Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Annual Plan

Date:	April 16, 2026
County Name:	Kings
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Background and Instructions:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure.

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.

County plans are to be submitted and revised in accordance with WIC 1995, and may be posted, as submitted, to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website.

Contents:

Part 1: Target Population

Part 2: Programs and Services

Part 3: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds

Part 4: Facility Plan

Part 5: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System

Part 6: Regional Efforts

Part 7: Data

Part 8: Description of Progress Made

Part 9: Funding expenditures

Subcommittee Composition W&I 1995(b)

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Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

October 16, 2025:	Discussion of changes and additions to plan
March 26, 2026:	Nomination and vote for new subcommittee members, further discussion of recommended changes and additions to plan
April 16, 2026:	Vote to approve Plan

PART 1 – Target Population W&I 1995(d)(1)

Kings County will serve youth and young adults 14 years of age and older with adjudications for offenses outlined in 707(b) W&I where the Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

Kings County will not be able to serve youth requiring specialized therapeutic needs, such as sexual offenders and female offenders. For these youth, it is anticipated that Kings County will seek to partner with other agencies and/or regions with these specialized treatment providers through a contract process. In addition, our collaborative partners at Kings County Behavioral Health reported they may be able to provide Probation with some sexual offenders' resources/programs. However, in the absence of a contract with another agency or region, Kings County does have capacity to accommodate female offenders.

For the most accurate picture of the current Kings County target population, please refer to the data table on the next page. The table contains the youth currently in the Kings County Behavioral Rehabilitation Academy – New Chance Hub (BRANCH) Juvenile Facility with a 707(b) W&I offense as of March 2026. For Disposition information, KC BRANCH means they were committed to the camp program, SYTF refers to the realigned youth, which is also known as Secure Track Youth, and detained means they are still pending court proceedings and disposition.

*Current population of 707(b) Offenses

Placement and/or Facility Name - Kings County Behavioral Rehabilitation Academy – New Chance Hub (BRANCH

Total Number of Youth Committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF): [redacted]

Total Number of SYTF Youth Placed in Less Restrictive Program – In County **0**

Total Number of SYTF Youth in Less Restrictive Program - Out of County: **0**

***As of March 2026**

PART 2 – Programs and Services W&I 1995(d)(2)

Objective

All interventions and interactions with the youth will contribute toward the goal that each youth/young adult will leave the program and transition back to the community with a solid foundation for a healthy and successful life; comprised of strong family and community connections, a good job and/or preparation for advanced education, and safe/secure housing.

Intake & Assessment

Upon intake, each youth will receive comprehensive assessments across several domains, including health/dental/vision, behavioral health (cognitive, emotional and interpersonal functioning), education and family. These assessments will be conducted by Wellpath mental health and medical staff, the County Office of Education and the Employment and Training Technician. Additionally, each youth's criminogenic risk and needs will be identified utilizing the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) administered by the Deputy Probation Officer (DPO).

The initial assessment shall be completed by mental health. The assessment shall be a comprehensive evaluation of the youth's historical background, personality assessment, trauma events and other clinical needs. Mental health shall further assess for risk factors including those such as, suicidal ideation, antisocial behaviors, and other potential risks to include for a full report of clinical impression and diagnoses of the youth along with treatment recommendation. Mental health will utilize evidence based psychological assessments consistent with standard requirements for a correctional setting.

Upon completion of the assessment process and within 30 days of commitment, mental health will work with the youth, the family, psychiatrist, deputy probation officer, the department of education representative, the employment and training technician, juvenile facility staff, and any community based organization already working with and able to continue working with the youth to develop a comprehensive and unique Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) to meet the youth's specific needs. The specific interventions and dosage will be commensurate with the youth's risk and needs as identified during the assessment process, along with information gathered from the youth and their family. The goal is to individualize treatment as much as possible within the setting as suggested by research, in order to maximize potential life-changing results. The initial 30-day IRP will be filed with the Juvenile Court and a hearing will be held pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 875(d)(1).

Programming

In January 2024, the Kings County Probation Department contracted with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute to conduct an evaluation of the Department's programming services to determine to what extent the services were congruent with "best practices" in reducing anti-social behavior. The services were assessed using the Correctional Program Assessment Inventory-2010 (CPAI-2010). This instrument measures 9 dimensions including program demographics, organizational culture, program implementation and maintenance, management/staff characteristics, client risk need practices, program characteristics, core correctional practices, and inter-agency communication, and evaluation. The findings and recommendations will be incorporated into a department-wide evidence-based strategic plan which will enhance programming objectives and service delivery.

The Probation Department may possibly seek a Request for Proposal (RFP) to enhance programming services for the Secure Track Youth within the BRANCH facility.

The Probation Department is currently seeking an agreement with GEO Reentry Services to expand our programming curriculum in the facility. GEO Reentry offers a variety of cognitive behavioral programming including but not limited to; Substance Use, Nurturing in Parenting, Thinking for Change, Family Reintegration, and Free Your Mind which has a gang intervention module. The gang intervention module is designed for those youth that have affiliation with street gangs. The sessions are cognitive behavioral and address and help build decision-making, social, and problem-solving skills in order to reduce the risk of reoffending for this population. The program includes 15-20 sessions; each session will be 1-2 hours long. The manually delivered intervention includes didactic instruction, modeling, and role play of skills, a review of previous lessons, and homework assignments in which participants practice the skills learned in the group lesson.

All youth will participate in Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) one time per week, for a minimum of 10 weeks depending on the progress of the youth. MRT will be facilitated by trained staff. MRT is an emotionally intense program that was initially developed in custodial settings over 30 years ago. The term "reconation" refers to a process that alters how we make decisions. MRT is an effective, evidence based cognitive behavioral intervention with years of data to support its efficacy when administered to fidelity. MRT consists of 12 different milestone steps in which the youth will revisit many major aspects of their lives including their past experiences, their upbringing, decision making process, service to others, goal setting and values. The process is meant for the youth to reevaluate their thought process on various levels that affect not only their cognitive functioning, but also their desire to succeed in the future. In MRT it is very common for the youth to take various weeks working on a specific step and may result in the youth revisiting a previous step. This is not seen as a punishment but is rather understood as the youth working through different cognitive distortions. The youth will be able to bring these instances and other difficult moments in individual therapy. Separating the clinician

from the MRT sessions will allow the youth to be open to discuss these difficulties and be able to create meaningful and possibly life altering moments. The Wellpath Mental Health professional, who facilitates individual therapy for the youth, may also utilize group therapy to work with a group of youth on a specific clinical need. Step 7 in MRT starts to focus on goal development, starting with a one-year goal and working its way to a 10-year goal using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy intervention skills. It is during this step in which the youth will start working as a mentor to a youth new in the program. Mentorship can continue after the youth completes the full MRT program. When facilitated to fidelity, participants truly think differently following a course of MRT and will have understood the importance and value of healthy relationships, honesty, and a better understanding of healthy decision-making.

As a supplement to MRT, youth will also participate in Aggression Replacement Training (ART), which is facilitated by trained custodial staff one time per week for a minimum of 10 weeks. ART addresses individual behaviors, emotions and thoughts that contribute to aggression. Like MRT, ART has also shown to be an effective intervention for youth by reducing future acts of aggression.

The youth receive one hour of culturally responsive programming daily which correlates with Title 15 regulations and includes but is not limited to the following topics: What is Tolerance?, Cultural Diversity, Social Diversity, Promoting Tolerance, Celebrating Cultures, Implicit Bias, Religion Diversity, and Age Diversity.

As mentioned before, the Wellpath Mental Health professional will also provide direct service and help the youth work through any trauma during individual therapy sessions. The Wellpath Mental Health professional will utilize evidence-based modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy designed to address cognitive distortions common to all adolescents in addition, anti-social thinking patterns, as well as regulating impulsive thinking and behaviors. The Wellpath Mental Health professional will assign the youth to different groups, where the youth will develop pro-social skills, which will help them develop interpersonal problem-solving skills, perspective taking and continued development of empathy. These groups may target various clinical needs including depression, anxiety, mindfulness, anger management and more.

Digital Storytelling is a promising practice used in the JC Montgomery School by the Kings County Office of Education. Based upon early positive results, we plan to expand its use. At its core, Digital Storytelling is essentially a computer-based tool through which youth express themselves and tell their own unique story. For example, in the Stories with Style curriculum, youth were able to develop their own beats and create their own rap music, enabling them to express (many for the first time) traumatic events from their lives. The youth also used other forms of music, graffiti, and DJ'ing to express themselves while exploring difficult emotions.

JC Montgomery School, through the use of grant funds, is in the planning stages with the Probation Department to bring an Equine Therapy Program to the BRANCH. We are planning to contract with New Beginnings Circle T Ranch for these services. We are working with our Public Works and County Risk Department to work out logistics for bringing this program onto facility grounds. Circle T Ranch is a non-profit organization formed with a mission to improve quality of life for trauma survivors, people with psychological conditions like PTSD, depression, anxiety, addiction, and people with developmental disabilities. There is significant evidence of horses having a calming and healing effect on humans. Participants interact with horses in ways that can help reduce stress, teach life skills, and facilitate rehabilitation. Participants work with a certified Equine Specialist to guide them through a safe, positive experience with their horses.

UPDATE: County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract/agreement for Equine Services; however, the County Risk Department has requested an updated Certificate of Insurance from Circle T Ranch which reflects and meets Kings County minimum insurance requirements. Upon County Risk approval, the agreement will need to be approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

JC Montgomery School sponsors a Certified Aerobic Conditioning trainer who happens to be an Administrator within Kings County. The sessions include a coach-led fitness program that produces measurable outcomes through lifestyle changes, centered on training and nutrition. Workouts consist of constantly varied, high-intensity, functional movements. The trainer/coach comes to the facility twice per week to train with the youth and show them proper exercise techniques. The school has also purchased and provided the youth with exercise and workout equipment to include stationary bikes, medicine balls, jump ropes, rowing machines, and weighted sand kettlebells. The youth appear to really enjoy this activity. The school recently purchased pull-up rings and additional medicine balls. Recently, a second Administrator has been brought in on Mondays and Wednesdays to facilitate these aerobic conditioning sessions.

The Probation Department partners with the Prison Education Project (PEP) which is a group of credible messengers with lived justice involved experiences. PEP has established a progressive and innovative approach to supplementing and expanding educational opportunities for the incarcerated population. By providing academic, life skills, and creative enrichment programming, PEP aims to educate, empower, and transform lives by creating a “Prison-to-School” pipeline. Their mission is to provide in-custody students with the cognitive tools necessary to function as productive citizens. Currently, PEP volunteers come into the facility every Saturday to provide 2 groups of youth with 1 hour of programming. They work on a semester basis which means they provide their services to our youth 10 months out of the year. Some of the most recent lessons taught are Financial Literacy and Mindfulness.

The Santa Rosa Rancheria Cultural Department which was established by a local Native-American Tribe comes onsite once a month and provides cultural activities and education to the youth. These activities include making Saltgrass candy, drawing portraits of their loved ones on canvases, and saging or smudging, which is a sacred Native American ceremony for purifying the mind, body, and spirit, as well as cleansing spaces of negative energy. Saging involves burning dried herbs-usually white sage, cedar, or sweetgrass to create a sacred smoke intended to restore balance, harmony, and offer prayers to the Creator.

The Probation Department continues to work in collaboration with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) to establish a local Youth Advisory/Judicial Council. This council reviews site specific topics such as youth handbooks, rules, commissary items, and other desired incentives. OYCR provided two spots for our youth to apply for Kings County seats on the OYCR Statewide Youth Advisory Board. This is a great opportunity for youth to provide their input in areas such as facility beautification, decorating, landscaping, garden projects, art projects, etc. to promote ownership and responsibility of their space. On May 2, 2025, [redacted] were chosen for these spots. Thereafter, the youth would meet virtually with the Youth Advisory/Judicial Council every Monday night from 6-8pm. Unfortunately, [redacted] suspended from participation on the Statewide Youth Advisory Board due to assaultive behaviors; [redacted]. Subsequently, [redacted] different Secure Track Youth showed an interest in participation on this board and have submitted their respective applications. Their acceptance and onboarding is pending.

The Probation Department, through various providers, will also play a key role in training the supervision staff. The core principles of a trauma informed approach to custodial supervision involve educating staff that most youth have experienced significant traumatic events in their lives. Therefore, we seek to minimize the chances of re-traumatization during interactions with the youth. The training will be ongoing and will introduce staff to various topics. These topics include introduction to mental disorders, working with mental health from a trauma informed perspective, Interventions and de-escalations, staff mindfulness, vicarious trauma, positive confrontation, dysfunctional families and probationers, emotional intelligence for effective interaction, and building rapport with youth.

The Wellpath Mental Health professional will receive daily updates of significant aspects related to the youth and will staff each case weekly. Case staffing may be related to progress; however, the Wellpath Mental Health professional may call clinical meetings based on a more urgent need of a youth. These meetings shall include those providing treatment to the youth including the psychiatrist, mental health, DPO, and others identified by the Wellpath Mental Health professional. The purpose of the clinical staffing will be to address the presenting urgent need.

Education

Students have varying opportunities to earn their High School Diploma within the district. The traditional track follows the standard graduation requirements set by the district. Alternatively, eligible students can benefit from the provisions of AB 2306, which allows certain students to graduate without completing elective courses. This modification is designed to cater to students who meet specific criteria outlined in the assembly bill, providing a more accessible route to graduation for those who qualify.

1. **Traditional Track**: Students complete all the required courses, including core subjects and electives, as specified by the district's graduation requirements.

2. **AB 2306 Modifications**: This pathway removes the need for elective courses for certain students deemed eligible under the specifications of AB 2306. This could be helpful for students who might face challenges in completing the standard course load in a timely manner.

3. **AB 2181:** Provides County Office of Education with decision making regarding juvenile justice students and adjusted graduation requirements based upon CYA/DJJ's closing and students being in local facilities longer. This allows us to keep students in high school beyond the California Department of Education minimum 130 graduation requirements and voids AB2306 credit reductions when it is in the best interest of the child.

4. **AB 1354:** This bill puts the responsibility of transitions to be done collaboratively onto the County Office of Education in partnership with Probation and Districts.

Youth who have not graduated will participate in educational services provided at JC Montgomery School under the Kings County Office of Education. Students at JC Montgomery are provided with A-G coursework through standards-based classroom instruction and online Edgenuity credit recovery coursework. During classroom instruction, students are provided with culturally responsive, hands-on learning experiences that align with assigned course texts and resources. Through Edgenuity, students are able to enroll in coursework to earn their diploma and to enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses for transition back to their comprehensive programs should that be the goal. Students who are within 30 credits of earning a diploma have the opportunity to become dual enrolled students through a partnership with West Hills Community College. The site transition specialist provides academic services to students, including support to complete the FAFSA applications and to research post-secondary educational opportunities, including vocational or technical programs. Students who are English Learners are provided with daily designated ELD support by a classroom teacher. Students on IEP's receive individualized support from the on-site

RSP teacher. All student progress is monitored through site benchmark assessments every 6-8 weeks. Once youth have received their high school diploma, they will have the opportunity to enroll in community college coursework toward a degree program of their choosing.

J.C. Montgomery School offers students the opportunity to take A-G courses approved by the CSU/UC system in order to transition directly from high school into a four-year university.

In collaboration with JC Montgomery School, we are hoping to develop a pre-apprenticeship and formal mentorship program. Industry professionals will be brought onsite to provide real-world work-based experiences. JC Montgomery already partners with Lemoore College, the Santa Rosa Rancheria Cultural Department, and the Rising Scholars Program and is allowing our high school graduates to continue to participate in the Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway in the Arts, Media, and Entertainment sector which is the Digital Storytelling program previously mentioned in the program section of this plan. This program focuses on multimedia production and incorporates industry professionals from across this career field. JC Montgomery School was awarded the Golden State Pathways implementation which will lead to the establishment of additional high-quality pathways in the areas of Agricultural Mechanics and Plant and Soil Science. These traditional pathways are aligned with the state priority area of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with an emphasis on climate resilience in the Plant and Soil Science pathway. They are also aligned with regional and state workforce priorities. These additional and specialized pathways will provide our youth with vocational education opportunities with the option to obtain entry-level jobs in the workforce upon release or to continue their education through certification programs. Lastly, the school recently purchased 30 raised garden beds, a mobile greenhouse, and gardening tools. The youth have already begun growing plants in the garden which is located on the East side of the school building. The goal is to grow food which the youth will be able to consume.

UPDATE: The Kings County Office of Education is currently working in collaboration with the Probation Department and the County of Kings Purchasing Department to develop this unique Request for Proposal (RFP) to implement the Ag Mechanics and Plant and Soil Pathway. The RFP will seek to get proposals from skilled and certified educators with a desire to work closely with justice involved youth in a secure facility setting.

Career and Technical Education

Many youth and young adults have no desire to attend a university. According to 2019 data compiled by Resource Development Associates (RDA), for 25–64-year-olds in the San Joaquin Valley, only *8%* of respondents had an associate degree, *12%* had a bachelor's degree and less than *5%* had a postgraduate degree. Additionally, of the 18–

24-year-olds, 60% were not enrolled in any type of postsecondary education (JobsEQ Demographic Profile Summary – San Joaquin Valley Associated Counties). Therefore, for the youth and young adults in our program, preparing them for a vocation of their interest is an ideal alternative to degree programs. Partnering with the Kings County Job Training Office, youth and young adults will receive on-site courses to facilitate the development of foundational career skills that are requisite in a competitive job market. These in-person programs, taught by JTO staff members, include workplace etiquette, DMV study for a driver's license, building self-confidence and self-esteem, interviewing skills, resume development, typing and Microsoft office skills. For youth who are unsure of their career path, assessments for job aptitude and job interest will be available.

Family

From the outset of each youth and young adult's commitment, we will begin working closely with their family. Healthy community and family connections are critical for continued healthy development, and we believe all families possess strengths upon which future success can be built. The goal of family interventions is to reduce stress and conflict among family members and solve any problems, versus trying to identify any single "cause" within the family. Families may receive psychoeducational services, counseling, learn to handle conflict, develop/increase communication skills and reduce overall stress. Case managers will work with the Kings County Human Services Agency to ensure families are connected with any benefits to which they may be entitled. The family will be involved in all aspects of the youth/young adult's case plan development. In addition to direct services to the family and youth, the family will have in person face-to-face visits with the youth at least twice a week, ongoing telephone contact and Zoom visits. Secure Track Youth can earn a special visit with their families and other pro-social people of their choosing after maintaining good behavior for 30 consecutive days. In summary, the family will be involved in all aspects of the youth's program, and the treatment team will maintain frequent contact with the family to ensure everyone is informed on the treatment plan, progress and any issues that may arise during the commitment. We have implemented an annual water day event and an annual Family Holiday party. On July 25, 2025, we transported all of the Secure Track Youth to the former Kings County Juvenile Center for a water day. They were treated to a barbeque meal, they ate watermelon, made ice cream sundaes, and enjoyed other sweet treats. The youth were allowed to fill water balloons, use super soakers, play on a slip and slide, and lounge in toddler sized pools. The youth had a great time; fun was had by all. The holidays can be very difficult for those separated from their families and a large part of successful rehabilitation requires positive engagement and support from loved ones and participation in prosocial activities. On December 22, 2025, we held a holiday party for the youth and their families in the Palm Recreation Room at the BRANCH. The youth enjoyed great food, played games, watched football, listened to Christmas music and best of all enjoyed spending time with close family members. The party ended with a friendly "snowball" (cotton ball) fight amongst the youth and staff; fun was had by all. This was a great event and despite this event being held in the evening hours, many of our collaborative partners attended to show support for the youth they serve. The youths' mental health clinician, Nurse Practitioner, Health Services Administrator, JTO technician, Lemoore College

Facilitators, and nursing staff all attended at their own free will which demonstrated positive support for the youth.

Medical

Through a contract with Wellpath, each youth will receive health, dental and vision assessments to address any unmet needs followed by ongoing care. The youth's health is the foundation upon which all programming depends; therefore, maintaining their physical wellbeing is of paramount importance. Psychiatric services will also be available for youth and young adults. Most medical services can be provided on-site. However, for most dental and vision needs, youth and young adults may be transported to treatment providers in the community.

Pre-release Preparation

Within 6 months of program completion, pre-release planning will be initiated. The entire treatment team, comprised of the youth, their family, Wellpath Mental Health professional, Deputy Probation Officer (DPO), educational/vocational representative, medical staff, any community based organization working with the youth,and a representative from the Human Services Agency if needed, will meet to develop specific goals for the youth as they prepare to transition back to the community. This team will ensure the youth is supported in their transition with emphasis placed on their medical needs, medication needs, Medi-Cal/health insurance, housing, education, employment and overall support and encouragement. Experiences may be different for each youth, however, as this is a transitional period for the youth, the Wellpath Mental Health professional will evaluate specific clinical needs and goals that the client will focus on as they work through the release process. The Wellpath Mental Health professional/DPO will facilitate a group focused on re-entry for youth who are within 6 months of being released.

Based upon the structure of the disposition ordered by the court, the youth may be subject to probation supervision following their release. The probation officer's primary role will be one of support as the youth transition back to the community. The youth and family will also continue to receive any services they require, including mental health, group counseling, and assistance with continuing education and employment related services from the employment and training technician.

PART 3 – Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds W&I 1995(d)(3)

REQUESTED BUDGET FY 2026/2027

Description	Amount
LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN	$125,978
(14) FTE JSO I/II	$1,399,463
(2) FTE SENIOR JSO	$240,610
(1) FTE SUPERVISING JSO	$158,021
(2) FTE JCSC	$147,018
TEACHER – OFFICE OF EDUCATION	$70,000
OPERATING EXPENSES – JUVENILE CENTER	$524,702
TOTAL	**$2,665,792**

KINGS COUNTY SB 823 FUNDINGS ALLOCATIONS BY YEAR

FISCAL YEAR	ALLOCATION
2021 - 2022	$416,802
2022 - 2023	$1,266,502
2023 - 2024	$2,172,897
2024 - 2025	$1,933,691
2025 – 2026	$1,933,176

PART 4 – Facility Plan W&I 1995(d)(4)

On December 17, 2024, Kings County Probation moved the current custodial operation to the former Branch Jail that was re-modeled following the county's award of funds under SB 81. All youth including realigned youth were moved to the newly remodeled Behavioral Rehabilitation Academy- New Chance Hub (BRANCH). The BRANCH provides additional space for programming, educational and vocational training.
The BRANCH consists of 2 remodeled dormitory spaces (Maple and Cottonwood) and the Birch Unit which is an accountability/behavior modification unit. The Maple Dorm consists of 16 beds, the Cottonwood Dorm consists of 8 beds and 4 wet rooms which are secure rooms consisting of 2 beds, a sink, and toilet in each. We are currently using all three housing units. The original plan involved Secure Track Youth being housed in the Cottonwood Dorm. However, it became necessary to utilize the Cottonwood Unit to house our more vulnerable youth for their protection. Both dorms consist of comfortable home-like furnishings, a big screen television, video gaming consoles, a large community table for games and puzzles, and each youth has their own locker to store personal items. The Birch Unit consists of 12 secure wet rooms which have 2 beds, a sink, and toilet, and one ADA compliant room consisting of 1 bed, a sink, and toilet. The Birch Unit has comfortable seating, a wall-mounted television, and 3 large community tables for games and puzzles. Each youth housed in this unit has a floor mounted chest with 2 shelves to store personal items. Prior to January 2, 2026, all Secure Track Youth were housed in the Maple Dormitory; however, on January 2, 2026, a gang assault transpired on the recreation yard adjacent to the Maple Dormitory. At this time, the Secure Track Youth witnessed the assault in the yard and proceeded to engage in an assault in the Maple Dormitory in retaliation. This assault led to a full melee involving almost all youth housed in the Dormitory. As a result, several youth and staff sustained injuries. It should be noted, this melee was so significant, the Kings County Sheriff's Office had to respond to the facility to assist in neutralizing the threat. All but [redacted] current Secure Track Youth engaged in this melee with one of the Secure Track Youth assaulting two separate officers by physical force and with the use of OC Pepper Spray that he was able to obtain during the scuffle. Therefore, the Secure Track Population is currently split into the 3 separate housing units based on behavior and the best interests of the respective youth. In the near future, we are hoping to combine and reintegrate the Secure Track Youth population into the Maple Dormitory using restorative justice practices.

The wireless internet capabilities in the facility have been enhanced for the youth's programming and education needs. Additionally, more colorful furnishings were installed in all living units in the BRANCH in an effort to make the environment much more comfortable with a less institutional feel. In addition, the Mental Health Office has been redecorated to create a more therapeutic environment, this includes adding soft and colorful furnishings along with a weighted blanket, soft pillows, a new leather chaise lounge, and wellness inspiring wall art. The Mental Health Professional also allows the youth to utilize breathing and stress balls during their clinical sessions. He reported seeing an increase in participation and effectiveness of his time with the youth since these improvements have been made to the space. In addition, through the CalHope grant award given to the JC

Montgomery School, they were able to purchase more flexible seating options in the classrooms as well as in the Dormitories. Lastly, 2 large and colorful pieces of artwork were recently installed in the Palm Recreation Room and the Olive Dining Hall. These pieces were commissioned by JC Montgomery School who hired a professional artist through the Urbanists Collective, who traveled from out of state to work in collaboration with the youth to create the artwork.

Regarding less restrictive programs; unfortunately, Kings County lacks in county resources. However, we have used electronic monitoring with probation supervision as a less restrictive option in the past as well as Teen Challenge which is an inpatient substance use rehabilitation center in Reedley, California which is located in Fresno County. We will be looking into the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp in Amador County. This camp is for youthful offenders (up to age 25) that combines rehabilitation with firefighting and conservation work; it is run jointly by CAL FIRE and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Participants receive education, trauma-informed treatment, and vocational training, while serving as paid wildland firefighters and performing community service, helping them build skills for a successful reentry into society. In addition, the Probation Department will be looking into the Angels of Hope House as a less restrictive program. This is a Recovery Housing program located in Tulare County. According to the website, their "mission is focused on adult justice involved individuals and those transitioning from SUD treatment facilities into a 24/7 recovery environment". The program includes a sober living environment, curfews and accountability, daily house meetings, peer support structure, coordination with probation and parole, resource referrals and case coordination. To be considered eligible for this program, individuals must be older than 17 years, have a substance use disorder, AND meet financial guidelines through staff works to ensure no one is turned away due to immediate lack of funds, AND must be committed to a recovery-oriented environment, AND must be experiencing homelessness OR are at risk of homelessness.

PART 5 - Retaining the Target Population in The Juvenile Justice System W&I 1995(d)(5)

The Kings County Probation Department works with the Minor's Advocates Office and the Kings County District Attorney's Office to ensure fair, consistent, and equal treatment of all justice involved youth. Our collective goal is to work with the youth and family in resolving delinquency and restoring victims using the lowest level of intervention possible.

The Probation Department will continue to offer prevention and early intervention services to youth and families to minimize the number of cases referred to the District Attorney. Further, only when the Juvenile Court finds the rehabilitative efforts of the juvenile system inadequate in a given case will it then be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Adult Criminal Court.

In the past 10 years, the intersection of the latest neuroscience and the law have led to fundamental changes in the Probation Department's approach to addressing juvenile

offending and all our interventions. We know from the latest brain science that adolescents are far more likely to engage in risk-taking and life endangering behaviors compared to adults given the developmental differences in the brain. The difference in the prefrontal cortex of a 16-year-old raised in a stable environment and someone ten years older is substantial; so much so that these two clearly cannot be treated the same when they have engaged in the same misconduct. However, most of the youth with whom we work at probation were not raised in a stable environment; most of our kids have experienced significant childhood trauma or have endured consistent and persistent environmental and familial stressors such as violence, domestic violence, drug use, abuse, neglect, parental imprisonment, economic stress, and difficulty with education. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Probation Department to properly inform and educate all parties about these factors in every case to ensure a just outcome for the youth, family, and community. Additionally, probation staff will receive ongoing training related to the latest neuroscience findings to ensure our reporting in juvenile cases is thorough, developmentally informed and as impactful as possible.

PART 6 – Regional Effort W&I 1995(d)(6)

Kings County will likely seek to contract with another County or Regional hub to provide services for adolescent sex offenders. Given the high level of specialized treatment required by this population, coupled with the low number of commitments, it will be more beneficial for the youth and their treatment to contract with a County with larger numbers of youth with similar treatment needs.

Likewise, Kings County will seek to contract with another County or Regional Hub to provide services to female offenders. There are significantly fewer female commitments and programming them together is a better alternative than housing them alone. However, in the absence of a contract, Kings County would house any female commitments in the Cottonwood Unit. However, females would leave the unit to attend school, programming, and other recreational and rehabilitative activities.

PART 7 – Data W&I 1995(d)(7)

The Wellpath Mental Health professional will be responsible for coordinating the maintenance of records and data collection. The program shall maintain all client records as set forth by HIPAA standards and guidelines. The program utilizes an Electronic Health Care Record for record keeping.

The program will maintain a database to track the entry and programming of the youth along with tracking key events and progress. The program shall further utilize a weekly progress report to assist with tracking the progress of the youth in the program. These progress reports will be utilized as the weekly staffing and provided to the court for the Judge during periodic reviews.

The Probation Department created and implemented a multi survey system to track program progress and evaluate the needs of the program including both youth and staff. These surveys are administered at the inception of the program, at six months, and a year into the program. These surveys determine program effectiveness and identify any other wants or needs we can utilize to support our youth in making progress towards their rehabilitative goals. These surveys are provided to the youth, parents/guardians, and staff. In addition, our collaborative partners such as Wellpath Medical and Mental Health and the Job Training Office also provide feedback regarding the progress made by the youth during their respective interactions and programming. The qualified mental health professional meets with the Secure Track Youth individually for one hour per week at a minimum, for one hour group sessions per week and anytime the youth requests to speak with her. Information and data not subject to HIPAA obtained from these sessions is used to determine program and intervention effectiveness.

Outcome Measures include:

- Change in risk and protective factors identified using the PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool) assessment for youth under the age of 18 and the ONA (Offender Needs Assessment) for youth aged 18 and over.
- Recidivism (New convictions in adult or juvenile court while in custody or on supervision).
- Adherence to evidence based and trauma informed practices:

    Level of youth participation and progress in offered services

    Pairing of Individual Rehabilitation Plans with relevant treatment and services

    Application and Implementation of recommended interventions resulting from our self-initiated Correctional Program Assessment Inventory prepared by the University of Cincinnati

    Ensuring and monitoring treatment service linkages upon release on supervision or to less restrictive environments

Secure Track Youth Outcomes to Date:

[redacted] successfully completed[redacted] baseline term after receiving a step down and [redacted] released on probation supervision. [redacted] supervision [redacted] subsequently transferred to Kern County Probation where [redacted] guardians reside.

[redacted] (returned from DJJ) [redacted] recently released to a lesser restrictive residential treatment program (Teen Challenge) for making significant progress towards[redacted] rehabilitative goals while in custody. [redacted] placed on probation supervision with GPS monitoring. Unfortunately, [redacted] cut off [redacted] monitor, absconded

supervision, and [redacted] arrested in Monterey County on [redacted] counts of Robbery (new charges are pending).

[redacted] youth (returned from DJJ) committed an adult offense while in custody serving his commitment (assault on an officer and attempted escape). Subsequently, [redacted] sentenced to a term of incarceration in state prison.

[redacted] youth committed adult offenses while in custody serving their respective commitments (assault on an officer and possession of manufactured weapon). [redacted] were transferred to the Kings County Jail and subsequently sentenced to a term of incarceration in state prison.

We currently have [redacted] Secure Track Youth serving commitments in our facility. [redacted] pending a possible new charge for an assault on an officer, [redacted] possibly pending a new charge for bringing drugs into the facility. However, [redacted] are actively participating in individual and group therapy. [redacted] youth are high school graduates and are enrolled in online classes through the Lemoore College Rising Scholars program. They all participate in offered programs.

Outcomes of Secure Track Youth Surveys ([redacted] were willing to complete the survey)

- All youth who completed the survey unanimously agree they believe the mental health services they receive are great and meet their needs
- Most youth mentioned visiting as an area of improvement, they would like to visit with people other than families (significant others) and to add more flexible days and times for visits (it should be noted, youth with family unable to visit in person are offered a Facetime visit option)
- When asked for suggestions for improvements, they requested for more programs, hands-on activities, and access to free weights (they currently have access to weighted sandbags, medicine balls and pull-up bars during aerobic conditioning)
- Regarding clarity of facility rules, below are the responses of the youth surveyed
    - "We read them every week, so very clear"
    - "Fuck the rules cause staff abuse them"
    - "There not clear and needs to be structured"

      ***It should be noted the rules are posted in all housing units, in addition to the recreation room and dining hall, rules are reviewed aloud every Monday and are included in the orientation handbook provided to all youth)
- Most youth agreed the incentive program is effective
- Most youth indicated they like the 1-hour daily programming offered

- Please see the youth responses below regarding the quality of the youth-staff relationship on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being not good and 5 being great
    - "It is not great for some, but for me, I try to have the best relationship possible" Score of 4
    - "Terrible" Score of 1
    - "Fuck Em" Score of 1

Outcomes of Parent/Guardian Surveys:

Just as important as measuring "what" the program did for the youth, is "how" services were provided. It is crucial to gauge a youth and family's perspective on whether or not, and to what degree, they were treated fairly and with respect by those working in the program. Therefore, through questionnaires, we will measure concepts such as trust, fairness, transparency, and impartiality. In order to get more complete surveys and more comprehensive data, we issued the surveys to parents during visitation. Surveys are also always available in the lobby of the facility. Unfortunately, we only received a couple of completed surveys from parents/guardians. However, the commonality in the surveys were that they feel comfortable approaching facility staff with complaints and one stated, "They are always very helpful, I like how they keep me updated with my youth". One of the surveys had no recommendations for improvement stating, "It's good, I have no problems". The other parent surveyed recommended longer visiting times and for youth to be able to visit with people other than family members once per month.

Outcomes of Staff Surveys:

- Staff believe there needs to be more accountability for youth demonstrating negative behaviors, believe youth with the most behavioral issues get too many warnings
- FTO (field training officer) has improved, there is more consistency
- Would like more scenario based and deescalation trainings
- More hands-on extracurricular activities for youth related to life-skills such as culinary classes or laundry
- More staff meetings
- More communication between seniors, supervisors, and management (all staff receive a daily pass down briefing email after every shift advising of occurrences, activities/duties completed, or other pertinent information relevant to facility operations)
- Believe all information should come from management via email and not from seniors or supervisors to ensure instruction and expectations are accurate
- One surveyor conveyed displeasure with promotional selections
- Requested a more comfortable breakroom with couches and not sharing a breakroom with managerial staff

- More accountability for senior and supervisory staff regarding perceived favoritism in making the shift assignments
- Change in unit supervision for staff working in excess of 12 hours, for change of environment/scenery

Data/Information obtained from our mental health professional during varied group sessions with the Secure Track Youth population:

Secure Track Youth are able to participate in a variety of activities for their court ordered group therapy sessions. Group therapy sessions are broken down into 4 different categories (physical activity, art therapy, large group discussions, and preferred social activity.) During the physical activity, clients are able to improve skills related to teamwork, good sportsmanship, and healthy communication. During art therapy, clients are able to improve skills in order regulate mood, express creativity, and mindfulness. During the large group discussion, clients are able to improve their communication skills, better understand how the communicative process works, practice healthy boundaries, and employ active listening skills. Furthermore, clients are able to discuss topics relating to mental health, the juvenile justice system, risk/protective factors, and barriers for success. Lastly, during the preferred social activity, clients are able to improve their social skills, increase healthy communication by reducing profanity, and maintain boundaries with their peers. The mental health professional has found success in this structured format versus worksheets, handouts, or deep processing sessions. Using this format, clients are more engaged, participatory, and eager to inquire about what the group will consist of for the next session.

Currently, there are several incident driven data that are collected and maintained pursuant to Title 15. This includes but is not limited to documentation of room confinement, use of force, restraint, injuries, fights, due process, grievances, PREA related incidents and self-harm. This incident-related information will continue to be documented and tracked in the same manner.

PART 8 – Progress W&I 1995(d)(8)

To enhance educational opportunities, the Rising Scholars Program at Lemoore Community College is now providing in-person educational services to our youth. This program's mission is to empower and provide comprehensive support for justice-involved and formerly incarcerated students of Kings County. These services currently include facilitating enrollment and providing career guidance. In the near future, the Kings County Office of Education will be providing an instructional aid who will be assigned to assist the Lemoore College students daily with questions, guidance, and tutoring services. Upon release, students can receive wraparound support services to ensure success; these services include academic and career counseling, tutoring, financial aid assistance, and access to essential resources like food, clothing, and hygiene products. These additional resources can help remove barriers to students' success and create a supportive environment that encourages student achievement. The Rising Scholars are working on a program to bring a mobile lab into the facility which would give youth hands on learning

opportunities; they are currently training staff on it's use. They have Juvenile Justice grant funding which they plan to use to beautify the classroom such as upgrading student desks and other educational tools used by the youth. Lastly, the Rising Scholars Program has a goal to hire an additional teacher to spend !00% of their time working with our college enrolled youth.

The Probation Department purchased a welding simulator, which allows youth who are interested to learn basic welding skills, proper welding techniques and explore welding career paths. The simulator provides immediate feedback on work angle, travel angle, speed, nozzle to plate distance, and straightness. Unfortunately, [redacted] have not been interested in using the simulator during the past year.

In 2024, JC Montgomery School received a grant from the CalHOPE foundation which provides schools with mental health and wellness resources. The school used this grant to fund 2 de-escalation/wellness rooms within the Kings County Juvenile Center. These rooms were utilized as a place for youth who are dysregulated to go to calm down and participate in soothing activities. The rooms consisted of large murals, a comfortable sofa, weighted blankets, beat making drums, an aroma therapy infuser with white noise, expandable breathing balls, coloring books, bubbles, fidget spinners, soft throwing blocks, markers, and puzzles. Since our move to the BRANCH facility, we are still in the process of mimicking these spaces in a room at our current location as we feel this is a valuable resource to have available for our youth. We have designated room 1514 for this space and many of the above items have been moved to that room, it just needs to be set up. We are hoping to have this room ready for use in April.

The Probation Department has expanded our training program and scheduled staff to participate in several customized training courses; these include but are not limited to, Adolescent Brain Development, Dealing with Mentally Disordered Youth, Criminality, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Understanding the Stages of Change, Motivational Interviewing, Helping People Change, Foundational Skills for Interactive Journaling, Signs and Symptoms of Substance Abuse, Trauma; Interventions, Resources and Referrals; Stigma and Bias, Roles and Responsibilities, Liability, Suicide Prevention, Behavioral Health Case Planning, Foundations, Safety and Emotional Survival. Our collaborative partners at Behavioral Health have extended an offer to provide additional training opportunities to facility staff to further enhance their skills in understanding and addressing issues impacting the youth in this population.

PART 9 – Summary of Expenditures W&I 1995(d)(9)

Expenditure Subject Area	**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.**
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Salaries and Benefits for staff that support programs or services.	$560,474.01	Yes	Sufficient staffing is needed to provide rehabilitative services to this population.	Sufficient staffing allows the department to provide necessary resources and programming services to this population.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Overtime Pay for staff that support programs or services.	$29,891.89	Yes	Mandated staffing ratios are needed to provide necessary rehabilitative services.	Having sufficient staff leads to more effective programming and provides for necessary safety and security.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Clothing and Supplies	$8,473.10	Yes	Ample clothing and supplies are necessary and required for youth.	Having a variety of clothing such as polo shirts and jeans for this population makes the youth feel less institutionalized than when they are wearing their standard issued jumpsuits.

WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Household	$16,965.17	Yes	These expenditures are consistent with the plan as they involve purchases necessary to maintain the cleanliness of the units and regular additions and replacement of household items.	Cleanliness along with the addition and replacement of regular household items improves outcomes for this population as a clean, tidy, and comfortable living environment contributes to a calm mind which is required for successful rehabilitation. Further, it allows youth to take ownership and pride in their spaces.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Office Supplies and Equipment	$292.25	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan because this is an ancillary cost of doing business and performing administrative tasks in a County SYTF Facility.	No direct impact on youth outcomes but necessary for SYTF program administrative tasks.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Maintenance Equipment	$1,767.70	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan because performing regular maintenance and necessary	No direct impact on youth outcomes but necessary for continued safety and security of the youth in the SYTF program.

			upgrades to facility radio and intercom communications is an ancillary cost of doing business in a County SYTF Facility.	
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Maintenance S.I.&G.	$5,166.54	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan; however, the purchase of additional facility key sets and reflective window tint on the housing units is an ancillary cost of doing business in a County SYTF Facility.	These expenditures have some impact on youth outcomes, as the window tint in the housing units cuts down on distractions and heat from the direct sunlight making the temperature more comfortable for youth. Additional keys are necessary for the safety and security of the youth in the SYTF facility especially in the event of an emergency.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Books and Periodicals	$498.27	Yes	These expenditures are consistent with the plan.	These expenditures were for books and periodicals for youth to read and expand their knowledge and enjoy during recreational times; therefore, improving outcomes for this population

				as it adds another option of entertainment.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Computer Software	$694.55	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan because this is an ancillary cost of doing business and performing administrative tasks in a County SYTF Facility.	No direct impact on youth outcomes but necessary for SYTF program administrative tasks.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(D) Professional and Special Services	$31,012.50	Yes	These expenditures are consistent with the plan because they pay for the Job Training Employment Technician and services performed by the Accurate Controls Camera Technician.	These expenditures have improved outcomes for this population as the Job Training Technician provides career and technical classes/services to prepare SYTF youth for employment upon reentry into the community. In addition, having a functional camera system benefits and improves the safety and security for all.

WIC § 1995(d)(3)(C) Special Department	$6,685.97	Yes	These expenditures are consistent with the plan, as they provide youth with a variety of incentivized items and activities.	These expenditures improve outcomes for this population as they are used for youth birthday meals, sporting equipment, commissary items, streaming services, video games, postage stamps, monthly programming Incentives, family holiday parties, and water/field day activities.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Purchasing Charges	$1,498.72	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan as they are fees paid to the County Purchasing Department for Purchase Order processing.	No direct impact on youth outcomes but necessary for the purchasing of goods and services for the SYTF program.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Travel	$240.00	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan because this is an ancillary cost	No direct improved outcomes for this population; however, having staff trained in First

			of doing business by providing mandatory CPR training for staff assigned to the County SYTF Facility.	Aid CPR is a benefit for all.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Utilities	$86,301.21	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan because this is an ancillary cost of doing business and operating a County SYTF Facility.	There is no direct improvement to youth outcomes; however, utilities such as electricity, water, gas, trash disposal, sewer are necessary to operate a facility.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(A) 24-Hour Custody Medical	$86,515.57	Yes	These expenditures are consistent with the plan as round-the-clock medical services are necessary.	These expenditures improve outcomes for this population as providing youth access to regular medical and mental health services is paramount to their physical wellbeing.
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(B) Liability Claim/Insurance	$4,993.50	No	These expenditures are not consistent with the plan because this is an ancillary cost of doing business and operating a County SYTF Facility. Cost is	There is no visible direct improvement to youth outcomes; however, carrying required liability insurance is a benefit to all.

			based on number of employees and paid on a quarterly basis.	
WIC § 1995(d)(3)(D) Info Technology Services	$37,144.88	Yes	These expenditures are consistent with the plan because we purchased new laptop computers for this population.	These expenditures improved outcomes for this population as providing youth access to the latest technology assists them in their educational goals/ endeavors.
Total Expenditures	**$878,615.83**			

The expenditures are consistent with the established Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Plan submitted on April 10, 2025. These expenditures improve outcomes for the realigned population in that they fund not only the necessities such as staff salaries, clothing, hygiene, etc. but funded many additional items and youth activities such as youth birthday meals, the Water Day event, Halloween Art Decorating Contest, Gingerbread House Decorating Contest, and Family Holiday party. We believe letting our youth participate in traditional activities that non-incarcerated youth get to experience improves outcomes for our realigned population. These activities allow our youth to somewhat escape the reality of their legal situations for a few hours and just be kids. These positive and prosocial events improve mood, lowers anxiety, and provides an additional incentive that the youth look forward to. [redacted] expressed their appreciation to staff and administrators for allowing and coordinating these events for them.