OYCR | Office of Youth and Community Restoration

JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: March 04, 2026

County Name: Kern County

Contact Name: Elaine Moore, Deputy Chief Probation Officer

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BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 1990 through 1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) program, which supports county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who were previously eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) prior to its closure. Section 1995, which governs the county planning process, was amended by Assembly Bill 118 (Chapter 96, Statutes of 2025.) This template reflects those amendments, which take effect on January 1, 2026. All statutory references in this document are to the law as amended. The statutory language can be found here.

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(a).) OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required statutory elements in the plan prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans and the date of their acceptance will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

County plans are to be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995. OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required planning process prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

There are ten sections to the plan:

Part 1: Subcommittee Composition
Part 2: Target Population
Part 3: Programs and Services
Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds
Part 5: Facility Plan
Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System
Part 7: Regional Efforts
Part 8: Data
Part 9: Other Updates
Part 10: Expenditure Summary

PART 1: SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995 (D) (1))

List the subcommittee members, agency affiliation where applicable, and contact information:

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	William Dickinson, Chairman	DickinsonW@kernprobation.org	661-868-4466
Co-Chair (*If Applicable*)	N/A		
District Attorney's Office Representative	Gina Pearl, Deputy District Attorney	GPearl@kernda.org	661-868-2340
Public Defender's Office Representative	Peter Kang, Public Defender	KangP@kerncounty.com	661-868-4770
Department of Social Services Representative	Maria Bermudez, Assistant Director	BermudM@kerndhs.com	661-631-6551
Department of Mental Health	Jennie Sill, System Administrator	JSill@kernbhrs.org	661-868-7807
Office of Education Representative	Debra Plank, Program Director	deplank@kern.org	661-636-4346
Court Representative	Honorable Judge Keenan Perkins	Keenan.Perkins@kern.courts.ca.gov	661-610-6950
Three Community Members (*defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system, or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system" (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b).)*)	Tom Corson, Executive Director Kern County Network for Children (KCNC)	tocorson@kern.org	661-636-4980
	Wesley Davis, President/CEO Wendale Davis Foundation	wdavis@wendaledavisfoundation.org	661-493-0275
	Lois Hannible, Program Manager Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK)	lhannib@capk.org	661-396-8126
Additional Subcommittee Participants			
Community Member	Ucedrah Osby, Chapter President All Of Us or None	aouonbakersfield@gmail.com	

Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):

The subcommittee discussed the AB 505 updates during the 10/18/23 meeting. On March 20, 2024, the subcommittee voted to not add a co-chair to the subcommittee.

Provide the dates of the last two meetings that the subcommittee convened to discuss your county's JJRBG plan?

Meeting Date 1: October 22, 2025 Meeting Date 2: March 4, 2026

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable:

Not applicable. Previously the Subcommittee met on the following dates (in chronological order):

3/12/2025, 10/23/2024, 3/20/2024, 10/18/2023, 3/15/2023, 10/13/2022, 03/16/2022, 10/20/2021, 03/10/2021, 02/24/2021

The subcommittee holds meetings at an average of two (2) per calendar year, typically held in March and October.

Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote.

The plan was approved by majority vote of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Subcommittee on 3/04/2026 and the JJCC on 4/08/2026.

Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b):

Senate Bill 823, which was passed in October 2020, realigned the DJJ (Division of Juvenile Justice) population from the State to the Counties effective July 2021. With the passing of this bill, the SB 823 Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordination Council was created. In February 2021, Kern County finalized their SB 823 plans and Subcommittee, which is open for public attendance and comment. This subcommittee is a collaboration between the Kern County Network for Children, the Wendale Davis Foundation, the Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), All Of Us or None, Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS), several Kern County Departments (Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, Human Services, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services), the Kern County Superior Court, and the public. The subcommittee convenes twice a year per the requirements as outlined in WIC 1995(b) and discusses how best to succeed in providing safety and services to the realigned population, while maximizing their success during their commitment and after their release.

PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995 (D)(1))

Briefly describe the County's realignment target population supported by the block grant.

The "target population" is defined as "youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure* and *shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code." (*Welf. & Inst. Code § *1990(b))

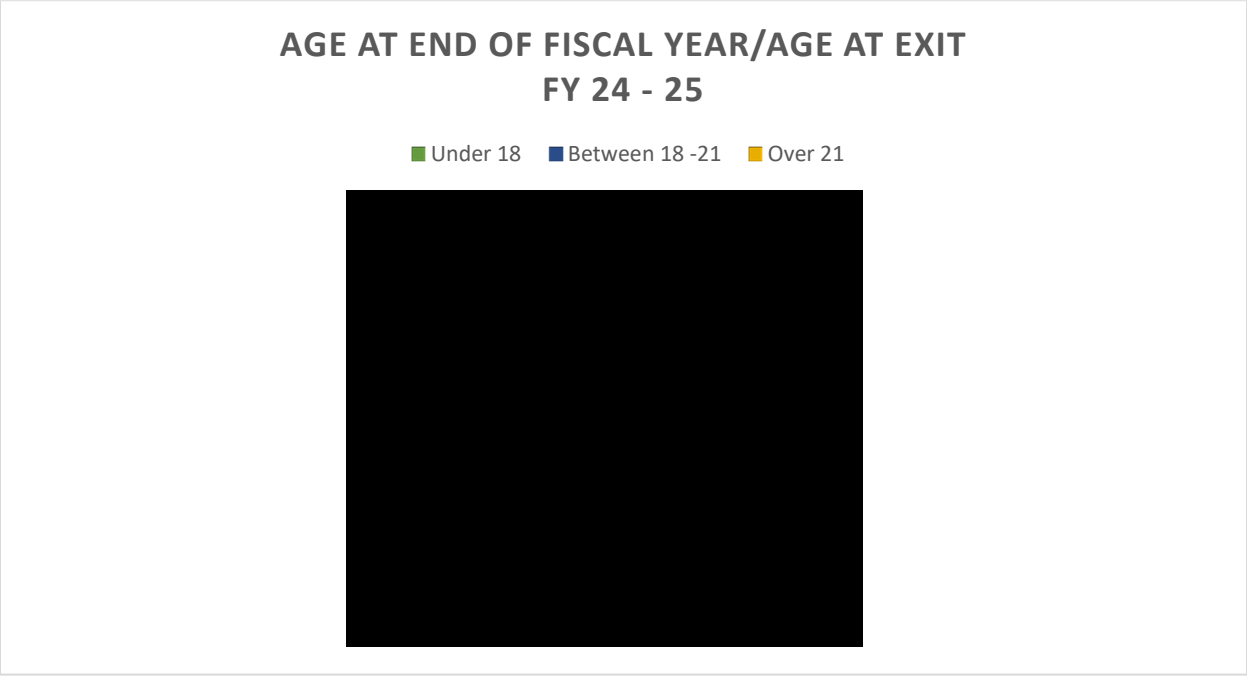
Kern County serves youth whose most recent adjudicated offense is described in WIC 707(b) and is defined under WIC 1990(b), for cases where the Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable, and youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. There are two (2) Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) in Kern. Male youth are housed in the Achievement, Perseverance, and Excellence (APEX) program located inside the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility ("Crossroads"). Female youth are housed in the newly renamed RISE (Recovery, Inspire, Succeed, Empower) Academy within the programming wing in the James G. Bowles Youth Detention Center (YDC).

Demographics of identified target population, including anticipated numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including age, gender, race or ethnicity, and offense/offense history.

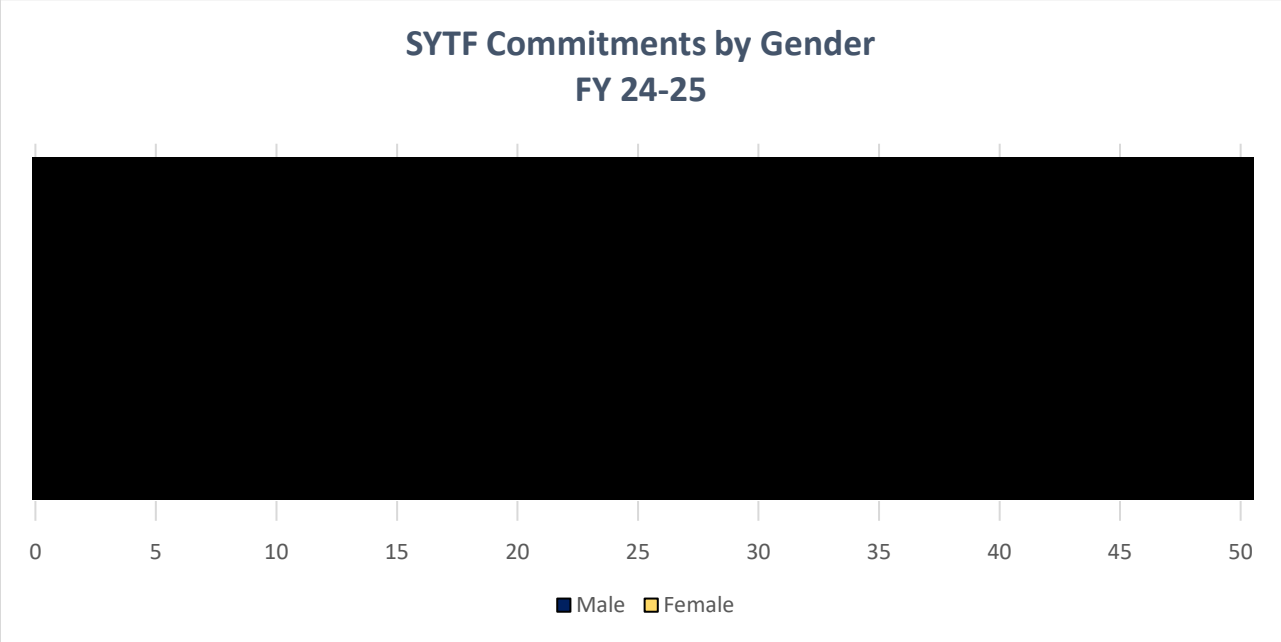
During the fiscal year, Kern County served a total of 49 youth, of which 46 were served in the APEX program. RISE SYTF commitments continue to be low this fiscal year. The demographics for the 49 youth commitments for fiscal year 24-25 are as follows:

- The age range youth were at end of the fiscal year/upon their exit is: [redacted] were under the age of 18, 61% (30) were between the ages of 18 – 21, and [redacted] were over the age of 21. (Graph 1)
- Gender: [redacted] identified as male [redacted] identified as female [redacted]. (Graph 2)
- Race/Ethnicity: 65% (32) identify as Hispanic/Latino/a/x; [redacted]) identify as Black/African American; and [redacted] identify as White. (Graph 3)
- Offense: 39% (19) were committed for Assault; [redacted] were committed for Attempted Homicide; 29% (14) were committed for Homicide; [redacted] were committed for Robbery; and [redacted] were committed for a Sex Offense. (Graph 4)
- Offense History: [redacted] were probation violations, while [redacted] were new law violations [redacted]

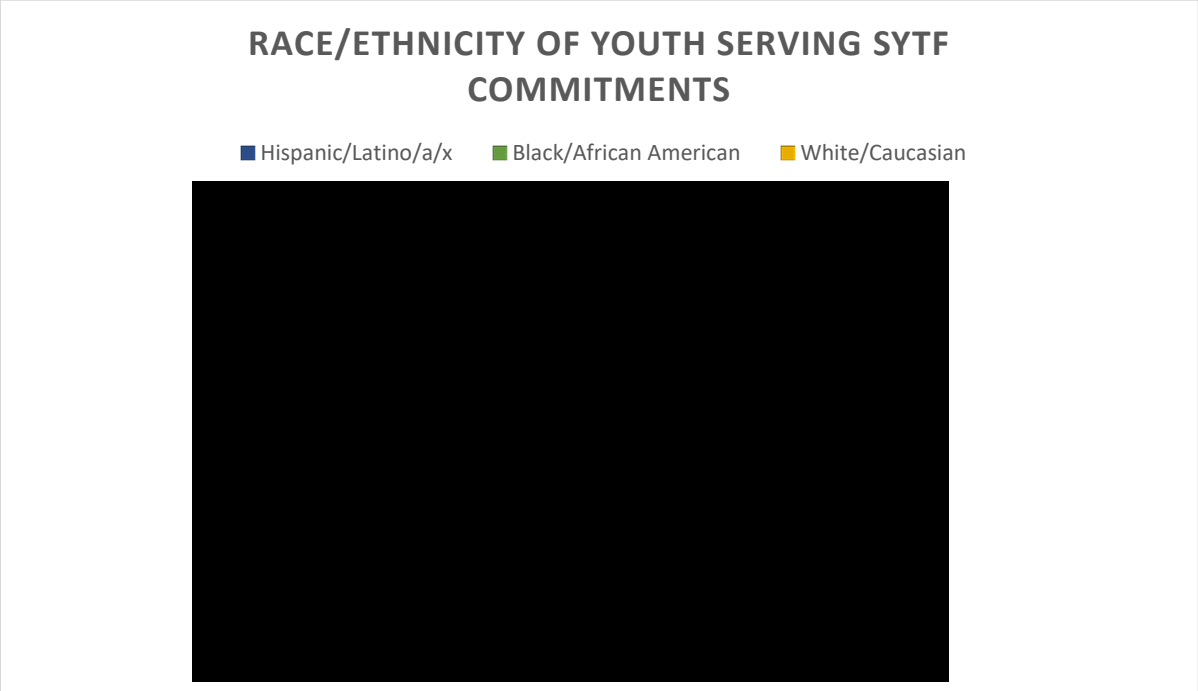
Graph 1:



Graph 2:

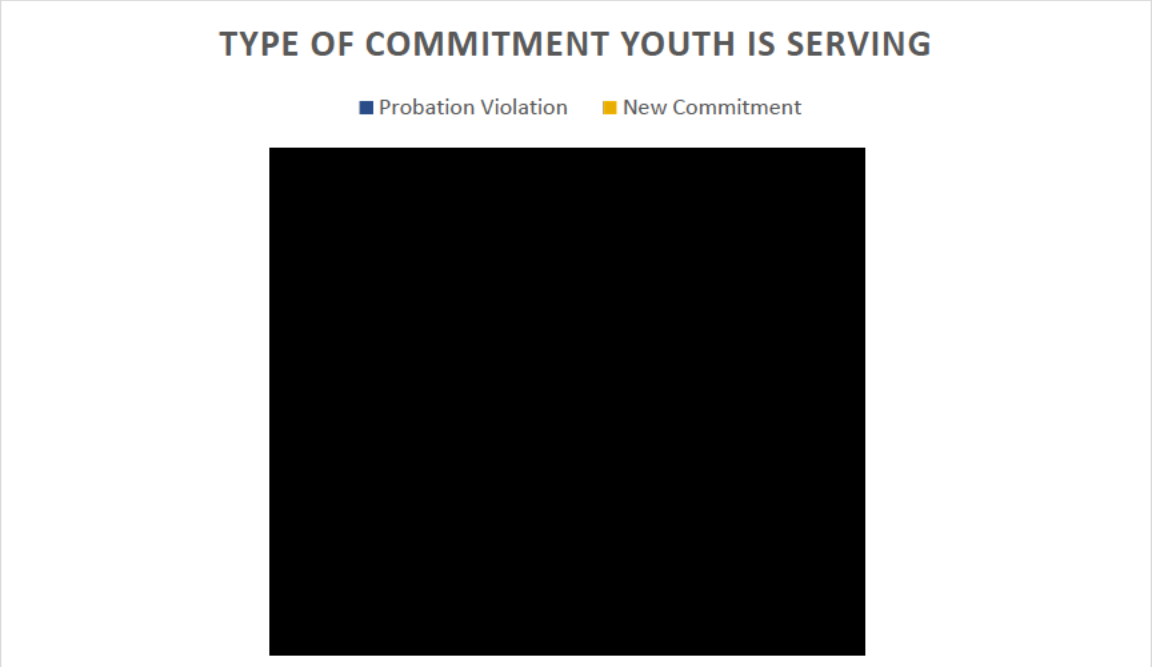


Graph 3:



Graph 4:

Graph 5:



Describe the target population disaggregated by programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.

Disaggregated Data for the Target Population by Placement and Program

In FY 24-25, there were 16 youth adjudicated for a 707(b) offense and committed to a SYTP. The demographics for those youth were as follows:

- [redacted] identified as male, [redacted] identified as female
- [redacted] were under the age of 18, and [redacted] were 18 to 21 years old.
- [redacted] White/Caucasian, [redacted] Hispanic/Latino/a/x, and [redacted] Black/African American
- [redacted] for assault, [redacted] for Homicide, [redacted] for Robbery, and [redacted] for a Sex Offense.

Also, in FY 24-25, there were 40 youth adjudicated for 707(b) offense(s) that resulted in a lower-level intervention. The youth demographics and interventions were as follows:

Demographics

- [redacted] male and [redacted] female
- [redacted] were under the age of 18 and [redacted] were 18 to 21 years old at the time of adjudication
- [redacted] White/Caucasian, 58% (23) Hispanic/Latino/a/x, and 30% (12) Black/African American
- 58% (23) for Assault, [redacted] for Robbery, and [redacted] for Sex Offense

Interventions

- Camp Erwin Owen – [redacted]
- Kern Crossroads Facility– 14
- Youth Detention Center – [redacted]
- Pathways – [redacted]
- Home Supervision – [redacted]
- Work Program – [redacted]
- Transfer to Home County - [redacted]

Several lower-level interventions are available to youth prior to a long-term SYTP commitment being necessary. However, at times the serious nature of the adjudicated offense(s) and consideration for public safety will outweigh the opportunity for youth to be tried in lower-level options. A brief description of the Probation Department's continuum of care is described below:

Out of Custody Referrals for Youth not on Probation Status

Kern County Probation receives hundreds of police reports a month. Each report is reviewed by a Probation Officer or Supervisor to determine what, if any, action will be taken. Referrals to other services or warning letters are sent to parents of youth with no prior record for any report received alleging charges that carry no confinement time and some low-level misdemeanors.

Evidence-Based Screening for Felony and Misdemeanor Referrals

Probation uses the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to screen referred youth for most misdemeanor offenses that carry confinement time. The case planning system was implemented to assist officers in accomplishing four basic objectives:

- Determine the level of risk for re-offending (low, moderate, or high) to prioritize resources to youth at a moderate to high-risk.
- Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior and tailor rehabilitative efforts to address the youth's individualized assessment profiles.
- Develop a case management plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
- Allow case managers to determine if targeted factors change because of the Court's intervention.

The PACT assists in guiding initial decision-making regarding referrals. Dispositions of cases that have been screened by an officer include referrals to the District Attorney for filing or sending a warning letter and relevant referrals to community-based resources. Felony referrals are reviewed by the District Attorney's office. Once on probation status, the PACT case plan is updated regularly by the assigned Probation Officer.

Lower-level Interventions for Youth on Probation Status

Once youth have been adjudged wards of the Juvenile Court, lower-level interventions may be appropriate for redirection prior to consideration for a commitment to a local custodial program. These options include Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) (it should be noted DEJ youth are not adjudged wards at time of DEJ disposition), community service, Juvenile Court Work Program (JCWP), community based behavioral health services, and school-based services. These interventions are typically ordered by the Juvenile Court in conjunction with terms of probation-based supervision of youth while they live at home in the community. Out-of-home placement is an option of last resort for young people whose parent/guardian is unable to properly provide care or where the home is unsafe or unsuitable.

Youth Programs and Supports Unit

Officers can also refer youth for services available at the Probation Department's Youth Programs and Supports Unit (YPS). The mission of YPS is to empower youth by providing support and intensive skill training through evidence-based practices to reduce criminal behavior for a safer community. YPS is designed to offer youth a respectful and safe environment for individualized treatment of criminogenic needs by using evidence-based and cognitive behavioral treatment models with fidelity. The treatment provided promotes accountability, development of attainable goals, and a framework for making positive changes in personal values for increased success and reduced recidivism.

In-Custody Dispositional Options for Intervention

Youth determined to need in-custody treatment can be committed by the Juvenile Court to local custodial commitment programs (Pathways Academy, Camp Erwin Owen, and Kern Crossroads Facility) for one year, serving a portion of that time in custody and the remainder of the time on furlough release. These youth are composed primarily of those who, because of their delinquent level of behavior and risk to reoffend, require in-custody service provision and supervision. Upon release, most youth return to the community under Probation Department supervision. The Probation Department operates five distinct custodial programs on three campuses:

Youth Detention Center (YDC): YDC is a secure detention facility for youth falling under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court with a maximum capacity of 108 youth. Youth detained at YDC are alleged to have committed a law violation and are detained for the protection of themselves and/or community or are serving a short-term Juvenile Court-ordered commitment. The YDC program is structured to provide individual and group activities, behavioral health services and a well-balanced school program. All youth booked into YDC are screened for risk factors associated with Human Trafficking (HT)/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC),

suicidal/self-harming ideation through the MAYSI-II, sexual abuse through the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) questionnaire, and a general health assessment is made.

Camp Erwin Owen (CEO): Camp Erwin Owen is a 65-bed juvenile forestry camp for young men ages 14-18. It is in Kernville, California, and opened in 1938 as an honor and work camp. CEO holds true to that tradition today, as staff and allied agencies provide services which promote discipline, a strong work ethic and individual responsibility. All programming is geared to provide youth with the necessary tools to remain crime free upon their return to the community. Youth attend school participate in evidence-based treatment and contribute to the maintenance of the facility on work crews. The work crews include caring for livestock, such as chickens and pigs, maintaining the garden which produces food for the Dining Hall, as well as being assigned to kitchen, laundry, maintenance, grounds, and community service projects.

Pathways Academy: Located on the YDC campus, Pathways Academy is a structured commitment program for females. Pathways Academy works collaboratively to ensure each youth successfully completes her commitment and makes a smooth transition into the community. At Pathways Academy, staff continuously strive to rehabilitate youth by providing resources to reintegrate youth into the community. Youth are provided with evidence-based services and linked with outside service organizations. They participate in educational programming, receive behavioral health services, and are involved in community service projects.

Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility: The Kern Crossroads Program is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 80 beds. It was created to provide a local institution option for male youth offenders, ages 14-18, in lieu of a Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment. The rehabilitative function of the Kern Crossroads Program relies on a program design that includes evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy, incentives, education, work experience, vocational training, physical education, group living, and a behavioral health counseling component. Youth attend school and participate in vocational/work programs and/or counseling when not in the classroom. The custody portion of the program is a two-tiered, 168-day or 252-day program.

Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation: Located on the YDC campus, Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation is a 30-bed short-term in-custody program designed for youth who are on furlough release from, or pending transfer to Camp Erwin Owen (CEO) or the Kern Crossroads Facility.

Re-Entry, ADA, and Programming Units: All three facility settings have Re-entry, ADA, and Programming Units (RAP). The goals of RAP are to increase programming, improve staff/youth interactions, de-escalate tense situations, reduce use of force incidents, and change facility culture. RAP staff assist youth in their adjustment to a facility by ensuring their individual needs are addressed. RAP staff conduct Pre-Release Meetings to review youth accomplishments, identify available community resources, and present release expectations to render youth ready for successful re-entry into the community. When a youth engages in misconduct, a RAP team member dispatches to assist the youth toward continued participation in regular programming. RAP includes Crisis Awareness Response (CARE) team members who are available to both respond to youth in crisis and to meet regularly with youth to model and encourage pro-social behaviors. Americans with Disability (ADA) accommodations are processed through RAP; they ensure that youth understand program expectations and that staff are aware of the youth's ADA accommodations. A Special Cases List detailing youth under current ADA accommodation is distributed daily. Special Cases Meetings are conducted weekly with facility staff and partners to review ADA accommodations. The RAP staff strive to incorporate industry leading trends in programming to appropriately identify and deliver effective and structured activities to youth. The end goal is for this work to be the sparking catalyst for positive redirection in the youth served.

PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(2))

Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(D)(2) and (d)(8)):

Facility

Kern County will continue to utilize the Kern Crossroads Facility to house male youth and the programming wing, located on the YDC campus, to house female youth. The Kern Crossroads Facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 120 beds. The facility plant is divided into three pods which can house 40 youth in each, separated as two units of 20. One pod is designated for this realigned population. Each housing unit of 20 has 12 individual rooms and four dorms, which can house two individuals in each. Each 20-bed housing unit has a dayroom for structured activities and school, if necessary. It also includes an additional room which can be utilized for visiting, mental health counseling or separation of served groups, as necessary. The physical plant includes a full kitchen with an attached dining hall which can seat up to 60 individuals at a time for meals.

The RISE Academy is part of a single unit on the YDC campus and consists of 18 single occupancy rooms, 1 double occupancy room and a dorm room. The unit has a day room for structured activities and programming as well as an additional conference-size room used for groups and other activities separate from the day room. The physical plant includes a full kitchen where meals are prepared and served in the unit.

Youth Supervision

To provide rehabilitation services to these youth, safety and security must be a core tenant. Youth will thrive when they feel safe and secure. Youth Services Officers (YSO) provide this population with supervision and guidance in day-to-day activities. They are trained in both de-escalation techniques as well as Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) and defensive tactics. A philosophy of “accountability and opportunity” combined with “coach vs. referee” is employed in daily supervision efforts. Youth are held accountable for misbehavior but also provided with an opportunity to redirect their negative behavior. A Program Specialist and Deputy Probation Officer are also housed on site for case management and re-entry purposes.

Re-Entry, ADA, and Programming Units

RAP is available to youth housed within each facility. These units have staff dedicated to providing additional programming to youth in custody, assisting with crisis intervention, and providing an array of services outside of the normal supervision duties of direct youth supervision line staff. RAP staff will be on-site during programming hours to provide emotional support to youth, initiate daily structured programming to encourage youths’ active participation in their treatment program and support adolescent development, as well as to provide quality control for programming and activities within the institution. Additionally, RAP staff will be involved from the arrival of youth into the facility through the Pre-Release Meeting to ensure the successful progression of the case plan while in custody and providing linkage to resources for transition upon release into the community.

Medical Services

Medical services are provided through an agreement with Kern Medical, who provides on-site staff for 12 hours

each day to meet medical, dental, and vision-related needs of the youth. Emergency and after-hours services are provided through Kern Medical Hospital. For families with private insurance, arrangements can be made to transport youth to those providers' offices.

Behavioral Health Services

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) is the primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. KernBHRS provides an array of evidence-based and best-practice group programs as well as individual therapeutic interventions. For complete details regarding behavioral health services, please refer to that section within Part 4 of this plan.

Educational Program

Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) will continue to operate the on-site educational program. The school consists of a school office, probation office, four classrooms, a Learning Center, library, woodshop area, and multi-use outdoor covered workshop area. Youth within the program have access to Redwood High School for continued education until they graduate or complete an equivalency course. Redwood High School serves students in a six-class rotation. The courses offered include English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Careers, and W.I.N. (What I Need). Also offered is a Learning Center for youth with an Individualized Education Program. In addition, students will have an opportunity to enroll in Culinary Arts and Construction Classes. The Construction Class provides students with basic construction skills including wood working and electrical wiring. Students may also receive certification in CPR, First Aid, OSHA-10, ServSafe, Forklift Safety, virtual welding, guest services and hospitality, and the Switch Electric Car Lab Program.

Students will have access to a Career Readiness class that provides opportunities for students to develop career ready skills and explore possible career paths that serve their interests and strengths. Industry has indicated that possessing strong "soft skills" directly correlates with workplace success. Additionally, students may participate in field trips to local college campuses, will be offered one-stop college registration and testing conducted at the Redwood High campus, and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) workshops will be made available to parents and guardians. A-G courses for students who desire advanced courses will also be available in the lab.

Students who have completed High School will have the opportunity to enroll in local colleges or vocational schools. Depending on the youth's security level, they will be able to attend classes online with on-site instructors or possibly attend courses outside the facility if hands-on participation is required and the youth is deemed suitable for this level of responsibility. Youth who have demonstrated a high level of competence in an individual area and are eligible for a less restrictive environment and a lower level of supervision may be eligible for placement within the community for educational, vocational, apprenticeships, internships, or skills development training. Probation has initiated contact with California State University Bakersfield's (CSUB) Project Rebound and will continue to develop a relationship with them to facilitate services and opportunities for youth. A high school graduation ceremony was held on June 6, 2025, and [redacted] youth from APEX graduated. Through the assistance of a program specialist and other facility staff, APEX youth continue to receive assistance with obtaining vital documents, written driver permit testing, completing voter registration, opening bank accounts, and employment opportunities through paid internships. Probation continues to partner with Bakersfield College (BC) for youth participation in college courses through the Rising Scholars Program. Courses offered during the 2025 school year were Introduction to Criminal Justice, Personality Types and Difficult Relationships, Collaborating and Team Building, Best Practices in Customer Services, and Sociology of Race and Ethnicity.

Vocational Training

In addition to the programs referenced in the Educational Program section, youth will have access to work-based programs to enhance life skills and transitional opportunities upon release into the community. Examples of which include:

ServSafe: Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate, which is current for two years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.

General Maintenance/Landscaping: Youth will work with both the maintenance and landscape coordinating staff to learn life skills in these areas. Youth learn skills such as equipment operation, tool use, landscaping, lawn care, tree pruning, plumbing repair, painting, floor care, electrical, power washing, etc.

WESTEC: Youth earn certificates in Forklift, Confined Space, and requirements designed to translate to work in the oilfield, warehouse, or construction industry. This course is typically 2 weeks in length and the certificates translate to real world opportunities.

Department of Rehabilitation, Students with Disabilities Assistance (DOR): Probation has discussed opportunities for youth services through the DOR. Part of the re-entry plan for youth with disabilities may include referrals to DOR to establish a connection and help transition youth into industries and occupations that can train them for future employment.

Bakersfield College (BC): With assistance from KCSOS, Probation has partnered with BC to provide Automobile Detailing and HVAC onsite training. Youth who received certificates in Automotive Detailing continued to provide the service throughout 2025. Currently, BC is developing a Wildland Fire Job Skills Certificate Program which is scheduled to launch in Summer 2026.

Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS): The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) donated equipment, including 6 golf carts that will be renovated with the assistance of partner agency KCSOS. The donation led to the development and implementation of an APEX Automotive class which involves hands on training across multiple automotive systems including tires, suspension, alignment, and other mechanical components.

Paid Internships: Probation continues to partner with the Kern Community Foundation's Bakersfield Youth Jobs Program – Nonprofit Internship to provide paid internship opportunities for youth. Participants complete up to 400 hours of paid work experience at a rate of $18 per hour. Internship placements include The Garden Church, Community Action Plan of Kern (CapK) - Food Bank, and Garden Pathways. [redacted] youth successfully completed internships during the last year. These internships are initiated while youth are still on-site and continue when youth step down or complete their baseline term.

Volunteer Services

Probation has a dedicated department-level Volunteer Services Coordinator position specifically to develop relationships with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to access services for the department in general and for youth within facilities. In addition, within each facility's RAP unit, there is a site-specific Volunteer Coordinator. The site-specific Volunteer Coordinator directly monitors volunteer activities at the facility,

explores volunteer programs, bolsters existing programming to meet unmet programming needs, explores new/additional ways for youth to serve the community, services as the direct liaison between the facility and volunteers, and works closely with the department-level Volunteer Services Coordinator in every capacity needed. Additionally, the Coordinator will answer all questions from volunteers to help them provide the best quality of service for young people. Recent collaborations for life skill groups and mentoring have included The Wendale Davis Foundation, Stay Focused Ministries, Garden Pathways, Community Action Partnerships of Kern (CapK), George Vasquez, Fanny Hernandez, Compassion Christian Center, Tommy's Legacy, the Outsiders, Child Guidance Center and the Arts Council of Kern. The Arts Council of Kern has partnered with APEX for a year and has expanded the program to include Crossroads. They have received funding through the California Resources Corporation to Support the Art for Rehabilitation Program. They will now be onsite five days a week and will further expand the Crossroads programs. Some activities provided by the Arts Council include music creation, journaling, graphic expression, and photography.

Cooperation with faith-based organizations has traditionally been strong. Entities such as Bethany Center, Teen Challenge, Youth for Christ, Symbols of Hope, New Hope Ministries, and Catholic Services will provide opportunities for youth seeking religious fulfillment from their program. In many cases, these services continue once youth are released from the facility into the community. Youth are free to exercise their individual religious liberties as they choose, with safety and security in mind.

Other Unidentified Contracted Specialized Programs and Services

As we move forward with this population, it is recognized that service and programming gaps will likely be discovered. These may be vocational, recreational, treatment or another area. Probation will address these service gaps through contracted services, volunteer-based partnerships, and collaborative agency workgroups to help leverage resources and direct services based on the needs of the realigned population. Probation staff have implemented a positive behavior based inter-facility sports program allowing youth to compete amongst each other with staff as coaches and team elected captains shouldering many leadership responsibilities at practices and games. Within our RAP unit we have a "Sports Boss" designation, who in addition to providing youth supervision, coordinates structured PE activities, tournament preparation and coordinates cross unit and facility competitions. CEO has hosted Crossroads flag football and softball competitions. Separately, Crossroads/APEX have competed amongst each other in multiple competitions including flag football, volleyball, and soccer.

Updates since May 1, 2025

[redacted] youth committed to the APEX Academy successfully completed a certified mentoring course through Garden Pathways. These youth now provide mentoring services to youth committed to both the Crossroads program and APEX Academy.

[redacted] APEX Academy youth graduated from the MC3 Pre-Apprenticeship Readiness Training Program. Having graduated from the program, [redacted] youth obtained the necessary certifications to seek employment in the building and construction trades.

[redacted] APEX Academy youth that previously completed internships and entered a Less Restrictive Program [redacted] obtained paid employment. [redacted] are participating in apprenticeships through the Arts Council of Kern while [redacted] youth obtained full-time employment with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools.

[redacted] separate youth from the APEX Academy that previously completed internships at The Garden Church, were invited to continue as part-time volunteers.

PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995 (D)(3))

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):

Probation has contracted with Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) as the primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. KernBHRS provides an array of evidence-based and best-practice group programs as well as individual therapeutic interventions. Further exploration and implementation of programs best suited for this population will be an ongoing priority. KCSOS oversees the provision of Education Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) and there will be ongoing communication and collaboration with KernBHRS regarding youth plans and service overlap. Psychiatric medication management will continue with KernBHRS psychiatrists. KernBHRS will continue to assist in the transition from custody plans related to behavioral health services post-release, bridging connections to appropriate levels of care for which youth are eligible, ranging from specialty care such as Transitional Age Youth (TAY Team), Youth Wraparound, and Youth Multi-Agency Integrated Services Team (MIST Team); to lower levels of care with contracted outpatient clinics: Clarvida, Clinica Sierra Vista, and Child Guidance Clinic.

KernBHRS Services

The goal of the behavioral health services offered will be to assist youth in their recovery from intergenerational trauma and substance use in efforts to reduce recidivism, increase pro-social attitudes and behavior, and develop a health sense of community. KernBHRS integrates evidence-based approaches with best practices within the field to serve the needs of youth and their families. The program will incorporate assessment, treatment planning, case management, individual and group services, and intensive family services. Mental Health services are tailored to individualized needs, with a strong focus on healing, recovery, and healthier pattens of thoughts and behavior. Youth will be assigned to a mental health skills trainer, who actively implements individualized treatment plans, monitors youth progress for effectiveness, and modifies treatment as clinical needs evolve. When behavioral health accommodation needs are identified, Kern BHRS coaches the family and Probation staff on how to effectively assist in helping rehabilitate youth who present with symptoms that require more specific, intensified care.

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services currently offers the following services to youth housed within the facility who are committed to the Crossroads and APEX program.

Mental Health Assessment and Diagnosis: Upon arrival to the facility, KernBHRS Team provides a comprehensive clinical behavioral health assessment, focusing on 7 domains: Presenting Concerns and Identified Impairments; Trauma; Behavioral Health History; Medical and Medication History; Social/Life Circumstances, Strengths, and Risk Factors; and Clinical Summary/Diagnosis. Tools used during assessment include the following: Mental Status Exam (MSE), Child and Adolescence Needs and Strengths (CANS), Pediatric Symptoms Checklist (PSC-35), Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7), and Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9). The purpose of assessment and tools is to identify current behavioral health needs, create an Individualized Treatment Plan and initiate services aligned with this plan. Treatment plan recommendations are shared with Probation at their Multi-Disciplinary Initial Assessment Meetings, where treatment information is included in youth's case plan for overall programming.

Psychiatric Evaluation: When clinically indicated, youth are offered a Psychiatric Evaluation service to evaluate appropriateness of medication support to treat symptoms. The Psychiatric Evaluation is completed by a KernBHRS Psychiatrist. Youth prescribed medications will continue to meet with the psychiatrist for medication management services, as often as clinically determined to be necessary.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-Based Interventions (CBT): This is an evidenced-based treatment model that helps individuals learn and change destructive thought patterns that have a negative influence on behavior and emotions. Core principles include targeting unhelpful ways of thinking and behavior, learning to recognize distortions, using problem-solving skills to cope with difficult situations and developing a greater sense of confidence in capability to achieve goals. This has been demonstrated effectively for a range of problems including depression, anxiety, alcohol, and drug use. Youth are offered skills and therapy services based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

Dialectic Behavioral Therapy Approach Skills Training: This is an evidenced-based treatment model developed by Marsha Linehan, based in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, designed to improve acceptance, emotional reactivity, mood regulation, social skills, relationships, distress tolerance and addiction. Adolescents are taught up to 32 skills from the 5 core DBT modules that guide treatment: Core Mindfulness, Interpersonal Effectiveness, Emotional Regulation, Distress Tolerance, Addictions. These skills are taught, reviewed, and coached throughout the week as needed to support reintegration back into the community. This service is offered in the form of group and individual services.

Forward Thinking Journal Series: This service is primarily offered to APEX program. It incorporates cognitive-behavioral evidenced-based strategies to assist juvenile justice involved youth with making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors to support responsible and pro-social living. Skill building session plans are based in 9 sections: What Got Me Here, Individual Change Plans, Responsible Behavior, Handling Difficult Feelings, Relationships and Communication, Victim Awareness, Substance Use Behaviors, Family, and Reentry Planning. This service is offered in the form of group and individual services, each section ranging from 8-12 weekly sessions.

Seeking Safety: This is an integrated model that addresses both trauma and substance use through cognitive, behavioral, and interpersonal domains, with a strong focus on safe coping. Seeking safety refers to helping clients free themselves from negative behaviors, freeing themselves from trauma at a deep emotional level and can help break the cycle that brings them back to addiction. This treatment helps to teach self-nurturing skills, asking for help from safe people, recovery thinking, rehearsing compassion and honesty, and utilizing community resources that will help individuals seek and maintain safety and recovery out in the community. This service is offered in the form of group and individual services.

Suicide Risk Assessment and Monitoring: The Zero Suicide model is a multi-level approach to implement evidenced based practices to address suicide. This includes suicide risk assessment, interventions to increase safety, teaching coping strategies and increasing contact and monitoring of high-risk individuals during transitions in care and high-risk periods. The individual's assigned clinician will complete a suicide risk assessment at beginning of treatment, and every 30 days after, using the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), which measures current and past suicidal ideation, attempts, preparatory behavior, deliberate and non-deliberate self-harm, and non-suicidal self-injury. APEX and RISE Team will intensify services and safety plans as needed based on these ongoing assessments.

Family Services: Involvement of family is central to effective treatment and provides opportunity to address both risk factors and protective factors of the family. Family sessions are offered to increase family support,

engagement, and skill usage within the family system. Family systems are integral to a youth's successful return into the community. It is encouraged for families to participate and be involved in their child's treatment. Services are based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy interventions and include Family-inclusive skill building service and Family therapy.

Bridges to Connection/Success: Warm connections with community resources and outpatient providers are essential to continuity of care following release from APEX program. KernBHRS APEX Team supports successful reintegration by bridging youth connections with outpatient behavioral health services aligned with their current needs. KernBHRS coordinates with outpatient teams to conduct warm clinical hand-offs and introductions with youth pre-release to better prepare youth for their transition out into the community. Youth and families are provided resources for shelter, transportation, medical, food, education, independent living, support groups, support/crisis lines, mentoring, and more. APEX team works collaboratively with youth, families, probation, contracted mental health providers, and partnering agencies to reconnect youth to their communities, and support their successful reintegration.

KernBHRS offers the following services periodically, based on clinical need:

24/7 Dad (12-weeks, 12-sessions): Focuses on parenting skills, children's life skills, and family life. The 24/7 Dad program is based on five principles, which are: how we parent successfully or unsuccessfully in a largely learned set of behaviors, father and mother parents have two different distinct approaches to parenting, there are universal aspects of fathering and parenting that exist in all cultures, and any father, given the chance, can learn to be a great dad and parent. The goal is to increase positive parenting skills, involvement, responsibility, and commitment to their children and the mother of their children.

Contracted Specialized Services for Youth

Stages of Accomplishment (Juveniles who Sexually Offended (JwSO)): This model addresses the evaluation and rehabilitation of inappropriate sexual behavior in adolescence. This treatment consists of four inter-related workbooks that take youth through a series of guided exercises that help them learn about themselves and why they are in treatment, understand their feelings, attitudes and ideas that have contributed to these behaviors, understand the impact of their behavior on others, and build empathy and healthy relationships. This service is offered in the form of individual services.

Programs and Services for Females: Female youth from Kern had historically been committed to DJJ programs at low rates. Female youth programming is known to be better in an environment where there is additional like-gender youth that can program together. To support that environment, the female youth in the SYTP commitment program are housed with other females within the Pathways Academy. An individualized case plan is developed for each youth to meet their needs and tailored for longer-term care. It is prudent to ensure all youth have optimal opportunities to be placed in a program that best suits their needs.

KernBHRS Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services (JPPS) Team offers the following services for female youth who are housed at the Youth Detention Center through a Secure Youth Treatment Program (SYTP) commitment:

Aggression Replacement Training: ART is a group therapy approach and is based in Cognitive Behavioral Theory. This evidenced-based model is designed for youth to help to support and learn prosocial skills, moral reasoning, and reduction of aggressive behavior. The group typically meets three times per week for 10 weeks and is offered periodically.

Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT): MRT is a group therapy approach. It is a systematic, cognitive-behavioral, step by step treatment strategy designed to enhance self-image, promote growth of a positive, productive identity, and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning. MRT will be offered once a week and will be ongoing until the client achieves a minimum of "Step 7" in her moral reasoning development but can continue up to "Step 16" in her development of moral reasoning.

Female SYTP youth also receive assessment, medication management, risk assessment, family services, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-based interventions, and Seeking Safety services as outlined above.

Trauma Informed Care Based Approach
Kern County Probation is dedicated to a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) based approach. The first part of TIC in the Juvenile Justice System is to recognize that most of the effective youth have experienced trauma in their lives. The next step is to put policies in place which attempt to minimize the potential for re-traumatization. Providing services and outlets to address trauma through both treatment and positive staff interactions is also key. Ongoing training will be a priority to ensure the permanency of these practices. To support ongoing training efforts, one Senior Youth Services Officer will be dedicated to the Training unit. This staff will assist in researching and coordinating formal and informal training for the Department and collaborative partners, with a primary focus on emerging TIC and behavioral health-minded approaches to staff/youth interactions to supplement and enhance current training efforts already in place.

Updates since May 1, 2025

The CRAFFT (Car, Relax, Alone, Forget, Friends, Trouble) is a health screening tool designed to identify substance use, substance-related riding/driving risk, and substance use disorder among youth ages 12-21. The Kern Probation Department has begun utilizing the CRAFFT to identify youth who may be struggling with a substance use disorder to better assist in connecting them to specialized help.

During 2025, there were fifty Advanced Seeking Safety group sessions completed, and thirty Forward Thinking group sessions completed. All APEX Academy youth continued to be offered individual services at minimum weekly, while some youth who were further along in their treatment and stable received bi-weekly individual services.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):

Youth will have access to a variety of programs and services designed to promote healthy adolescent behavior. Some of the specific evidence-based, pro-social, and best-practice programs related to this area are more fully described in the behavioral health section of Part 4 of this plan. In addition to those, other services directed at health adolescent development will include volunteer-based, education, recreational, redirection, and vocational based programs and supports.

Volunteer Services

Probation has a dedicated department-level Volunteer Services Coordinator position specifically for developing relationships with Community Based Organizations to access services for the department in general and for youth within facilities. Examples of volunteer programs designed to promote health adolescent development are as follows:

Garden Pathways Youth on a Mission Program: Probation partners with Garden Pathways to bring their Youth on a Mission Program to the realigned population. Youth participate in the 10-week program, which focuses on skill building in the areas of leadership development and goal setting. The curriculum is designed to be facilitated in custody, with a significant emphasis on re-entry follow-up and application of the skills learned while on community supervision.

Arts Council of Kern: APEX Creative Economies Program has provided youth with creative outlets and hands on videography and music compilation in the direction of a professional video producer and local music artists. Drawing and journaling are also offered through the program.

Educational and Vocational Services

In addition to the provision of traditional core secondary and post-secondary education, this realigned population will be able to receive additional training and skill building in specific fields. Healthy adolescent development includes the development of skills that support independence, responsibility, and work ethics. Some examples of these program types include:

ServSafe: Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate which is good for two years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.

General Maintenance/Landscaping: Youth will work with both the maintenance and landscape coordinating staff to learn life skills in these areas. Youth will learn skills such as equipment operation, tool use, landscaping, lawn care, tree pruning, plumbing repair, painting, floor care, electrical, power washing, etc.

Westec: Youth will earn certificates in Forklift usage, Confined Space, and requirements designed to translate to work in the oilfield, warehouse, or construction industry. This course is typically two weeks in length and the certificates translate to real world opportunities.

Department of Rehabilitation, Students with Disabilities assistance (DOR): Probation has discussed opportunities for youth services through the DOR. Part of the re-entry plan for youth with disabilities may include referrals to DOR to establish a connection and help transition youth into industries and occupations that can train them for future employment.

Bakersfield College: With assistance from KCSOS, Probation has partnered with BC to provide Automobile Detailing and HVAC onsite training. Youth who received certificates in Automotive Detailing continued to provide the service throughout 2025. Currently, BC is developing a Wildland Fire Job Skills Certificate Program which is scheduled to launch in Summer 2026.

Paid Internships: Probation continues to partner with the Kern Community Foundation's Bakersfield Youth Jobs Program – Nonprofit Internship to provide paid internship opportunities for youth. Participants complete up to 400 hours of paid work experience at a rate of $18 per hour. Internship placements include The Garden Church, Community Action Plan of Kern (CapK) - Food Bank, and Garden Pathways. [redacted] youth successfully completed internships during the last year. These internships are initiated while youth are still on-site and continue when youth step down or complete their baseline term.

Re-entry, ADA, and Programming Units

The Re-entry, ADA, and Programming (RAP) unit has specific staff positions whose purpose is to help support healthy adolescent development, both through redirection and provision of support to guide better decision making. Some of those positions and services within the RAP unit are as follows:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator: The ADA Coordinator runs Special Cases Meetings, monitors the Special Cases List to ensure accuracy, conducts quality control of the documentation in unit binders, follows up with staff to ensure accommodations are understood and being followed, serves as an ADA liaison with our partnering agencies and other Probation divisions, and evaluates ADA training needs for the facility. The ADA Coordinator will ensure youths' accommodations are communicated during intake, initial assessment, school, and Pre-Release Meetings. The ADA Coordinator will work closely with the School Coordinator to ensure information regarding educational accommodation is received and documented.

Special Cases Meeting (SCM): The SCM attendees including representatives from school, behavioral health, medical, and Probation staff. The primary goal of the SCM is to discuss challenges youth may have while programming, specifically detailing their ADA accommodations. The ADA Coordinator records minutes and disseminates information to unit staff to assist youth supervision.

Volunteer Coordinator: Within the facility's RAP unit, there is a site-specific Volunteer Coordinator. The site-specific Volunteer Coordinator directly monitors volunteer activities at the facility to explore volunteer programs, bolster existing programming and meet unmet programming needs. The Volunteer Coordinator serves as the direct liaison between the facility and volunteers.

Programming Coordinator: The Programming Coordinator directly monitors programming in the facility to determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of existing programming, works closely with partnering agencies to assure our mission and goals are understood, research new programming, technology, and industry trends in facility programming.

Crisis Awareness Response (CARE) Team Members: The CARE Team consists of all members of the RAP team. CARE Team members will respond to youth in crisis to de-escalate situations before they deteriorate further. The CARE Team will motivate youth to interact in the program and counsel youth who need re-direction. All CARE Team members will work shifts that allow the most accessibility to the programming needs of youth. CARE Team members will be present in the units to lead structured activities, engage youth individually when appropriate, build rapport, and gain knowledge about youth to assist with de-escalating future incidents that may occur. Not being part of direct youth supervision staffing ratios will allow CARE Team members to respond directly to incidents without delay.

Alternative Program (AP): Alternative Program (AP) will be a sanction used to address all levels of youth misconduct. Youth who receive AP will not participate in regular recreational programming and will remain in the defined AP area, typically a separate dayroom. RAP staff will facilitate AP and document youth participation. The ADA Coordinator will document youth with ADA accommodations who were placed in AP. All youth in AP will complete any interventions, educational assignments, or Cognitive Behavioral Health Therapy (CBT) assignments during their AP time. Complete interventions and assignments will be reviewed by staff and discussed with the youth. Longer AP periods, which may be given for high level misconduct, may require several Core Correctional Practices (CCP) interventions, educational or CBT assignments over the course of the AP period.

SYTF Baseline Reduction Matrix

Pursuant to WIC 875(e)(1) the court may order that a youth's baseline term be modified downward by a reduction of confinement time not to exceed six months for each review period. The SYTP Baseline Reduction Matrix is designed to encourage and reinforce positive behaviors, identify program progress, and provide a system to appropriately calculate reductions to baseline terms. The Matrix consists of five phases; each phase contains a list of objectives and goals that focus on education, programming and treatment, and each phase includes a maximum number of days earned that may be deducted from a baseline term. The level of responsibility increases as the phases progress and the maximum number of days earned also increases as the phases progress. Youth who do not complete or meet the objectives and goals of a phase will not progress to the next phase or if appropriate, may be required to repeat a previous phase. A report is prepared for the Court prior to every review hearing that summarizes the youth's progress and when earned, provides a recommendation for baseline term reduction.

Youth Council

The purpose of Youth Council is to maintain an open line of communication between staff and youth, evaluate and improve facility programming, and give Youth Council members an opportunity to learn valuable leadership and diplomacy skills. Youth Council offers representation for youth in all housing units and provides a venue for ideas, issues, and concerns to be discussed and resolved. Youth are expected to communicate facility expectations back to other youth in their designated housing units to ensure harmonious operations. Youth who have an active role in this process often have a positive impact on how the youth population responds to facility rules and policy changes. Youth Council convenes monthly with [redacted] youth representatives from each of the APEX units included.

Other Unidentified Contracted Specialized Services

As we move forward with this population it is recognized that service gaps will likely be discovered. Some of these may be related to the need for additional support and services to help further promote healthy adolescent development. Probation will address these service gaps through contracted services, volunteer-based partnerships, and collaborative agency workgroups to help leverage resources and direct services based on the needs of the realigned population.

Updates since May 1, 2025

The Kern County Probation Department applied for an OJJDP FY25 grant to implement evidence-based programming aimed at reducing recidivism among justice involved female youth. The proposal requests funding for virtual reality skills training, creative arts therapy, interactive smart boards for curriculum delivery, and physical wellness programming to address the unique delinquency variables experienced by female youth and improve their outcomes upon reentry.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):

Youth will have access to groups designed to enhance the transition back to the community and maintain a strong family unit. Bolstering a robust, sturdy family unit will be a core concept in the program. Family members are preferred to be involved in every step of youths' programs and transitions back into the community. The more involved the family is in the treatment experience, the better the understanding, respect, and trust to solidify the successful return to the community will be.

Visiting

Regular visiting will be accessible to parents or legal guardians to continue and further develop family ties. Visiting will be accessible at the facilities, either in person or remotely through virtual conferencing. Consideration will be given to expand visiting options to include additional family members, such as siblings, grandparents, spiritual advisers, and mentors. As the youth progress through the program, they may earn the privilege to expand their visiting list to close friends who serve as constructive influences. For youth who are parents, opportunities will be available for regular baby visits. Youth will have onsite visits with their children and typically their parent(s)/guardian(s). Future baby visits may include both the youth and the other parent to allow for family unity. Suitability for this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Probation has established a committee to address the widely held belief that visiting and telephone communication parameters need to be widened to include extended family members, siblings, and significant others. Taking into consideration the number of APEX youth over the age of 18 adds to this need.

Video Conferencing Calls

For youth who do not receive visits for a week, web – based audio/video application Zoom is available. Such technology also allows the youth to spend valuable, pro social time with family members and positive influences.

Special Events and Engagements

Youth who are progressing strongly through their program and meet the criteria may be eligible for passes to attend life events such as graduations, births, and funeral services. On-site picnics will be available to youth doing well in the program who attain certain goals and annually for their birthday. During high school graduation ceremonies, family and friends of the graduates are invited to attend, the APEX Honor Guard presents the National Colors, a meal is prepared by facility kitchen staff and served to those in attendance and graduation pictures are provided to families.

Family Engagement Programs

Youth and families will have access to several programs intended to increase family engagement and further strengthen and support existing family bonds. Some examples of such programs are as follows:

24/7 Dad (12-weeks, 12-sessions): Focuses on parenting skills, children's life skills, and family life. The 24/7 Dad program is based on five principles, which are: how we parent successfully or unsuccessfully in a largely learned set of behaviors, father and mother parents have two different distinct approaches to parenting, there are universal aspects of fathering and parenting that exist in all cultures, and any father, given the chance can learn to be a great dad and parent. The goal is to increase positive parenting skills, involvement, responsibility, and commitment to their children and the mother of their children.

Family Services: Involvement of family is central to effective treatment and provides opportunity to address both risk factors and protective factors of the family. Family sessions are offered to increase family support, engagement, and skill usage within the family system. Family systems are integral to a youth's successful return into the community. It is encouraged for families to participate and be involved in their youth's treatment. Services are based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy interventions and include family-inclusive skill building and family therapy.

Updates since May 1, 2025

[redacted] youth committed to the APEX Academy successfully completed paid internships. [redacted] have since obtained paid apprenticeships while [redacted] obtained full-time employment with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):

Re-entry Supports

The average length of stay at DJJ was approximately 28 months. It is anticipated that it will remain similar moving forward with the development of sentencing structures for local commitments. The APEX Baseline Incentive Matrix will assist in identifying any appropriate reductions to the baseline term. Many of the youth will not have been out of custody and in the community as an adult prior to release. Based on their ages, there will also no longer be a legal obligation for parental care and custody. It is anticipated there will be a variety of tangible needs to help the release transition be more successful. Some examples of potential tangible needs may include food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and educational support. In addition, upon release there will be an occasional need for housing support, whether through a sober living home or another temporary housing option, therefore funds will be set aside for these anticipated unplanned needs. Funds will be designated to support efforts in this area which may lead to development of contracts with Community-Based Organizations and other support focused entities. A Youth Day Reporting Center (YDRC) was opened in March of 2024 to provide services for youth. The YDRC is now providing cognitive behavioral health counseling/training, reentry services, drug/alcohol testing, and case management.

Re-Entry Coordinator APEX Program Specialist

The Re-Entry Coordinator will directly coordinate all details of youth being released from commitments to address both custody and community needs upon release, coordinate services with all of our partnering agencies, oversee Pre-Release Meetings, act as the facility liaison for assigned Probation Officers, facilitate connections with outside entities (Social Security Office, Post Office for draft registration, DMV for ID or CDL, birth certificates, Medi-Cal, etc.), and maintain a presence in the facility to build rapport with youth and determine any special interests or skills to be further encouraged through community referrals. The Re-Entry Coordinator will assist youth with obtaining internships and vocational training with support from the Department of Rehabilitation. Additionally, youths will be assisted with obtaining bank accounts. Lastly, the Re-Entry Coordinator has been certified to assist youths with certain court orders.

In addition to the above mentioned educational and vocational services, Kern County Probation has started collaborating with the Amity Foundation on a workforce development program. This program will help Probation recruit and retain a full-time Workforce Development Navigator (WDN) position. The WDN will identify and engage potential at-risk youths between the ages of 14-25 with physical or mental impairments, in the juvenile system. Once identified, the WDN will refer to the Amity Foundation to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment. The individualized plan will support youths' goals toward employment and assist in monitoring success in the program. During the year 2025, [redacted] APEX youth were connected to the Workforce Development Navigator, with [redacted] youth successfully connecting and engaging with Dreamcatchers. Dreamcatchers provide employment services to youth with disabilities who are currently incarcerated or on probation.

Vocational Training

Youth will access to work-based programs to enhance life skills and transitional opportunities upon release into the community. Examples of which include:

ServSafe: Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate which is good for two years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.

General Maintenance/Landscaping: Youth will work with both the maintenance and landscape coordinating staff to learn life skills in these areas. Youth learn skills such as equipment operation, tool use, landscaping, lawn care, tree pruning, plumbing repair, painting, floor care, electrical, power washing, etc.

Westec: Youth will earn certificates in Forklift usage, Confined Space, and requirements designed to translate to work in the oilfield, warehouse, or construction industry. This course is typically two weeks in length and the certificates translate to real world opportunities.

Department of Rehabilitation, Students with Disabilities assistance (DOR): Probation has discussed opportunities for youth services through the DOR. Part of the re-entry plan for youth with disabilities may include referrals to DOR to establish a connection and help transition youth into industries and occupations that can train them for future employment.

Ongoing Educational Opportunities and Support

Students who have completed High School can enroll in local colleges or vocational schools. While some classes have been held online, we have partners in BC Rising Scholars and the PEP program who are willing to provide in person instruction. In some cases, in-person off site participation may be allowed when needed, dependent on the youth's suitability for a greater level of responsibility and required level of security. Youth who demonstrate a high level of competence in an individual area, are eligible for a less restrictive environment, and a lower level of supervision may be eligible for placement within the community for educational, vocational, apprenticeships, internships, or skills development training. Probation continues to foster a relationship with Project Rebound through California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) to facilitate service and opportunities for youth. There is an existing partnership with Bakersfield College for youth participation in college courses through the Rising Scholars Network. Online and in-person Financial Literacy and Introduction to College classes continue in partnership with the Prison Education Project, who is an affiliate of Project Rebound.

Behavioral Health Transitions

KernBHRS will work with Probation to transition youth from in-custody treatment to behavioral health services post-release, as most of these youth will be eligible for services under the Adult System of Care or through the Transition Age Youth (TAY) program once out of custody.

The Adult System of Care provides services to youth (age 18 and over) who are experiencing challenges in life functioning as a result of symptoms related to mental illness and/or substance use. Treatment is client-driven and based on the strengths and goals of the youth served. Key treatment components include a mental health assessment/reassessment, psychological evaluation, medication management services, group therapy, individual therapy, family therapy, case management services, psychoeducation, substance use treatment,

rehabilitation and coping skills education, and linkage to community resources. The therapist and recovery specialist form a dyad team to provide tailored services to the client which are outlined on the Clinical Practice Guidelines and reviewed with the youth at the onset of treatment.

The TAY team is a full partnership team which provides support to foster youth between the ages of 16 and 25 who are struggling with mental and emotional health issues. Some specialty services offered include counseling/therapy, drug/alcohol addiction treatment, help with securing financial and health benefits, assistance with accessing medical, dental, and vision services, assistance with securing safe and affordable housing, accessing transportation options, food, and clothing resources, help with securing employment or vocational training, and assistance with education classes. Services are provided in the community with locations, such as but not limited to, the client's home, school, work site, or other community agency.

The TAY Team utilizes The Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model which is an evidenced supported practice that helps engage youth in their own futures planning process, provides them with services/supports, involves them and others in a process that facilitates greater self-sufficiency, and successful achievement of goals related to each transition domain. The TIP Model helps youth with emotional behavioral difficulties to overcome barriers and achieve their goals.

Pre-Release Meetings

Pre-Release Meetings will address the accomplishments and continuing needs of youth being released. A report detailing youths' programs while in the facility and goals for after release will be discussed with partnering agencies from education, behavioral health, family members, and Probation staff to help develop a successful re-entry plan. Probation maintains a current resource list of community-based service providers that is shared with youth upon release and serves as a tool for both youth and family to know what is available to them within the community. The resource list includes agencies that provide support, services, and opportunities in the following areas:

- Employment/Job Readiness
- Housing, Shelter, and Utility Services
- Medical Services
- Transportation Services
- Legal Assistance
- Child Care Services
- Support/Counseling Groups

Youth Day Reporting Center

Probation has increased their contracted slots from twenty-four slots (24) to thirty (30) with the Youth Day Reporting Center. Youth are referred to and receive re-entry services one year prior to planned step down or program completion. The YDRC acts as a one stop shop for youth needs and services. YDRC staff are trained in numerous EBP re-entry skill modalities including:

- Anger Management – Phoenix New Freedom Managing Aggression and Violence
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions – Substance Use Youth (CBI-SUY)
- Coping, Life Skills, Trauma, and Family Relationships- Power Source Program
- Family Engagement – Nurturing Parenting Program Family Education and Development Series
- Gang Intervention
- Interactive Journaling – TCC

- Youth MRT
- Motivational Enhancement (TCU Mapping)

Post Release Supervision

Based on the high-risk level and numerous needs of the realigned population, dedicated caseloads with manageable youth to officer ratios will be key to successful re-entry back into the community. Deputy Probation Officers will begin working and building rapport with the youth while they are in custody. They will provide case management services and individualized case plans to maximize the chance for successful integration. For those youth over 21, the SRNA (Static Risk and Needs Assessment) will be utilized. This tool is used by the Probation Department for their adult offenders and is validated for this older age group. They will provide a level of accountability to help redirect behavior, which is contrary to their success.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):

Evidence Based Practices

Kern County and the Probation Department are committed to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). EBP includes a wide variety of practices and treatments that have been validated through meta-analysis to reduce recidivism by addressing criminogenic needs and building on supportive factors.

The core of EBP is an evidence-based assessment. Kern County utilizes the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). This assessment identifies a youth's risk level to reoffend and their criminogenic needs. This allows for individualized case plans that focus on those dynamic risk factors that lead to criminal behavior. The PACT is validated for youth up to 21 years of age. For youth aged over 21, the Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA) will be utilized. This tool is used by the Probation Department for their adult offenders and is validated for this older group.

In addition to an assessment, EBP also includes evidence-based treatments. These are Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) programs and other best practices that have been proven to address criminogenic needs and reduce recidivism. Examples include Aggression Replacement Training, Strengthening Families, Thinking for a Change (T4C), and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions-Substance Abuse (CBISA). Both sworn and non-sworn staff, as well as contracted service providers, will facilitate these treatment modalities to youth. Additional examples of such programs being implemented for this realigned population are found in Part 4 of this plan.

Culturally Responsive Services

Youth Services Officers within the facilities receive ongoing annual training on topics that include youth development and culturally responsive approaches to youth interactions. Here is one example of a culturally responsive training offered: **Cultural Competency (Course Description):** Law Enforcement Professionals are dealing with many challenges, including how to interact and navigate through the diverse communities they are working with. Recent high-profile interactions have also strained the police-community relations and have made jobs more difficult. This interactive course will explore the historical relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This training will also examine the dynamics of culture, police culture, human relations, and the impact they can have working with a diverse population. Students will also explore effective ways to increase public trust while working within the criminal justice system.

Youth are free to exercise religious expression and have opportunities to request visitation from personal spiritual advisors. Cooperation with faith-based organizations such as Bethany Center, Teen Challenge, Youth for Christ, Symbols of Hope, New Hope Ministries, and Catholic Services provide an opportunity for youth seeking religious support during their program. In many cases, these services continue once youth are released from the facility into the community.

Trauma Informed Care Based Approach

Probation is dedicated to a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) based approach. The first part of TIC in the juvenile justice system is to recognize that most of the affected youth have experienced trauma in their lives. The next step is to put policies in place which attempt to minimize the potential for re-traumatization. Providing services and outlets to address trauma through both treatment and positive staff interactions is also key. Some examples of current training provided to staff that support a trauma-informed approach include:

Crisis Intervention Training: This course provides an overview on how to work proactively to increase pro-social behavior, teach skills, and positively change behavior. Information is shared on how to stay ahead of behavior by working the environment to increase success from intake. Specific behavioral interventions and corrective teaching are covered for common mental health diagnoses seen in this setting. Adverse Childhood Experience's (ACEs) are reviewed with examples of triggers and fight/flight responses.

Mental Health 101: This course provides an overview of mental health issues and diagnoses, interventions, and psychotropic medications. Information is covered on the history of treatment for offenders with mental health issues and the impact now on the Criminal Justice System and Probation. Disability and special education laws are covered as well as how to effectively make accommodations for offenders with mental health issues with regard to developing effective interventions and treatment plans.

Crisis Prevention Institute Non-Violent Intervention Strategies: This course provides an overview of the Crisis Development Model and offers non-violent intervention strategies to address potential escalating behavior. This course identifies both verbal and non-verbal techniques and strategies to utilize when contacting a youth who is showing signs of anxiety.

Behavioral Health Unit-Youth Services Officer Core Training: The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) was created to increase officers' proficiency at identifying possible mental health or behavior issues and support appropriate officer responses, as well as identifying resources that are available to youth within the Juvenile Justice System. This training unit is comprised of ten individual lessons consisting of: Signs and Symptoms of Substance Abuse, Trauma, Interventions and Resources, Stigma and Bias, Roles and Responsibilities, Liability, Suicide Prevention, Foundations and Definitions, Safety, Emotional Survival.

Ongoing Training Support

Ongoing training will be a priority to ensure the permanency of these practices. To support ongoing training efforts, one Senior Youth Services Officer (SYSO) will be dedicated to the Training unit. This staff will assist in researching and coordinating formal and informal training for the Department and collaborative partners, with a primary focus on emerging TIC and behavioral health minded approaches to staff/youth interactions to supplement and enhance current training efforts already in place.

Updates since May 1, 2025

KBHRS staff continue to provide individual services to young people on weekends as well as at family sessions. KBHRS also provide 24-hour on-call services.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by non-governmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):

It is recognized to accomplish the mission of successfully realigning the DJJ population it must be collaborative effort. While the Probation Department will have primary responsibilities for security, services, and treatment, numerous other partners will be significantly involved. KCSOS and local colleges play a vital part in education services. Kern Medical will provide healthcare services. Other important partners will be KernBHRS, various volunteer groups, and more.

In addition to those core partnerships, as we move forward with this population it is recognized that service gaps will likely be discovered. These may be occupational, recreational, treatment or some other area. Having funds available to address these service gaps is a sensible strategy to ensure that youths' needs will be met. Certain youth, depending on their circumstances or specialized needs, may present specialized treatment needs that could be better served by a community-based entity. Therefore, it is important to begin to prepare for such a contingency and grant funds will be set aside to be available for these types of services. The actual service areas will be directed by the SB 823 Subcommittee.

It is anticipated there will be a variety of tangible needs to help the transition upon release be more successful. Some examples of potential tangible needs may include food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and education support. In addition, upon release there will be occasional need for housing support, whether the housing support is through sober living homes or other temporary housing options, funds will need to be set aside to provide support in this area. To accomplish this, funds will need to be designated to support efforts in this area, which may include the need to develop contracts with Community-Based Organizations and other support-focused entities.

Kern County Probation has a dedicated position for a Volunteer Services Coordinator specifically for developing relationships with Community-Based Organizations to access services for youth within facilities. The coordinator will routinely analyze institution/youth needs and search for a Community-Based Organization to fill needs.

Probation will maintain a current resource list of community-based service providers to be able to refer youth being released to in order for the youth and family to know what is available to them within the community. The resource list will include agencies who provide support, services, and opportunities in the following areas:

- Employment/Job Readiness
- Housing, Shelter, and Utility Services
- Medical Services
- Transportation Services
- Legal Assistance
- Child Care Services
- Support/Counseling Groups

<u>Updates since May 1, 2025</u>

RAP within the Youth Detention Center, is offering courses through the Prison Education Projection. This program has been available for 3 years and all courses are available to youth located at the RISE Academy. This program will include 6 weeks of coursework and all youths who participate will receive a certificate of completion. For the youth located at the RISE Academy the courses offered will be “Introduction to Human Ecology” and “Introduction to STEM Fields”. While a third course, “Introduction to College Success” is available to the youth at the RISE Academy, they have successfully completed this course in the past. The new courses are expected to begin on the 21st of February.

During 2025, the YDRC completed approximately 430 group sessions and 388 one-on-one sessions. These totals do not account for additional services provided such as assessments, drug screens, and check-ins. Further [redacted] APEX Academy youth successfully completed the program.

PART 5: FACILITY PLAN (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995 (D)(4))

Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine realigned youth at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need. Include the following (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(4)):

- ***Any less restrictive programs the county uses, and whether those programs are in facilities regulated by Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 1300) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations***
- ***Any county juvenile facility improvements made to support long-term commitments***
- ***How the county will ensure youth safety and protection, including for youth of different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics***

Describe any progress on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8)):

Facilities

Kern County will continue to utilize the Kern Crossroads Facility to house male youth and the programming wing, located on the YDC campus, to house female youth. The Kern Crossroads Facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 120 beds. The facility plant is divided into three pods which can house 40 youth in each, separated as two units of 20. Each housing unit of 20 has 12 individual rooms and four dorms which can house two individuals in each. Each 20-bed housing unit has a dayroom for structured activities and school if necessary. It also includes an additional room which can be utilized for visiting, mental health counseling or separation of target groups, as necessary. The physical plant includes a full kitchen with an attached dining hall which can seat up to 60 individuals at a time for meals.

Less Restrictive Program

The Kern County Probation Department offers two (2) less restrictive program (LRP) options for youth committed to a SYTP. Option 1 includes the global positioning system (GPS), this less restrictive program allows youth to return to their placement (home or otherwise) while serving the remainder of their commitment. Option 2 is the Youth Day Reporting Center (YDRC), this alternative to detention focuses on evidence-based supervision and highly structured individualized programs and services to support youth integrating back into the community. Youth may be released on GPS, to YDRC, or a combination of both LRPs and remain actively

engaged in case management services with the YDRC and enrolled in college courses and/or participating in an internship. The available LRPs are not regulated by Title 15 as they are not in-custody facility based.

Facility Upgrade Considerations

Currently security upgrades are being planned and prioritized. Initially, a holding room has been converted to a padded safety room, an additional recreation slab has been added, and taller railings have been added to the upstairs portions of the pods. Upgraded perimeter fencing has been completed an exterior second layer of security fencing has been completed. Additionally, a new camera system is up and running to cover all areas of the facility to protect youth and investigate allegations when needed. We have successfully replaced old industrial-sized dryers and have moved to plan the replacement of ovens at the facility. Currently we are also in the process of replacing the HVAC units throughout the facilities We are actively exploring all options for upgrading and securing the facility, as well as providing space for programming, recreational activities, school, and behavioral health groups. These added measures will help ensure safety and security while allowing for robust service delivery and increased time spent outside of rooms. The main field continues to be utilized for sporting events. There are 2 full workout gyms and a variety of sports and vocational skills equipment. Plans are in the work for designating a large outdoor APEX family visiting area, adjacent to the APEX pod, where APEX youth and their families can have access to an outdoor recreation area with basketball hoop, picnic benches, and a child friendly play area. In the previous report we noted that we had applied for the National School Lunch Equipment Assistance Grant through the Department of Education unfortunately we were not awarded but we continue to search for opportunities we can leverage to upgrade the facilities equipment.

Staffing

Youth will be housed in a safe environment in cooperation with Probation staff and partnering agencies.

Probation Staffing: Youth Services Officers (YSO) will always be on site 24 hours a day for supervision of youth housed in the facilities. There will always be an adequate number of personnel sufficient to carry out program activities, provide for safety and security of youth and staff, meet established standards and regulations, and to ensure that no required services shall be denied because of insufficient numbers of staff on duty (absent exigent circumstances). The shift coverage for the units will be arranged to meet or exceed the Title 15 standards for youth detention facilities. YSO supervision encompasses all daily activities youth participate in including, unit programming, meals, physical education, school, room and unit clean-up, medical transport, vocational training, off site visits, court appointments, visits, structured activity, baby visits, and all other programs.

Behavioral Health Staffing: Behavioral health staff will be on site every day or on-call 24 hours a day in case an emergency response is needed, or a mental health crisis takes place. Youth can request behavioral health services at any time by either verbal or confidential written request.

Medical Staffing: Medical staff will be on-site for 12 hours every day to provide timely and quality medical care. Youth can verbally inform staff of any medical needs and staff can initiate protocols or refer the youth to medical staff for evaluation. Youth can also complete a confidential medical request and have that sent to medical staff. Services provided to youth include medical, dental, and vision. Emergency and after-hours services are provided through Kern Medical Hospital. For families with private insurance, arrangements can be made to transport youth to those providers' offices.

Additional Safety Measures and Protections

Prison Rape Elimination Act: Youth will have access to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) hotline. The Probation Department has a policy in place to investigate all sexually based accusations or complaints as serious, truthful, and time sensitive. PREA investigators include supervisor staff at the Senior Deputy Probation Officer III (SDPO) and Senior Youth Services Officer (SYSO) level. At any time during an investigation, outside law enforcement agencies may be called to conduct a criminal investigation. Victim Advocates will be available should they need to be utilized in any case. All information is considered confidential.

Transgender Youth: Policies are in place to protect transgender and intersex youth. Upon initial entry to any Kern County institution, youth who identify as transgender participate with staff in completing a Transgender Youth Preference Form, which plays a part in helping to determine housing, clothing, and supervision based on their gender identification.

Special Education: In cooperation with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, youth will have access to continued education and services. Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) are available for those youth who qualify. Schools also work in cooperation with behavioral health providers, medical staff, and Probation to individualize each youth's program to meet their specific needs.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The RAP Unit has a position designated as the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator runs Special Cases Meetings, monitors the Special Cases List to ensure accuracy, conducts quality control of the documentation in unit binders, follows up with staff to ensure accommodations are understood and being followed, services as an ADA liaison with partnering agencies and other Probation divisions, and evaluates ADA training needs for the facility. The ADA Coordinator will ensure youths' accommodations are communicated during intake, initial assessment, school, and Pre-Release Meetings. The ADA Coordinator will work closely with the School Coordinator to ensure information regarding education accommodations are received and documented.

Special Cases Meeting (SCM): The SCM attendees include representatives from school, behavioral health, medical, and Probation staff. The primary goal of the SCM is to discuss challenges youth may have while programming, specifically detailing their ADA accommodations. The ADA Coordinator records minutes and disseminates information to unit staff to assist youth supervision.

Suicide Prevention: Probation is committed to deterring and preventing self-harm and suicide within its facilities. Policies are in place for supervision of youth identified as high-risk for this behavior. Each youth completes a MAYSI-II questionnaire upon entry into any facility. This risk assessment tool is utilized in determining the youth history, current state of mind, and potential for self-harm or suicidal ideation. Youth deemed to be immediate risk are immediately assessed by behavioral health to determine program needs and supervisory objectives. Youth may be placed on Suicide Watch or Special Watch depending on their needs. Programs can be changed at any time during their stay with behavioral health input and approval.

Youth Grievances: Youth can file a grievance at any time. Each youth has access to grievances during their program, or they may keep them inside their room for completion. A confidential grievance box is made available within each housing unit, or youth may give them directly to supervisory staff. Grievances are taken seriously, handled in a timely manner, and at times can develop into policy change when required. All are reviewed by facility administration.

Improvements to Accommodate Long-Term Commitments

Security upgrades continue to be incorporated and prioritized to accommodate long-term commitments. Two holding rooms were converted to padded safety rooms, an additional recreation slab was added, and taller railings were added to the upstairs portions of the pods. Upgraded perimeter fencing and an exterior second

layer of security fencing have been completed. A video monitoring system is operational and covers all areas of the facility to protect youth and investigate allegations when needed. A body scanner has been acquired and is fully operational. Additionally, lockers have been placed in the housing units for youth to utilize as a safe and secure option to store property. Mirrors and shelving were added to the youth rooms. Other options for upgrading and securing the facility are actively explored, along with opportunities to provide space for programming, recreational activities, school, and behavioral health groups. These added measures will help ensure safety and security in the facility while still allowing for robust service delivery and increased time spent outside of rooms. Renovations to the main field were completed and now the field is more conducive for sporting events, recreational activities, and physical education. A second full workout gym was also renovated. C-trains were acquired for the purpose of storage of grounds and vocational skills equipment. Shelving was installed inside two of the C-trains to help with organization and to maximize storage. A shade cover connecting two of the C-trains was constructed to provide a covered work and storage area. Additionally, the automotive bay used for vocational and certification courses continues to be improved with additions to the tools, supplies, and equipment inventory. Preliminary plans are in the works to design a large outdoor family visiting area for the APEX youth, adjacent to the APEX pod, where youth and their families will have access to an outdoor recreation area with a basketball hoop, picnic benches, and a child friendly play area.

Looking ahead, a multi-purpose building is in process which will serve youth housed in the RISE Academy at the Youth Detention Center and youth awaiting commitment to APEX. The project is in the design and permitting process. Design plans have entered the final permitting process. Once permitted, the construction phase will commence This building will expand programming space for the higher security youth committed to the RISE Academy and those youth pending commitments to APEX. This will include a gymnasium for sporting events and physical education as well as additional space for visitation and special events provided by volunteers and community-based organizations.

PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995 (D)(5))

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system. Describe any progress on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995 (d)(8)):

Kern County Probation continues to work within the parameters of the legal system to ensure youth entering the Juvenile Justice System are given opportunities to succeed at the lowest level of intervention possible. Partners within the Juvenile Justice System include the Kern County Juvenile Court, the Kern County District Attorney, the Kern County Public Defender, and community support advocates. These partners work closely to ensure fair, consistent, equal, and individual treatment for each youth.

Each individual case is assessed and evaluated before Court recommendations are made to ensure the best practices and services are directed to each individual youth. Probation utilizes the PACT risk/needs assessment tool and case plan to assess level of risk to reoffend, identify criminogenic needs, and guide services (further information on the PACT is found in part 3 of this plan). This allows incorporation of goals related to youths' court orders into their program to ensure youth are on track to meet achievable goals of being law-abiding and self-sufficient community members. Working within the existing laws, only offenses eligible for transfer to the adult system would be considered. When considering Court recommendations on those cases, the underlying principle applied to the Court process will be that whenever possible and

appropriate youths' cases should remain in the Juvenile Justice System.

Probation will continue to operate rehabilitative programs and refer youth to community-based services when appropriate to reduce youth recidivism and mitigate the need for the transfer of cases to the Adult Criminal Justice System. Only when findings are made by the Juvenile Court that services within the Juvenile Justice System are not appropriate to rehabilitate a youth will a case be transferred to the Adult Criminal Justice System. It is the goal that this program will be adequate with regard to both security and service provision to be a robust alternate and thereby limit the need for cases to be transferred to the Adult Criminal Justice System in all but the most serious of cases.

PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORT (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(6))

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation. Describe any progress on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995 (d)(8)):

Kern County will serve youth locally unless substantial case factors indicate the youth would be better served another way. Youth committed to this program are not only at risk of further exposure to the Criminal Justice System, but they are at much higher risk of becoming disenfranchised with the community to which they will ultimately return. Family structure, family visits, positive peer and mentor involvement, and community service are keys to successful reintegration into the local community. Local programming, vocational training, higher education, and community ties are valuable to a youth's chances for success when released from the program. Kern County is committed to prioritizing both the family bond and commitment to their community for these youth and local programming provides the best opportunity.

Possible Regionally Contracted Specialized Services for Youth

Sex Offender Services: Probation has contracted with Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services locally for specialized services for sex offenders. It is also possible certain sex offenders will require a level of treatment necessitating a regional contract with another County who could provide group-based services with like offenders. Certain youth, depending on their circumstances or specialized needs, may benefit from a non-local custodial placement. With the low numbers of sex offenders from Kern County, it is possible for it to be in the best interest of the youth to get services from another County capable of serving more youth with similar needs allowing for the group counseling dynamics needed in sex offender treatment.

Programs and Services for Females: Female youth have historically been committed to past DJJ programs at a very low rate. As of January 2026, there continues to be a total of [redacted] commitments to the RISE Academy.

PART 8: DATA (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995 (D)(7))

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8)):

Data collection and analysis is an important aspect of any new program. Probation is committed to having accurate and relevant data upon which informed decisions can be made regarding what is working, what is not, and where resources should best be applied. A Supervising Departmental Analyst will oversee this program

along with one (1) new program funded Department Analyst position under the Department's Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) unit assigned to this program. The RAD unit is dedicated to finding evidence-based solutions and programs for the population served by Probation.

Probation developed an internal case management system allowing officers to manage the Youth Probation population in October 2020. This system allows the Department to ensure reporting accuracy and provide the ability to identify trends that impact services including programs funded by JJCPA and YOGB. The vision is to further develop this system to capture data specific to this population such as demographics information, length of stay, program progress, throughout their entire continuum of care under the Probation Department.

Probation routinely reports information in the JCPSS system, annually through the CPOC annual report, and effective this year to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), and collects monthly statistical reports from Probation Officers. This information is used to direct resources and helps guide decision making for the Department's Management Team. In addition, the Superior Court has authored a Standing Order that allows for information sharing on matters between specific agencies that have a bested interest and involvement in youth offenders' treatment plans and rehabilitation.

Statistical data will also be gathered on youth housed within the facility to gather demographic information and to monitor and gauge significant incidents which may occur. Categories in which statistics will be compiled include but not are not limited to mutual fights, assaults, gang related graffiti/signs/comments/writing, suicide attempts, self-inflicted injuries, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) incidents, suicides, escapes, and escape attempts. Probation also has a separate program, Benchmark, which tracks all use of force incidents that occur. This data is regularly reviewed by Probation management.

Another important piece of data is getting feedback from the youth themselves. To this end, the Probation Department continues to meet and is working to finalize a Youth Survey that is easy to comprehend and can be completed by youth anonymously. The Probation Department plans on conducting these surveys and collecting feedback from youth during the program and upon release. The feedback categories are as follows: Education, Programming, and Treatment. Staff currently working directly with the youth are continuously encouraged to provide feedback to supervisors and management through scheduled unit meetings.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8)):

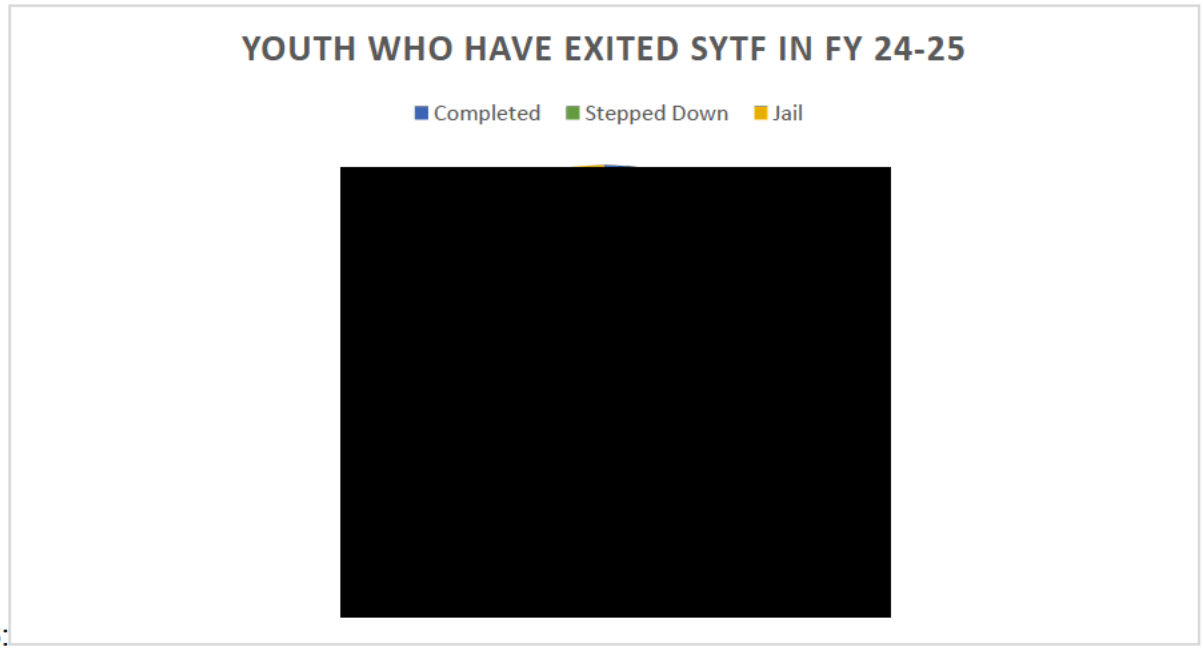
Reports were developed to capture the rates of entry to programs, successes and failures, recidivism rates, and services for youth with disabilities. Resource assessments will be conducted routinely to identify gaps to inform future allocation of resources that will give youth more opportunities to be successful.

Measuring program progress for youth committed to a SYTF is a significant indicator of how these youth will adjust upon reentry to the community. Attainable and measurable goals tied to the case plans and Court orders are set through the course of their program to gauge case plan goal completion, progress, and to adjust to individual needs during their stay. Case managers establish attainable goals during assessments to focus youth on successful program completion. These goals include example such as: high school graduation or equivalency, complete college courses, attaining a vocational training certificate, completion of Court-ordered programs and treatments, enrollment in job training programs, receiving an apprenticeship, and internships.

PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2024: (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995 (D)(8))

Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.In Fiscal Year 24-25 there were [redacted] exits from the SYTF. Of the [redacted] youth, all exited from APEX, [redacted] completed the program, ([redacted]) were stepped down to a less restrictive program before completion and [redacted] youth were sent to jail for new law violation allegations. (Graph 6)

Graph 6:



PART 10: PRIOR-YEAR EXPENDITURES-SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES/IMPACTS: (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(9))

Please use the table provided below to summarize prior-year expenditures (e.g. for the 2026 JJRBG plan the summary entered into the table below would be for FY 2024-25 expenditures) in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(9), which requires counties to report:

- **Total expenditures of block grant funds;**
- **Whether these expenditures were consistent with the plan described in subdivision (a); and**
- **How the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment target population described in Section 1990.**

Please itemize expenditures by each subject area described in Part 4 of the <u>previous year's</u> JJRBG Submission

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
B, C, D, E	$ 6,257,588.00	Yes	**Labor and Program Operating expenses:** SB 823 funds were used to fund the following positions within the APEX program that provided support for family engagement and various programs that promote healthy adolescent development by providing security, supervision, transportation, oversight, and practicing the evidence based practices as learned through their CORE training: one (1) Senior Deputy Probation Officer assigned as program supervisor, four (4) Senior Youth Services Officers, 20 Youth Services Officers and one (1) additional Senior Youth Services	For Facilities these expenditures improved 24/7 monitoring of the youth, as well as safety of incarcerated youth. The facility officers obtain training to properly monitor youth in a trauma-informed, culturally responsive manner. Within the RAP Unit these expenditures allowed for support for reentry planning and programs to address reentry barriers. The Probation Program Specialist allowed the department to better address the needs of this target population by assisting with warm handoffs to services and skill building efforts to supplement on-site support. The officers within the Youth Supervision Unit provided case management services and individualized rehabilitation plans; these officers connect with you while incarcerated so by the time they are scheduled to be released, they are familiar with their

[1] This table corresponds to Part 4 of the JJRBG County Plan Template and fulfills the reporting requirements of WIC §1995(d)(9) by itemizing expenditures according to the five areas of need or development for realigned youth described in WIC §1995(d)(3)(A)–(E).

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
			Officer to serve as a Program Liaison. In the Reentry, ADA, and Programming (RAP) Unit SB 823 funds were utilized to support two (2) Senior Youth Services Officers, three (3) Youth Services Officers and one (1) Deputy Probation Officer which provided reentry support services, assisted with family engagement through the reentry review board meetings, and by putting into practice the EBP training that each officer receives through their Core training. Under the Youth Programs and Support Unit the funding helped fund one (1) Probation Program Specialist that supported youth through evidence-based practices and by offering youth skill building, and reentry warm handoffs at release.	probation officer, and the officers are better aware of the challenges youth may face once released. We have also utilized SB 823 funds for a position within our training department to support ongoing training efforts in areas like trauma informed care. The departmental analyst is responsible for maintaining statistics and data for the target population

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
			Within the Youth Supervision Unit, SB 823 funds were applied to support two (2) Deputy Probation Officers dedicated to the reentry caseload to provide supervision and assist with successful reentry into the community. To support ongoing training efforts in areas such as Trauma Informed Care (TIC) SB 823 funds were applied to install one (1) Senior Youth Services Officer in the Staff Development Unit. Additionally, funds were utilized to fund one (1) Departmental Analyst within the Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) Unit to support the reporting needs of this grant.	
A, B, E	$ 572,000.00	Yes	**Additional Behavioral Health Contract:** These funds are utilized to support connections to mental health	The ability to provide the target population with critical and trauma informed mental health care is key to ensure youth have a higher likelihood of success once

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
			treatment, sex offender treatment and/or related trauma-based needs. Probation contracts with Kern Behavioral Health Services (BHRS) to provide services such as: Mental Health assessments and Diagnosis, Psychiatric Evaluation, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Based Interventions, Dialectic Behavioral Therapy Approach Skills Training, Seeking Safety, Family Services, Forward thinking, Suicide Risk Assessment and monitoring, and bridges to connection/success to name a few.	released. These services assisted youth in their recovery from intergenerational trauma and substance use and made strides to reduce recidivism, increase pro-social attitudes and behavior, and develop a healthy sense of community. The behavioral health team also assists in connecting with the family of the youth to better prepare these individuals to support the incarcerated youth once released. The Kern BHRS team included the family as much as possible, like through family therapy or increasing pro-social skills usage within the family system. The behavioral health contract improves outcomes for the target population by assisting youth in the development of skills, the processing of trauma, and the engagement between youth and their identified family.
A, B, E	$ 1,100.00	Yes	**Contracted Specialized Services**: Some of the specialized services provided included Stages of Accomplishment	These services improve outcomes by addressing the more specialized concerns of our incarcerated youth. Stages of Accomplishment addresses the evaluation

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
			(Juveniles who Sexually Offended), Aggression Replacement Training, and Moral Recognition Therapy. These services address the more specialized needs of the incarcerated youth.	and rehabilitation of inappropriate sexual behavior in adolescence. Aggression Replacement training is a group therapy approach designed for youth to help to support and learn prosocial skills, moral reasoning, and reduction of aggressive behavior. Moral recognition therapy is a group therapy approach and is a systematic, cognitive behavioral, step by step treatment strategy designed to enhance self-image, promote growth of a positive, productive identity, and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning. Probation will address any specialized service gaps through contracted services, volunteer-based partnerships, and collaborative agency workgroups to help leverage resources and direct services based on the needs of the realigned population.
A, B, C, D, E, F	$ 420,072.00	Yes	**Reentry Support Services:** For reentry support, youth are connected to the Youth Day Reporting Center	The YDRC improved youth outcomes by providing a one stop shop to address critical youth needs like gang intervention, anger management, case

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
			(YDRC) one year prior to planned step down or program completion. The YDRC provided one stop shop services for youth. Needs addressed by the YDRC are cognitive behavioral health counseling/training, reentry services, drug/alcohol testing, and case management.	management services, drug testing, life skills, personal wellness, financial literacy, education, employment orientation and workshops and aftercare services including Individualized treatment planning and maintenance. All of the services provided are crucial to ensure youth of the target population have the best chance of success and lower rates of recidivism.
B	$ 3,063,421.00	Yes	**Infrastructure Improvements and Equipment:** Security updates included converting a holding room into a padded safety room, installation of taller railings added to an upstairs portion of the pod, and upgrading of the perimeter fencing, which included an exterior second layer of security fencing. Additionally, a new camera system was installed to cover all areas of the facility which in turn serves to protect youth and assists with	These infrastructure improvements assist in ensuring youth feel safe while incarcerated. These safety features enhance the ability to maintain the area secure for the target population. Improvements to the main field and the addition of C trains for equipment storage assisted in improving youth morale and engagement. The addition of the multi-purpose center and upgraded outdoor space at the Youth Detention Center will provide for a much-needed increase in space for programming, events, and exercise.

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
			investigations into allegations when needed. The main field has been renovated to allow for a healthy field which hosts many sporting events. Renovations concluded for a second full workout gym and numerous C-trains were acquired to store grounds and vocational skills equipment. A body scanner was acquired and when installed to help prevent contraband and weapons from entering the facility. Also, significant funding has been strategically set aside to support the design and construction of an indoor gym/multi-purpose center and upgraded outdoor recreation spaces at the Youth Detention Center. Plans are being completed and are in the final stages.	

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
D, F	$ -	No	**Contracted Specialized Placement Fund:** This is a set aside fund for use as needed to provide specialized services on a case by case basis (such as sex offender programming, ADA accommodations, etc.) which helps secure housing upon reentry as needed for special populations upon release. No funds were spent in this category for the reporting year.	This expenditure improves the Department's confidence knowing that there is a security net to address any unique needs a youth may present with and overall impacts youth positively by ensuring their needs can be addressed regardless of the level of specialty.

(1) A description of the realignment target population in the county that is to be supported or served by allocations from the block grant program, including the numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including their ages, offense and offense histories, gender, race or ethnicity, and other characteristics, and by the programs, placements, or facilities to which they are referred.

Target Population Disaggragated by Categories (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1990(D)(1)):

A. Age	Number of Youths
14	0
15	0
16	[redacted]
17	[redacted]
18	16
19	[redacted]
20	[redacted]
21	[redacted]
22	[redacted]
23	[redacted]
24	0
25 and older	0

B. Gender	Number of Youths
Male	[redacted]
Female	[redacted]
Non-binary	0
Declined to identify	0

C. Race or Ethnicity	Number of Youths
White/Caucasian	[redacted]
Hispanic or LatinX	32
Black/African American	[redacted]
Asian	0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Multi-Racial	0
Other	0
Unknown	0

F. Offense or Offense History	Number of Youths
Arson	0
Assault	19
Attempted Homicide	[redacted]
Homicide	14
Kidnapping	0
Robbery	[redacted]
Sex Offense	[redacted]
Use of Firearm	0
Violence Against Aged	0
Weapon of Mass Destruction	0
Witness Tampering	0
Other	0

D. Placement and/or Facility (Please provide the placement or facility names below)	Number of Youths
Enter Facility Name Here Identifying it as a SYTF within or out of county, type of LRP, or other type of placement.	
APEX - SYTF	[redacted]
RISE - SYTF	[redacted]
Global Positioning System (LRP)	[redacted]

E. Program (Please provide the name of specific programs below)	Number of Youths
Enter Program Name Here Identifying the type of program that the target population was enrolled in.	
Aggression Replacement Training (ART)	[redacted]
Seeking Safety (SS)	[redacted]
Forward Thinking Relationships and Communication	[redacted]
Forward Thinking Handling Difficult Feelings	[redacted]
Youth on a Mission - Leadership for Marginalized Communities (Garden Pathways, Inc.)	32
Paid Internships	[redacted]
College Courses (Bakersfield College: Rising Scholars)	55
Vocational Courses (Kern County Superintendent of Schools)	19
Volunteer	[redacted]
Youth Mentoring Program	[redacted]
Paid Apprenticeships	[redacted]
MC3 Pre-Apprenticeship Program	[redacted]
Volunteer (C.A.L.M. Zoo & Crossroads Christian Fellowship)	[redacted]
Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)	[redacted]
Mindfulness Programming	[redacted]
Prison Education Program (P.E.P.)	[redacted]
Construction/Woodworking	[redacted]
Youth Day Reporting Center - Reentry	[redacted]
Therapy (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Substance Abuse, Grief)	49
Art & Poetry	[redacted]
Human Trafficking Seminar	[redacted]
College Level Ball Sports	[redacted]
Obtain Vital Documents (Bank Account, DMV ID)	[redacted]