



Office of Youth and Community Restoration

Overview of JJRBG-Supported Programs, Services, and Strategies

Technical Assistance Brief

Contents

- Purpose 2
 - Allowable Uses of JJRBG Funds..... 2
- JJRBG Supported Programs, Services, and Strategies by Count Size 4
 - Large Counties 4
 - Supported Investments..... 4
 - County Examples 5
 - Medium Counties..... 5
 - Supported Investments..... 5
 - County Examples 6
 - Small Counties 6
 - Supported Investments..... 6
 - County Examples 7
- Conclusion..... 7

Purpose

The purpose of this technical assistance resource guide is to help California counties strategically allocate Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) funds in ways that reflect their size, capacity, and the needs of their youth. Because counties vary widely in population, infrastructure, staffing, and proximity to services, the programs they most often invest in, and the strategies that work best, tend to align with county size.

To support practical planning, this guide organizes investments into three categories (**large, medium, and small counties**) and highlights program types that appear most frequently in county plans. The breakout sections that follow provide narrative guidance, supported investment, and county examples from each size tier. The aim is to offer a **resource** that makes it easier for counties to consider other options to address the needs of youth that fall under the [Welf. & Inst. Code § 1990\(b\)](#) target population.

This guide does **not** attempt to list every program funded in California. Instead, it highlights **the most frequently referenced program types** that appear across multiple county realignment plans. These examples illustrate common patterns of investment, and the services counties typically support with JJRBG funds. Counties may offer variations of these programs or create completely different models based on local needs. If you have questions about a specific program mentioned in connection with a county, please refer to that county's realignment plan or contact the county directly for clarification. For providers, including county departments, seeking information on using JJRBG funds for a proposed program, we encourage contacting the local county probation leadership or county counsel to determine whether the proposed use can be funded, whether it aligns with the county's JJRBG plan, and to address any related issues that may need consideration. The programs listed here are illustrative examples, not requirements or prescribed strategies.

Prior county plans submitted to OYCR are available at [County Plans - OYCR](#)

Allowable Uses of JJRBG Funds

JJRBG funds can be used for far more than the detention or housing of the target population. Under state law, these funds may support the **custody, care, and supervision** of youth who were previously eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) before its closure. The target population includes:

- Youth adjudicated as wards of the juvenile court for offenses listed under [Welfare & Institutions Code § 707\(b\)](#)

- Youth adjudicated for offenses requiring registration under [Penal Code § 290.008](#)
- Youth who otherwise would have met prior DJJ eligibility standards

In addition to custodial care, counties have reported in their JJRBG plans that funds will support the areas of need for realigned youth identified in [Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995](#), including:

- **Mental health, treatment for youth who have committed a sex offense, and other behavioral or trauma-based needs**
- **Programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development**
- **Family engagement**
- **Reentry planning and linkages to employment, housing, and continuing education**
- **Evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive practices**
- **Services or programs delivered by nongovernmental or community-based providers**

Together, these categories represent the areas of need counties are required to consider when determining how to apply JJRBG funds.

Counties should also consider that no additional funding will be provided if a county needs to leverage funds for youth who require a **Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) placement**. This means counties must balance investments in prevention, diversion, and reentry with the responsibility to maintain sufficient resources, internally or through regional partnerships, to serve youth who may require secure treatment under the realignment framework.

JJRBG Supported Programs, Services, and Strategies by Count Size

Large Counties¹

Large jurisdictions typically use JJRBG funds to create a comprehensive continuum of care that spans clinical treatment, restorative practices, vocational training, and reentry systems. Their size allows them to invest in specialized services, youth-centered environments, and the staffing necessary to support intensive behavioral health interventions. The overarching goal is to pair full clinical coverage with integrated vocational pathways while embedding restorative and mentorship practices across both custody and the community. Large counties also tend to invest heavily in reentry infrastructure and youth voice, ensuring youth experience a coherent, developmentally aligned pathway from entry to transition.

Supported Investments

Behavioral Health: Funding for on-site clinicians to provide individual and group therapies such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and Trauma-Focused CBT (TF-CBT). This includes 24/7 crisis response and psychiatric medication management.

Vocational and Educational Programs: Investments in hands-on certification labs for trades such as construction, culinary arts, automotive repair, and music production. Counties also fund college enrollment support and dual-enrollment courses with local universities.

Reentry and Transition Services: Establishing Less Restrictive Program (LRP) housing and step-down units to support independent living. Funds also support wage-subsidized internships and assistance with obtaining vital documents like birth certificates and Social Security cards.

Family Engagement: Structured family therapy, special events that include family participation, and logistical support such as transportation or lodging assistance for family visits.

Facility Environment: Development of Multi-Sensory De-escalation Rooms (MSDR) and furniture or mural upgrades to create therapeutic spaces.

¹Alameda, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura

County Examples

- **Alameda**²: Provides wage-subsidized internships and stipends for service work to support youth financial stability immediately upon release.
- **Riverside**³: Implements the CHANGE model, a comprehensive 7-stage core counseling model focused on empathy and pro-social attitudes.
- **Stanislaus**⁴: Utilizes the Volt Institute mobile training unit to provide hands-on mechanical and electrical trade skills.

Medium Counties⁵

Medium counties frequently use JJRBG funds to secure a strong CBT program, high-fidelity wraparound supports, and scalable vocational pathways that can adjust to shifting caseloads. Their strategies include maximizing the role of community-based partners to deliver enrichment programming that boosts engagement, identity development, and treatment retention. They also emphasize early barrier removal (documents, technology access, transportation) to prevent service dropout during reentry, one of the most critical pressure points for mid-sized jurisdictions.

Supported Investments

Core Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Package: Standardizing evidence-based programs like Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART), Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Thinking 4 Change (T4C), and interactive journaling (e.g., Forward Thinking) as the programming foundation.

Wraparound & Multi-Disciplinary Coordination: Implementing high-fidelity Wraparound models (e.g., Youth for Change in Butte) and intensive reentry planning.

Wellness & Enrichment: Funding equine-assisted therapy (Kings), garden projects (Butte), and restorative arts (Ink People in Humboldt).

Vocational & Employment: Supporting local industry certifications, such as barber licensing (Imperial), logistics/warehousing, and retail training.

College Bridges: Partnering with local community colleges through the Rising Scholars Network to provide academic navigators and on-site tutoring.

² Alameda County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

³ Riverside County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

⁴ Stanislaus County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

⁵Butte, Humboldt, Imperial, Kings, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, Yuba

Reentry Housing & Support: Utilizing mission-run housing and providing reentry basics like transportation, clothing, and technology.

Restorative Justice: Offering structured services for youth impacted by domestic violence, trafficking, and trauma.

County Examples

- **Solano**⁶: Features the "Rise Up House," a restorative living facility that facilitates a seamless transition from detention to community living.
- **Merced**⁷: Operates the "RISE to Higher Grounds" mobile coffee cart, allowing youth to learn retail, customer service, and barista skills in a practical environment.
- **Imperial**⁸: Offers the "History on the Go" program through the local desert museum, teaching traditional culture and science through weekly art projects.

Small Counties⁹

Small counties often have few or no qualifying youth at any given time. As a result, they use JJRBG funds to build portable, flexible service models and rely heavily on regional partnerships for education, workforce readiness, mental health treatment, and transitional housing. Their approach is intentionally lightweight and responsive, ensuring that if a youth does enter custody or needs SYTF-level care, the county can quickly activate appropriate supports without maintaining a large internal infrastructure.

Supported Investments

Regional Contracted Placements: Reserving funds to access out-of-county SYTF or specialized treatment programs.

Portable Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs): Utilizing curriculums like Seeking Safety, interactive journaling, and Forward Thinking that can be delivered by local staff or CBOs.

Tribal & Cultural Partnerships: Investing in culturally responsive care through partnerships with the local tribes (e.g., Wintun-Wailaki, Mi-Wuk, or Susanville Indian Rancheria).

⁶ Solano County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

⁷ Merced County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

⁸ Imperial County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

⁹Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Inyo, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, Trinity, Tuolumne

Practical Skill-Building Centers: Funding local hubs like the Dragonfly Cafe Education and Training Center for practical employment development.

Specialized Family Supports: Using grant funds for transportation assistance, family counseling, and parenting models like Love & Logic.

Tele-Services: Leveraging virtual therapy and tele-psychiatry to ensure continuity of care in rural areas.

County Examples

- **Lassen**¹⁰: Developed the Stronger Families Program, an evidence-based approach focusing on whole-family restoration and social-emotional growth.
- **Tuolumne**¹¹: Features a Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR) designed to help youth with significant trauma histories regulate emotional responses through sensory input.
- **Mono**¹²: Employs a dedicated Re-Entry Coordinator to directly manage every detail of a youth's transition from commitment back to the community.

Conclusion

This technical assistance resource guide is intended to support counties in making informed, strategic decisions about how to invest JJRBG funds. By examining trends across large, medium, and small counties, the guide highlights program models, services, and strategies that are commonly used to support the needs of young people. While the examples included here reflect statewide patterns, counties should adapt these approaches to their own capacity, population, and community partnerships.

If additional details are needed regarding any program associated with a specific county, readers should consult that [county's realignment plan](#) or contact the county directly. Ultimately, the goal of JJRBG funding is to help counties build a continuum of care that is developmentally appropriate, evidence-informed, and responsive to the unique needs of youth across California.

¹⁰ Lassen County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

¹¹ Tuolumne County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)

¹² Mono County JJRBG Plan: [Link](#)