeed in their current environment. TBS can be provided anywhere in the community, at home, school, or other places, such as after-school and organized recreation programs.

5. Adolescent Sexual Responsibility Program Out-of-Custody Treatment Services

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Hope Horizon Mental Health therapists are specifically trained in the best practices of Trauma-Focused cognitive-behavioral therapy (TF-CBT), eye movement desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). Hope Horizon Mental Health's Healthy Boundaries program provides individual, family, and group therapies for child victims, their non-offending caregivers, and other family members struggling with the impact the abuse has had on the victim and family. Hope Horizon Mental Health has the only Adolescent Sexual Responsibility Program (ASRP) in the County to provide treatment for minors who have engaged in inappropriate sexual behaviors.

Description:

The Department utilizes Hope Horizon Mental Health to provide out-of-custody Adolescent Sexual Responsibility Program Treatment for youth who have committed a sexual offense, are wards of the Court, or are subject to a grant of Deferred Entry of Judgment from the Tulare County Juvenile Court, and who are indigent, or otherwise not covered by private insurance or eligible for Medi-Cal. Services include, but are not

limited to, risk assessment, individual, family, and group counseling, and rehabilitative services.

Youth are encouraged to explore and resolve issues underlying their abusive/inappropriate behavior. Participants learn about sexual abuse dynamics, effects on victims, thinking errors, possible offense cycles, and how to identify and avoid high-risk factors and warning signs. Individuals are expected to accept and verbalize full responsibility for their offense and to work toward restitution to the victim whenever possible. A realistic Offense Prevention Plan is developed and implemented. Healthy Boundaries Group sessions for parents/ families can be provided as well.

The program provides a minimum of 1 – 2 hours per week per individual, with the option of increasing weekly contact hours as indicated and according to everyone's needs.

6. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias CareerLaunch Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

CareerLaunch is a job-readiness and career preparation program at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias for youth aged 13–18. This program provides interactive activities, including exploring various careers, that help youth discover their interests and match them to career clusters. The skills and education needed for specific careers are then identified so youth can plan their chosen career path accordingly. Evidence has shown that opportunities for gainful employment, particularly for youth who have had negative interactions with law enforcement, can help reduce the tendency to re-offend, as the lack of employment options is one of the criminogenic factors that is known to be linked to criminal behavior. Another criminogenic factor that can contribute to criminal behavior is low educational status. One of the ways the CareerLaunch program at Boys & Girls Clubs helps youth prepare for a career of their choice is through educational attainment.

Description:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias will introduce the CareerLaunch program to youth on probation, court-referred, and/or deemed at-risk. The CareerLaunch website allows youth to complete an interest survey, explore careers, identify training or college requirements, seek financial aid, and play skills-building games. There is also an easy-to-use Career Exploration Quick Reference Guide with a broad range of career planning job skills activities that Club staff or volunteers can use with youth participants.

The CareerLaunch program consists of fifty hours of work experience guided by an assigned mentor, CareerLaunch curriculum, field trips to work sites, and elective Boys & Girls Clubs program participation. Sessions in the CareerLaunch program include activities that encourage career exploration, promote skills development, and foster work-based learning experiences. In addition, youth will be provided with information on

searching for and applying for a job or internship and planning post-secondary education, with career success being the ultimate goal. Boys & Girls Clubs will provide bus passes to the facility that provides the CareerLaunch program to youth who need transportation to fulfill their program requirements and continue being involved.

The Probation Department has a contract with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias to provide out-of-custody career development and educational services to youth on probation and at risk of re-offending.

7. Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) CHOICES- Think, Assess, Proceed (TAP) Prevention/ Intervention Education Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Think, Assess, Proceed Program (TAP) is provided to eligible youth, including the Project ALERT (Adolescent Learning Experience in Resistance Training) and the WhyTry curriculum. ALERT and WhyTry are evidence-based and provide youth with structured lessons and the opportunity to participate in decision-making and substance use education/ prevention conversations.

Project ALERT – Preventing Substance Use in Middle School is a classroom curriculum for 7th and 8th graders that is designed to mitigate the use of substances by teaching adolescents how to resist drugs (primarily nicotine and marijuana) and alcohol. A unique feature of Project ALERT is that it helps students understand how internal and external pressures can encourage substance use. Another distinctive feature of this curriculum is that it elicits students' involvement, instead of didactically explaining facts and values to them, by incorporating techniques such as role-playing, small group activities, and discussions, which help to foster participation and reinforce skills. Project ALERT considers that adolescents think differently from adults and are more prone to discounting consequences, which can lead to taking more risks and making poor decisions.

The specific goals of Project ALERT are:

- To prevent adolescents from beginning to use substances.
- To prevent those who have already experimented from becoming regular users.
- To prevent or curb risk factors for substance use.

Project ALERT was researched and developed in the early 1980s and is currently taught in all 50 states. It is free, easy to implement, and evidence-based.

- WhyTry is a curriculum that teachers and counselors use to provide simple, hands-on strategies and solutions for preventing dropout and violence, reducing truancy, and augmenting academic success. The motto of the WhyTry curriculum is to teach

life skills and resilience to youth in a way they can understand and maintain. The life skills taught in this curriculum include:

- Improved decision-making
- Dealing with peer pressure
- Impulse control
- Obeying laws and rules
- Valuing hard work
- Plugging into support systems
- Having a vision for the future

This curriculum engages visual, auditory, and body-kinesthetic learning styles and is reinforced by the creative use of music, hands-on activities, stories, and multimedia.

The WhyTry approach empowers educators, counselors, and administrators to support students facing challenges, trauma, and adversity effectively. It provides the tools needed to engage students, ignite their motivation, and foster a genuine interest in their success.

Description:

In partnership with TCOE, the Tulare County Probation Department and various Tulare County school districts provide the TCOE CHOICES Prevention/ Intervention Education Program to middle/ junior high school students at risk of engaging in perilous behaviors. CHOICES encompasses evidence-based programs and services that will benefit local youth and their families, as well as local school districts and the juvenile justice system, by providing critical prevention and intervention services to youth before they encounter law enforcement and the justice system. CHOICES will offer programs and services that address youth decision-making and coping skills when dealing with life's challenges, facilitating a successful transition away from behaviors associated with criminal activity and toward a life where they are making a positive future for themselves. CHOICES supports and promotes student health, well-being, and safe learning environments through direct, targeted services to students and high-quality professional development and technical assistance to schools and districts. Services include tobacco prevention, juvenile mental health, and juvenile development services.

The Think, Assess, Proceed Project (TAP), incorporated into CHOICES, will be offered to middle/ junior high school students demonstrating unhealthy and risky behaviors. Unhealthy and risky behaviors include nicotine/ THC use, fighting, and peripheral gang involvement (graffiti, fighting, and theft). These behaviors usually begin during

adolescence (according to the World Health Organization, adolescence is defined as those between the ages of 10 and 19) and often lead to physical and mental health problems, which can hurt public health, families, and society. The age range of the population geared for the TAP program is those between the ages of 11 and 13, 6th through 8th-grade students. Additionally, substance abuse can create a psychological effect on youth that drives them away from school, depleting their ability to graduate and increasing their likelihood of having struggles in adulthood.

8. Pro-Youth- Targeted Gang Prevention Education and Positive Youth Development Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Pro-Youth's mission is to help youth succeed academically, socially, and emotionally by providing a supportive learning environment during out-of-school time. Pro-Youth delivers programs in Tulare County that help youth make positive life changes, especially those facing adversity such as poverty, language barriers, and family issues. Founded in 1993, Pro-Youth initially aimed to counter gang and drug impacts. Since 1998, Pro-Youth has expanded to serve students across various communities in areas such as Earlimart, Exeter, Farmersville, Goshen, Ivanhoe, King City, Kingsburg, Oroshi, Porterville, Strathmore, Traver, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodville.

Description:

Pro-Youth's Insight Program includes gang prevention education and positive leadership development opportunities for youth using digital media and project-based learning. Students who exhibit certain behaviors, including depression, anxiety, anger/aggression, and violence; who experience multiple stressors in their home and school lives; who are involved with drug and/or alcohol use or abuse; or who demonstrate suicidal risk factors will be referred to the Insight Program by their school counselors or administration.

The lessons focus on social-emotional learning, global citizenship, goal-setting abilities, and entrepreneurship through digital media. This equips students with essential life skills and promotes positive decision-making. The Probation Department will provide the funding to support the expenditures necessary to implement the Insight Program.

Students in the Insight program also engage in project-based learning utilizing photography, videography, and digital journalism. Pro-Youth introduces a new prevention curriculum alongside the existing one, which includes an off-site field trip to practice digital camera skills. The curriculum culminates with an event showcasing student work.

9. Campus Probation Officer Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

In 1994, the Tulare County Probation Department created the Campus Probation Officer Program. It was designed in response to an increase in the rates of truancy and delinquency and a desire by school districts to develop a close working relationship with law enforcement and the Juvenile Court to provide prevention and early intervention support services for students. A collaborative effort between the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the Tulare County Juvenile Court, the Tulare County Probation Department, and local school districts. The program has grown from one (1) assigned Deputy Probation Officer in 1994 to four (4) positions in FY 2025 – 26. In 1998, this program was awarded the National Association of Counties Achievement Award.

Description:

Cutler-Orosi Unified School District, Farmersville Unified School District, Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District, Tulare City School District, and Visalia Unified School District currently work in collaboration with the Tulare County Probation Department to provide prevention and early intervention support services for students within each school district. The program focuses on supporting students on probation or at risk of becoming involved with the Juvenile Justice System. Its main objective is to identify those at risk and offer preventative resources and activities to decrease the likelihood of probationary offenses. This initiative also involves allocating three (3) full-time Deputy Probation Officer IIIs to support the Farmersville Unified School District, Tulare City School District, and Visalia Unified School District, and one (1) Deputy Probation Officer III to be shared between the Cutler-Orosi Unified School District and Monson-Sultana Joint Union School District, ensuring students receive the necessary guidance and resources to make positive decisions and avoid outcomes resulting in further involvement with the Juvenile Justice System.

Through these Tulare County Board Agreements with each of the named school districts, the Tulare County Probation Department is responsible for providing probation services, including prevention and intervention support for students on or at risk of probation, promoting good decision-making among these students, and assisting the school districts with other school-related needs. The school districts' responsibilities include connecting students to resources that support their success, implementing other preventative measures to deter students from committing unlawful offenses, and providing time slots for the Deputy Probation Officer IIIs to conduct intervention and prevention groups with students. Both parties collaborate to ensure the program's effectiveness across their school districts.

SECTION 9 – Programs to Be Funded by YOBG

Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

A multitude of evidence-based practices are utilized to guide at-risk youth away from criminal involvement through means of prevention and intervention strategies, individualized risk assessment tools and correlating plans, and intensive supervision with services, including mental health services, drug abuse services, anger management counseling, school involvement, and a variety of other services.

Regional Agreements Supported with YOBG Funds

Alternative to California Division of Juvenile Justice:

Tulare County utilizes YOBG funds to support the Long-Term Program. The program is designed for high-risk offenders, including youth with sustained 707(b) W&I offenses. It provides an alternative to the California Division of Juvenile Justice, keeping youth near their families. Additionally, an agreement with the County of Fresno has been in place since July 2024 to utilize available space on an as-needed basis at the Regional Hub to ensure that specialized programs and services are provided to certain juvenile sex offenders and/ or females.

YOBG funds pay for the following staff:

- Two (2) Institution Supervisors
 - Two (2) Institution Supervisors are assigned to provide shift supervision to the Program youth.
 - One (1) Institution Supervisor is assigned to supervise security training and high-risk transport services for the youth pending transfer hearings and those who have been transferred to Adult Court
- Fourteen (14) Probation Correctional Officers to:
 - Provide programming to address individual criminogenic needs
 - Staff also respond to critical incidents such as riots and cell extractions.
 - High-risk transport services for the youth pending transfer hearing, and those who have been transferred to Adult Court
- One (1) Supervising Probation Officer and four (4) Deputy Probation Officer IIs provide programs and services to youth, which include:
 - Review of court documents and reports.

- Review of Assessments and Case Plans.
- Development of individualized case plans to aid the youth's successful community re-entry.
- Coordination of educational services.
- Coordination of job training and placement services.
- Coordinate mental health/ substance abuse treatment and public social services programs.
- Establishing terms and conditions of probation upon release.
- Participation and facilitation of gender-specific programming.
- Officers utilize the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) assessment to create individualized case plans and record milestones.
- One (1) Deputy Probation Officer
 - Collect and evaluate program information and recommend program improvements and effectiveness.
 - Assist youth with program services and inform youth and their families.
 - Observe, evaluate, and report on youth conduct, needs, and progress.
 - Develop educational and vocational materials.
 - Supervise and instruct an assigned group of youth in various recreational activities.
 - Report on any behavioral or emotional issues observed to supervising staff.
 - Assist with preparing the youth's release plan, which includes making recommendations and referrals to various vocational, educational, employment, and counseling services available in the community.
- One (1) Vocational Education Instructor
 - Assist youth under the care of the Tulare County Probation Department by obtaining training, education, and a skill set in various vocational trades
 - Supervise and instruct youth in various vocational trades, including building maintenance, culinary arts, landscaping and gardening, office machine repair, household appliance repair, computer and related technologies, mill and cabinet work, plumbing, and printing and graphic arts

- Organize and conduct training sessions and workshops on basic vocational trade practices and safety in the workplace
- Complete and provide quarterly reports that highlight the youth's significant achievements
- Develop training/ workshop curricula and hands-on lesson plans
- Maintain records of assignments completed, grades obtained, and performance records on all participating youth.

YOBG Funded Program, Placement, Service, Strategy, and System Enhancement

1. Juvenile Detention Facility—Commitment Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The goals of this commitment program are to provide a secure environment for interventions with medium or high-risk offenders; provide an alternative to Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment; provide programming that addresses delinquent behavior and offers life skills training; and enhance re-entry for these wards.

Description:

Based on the nature of their offense and the suitability criteria that have been met, youth are held in the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) for short, medium, or long term for anywhere from 90 days to two (2) years. Completing the case plan goals and programming can lead to a shortened term. The commitment periods for each of these three (3) terms are as follows:

1. 90 to 180 days for short-term targeting of substance abuse.
2. 180 days to one (1) year for medium terms targeting extensive substance abuse and gang members.
3. 18 months to two (2) years targeting 707(b) W&I Offenders.

Probation Correctional Officers (PCO) provide security for wards participating in tailored, sequential programs that address individual criminogenic needs. The facility staff responds to facility-critical incidents such as physical altercations.

The Transport Unit provides high-security transport of wards pending charges as adults to and from the adult courts. Transport also takes youth to appointments outside of the facility and is responsible for ensuring youth appear before the court on their scheduled court appearance. Probation officers provide pre- and post-release services and

program coordination. Services include mental health/ substance abuse counseling, education, healthcare, job training, individual and family therapy, and supervision.

2. Individualized Transitional Planning — Commitment Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Services for youth committed to the Long-Term Program are to identify and address individual criminogenic needs, respond to those needs, and decrease recidivism. Intensive supervision allows more involved interaction with youth while providing enhanced services to these wards. Based on the youth's assessment needs, services could include mental health services, substance abuse treatment, family counseling, parent involvement, and parenting classes. Reintegration is also reinforced to increase long-term success in the community upon release and deter further integration into the system, such as the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Many services provided to program youth housed at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) are evidence-based, including assessments, development of case plans, educational services, mental health/ substance abuse treatment, social services programs, etc.

Description:

Services to youth at JDF include a review of court documents and reports; review of the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS), Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI), Career Scope, and Change Talk assessment inventory information; development of individualized case plans to aid in the ward's successful community re-entry; parenting classes; coordination of educational services; coordination of job training and placement services; coordination of mental health/ substance abuse treatment and public social services programs; establishing terms and conditions of probation upon release; providing field supervision upon release; assistance with obtaining birth certificates, California Identification cards, educational records and various other records; conducting complete JAIS assessments at six months to respond to ongoing or changing ward risks/ needs.

3. Juvenile Competency Restoration Services

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Tulare County Probation Department contracts with Alliant International University to provide one (1) evidence-based program, Juvenile Competency Restoration Services.

Juvenile Competency Restoration Services is an evidence-based, psycho-educational approach utilized nationwide. The goal is to support the youth in adequately assisting an attorney in their defense via education regarding court proceedings and the juvenile justice processes.

Description:

Juvenile Competency Restoration Services employs an evidence-based, psycho-educational approach that involves a multi-phased program that assists in determining appropriate placement and treatment services, provides the results of said testing and evaluation in a Court-approved format, and may include expert testimony in Court as requested. The Juvenile Competency Restoration program is designed to help restore accused juvenile offenders to competency to stand trial. The initial assessment evaluates the youth's competency and identifies potential personality-based or cognitive/ intellectual factors influencing competency restoration. Psycho-educational sessions are designed to support alleged juvenile offenders to gain a factual and rational understanding of the Juvenile Court proceedings against them.

Alliant International University provides the following services:

1. Juvenile Competency Restoration Services, multi-phase approach:

- a. Initial assessment: Evaluates competency and identifies potential personality-based or cognitive/ intellectual factors that might influence competency restoration.
- b. Psycho-educational sessions: These sessions support alleged juvenile offenders in gaining a factual and rational understanding of the Juvenile Court proceedings against them.
- c. Supplemental individual sessions: Supports youth with personality and cognitive challenges compromising competency restoration.
- d. Post-Intervention evaluation: Renders a decision on competency.
- e. The mental health clinicians provide the Tulare County Probation Department with quarterly progress reports for participating youth.

4. Juvenile Vocational Training Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Tulare County Probation Department has partnered with the Tulare County Office of Education to provide commitment youth with exposure to the building trades, helping identify their interests and aptitudes and prepare them for a career in their chosen industry. Currently, the Probation Department uses the Paxton/ Patterson Program curriculum for the Vocational Education Program, which utilizes industry-standard equipment and is 70% hands-on, project-based learning. The Paxton/ Patterson Program is also a University of California A-G-approved course (College Prep Elective).

This program can enhance the skills and training of youth and make them more competitive in the hiring process. The Probation Department plans to expand vocational programs and services available to realigned youth to provide additional opportunities to develop the skills and training experience needed to obtain employment and self-sufficiency upon release into the community.

Description:

The Probation Department has constructed a state-of-the-art vocational training facility to implement the Paxton Patterson Building Skills for the construction industry. The Paxton Patterson Building Skills curriculum allows students to utilize industry-standard tools and equipment as they explore careers in the construction industry.

The Tulare County JDF Vocational Training Program currently offers instruction in 14 different trades:

1. Cabinetry
2. Communication
3. Concrete
4. Drywall
5. Electrical
6. Finish Carpentry
7. Green Construction
8. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
9. Masonry
10. Plumbing
11. Power Tool Operation
12. Roof Framing
13. Tile Setting
14. Wall Framing

5. Adolescent Sexual Responsibility Program In-custody Treatment Services

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Adolescent Sexual Responsibility In-custody Treatment Program provides specialty mental health services to in-custody juvenile offenders who have committed a sexual offense, are wards of the court, and have been sentenced to a residential program in the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility. This program is designed to address any sexually deviant behaviors and tendencies that youth have engaged in that have resulted in contact with the juvenile justice system.

Description:

The Probation Department has a contract with Hope Horizon Mental Health to provide in-custody mental health services to youth who suffer from sexual mental health disorders. The Adolescent Sexual Responsibility In-custody Treatment Program is tailored to the needs of each program participant and provides a minimum of 1 – 2 hours of treatment per week.

The curriculum in ASRP is comprised of the following components:

- Ongoing comprehensive risk assessments are needed to ascertain each youth's propensity to re-offend and to determine the most appropriate and tailored treatment plan based on the assessment results.
- Weekly therapy in this program is designed to teach youth how to explore and resolve underlying issues that can result in abusive/ inappropriate behavior and how unhealthy patterns of thinking can lead to offense cycles and have a detrimental influence on victims; youth are shown how to identify warning signs and are given tools to help avoid high-risk situations and are expected to take responsibility for their actions, including working toward restitution to the victim whenever possible.
- An Offense Prevention Plan will be developed and implemented for each youth.
- Youth receive the Pathways workbook/ curriculum to help address and correct malevolent behavior.
- Youth are taught methods for constructively managing negative emotions, stressful situations, and life transitions.

6. In-Custody Local Program / In-Custody Secure Youth Treatment Facility/ Aftercare Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Tulare County Probation Department has entered a contract to provide the Mental Health Services (MHS) Program to youth who suffer from substance abuse disorders, mental health disorders, and issues that can lead to criminal conduct. The MHS Program is evidence-based, trauma-informed, and gender-responsive.

The MHS Program is highly structured and is designed to help youth develop the core competencies (emotional, social, cognitive, recovery, behavioral, and life skills) necessary to function as productive, pro-social, and substance-free citizens. Individualized treatment plans are utilized in the MHS Program to help identify each youth's relative strengths and needs so that the most appropriate intervention strategies can be determined and applied.

Description:

The MHS Program provides targeted cognitive behavioral therapy, intensive mental health therapy for trauma, and motivational counseling to male and female youth at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) who have been committed to a local custodial program or the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). The primary objectives of the MHS Program are to improve self-awareness and reduce the propensity for anti-social and self-destructive behavior.

The MHS Program is highly structured and incorporates assessments, treatment planning, case management, individual and group counseling, and intensive family services through evidence-based curricula. This program uses a combination of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapies to target a youth's criminogenic needs (characteristics, traits, problems, or issues that commonly lead to criminal behavior). This specialized program concentrates on developing functional, prosocial attitudes and behaviors, along with internal and social sources of support that enable justice-involved youth to change and function successfully in their communities, workplaces, and families.

The MHS Program is designed for three (3) distinct youth populations to address the specific needs of each group. The population groups include (1) In-custody local program youth and youth who have been committed to a local custodial program (hereafter referred to as local program youth); (2) In-custody Secure Youth Treatment Facility population (hereafter referred to as SYTF youth; and (3) Local program youth or SYTF youth transitioning from the residential portion of their program to Aftercare (hereafter referred to as Aftercare youth). SYTF youth will be enrolled in and attend the same services as local program youth if and where there are insufficient SYTF youth to be enrolled in the SYTF program.

1. In-Custody Local Program Youth

The MHS Program is being offered to in-custody local program youth. In-custody local program youth are defined as in-custody youth probationers who have been committed to a local program and do not fall under the category of what would be the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) population. Youth in this program will be enrolled in services for approximately twelve (12) months.

2. In-Custody Secure Youth Treatment Facility Youth

The MHS Program is being offered to in-custody SYTF youth. In-custody SYTF program youth are defined as youth in-custody probationers who have not been committed to a local program and fall under the category of what would be the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) population. Youth in this program will be enrolled in services from eighteen (18) months to two (2) years.

3. Aftercare Program Youth

The MHS Program is offered to youth from both the local and SYTF youth transitioning from the residential portion of their program into aftercare. The Probation Department provides Aftercare services to facilitate the transition and reintegration from a secure institution to family and the community. It will ensure they can access ongoing case management and mentoring services post-release.

The MHS Program uses a combination of motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). Youth attend four (4) to six (6) hours of group sessions each week according to their identified treatment needs and priorities and the level of risk assigned in the initial assessment process. Therapeutic groups are based on different evidence-based curricula that address specific needs and core competencies.

The following services are provided in the MHS Program:

- Additional Treatment Approaches and Materials
- Assessment and Intake
- Coordination of Care
- Discharge Plans and Aftercare
- Documentation
- Evidence-based CBT
- Individual Services Accommodations

- Individual Therapy
- Individual Treatment Plans
- Medication Evaluations
- Quality Assurance
- Transition, Relapse Prevention, and Crisis Management Plans

Curriculum for In-Custody Local Program Youth

- Aggression Replacement Training
- Anger Management
- Choices and Changes
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse
- Moral Recognition Therapy
- Strengthening Families
- Thinking for a Change
- 24/ 7 Dad

Curriculum for In-Custody SYTF Program Youth

- A New Direction: Criminal & Addictive Thinking and Introduction to Treatment
- CBT with Justice-Involved Participants
- DBT Skills Training Handouts and Worksheets
- Helping Men Recover
- Living in Balance
- Moral Recognition Therapy
- TCU Disease Risk Reduction Waysafe Intervention
- TCU Getting Motivated for Change
- TCU Straight Ahead – Transition Skills for Recovery

- TCU Treatment Readiness and Induction Program (TRIP)
- Seeking Safety
- Victim Impact

7. Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus (PTHP) provides housing and supportive services for youth in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) and to Local Custodial Program (LCP) youth who are on probation and are participating in the Local Transitional Housing Program.

Description:

The contracted transitional living services of the Step-Down and the Local Transitional Housing Program mirror a proven foster care program, the Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP-Plus). THP-Plus, in accordance with SB1252, offers former foster youth between the ages of 18 – 25 housing and supportive services for 36 cumulative months or until the age of 25, whichever comes first. However, the department recommends up to one year's stay for SYTF and LCP youth to be consistent with transitional living arrangements previously offered to parolees of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

The contracted transitional living services provided by PTHP with this Agreement include housing, which can be apartments, condominiums, and/ or single-family dwellings to SYTF youth between the ages of 18 – 25 and LCP youth between the ages of 18 – 21 and who have transitioned from secure confinement to community for a period of up to twelve (12) months or upon the age of 25 (SYTF) and 21 (LCP), whichever occurs first. The estimated number of youths receiving services is ten (10) or fewer.

In addition, PTHP also provides supportive services to SYTF and LCP youth, including:

- Emancipation Savings Program
- Employment and Education Specialist
- Financial Aid Specialist
- Housing Specialist
- Life Skills Mentoring
- Money Management and Budgeting

8. Educational Tablet Program

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Tulare County Probation Department will contract Network Communications International Corp. to provide 100 educational tablets with secure wireless connectivity for the juveniles at the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility. The goal is to utilize the vendor's RISE (Restoration through Incentives, Skills, and Education) Method to support proper rehabilitation and prepare individuals for successful reintegration into society. By empowering juveniles with education and life skills, the JDF Educational Tablet Program aims to sow the seeds of positive change that will impact individuals, families, and communities.

Description:

The RISE Method is a rehabilitative philosophy that aims to equip juveniles with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and make a positive impact. This method is the basis for the tablet-based Schoolhouse Learning Management System (LMS).

The LMS is a comprehensive, incentive-based platform that provides juveniles access to various educational, vocational, and rehabilitative programs.

With the LMS's emphasis on incentives, juveniles are encouraged to engage with educational content, and their efforts are rewarded. Successful completion of courses earns them "points" that can be spent on entertainment content and leisure activities. This approach motivates juveniles to participate in rehabilitation actively and makes educational opportunities and entertainment options accessible to all, regardless of their economic resources.

The educational and entertainment program options help students realize that incarceration is their opportunity to find a path forward instead of a brief pause from their struggles outside of the JDF. The courses are designed for youth struggling with mental health issues, grief, anxiety, and addictions.

Students completing their coursework are rewarded with tokens that can be used to watch approved inspirational and educational videos, TED Talks, movies, games, and access approved books. The LMS also allows the Department to upload its classes and content, which can be added as part of the Learn2Earn module, enabling the students to earn rewards.

Over 3,000 classes and videos will be made available. Examples include the following:

- Parenting
- Anger Management

- Addiction Awareness and Control
- Management of Anxieties
- Substance Abuse
- Communications Skills
- Confidence Building
- Time Management
- Computer Skills
- Work Skills
- Religious Programming
- Language Programs
- Math Skills
- Reading Comprehension