

# (2023-2024) Annual Plan

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County Name: Ventura

Contact Name: Chris Modica

Telephone Number: 805-973-5168

E-mail Address: [chris.modica@ventura.org](mailto:chris.modica@ventura.org)

## Instructions:

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

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan. The following is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so. Each field must be completed before submitting your plan to the BSCC. If you have nothing to report for a field, please indicate 'N/A'. At the end of the template please press the 'Submit' button to be recorded with the BSCC. Your work will be saved each time you log in, if you need to make any edits.

Your Submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.[chris.modica@ventura.org](mailto:chris.modica@ventura.org)

**If you have any questions on completing your annual plan, or wish to use your own plan, please email:**

**[JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov)**

## Juvenile Justice Plan

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

**A. Assessment of Existing Services**

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

The JJCC previously established a subcommittee, the JJCC Program Review and Development Committee. This committee is comprised of members from various county departments and community-based organizations. During the last year, the subcommittee reviewed a comprehensive report completed by Applied Survey Research (ASR), which reviewed 9 of the JJCPA funded programming and services. During the review of the report, the vendor or provider was included to speak to some of the challenges identified and strategize how they plan to address them. The ASR work also included the development of the Juvenile Justice Master Plan (JJMP). The plan identified five priority areas in the county: Emotional and Behavioral Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Intervention, Coordinated Systems Approach, Family Support and Prosocial and Skill Building Opportunities. Within each priority area are sub-priorities, each with specific methods for addressing the need and the likely outcomes if action is taken. The recommendations for services are evidence based and specifically target at-risk youth, youthful offenders and their families.

Additionally, there have always been strong collaborative relationships that exist among the Juvenile Delinquency Court and other county agencies, such as Children and Family Services, Public Health, and Behavioral Health. These collaboratives explore the implementation of effective intervention services for youth and families at risk of contact with the justice system or are already involved. Probation also works with county and local law enforcement, including the District Attorney and Interface, to coordinate diversion efforts.

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

In Ventura County, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) was developed to strengthen partnerships in the community and make recommendations for services to the Board of Supervisors, the juvenile court and other stakeholders. The collaboration amongst our stakeholders has always been strong and there is a serious commitment to provide services and support which will improve the outcomes and lives of the youth and their families. The JJCC uses the JJMP as a roadmap which helps guide programmatic changes and helps determine future funding for new programming and services.

Furthermore, Ventura County has developed an Interagency Leadership Team (ILT), consisting of high functioning county leadership members. The purpose of the ILT is to align and integrate public systems and community providers for a Child and Family Wellness System. The work is partially guided by parent/resident voices and are reflected in a comprehensive continuum of prevention.

Ventura County utilizes the Interagency Case Management Council (ICMC) to address and determine a course of action and management for the most difficult cases. This interactive process brings all partners together to assure the youth and family are provided needed services and interventions. This assures all resources are explored and all efforts are made to address the youth at the earliest and lowest level possible.

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

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

Ventura County invokes a countywide strategy to target high need populations and high-risk areas in the county. In addition, data related to the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives (JDAI) continues to assist in highlighting specific areas of the county, using zip codes, that have the highest rate of arrest and admissions to our juvenile facility. This information, in addition to the JJMP, has been used to identify gaps in services and resources needed. Male Latino youth are the highest represented population on probation and in custody at the juvenile facility. Furthermore, a significant portion of the youth on probation reside in the Oxnard and Port Hueneme area. This population and their communities face significant challenges and risk factors that may increase the likelihood to become justice involved. The JJMP highlights other indicators, such as economic and demographic, which offers continued guidance related to future infusion of programming and services.

Ventura County, in response to Census data, data from the Casey Family Programs and JDAI data, plan to strategically pursue an approach to provide preventative services and continuing education, targeting three of the most justice involved zip codes in the county. We have contracted with a consultant to help guide the work, which will include input from targeted focus groups and community forums.

Ventura has also completed an evaluation of existing JJCPA funded programs which identified strengths, challenges and specific recommendations.

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

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

The JJMP serves as an action strategy for responding to juvenile crime and delinquency. It allows the JJCC to make informed decisions regarding use of resources and community need. Ventura County uses the following approach with at risk youth and youthful offenders.

Prevention: Contracting services to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system; advocating for the most suitable intervention and service when youth step foot into our system; and utilizing diversion programs within the community to divert youth from further exposure in the justice system.

Intervention: Provide appropriate and necessary services to reduce recidivism for youth already in the system; Continuously evaluate existing services and make needed programmatic changes to improve delivery and outcomes; Develop new programs to address identified gaps within the continuum of services.

Supervision: Utilize a risk and needs assessment to determine the appropriate level of supervision and services; Create individualized case plans with the youth and family; Refer to evidence based programming to drive youth behavior change; Use a graduated response matrix to aid in determining the appropriate level of response to violations and use appropriate treatment referrals and resources.

Custody: Utilize a risk and needs assessment to develop individualized case plans with the youth and family; Utilize evidence-based programming in custody to drive youth behavior change; Monitor youth's progress throughout their commitment and develop release plans that include collaboration with the youth, parents/guardian, the supervising probation officer, treatment providers, public health, behavioral health, schools and other necessary stakeholders.

**D.Comprehensive Plan RevisionsDescribe how your Plan has been updated for this year.**

As noted in the previous plan, Ventura County completed a comprehensive evaluation of the JJCPA funded programs and updated the JJMP. In response to the evaluation, the Program Review and Development Committee, a subcommittee of the JJCC, convened to review the finds of the evaluation. Each JJCPA funded service provider was present while the subcommittee reviewed their program successes, challenges and recommendations. Those reviews were completed in February of 2023. Moving forward, Ventura County recently published and plan to publish several additional Request for Proposals (RFPs) to fill gaps in services identified in the JJMP. Recently, the JJCC approved using JJCPA funds to pursue a Program Development/Quality Assurance/Service Coordinator. This coordinator would be tasked with continuously identifying gaps in services and developing RFPs to fill those service and programming gaps. Examples of proposed RFPs will include a Family Engagement Specialist, Therapeutic Services, Parent Mentors, and a possible 4th Evening Reporting Center.

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

N/A

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

**A. Information Sharing and Data** Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.

Probation is part of the Ventura County Integrated Justice Information System (VCJIS). VCJIS is an electronic database that allows for limited sharing of case and court information among the Courts, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender and the Sheriff's Department. In addition, Probation has an independent data system, Probation Records Information System Management (PRISM). This system allows Probation to utilize data to enhance caseload management and supervision of youth. This system contains demographic information, client assessments, case management information, client related documents and information related to our youth.

Notwithstanding the above integrated system, there is not established data sharing with other partner agencies. Data sharing is recognized as a key component for building a child and family wellbeing system. However, information from respective public entities is shared via the Essential for Childhood-Ventura County (E4C-VC) collaborative forum. The E4C-VC forum was established to better understand and target common areas of needs and to work towards coordinating community interventions. The E4C-VC collaborative, using AB 2083 as the impetus for cross-system collaboration, is meeting regularly.

Probation has integrated performance measures and associated data outcomes in service contracts with community-based organizations providing services to youth. This data is invaluable and guides the Agency in making informed decisions about programming and case management.

**B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

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

yes

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

N/A

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

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

**Below are JJCPA funded programs reported by the county.**

#### **Program Name:**

Juvenile Justice Treatment for Sexually Abusive Youth

#### **Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Services are based on the California Coalition on Sexual Offending's guidelines for the assessment and treatment of sexually abusive youth and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Adolescent Practice Guidelines 2017. The program is a cognitive behavioral multimodal program drawing on several disciplines to inform best practices and evidence-based interventions.

#### **Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Anew Therapeutic (Anew) to provide treatment to those youth who have been court ordered into treatment for sexually abusive behavior. Anew integrates treatment of the youth's trauma symptoms and response as well as their characterological strengths and deficits. Anew focuses on a risk, needs, and responsivity approach to identifying risks. Anew offers individual, group, and family therapy that complies with the California Coalition on Sexual Offending's guidelines for the assessment and treatment of sexually abusive youth.

**Program Name:**

Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Youth Advisory Councils are a youth engagement strategy used by programs and organizations to positively incorporate youth voices and help build the capacity of youth participants.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with One step A La Vez to coordinate and oversee the YAC. YAC facilitates regular meetings and members are eligible to come from the 3 ERCs to assure representation from multiple areas of the county. Participants are provided leadership, leadership training and mentorship with the goal that those formerly involved in the justice system should advise and make recommendations for services to youth who are currently or at risk for becoming involved with the justice system. One Step A La Vez received technical assistance and coaching from the Burns Institute in prior years to assure they are meeting the goals of the program and that the YAC is positively impacting the work being completed with at risk or justice involved youth.

**Program Name:**

Restorative Justice Conferencing (RJC)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Extensive research indicates that the use of restorative practices to deal with crime and wrongdoing are recognized as evidence-based practices. Literature states that grounding offenders in their communities and building social networks are critical to success and address this component of the risk and needs responsivity assessment.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Interface Children and Family Services to provide RJC. RJC is a program that diverts youth away from the juvenile justice system by offering the opportunity to participate in a restorative justice conference and be connected to needed services. Restorative justice conferencing seeks justice by bringing together the youth and the victim to discuss the harm caused and, together, create a plan to move forward. In addition, RJC can be utilized as a graduated response for those on probation supervision and with youth in the Juvenile Facilities.

**Program Name:**

Evening Reporting Centers

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Evening reporting centers (ERCs) were implemented throughout the County as an alternative to detention, to reduce the number of youth coming into the juvenile justice system, and to reduce racial and ethnic disparities for juvenile arrests and bookings. Referrals come from probation, community-based organizations, schools and law enforcement. ERCs provide programming grounded in evidence-based practices for positive youth development and empowerment. Each ERC is noted below:

The Boys and Girls Club (BGC) of America offers tested, proven and nationally recognized programs, such as Project Learn and Summer Advantage USA, that closely align with the development needs of all young people. The BGC prioritizes programming related to three focus areas; academic success, good character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles.

One Step a la Vez utilizes evidence-based programming to increase positive personal development and professional skills among participants. Some of the programs include, Moral Reconation Therapy, Way of Council and Restorative Justice.

Big Brothers Big Sisters offers one-on-one mentoring to youth and research supports that these relationships 1) increase the social-emotional development of children and adolescents and challenge the negative views youth hold on themselves; 2) Improve cognitive development and thinking skills; and 3) facilitate identity development.

Research is being conducted to evaluate the need to erect a 4th ERC in south Oxnard.

**Description:**

The ERCs provide community-based alternatives to detention and assist in the reduction of youth of color admissions into the Juvenile Facilities. There are currently 3 ERCs in the County of Ventura: The Boys and Girls Club in Oxnard; One Step a La Vez in Fillmore; and The Big Brothers Big Sisters in Simi Valley. The ERC serve youth ages 12 ½ to 18 who reside in the designated areas of the county. The ERCs utilize evidence-based programming for youth that strive to build positive personal, developmental and professional skills among participants (i.e., positive self-identity, hope about one 's future, reduce recidivism, educational, vocational, social, emotional, and community and civic involvement, etc.). The programmatic goals include reduced

recidivism; promote and implement positive youth development; track youth who successfully complete the program and continue to attend the ERCs; Enhance public safety; and promote an increase academic success, character, citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The centers are socially and environmentally safe facilities for youth to attend. The programs are based upon physical, emotional, cultural, and social needs of youth and offered in a non-competitive environment that encourages skill development, self-esteem and acceptance. It also reinforces positive social values that benefit the community.

**Program Name:**

Truancy Habits Reduced Increases Vital Education (THRIVE)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The California Attorney General's 4th annual report on California's Elementary School Truancy and Absenteeism Crisis was issued in 2016, setting forth the importance of eliminating school truancy and making it a top priority of the California Department of Justice to keep children in school and out of the criminal justice system. According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, approximately 57% of violent crimes are committed by juveniles while they are truant. Studies conducted across the country have shown that excessive absenteeism in school increases the risk of falling behind academically, dropping out of school and becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

**Description:**

THRIVE is a collaborative effort between the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Probation Agency, Public Health, and the School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). THRIVE provides truancy interventions for students from 12 Ventura County school districts which include over 20 individual school/district sites. THRIVE aims to help all children between the ages of 6 and 18 with chronic absenteeism, offering appropriate remedial and community referral services during SARB meetings, based on the youth's needs (i.e. homelessness, mental health, medical, transportation, etc). THRIVE utilizes the services of 4 Public Health Nurses which assist in determining whether there are medical reasons for the youth's truancy. The program also provides a Public Health Nurse to youth identified as high risk for commercial and sexual exploitation (CSEC). Nurses attend Child and Family Team Meetings for these cases, provide health information, and services to CSEC youth to prevent truancy and further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

**Program Name:**

Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Based on the State of California ROPP Demonstration projects in California, probation targets youth who have risk factors associated with chronic recidivism. Youth are provided enhanced case management, received therapeutic services, are assigned and advocate and attend pro social events. These interventions have been demonstrated to be beneficial and impact the success of youth in the program.

**Description:**

ROPP is an intensive, comprehensive, multidisciplinary program that provides services to first time formal wards, informal probationers, and DEJ youth who are 16.5 or older at the time they are placed on supervision, and who demonstrate at least 3 to 4 risk factors associated with chronic delinquency. The ROPP team is comprised of 3 probation officers, 3 marriage and family therapists, and 3 youth advocates. The program is guided by the evidence-based practices and the ROPP team meets biweekly to discuss the cases. The primary objective of ROPP is to provide early identification and services to eligible youth. ROPPs broadly defined objectives include breaking the pattern of delinquency, antisocial behavior and domestic violence, by providing services before the youth become entrenched in the juvenile justice system. The target population is known as the "8%". These are youth who are identified as having specific characteristics which make them a high risk for reoffending. Many of the chronic recidivists are an 8% group with the following characteristics:

1. 16.5 years of age or younger at the time of their initial case disposition
2. Declared wards of the Court at their initial system referral
3. Found to have significantly more problems in 4 composite areas:
  - A. Significant family problems such as domestic violence, child abuse and family criminality
  - B. School attendance or performance problems
  - C. Drug and or alcohol use

#### D. Pre delinquent behaviors such as runaway, theft, and gang involvement

It was found that chronic juvenile offenders have a significantly higher rate of incarceration and recidivism. More than half of the families of high-risk youth have significant problems impeding their ability to provide adequate supervision, structure or support to their children. Youth are reviewed periodically throughout the time spent in the program. The length of the program is open-ended and based on the stability of the family and the sufficiency to which the identified risk factors have been addressed.

#### **Program Name:**

Early Intervention and Prevention Services

#### **Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

This program combines prevention and intervention services through an evidence-based programs, practices and strategies for youth who are not currently wards of the court. The community-based organizations assess youth and families to determine services needed, provide case management and utilize cognitive behavioral interventions.

#### **Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Interface Children and Family Services for this program. This program provides specialized early intervention services to youth and their families. Their early intervention services are intended to divert youth from further juvenile justice involvement. Services are brief and focus on assessment, case management, family mediation, skill building, and counseling with a cognitive behavioral intervention framework. Services are provided to youth under the age of 18 who reside in Ventura County who are first and sometimes second time youthful offenders who commit 601 WIC offences, miscellaneous misdemeanors, and lower-level felony offenses. The provider will respond to all referrals within 24 hours, provide a referral disposition within 30 days, and conduct a service assessment with youth and family to determine the most appropriate intervention. Staff will provide interventions for up to 90 days, then if needed facilitate appropriate linkage to community partners as well as other counseling services. Modality of services will include weekly skill building group, conflict resolution, anger management, healthy relationship skills and other topics.

**Program Name:**

Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Mentoring and Case Management

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Preventing the exploitation of children is achieved through multi-pronged efforts including safety awareness, awareness training, and addressing demand. Case management and mentoring are the key components of the program. Mentoring research supports that these relationships 1) increase the social emotional development of children and adolescents and challenge the negative views youth hold onto themselves; 2) improve cognitive developmental and thinking skills; and 3) facilitate identity development. Mentoring and training are trauma informed.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Forever Found to work with this identified population. This program builds supportive relationships with high-risk youth, current victims, and recovering survivors ages 12 to 21. It aims to provide support and a mentor team to vulnerable youth who have a history of abusive and dysfunctional relationships. Mentors provide social and emotional support and focus on modeling wholesome relationships, encouraging a positive self-identity, teaching life skills, and introducing healthy choices. Each youth is assigned a case manager and may participate in both individual and group sessions.

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

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

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

Ventura County utilizes the juvenile justice strategy outlined in Part 1 Section C for all youth. Below is a more comprehensive outline of the programs and services provided to youth while they are in custody. YOBG supports some of these programs and services. Youth under our care are provided the following programs and services within the facility, during their re-entry into the community or while on supervision.

Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE):

- Providence Court school
- Individual academic counseling
- Reading and math assessments
- English learner support
- Special education
- High school equivalency test
- College and Career Readiness classes
- Providence Scholars' program
- College mentor program
- Automotive Care and Agriculture vocational training
- Transition back to home school of residence
- Educational Transition Specialist

Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH):

VCBH provides risk assessments, crisis intervention, treatment planning, psychiatry, medication support, and release planning with care coordination to youth at the facility. They also administer individual, group, and family therapy sessions.

- Moral Reconciliation Therapy
- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
- Word on the Street
- Reins of H.O.P.E
- Substance Use Treatment Services
- Co-parenting
- Co-occurring substance abuse and mental health treatment

Educationally related social emotional services

Human Services Agency (HSA):

Specialized Training and Employment Program for Success – Youth

Community Based Organization Services:

Alpha Leadership program

ARISE Gang Intervention Program

Healthy Lifestyles

Sex Offender Treatment program

Comprehensive California Healthy Youth Act compliant sex education

Ventura County Arts Council

Radio Broadcasting

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) case management and mentoring

Mentorship program using community members with lived experience

Transitional Housing/Step Down for SYTF youth

Facility Transformation to Campus Lifestyle

Gender specific Re-Entry Services

Dating Matters

Youth Advocates

Moral Reconciliation Therapy

2nd Chance Re-Entry Grant

Girls Grant

Automotive Program

Screenprinting

Paxton-Patterson

Restorative Justice Conferencing

Programming Facilitated by Institutional Staff members:

Interactive Journaling packets

Carey Guides

New Beginnings

Fitness Program

JF Library Book Club program

Music N' Society

Futsal and basketball

Screen-printing

Paxton-Patterson

Radio Broadcasting

American Prison Data Systems (APDS) tablets

Volunteers in Probation:

Religious services

Cross training

Ventura County plans to leverage and enhance existing practices and programming and create new practices and policies that promote healthy adolescent development through a strength-based, culturally proficient, trauma informed, diversified, equitable and inclusive lens.

**B. Regional Agreements**

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

N/A

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

**Below are YOBG funded programs reported by the county.**

**Program Name:**

Alpha Leadership

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

While this program has not yet been studied, there is evidence which supports that positive youth skill building, through mentoring, conflict resolution, and community service, can work to prevent or reduce juvenile delinquency and serious juvenile violence, especially when coordinated with broader communitywide efforts. The strategy is to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in the lives of at-risk youth.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Women of Substance & Men of Honor to deliver the above course. Residents learn about prioritizing their future as an adult while identifying goals, leadership skills, resume writing, job interview skills, how to find housing, employment, and education, and connecting with community supports.

**Program Name:**

Healthy Lifestyles

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

While this program has not yet been studied, there is evidence which supports that positive youth skill building, through mentoring, conflict resolution, and community service, can work to prevent or reduce juvenile delinquency and serious juvenile violence, especially when coordinated with broader communitywide efforts. The strategy is to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in the lives of at-risk youth.

**Description:**

Ventura County contract with Women of Substance & Men of Honor to deliver the above course. Residents learn about lifestyle regulation, healthy boundaries, diversity and respect, friendships, and role models.

**Program Name:**

Dating Matters

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Dating Matters is an evidence-based teen dating violence prevention model that includes prevention strategies for individuals, peers, families, schools, and neighborhoods. Dating Matters includes seven primary components that work together to reinforce protective factors and reduce risk factors for teen dating violence across the social ecology, at the individual, relationship, and community levels. These components also focus on preventing dating violence and promoting healthy relationships across the lifespan.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with the Coalition for Family Harmony. Dating Matters provides youth with the knowledge and skills they need to have healthy, safe relationships before and after they start dating. Focuses on healthy relationships with friends, family, or in context of dating; teaches social and emotional skills, such as identifying emotions and coping with feelings; promotes and builds healthy relationship skills, such as communication and conflict resolution; discusses ways to help and support friends in unhealthy relationships; increases focus on dating relationships and sexual violence; and addresses social norms about substance use.

**Program Name:**

Arts Council

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Youth will learn to play music, perform, and/or create art while at the same time emphasizing important life skills such as tolerance, cooperation, cultural authenticity, self-esteem, self-expression, and mutual respect through disciplined activity. The instruction is formatted into different sized modules to permit students to earn graduation credit, whenever possible, while presenting projects that are of value and interest to the short-term student as well. The modules are presented one-on-one or in small groups.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with the Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC) to provide the above program. Residents in custody receive instruction on poetry, drawing, painting, guided art projects and mural art.

**Program Name:**

Educational Transition Specialist

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The goal is to assist youth in their transition from a custodial setting back to the community and their home school. A smooth transition will reduce the risk of truancy, drop out and increase overall school success. School success is linked to reduced juvenile justice involvement.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with the Ventura County Office of Education to provide the above service. A Transition Specialist will obtain transcripts, manage the credit Accountability System, maintain the Accelerated Reader Program, issue school identification cards, coordinate high school equivalent testing, participate in release plan meetings and exit interviews, assist with graduations, and coordinate state testing.

**Program Name:**

Medical Care for Youth in Custody

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

A majority of youth in custody have unmet health needs. Over two-thirds of youth in one survey of juvenile justice residential facilities reported a health care need, including injury, problems with vision or hearing, or other illness. A number of national and regional surveys of youth in detention have consistently found high rates of traumatic injury, tuberculosis, dental problems, and sexually transmitted disease.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with the California Forensic Medical Group, ie. Wellpath. Wellpath provides comprehensive medical care to youth in custody 24/7, 365 days of the year. Services include the following:

**EXAMINATIONS** - Contractor shall give inmates physical examinations and any subsequent periodic examinations as may be required by County or applicable law.

**SICK CALL** - Provision of sick call five (5) days a week.

**ASSESSMENTS & SCREENINGS** - Provision of all health assessments and communicable disease screenings for all inmates.

**EMERGENCY TREATMENT** - Contractor shall render emergency treatment to the inmates when such services are required.

**VISION** - Evaluation and treatment of vision conditions which, based on the length of incarceration, are medically necessary.

**MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SERVICES** - Contractor shall perform or subcontract for any medical and surgical services that may be necessary to treat the inmates for injuries, diseases and illnesses.

**MAINTENANCE OF INDIVIDUAL, COMPLETE, DATED HEALTH RECORDS**

**Program Name:**

Youth in Custody Phone Service

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The development of close relationships with parents and other role models who provide encouragement, healthy beliefs, and clear standards of behavior offer protection from negative environmental influences. In general, healthy youth have resources in their families and communities that help them control their behavior and provide them with the skills and opportunities to be successful, often referred to as protective factors.

**Description:**

Senate Bill 1008 required that all audio calls made by youth from the JF phones be free of charge. Consequently, Ventura County contracted with Securus to pay for all phone calls.

**Program Name:**

Tablet Program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Evidence for this program is dependent upon which programs youth are selecting, and can include educational, rehabilitative, and evidence based programming.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with American Prison Data Systems. Residents engage in educational and rehabilitative programs on secure tablets. Programs include: TOPUCU (evidence-based), The Master Plan, Work and Money Essentials, CBT worksheets (Carey Guides, evidence-based), and inspirational videos (TED Talks).

**Program Name:**

Reins of H.O.P.E

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Equine Assisted Programs develop and reinforce: healthy coping skills, responsibility, problem-solving, relationship skills, boundaries, communication, assertiveness, confidence, trust and respect. All exercises are conducted on the ground and involve interacting with horses through a variety of activities. No horse experience is necessary. The horses' direct and non-judgmental feedback allows youth to identify unproductive patterns, connect with strengths, and create change in the moment. This experiential work is generally considered a short-term modality due to its intensity and effectiveness.

**Description:**

Ventura County contracts with Reins of H.O.P.E. to provide an evidence-based equine-assisted psychotherapy program that enhances Behavioral Health's therapeutic program and is an alternative therapeutic modality found to assist residents in ways unique and often superior to more passive counseling modalities. These individuals will have the support of our expert mental health professionals to find relief from psychological pain, healthy coping skills and movement toward restoring mental health.

**Program Name:**

Specialized Training and Employment Program for Success-Youth (STEPS-Y)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Youth transitioning from incarceration to the community need support in order to be successful. Employment-centered programs that focus on the needs of the youth returning to the community and result in employment are a critical stabilizing factor, reduce recidivism and increase community safety.

**Description:**

The Agency has an MOU with our county Human Services Agency to provide this program. The goal of STEPS-Y is to assist youth between the ages of 16-21 with the following: comprehensive job search techniques, vocational assessment and training, career exploration, work readiness instruction, direct job placement, and follow up services for youth placed into subsidized jobs in order to help ensure job retention.