

TRANSFORM YOUTH JUSTICE

The Transform Youth Justice Program



THE CENTER
at Sierra Health Foundation



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Transform Youth Justice Program Team



Matt Cervantes

*Associate Vice President
of Programs*



Juan Acosta

Program Officer



Devontae Springer

Program Associate

A multi-partner collaboration:



Background:

- Founded in 2012 as a statewide intermediary.
- The Center was developed by Sierra Health Foundation at a time when nonprofits and public agencies throughout California faced diminishing resources and rapidly increasing needs. As the gap between funding and solutions continued to increase, we realized that a new and innovative approach was required to address the need.
- The Center at Sierra Health Foundation is committed to ensuring every Californian has the opportunity to lead a healthy life. We bring people, ideas and infrastructure together to turn our vision of a healthier California into reality.

Transform Youth Justice:



- Transform Youth Justice (TYJ) uplifts directly impacted communities as the foremost experts in defining and implementing healing-based, healthy youth development strategies that ensure our youth are safe, engaged and thriving.
- TYJ builds community-based capacity, designs sustainable structural supports and champions a future where carceral and punitive justice approaches are rare and community-based infrastructures of care flourish.



Transform Youth Justice:

- TYJ is funded by the California Office of Youth and Community Restoration and the California Department of Health Care Services and implemented by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation through three program pillars:
 - (1) Community Based Organization Capacity Building Initiative (CBI)
 - (2) Ending Girls Incarceration Initiative (EGI)
 - (3) Justice Serving Network (JSN) Development Initiative.
- Each pillar reinforces The Center's vision of a health and healing-based developmental approach to youth behavior and youth accused of harm
- A total of 33 community based organizations were funded throughout the state

Community Based Organization Capacity Building Initiative:

- The Community Based Organization CBI improves the health, social, and intergenerational life course outcomes for youth and families impacted by punitive and carceral legal systems. A total of eight community based organizations were funded. The initiative started September, 2024 and is expected to sunset October, 2026.

This is achieved through:

- Community-based organizational capacity building that prioritizes fund development,
- Technical assistance and the facilitation of peer-to-peer learning opportunities through a community of practice.
- The Center partners with local community-based organizations to provide supportive, sustainable and effective services tailored to the unique needs of their communities. Technical assistance is provided by the [National Center for Youth Law](#) and [Public Works Alliance](#).

Ending Girls' Incarceration Initiative:

- The Ending Girls Incarceration Initiative (EGI) reduces gender disparities in the youth justice system and works to end the incarceration of girls and gender expansive youth in Imperial Valley, Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego counties. A total of five organizations were funded.

This is achieved through:

- Partnerships with county government and community leaders to develop solutions based on community needs while advocating for broader policy changes at the state and local levels that advance the freedom and well-being of girls and gender-expansive youth.
- Focused programming on local prevention and diversion services. While also working to decriminalize status offenses (like running away) , housing insecurity, and explicitly prohibit incarceration for misdemeanors and technical violations of probation, to protect a young person's safety.

Justice Serving Network Initiative:

- Programmatically lead by Public Works Alliance, The Justice Serving Network Initiative (JSN) builds the capacity of twenty organizations that are ready to begin accessing or expand access to Medi-Cal funding through CalAIM and other opportunities created by the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative.
- The long-term goal of JSN is to improve intergenerational life course outcomes for young people engaged by these community partners, as well as organizational sustainability.

This is achieved through:

- Funding
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- Intensive Medi-Cal navigation and billing support through Full Circle Health Network.
- Technical Assistance provided to all JSN funded partners by [Public Works Alliance](#) and [Full Circle Health Network](#)

TCC Baseline Summary Findings CBO-CBI:

- The initiative is accelerating movement toward greater structure, stability, and sustainability.
- Partners are using this opportunity to strengthen internal systems and move toward more durable operating models.
- The program is fostering a learning environment grounded in shared reflection and collaboration.
- Most organizations improved their data systems, staffing structures, governance, and financial management with direct support from technical assistance providers.



[Video Link](#)

Resources:



- About the funded partners: <https://www.shfcenter.org/programs-and-initiatives/transform-youth-justice/>
- Public Works Alliance JSN Learning Briefs: <https://publicworksalliance.org/jsn>



Next Steps:

- Host the Transform Youth Justice annual convening
- Uplift the work of funded partners through The Center's social media and OYCR's Newsletter
- Provide Technical Assistance on organizational storytelling and narrative building
- Informed by TCC Group's evaluation release a toolkit based on the Capacity Building Initiative



Thank You

