County of Orange
Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan

2026- 27

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Introduction

Senate Bill 823 (SB823), also known as the "Juvenile Justice Realignment: Office of Youth and Community Restoration," was chaptered on September 30, 2020. Amongst several statutory changes, Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Welfare and Institutions Code ("WIC") section 1990) was added to Division 2.5 of the WIC to establish a block grant program for the purpose of providing county-based custody, care, and supervision of youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. Additionally, WIC section 1995 set forth guidelines for counties interested in becoming eligible for block grant funding.

As a result of SB823, the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (OCJJCC), during its regularly scheduled meeting on February 25, 2021, approved changes to its bylaws to include the creation of the OCJJCC's SB823 Subcommittee. Nominations for the new subcommittee were then entertained by the OCJJCC Chair. During the same meeting, the OCJJCC unanimously approved individuals representing the agencies and entities identified in WIC section 1995, subdivision (b) to be part of its new SB823 Subcommittee.

The newly formed SB823 Subcommittee held its first public meeting on April 29, 2021. Over the course of several months, subcommittee members performed the needed analyses, engaged the public, and developed its local plan. The group presented its original draft SB823 plan during the regularly scheduled meeting of the OCJJCC on Thursday, October 28, 2021. The following plan is responsive to the aspects set forth in WIC section 1995, subdivisions (d)(1) through (d)(8) and is the culmination of the collective discussions and partnership between the juvenile court, community, and system stakeholders. This plan will address the needs of youth within the target population, improving the outcomes for success and reducing rates of recidivism.

The OCJJCC SB823 Subcommittee convened to discuss and update the County's JJRBG plan on March 3, 2026, and March 17, 2026. On March 17, 2026, the subcommittee approved the 2026-2027 plan.

Allocations

Pursuant to WIC section 1991, subdivision (a), and commencing with the 2021-22 fiscal year, and annually thereafter, counties will receive an allocation for use by the county to provide the "appropriate rehabilitative housing and supervision services for the population specified" in WIC section 1990, subdivision (b). The plan required in WIC section 1995 shall be considered by the Board of Supervisors in making allocations and any entity receiving direct allocation of funding from the Board of Supervisors for any secure residential placement for court ordered detention will be subject to existing regulations. "A local public agency that has primary responsibility for prosecuting or making arrests or detentions shall not provide rehabilitative and supervision services for the population specified in subdivision (b) of Section 1990 or receive funding pursuant to this section." (WIC Section 1991, subd. (a).)

Eligibility for Funds

For eligibility of allocated funds under WIC section 1991, counties must create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council. In Orange County, that council is the OCJJCC which has been in existence since 1996. The subcommittee of the coordinating council must then "develop a plan which describes the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for the population described in subdivision (b) of [WIC] section 1990." (WIC section 1995, subd. (a).)

Pursuant to WIC section 1995, subdivision (b), the OCJJCC's subcommittee must be comprised of the following: The chief probation officer, as chair, a representative from the district attorney's office, public defender's office, the department of social services, the department of mental health, the county office of education or a school district, and a representative from the court. Also necessary to membership are no fewer than [redacted] community members who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates who have expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the system.

The OCJJCC's SB823 Subcommittee is composed of the following individuals:

Agency	Name & Title	Email	Phone Number
Orange County Probation Department	Daniel Hernandez Chief Probation Officer	Daniel.Hernandez@prob.ocgov.com	(714) 645-7001
Orange County Probation Department	Jessica Johnson Chief Deputy Probation Officer	Jessica.Johnson@prob.ocgov.com	(714) 645-7004
Orange County District Attorney	Katherine David Assistant District Attorney	Katherine.David@ocdapa.org	(714) 935-7624
Orange County Public Defender	Darren Thompson Chief Deputy Public Defender	Darren.Thompson@ocpubdef.com	(657) 251-8770
Orange County Social Services Agency	Scott Burdick Human Services Deputy Director	Scott.Burdick@ssa.ocgov.com	(714) 245-6131
Orange County Health Care Agency	Dawn Smith Asst. Deputy Director	DawnSmith@ochca.com	(714) 834-5015
Orange County Department of Education	Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin Chief of Alternative Education, ACCESS	mpoulin@ocde.us	(714) 245-6721 ext. 6721
Orange County Juvenile Court	Hon. Craig E. Arthur Juvenile Presiding Judge	carthur@occourts.org	(657) 622-5502
Community Member Waymakers	Hether Benjamin Chief Program Officer	hbenjamin@waymakersoc.org	(949) 250-0488 ext. 254
Community Member Project Youth OC	Laura Marcum Executive Director	laura@pyoc.org	(714) 480-1925 ext. 101
Community Member Project Kinship	Steven Kim Executive Director	steven@projectkinship.org	(714) 909-5225
Community Member Project Kinship	Raymond Sanchez Director of Peer Navigation	raymond@projectkinship.org	(714) 941-8009

Target Population

(WIC section 1995(d)(1): Provide a description of the county's realignment target population including 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.)

In fiscal year 2024-2025, the Orange County Probation Department supervised 380 active youth who met the requirements for SB823 by being adjudicated for WIC section 707(b) offenses and were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of the offense. These 380 SB823 youth were wards under the jurisdiction of the Orange County Juvenile Court. This includes all who have returned from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) who remain under active supervision. The most serious 707(b) offense for each youth is listed below:

Offense or Offense History	Number of Youths
Arson	0
Assault	186
Attempted Homicide	27
Homicide	16
Kidnapping	<12
Robbery	138
Sex Offense	<12
Use of Firearm	0
Violence Against Aged	0
Weapon of Mass Destruction	0
Witness Tampering	<12
Other	0

Of the 380 SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department, 34% identified as male (with 59% of gender identity not collected); 80% were Hispanic; and 6% were 20 years old or older at adjudication of the first, active case with at least one sustained 707(b) offense.

Gender	Number of Youths
Male	128
Female	26
Non-binary	0
Declined to identify/Did not collect	226

Race or Ethnicity	Number of Youths
White/Caucasian	21
Hispanic or LatinX	305
Black/African American	29
Asian	15
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<12
Multi-Racial	0
Other	<12
Unknown	<12

Age at adjudication	Number of Youths
14	42
15	86
16	104
17	84
18	33
19	<12
20	<12
21	<12
22	0
23	<12
24	<12
25 and older	12

The Orange County Probation Department completes an Initial Risk and Needs Assessment within 45 days after adjudication. Reassessments occur every six months. For SB823 youth active in FY 24-25, 83% were assessed to have substance use history and 67% with alcohol use history. In addition, 68% of youth associated with gangs. Overall, 82% were classified as high risk on their Initial Risk Assessment with an average risk score of 21.5. Any score 15 and above is considered high risk.

Initial Risk Assessment

SB823 Youth	380
Initial Risk Factors	
Average Initial Risk Score*	21.5
Initial Risk Classification	%
High	82.3
Medium	14.2
Low	3.5
Prior Record	%
No prior arrests or applications for petitions	45.8
Prior arrests, applications for petition or informal probation	37.7
Prior petitions sustained	16.5
Institutional Commitment or Out of Home Placement	%
None	37.1
One or more	62.9
Substance Use (Drugs)	%
No known use; occasional use	17.1
Occasional excessive use	57.1
Dependency	25.8
Alcohol Use	%
No known use; occasional use	32.8
Occasional excessive use	51.6
Dependency	15.6
Parental Control/Influence	%
Generally effective	3.2
Inconsistent/ineffective	51.9
Little or no control	44.9
School Discipline/Employment Problems	%
Attending school, training and/or working	21.7
School attendance or behavior problems	22.6
Truancy or illegal behavior	43.2
Not attending school/not working	12.5

Learning/Academic Performance Problems	%
No significant problems	31.9
Poor academic performance	53.6
Diagnosed learning disability or special class	14.5
Runaway/Escape Behavior	**%**
None	65.5
Runaway/escape risk	34.5
Negative Peer Influence	**%**
None	4.3
Negative peer influence or loner	27.6
Gang association	68.1
**Juvenile Initial Risk Classification Score Ranges: 0-5 (Low); 6-14 (Medium); 15+ (High)*	

Of the 380 SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department in FY24-25, less than 12 former minors were ordered to SYTF. These former minors were ordered to immediate step-down, as reflected in the table below. Three-hundred three (303) youth have either completed or are serving a court-ordered commitment. For these 303 youth with commitments ordered, they had a total of 346 petitions containing at least one sustained 707(b) offense where a commitment was ordered. The table below shows the first commitment ordered for a sustained 707(b) offense for youth active in FY24-25.

Placement and/or Facility (Please provide the placement or facility names below)	**Number of Youths**
1. SYTF to immediate step-down	
Release to community	<12
2. Court-Ordered Commitment Days (**SB 823, non-SYTF**)	
30 or less	16
31-90	96
91-180	89
181-364	34
365-600	25
601-999	14
1,000 or more	29

For the 303 SB823, non-SYTF youth, the average commitment length of the first 707(b) commitment ordered was 239 days; the median commitment length was 120 days. Approximately 37% of commitments were 90 days or less, and 66% were less than 6 months. Approximately 262 of the commitments ordered were one year or longer, and the longest commitment time ordered was 3,359 days.

The Orange County Probation Department gathered the following target population information for the 380 SB823 youth that were active during FY2024-2025:

Program (Please provide the name of specific programs below)	Number of Youths
Cognitive Behavioral Training services (Project Kinship)	96
Restorative Circles (Project Kinship)	236
Re-Entry Success (Project Kinship)	144
System Navigator/Peer Mentor services (Project Kinship)	127
Culinary (Open Gate)	71
Life Skills program (Partners4Wellness)	31
Automotive program (Skills Up)	<12

In Fiscal Year 2024- 2025, 13 youth had transfer hearings. Less than 12 youth were transferred to Adult Court. The majority of cases remained in Juvenile Court.

Additional Target Population Information

(Describe any additional relevant information pertaining to identified target population, including programs, placements, and/or facilities to which they have been referred.)

Data Summary of Active SB823 Youth on February 10, 2026

In addition to the FY2024-2025 data presented above, the following data offers a one-day snapshot of the SB823 population in Orange County on February 10, 2026. On February 10, 2026, the Orange County Probation Department supervised 227 active youth who were adjudicated for WIC section 707(b) offenses and were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of the offense. Fifty-five (55) youth had two or more 707(b) offenses. The total number of offenses are listed below:

Department of Justice (DOJ) Hierarchy		
Offense	**Total number of 707(b) Offenses**	**Number of Youth by the Most Serious 707(b) Offense (per youth)**
Homicide	17	16
Attempted Homicide	20	≥12
Robbery	94	59
Assault	178	135
Sex Offense		0
Kidnapping		<12
Witness Tampering		<12
Grand Total	321	227

Of the 227 SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department, 58% identified as male; 82% were Hispanic; and 25% were 20 years old or older as of February 10, 2026.

SB823 Demographics: Snapshot as of February 10, 2026 (N = 227)		
	#	*%*
Gender		
Male	130	58%
Female	26	11%
Non-Binary	0	0
Declined to identify/ Did not collect	71	31%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	186	82%
Black	12	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	<12	
White	17	8%
Other/Unknown	<12	

Of the 227 SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department, 46 were in custody on February 10, 2026, including 20 youth at the Youth Guidance Center or the Youth Leadership Academy. The remaining 181 youth were supervised in the community.

Location of Active SB823 Youth on February 10, 2026		
	Number	Percent
In Custody	46	20.3%
Juvenile Hall	26	
Camps (Youth Guidance Center or Youth Leadership Academy)	20	
Not in Custody (Supervised in the Community)	181	79.7%
Total	227	100%

Data Summary of Pending SB823 Youth on February 10, 2026

On February 10, 2026, 124 youth had pending 707(b) charges and were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of the offense. These youth are SB823 eligible upon adjudication of their WIC section 707(b) charges. Seventeen (17) of these youth have been adjudicated of 707(b) offense(s) in the past and are also included in the active snapshot above as well as here. Forty-two (42) youth had two or more 707(b) offenses pending as of February 10, 2026. The total number of pending 707(b) offenses are listed below:

Department of Justice (DOJ) Hierarchy		
Offense	**Total Number of 707(b) offenses**	**Most Serious 707(b) Offense (per youth)**
Homicide	20	18
Attempted Homicide	23	<12
Robbery	46	30
Assault	89	58
Sex Offense	[redacted]	<12
Kidnapping	0	0
Witness Tampering	[redacted]	<12
Grand Total	**192**	**124**

Of the 124 pending SB823 youth, 22% identified as male; 65% were Hispanic; and 18% were 20 years old or older as of February 10, 2026.

Pending SB823 Demographics: Snapshot as of February 10, 2026 (N = 124)		
	#	%
Gender		
Male	27	22%
Female	<12	
Non-Binary	0	
Declined to identify/Did not collect	≥12	
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	84	67%
Black	16	12%
White	13	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander	<12	
Other/Unknown	<12	

The SB823 subcommittee determined Orange County's local plan would need to focus service delivery on the needs of older male youth. Given the fact that (due to the severity of offenses committed) the majority of the target population youth serve custodial commitments, in reach and reentry types of services (provided through community partnerships) are at the core of Orange County's planning efforts.

Programs and Services

(WIC section 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.)

The County of Orange is committed to providing a trauma-informed approach to each youth within the target population that begins the moment a youth enters the juvenile facility. Integral to this approach is the early identification of a peer mentor/navigator who will support the youth throughout the youth's commitment and follow the youth after release to assist in the reentry process. Both youth committed to the Secure Track Youth program and those included in the larger target population will be provided with enhanced frequency of services.

The Transitional Care Coordinators (TCC) DPCOs will meet with the youth within 72 hours of entering into the facility and begin working with the youth and gathering information for the initial case plan. A case conference meeting will be held within 30 days from the youth's entry into a juvenile facility. In alignment with the Family Engagement Case Planning Model, the youth, parent/guardian, peer mentor/navigator, community-based organizations and designated individuals from the following agencies will participate in the case conference: Probation, Health Care Agency, and the Department of Education. The case conference will provide an opportunity for the youth's input in the development of a robust case plan that will assist all service providers in addressing the youth's needs and goals. This case plan will identify a youth's immediate health and basic needs, educational goals, barriers to success (such as tickets and fines, school access or

securing vital documents), existing familial supports as well as the youth's support systems. Case plan goals may include, but not be limited to, attaining high school education or the equivalent, participating in programming to improve job readiness (i.e., college or trade school courses), and independent living skills. Any transitional, reentry support services will also be culturally responsive and whenever possible utilize evidence-based, promising, and trauma-informed practices. The case plan will continue to be assessed relying on input from the youth and reviewed every 30 days through additional case conferences.

If a youth is committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility ("SYTF"), Probation must submit an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) to the court within 30 court days. Their existing case plan and the IRP will consider an assessment of the youth's needs and risk to recidivate as well as any mood/anxiety symptoms, risk of suicide/self-harm, history of alcohol/drug use, history of trauma, current traumatic stress symptoms, risk of violence/sexual victimization and risk of commercial sexual exploitation. Based on this assessment, additional case plan goals, including barriers to prior rehabilitative efforts, short- and long-term goals will be identified and directed at promoting successful reentry for the youth into their community. Case plan reviews for SYTF youth will be reviewed every 30 days through regularly scheduled case conferences. The youth's educational milestones/goals will be reviewed as well as all other reentry goals (e.g., participation in court-ordered treatment, job readiness classes/training). Additionally, SYTF youth will have access to behavioral health and substance use disorder professionals to address any challenges that may hinder successful re-integration back into the community.

The progress of SYTF youth will be provided to the juvenile court every six months at calendared progress review hearings regarding the youth's case plan development and the youth's progress toward completion of goals along with the youth's readiness for reentry relative to the IRP. At least six months prior to release, a reentry conference will be scheduled with the youth and case conference members. At this case conference, the youth, the youth's family and/or identified support, peer mentor/navigator, assigned deputy probation officer, service providers and community partners will review the youth's case plan progress. Additionally, transition planning (e.g., a review of parent/guardian readiness to receive the youth back home or housing options for our older youth) will be discussed. The youth's peer mentor/navigator will also be crucial to allow the youth to engage in off-site activities designed to improve the youth's successful transition. Upon release, the youth and assigned deputy probation officer will work towards completing final case plan goals until juvenile court jurisdiction terminates, or the youth completes supervision satisfactorily whichever comes first. Any transitional, reentry support services will also be culturally responsive and whenever possible utilize evidence-based, promising, and trauma-informed practices.

Presently, programs and services will be provided on site at each of the County's juvenile facilities. However, the County is currently working on strategic plans to renovate, build and potentially redesign the existing juvenile detention facilities, including a relocation of at least one juvenile camp. (This plan is detailed below in the "Facility Plan" section.) As part of this plan, specialized housing for the SYTF population as well as considerations based on a youth's gender, gender identity, age, behavioral health needs, offense, and severity of the offense are occurring. Through

this plan, the County, with input from the juvenile justice stakeholders and community partners, looks forward to creating more therapeutic, trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, and home-like settings which would be appropriate and livable for longer term commitments when necessary. Included in these plans are step-down units or facilities that will meet the needs of the SYTF population and be conducive to the services and programs being delivered.

As for service providers and supervision for the target population, the Probation Department employs a diverse and experienced staff of direct supervision officers who will work with this population. The ratio of at least one deputy probation correctional officer (DPCO) to every eight youth during waking hours is anticipated. Additional staff may be assigned to areas housing committed Secure Track youth. Probation staff receive state approved training curriculum which includes diverse topics such as professionalism and ethics, crisis communication and de-escalation, group dynamics, responding to medical emergencies, fire and life safety, cultural diversity and ethnic disparity, gender identity, case planning, addressing and reporting child abuse, preventing sexual assault, trauma, symptomology of substance use, suicide prevention, and core correctional practices to support safety.

The County will also look to create and build upon existing relationships with service providers through local agencies as well as community-based organizations to provide appropriate programs and services to the target population.

DJJ Realignment Funds

(WIC Section 1995(d)(3)(A) through (d)(3)(F): Provide a description of how grant funds will be applied to address each of the following areas of need or development for realigned youth: Mental Health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs; support programs or services that promote the health adolescent development; family engagement programs; reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education; evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally response; and any services or programs that will be provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers.)

DJJ Realignment funding will be utilized to develop robust, individualized treatment plans for the target population youth focused on the youth's behavioral health, educational and emotional needs, community-based mentorship, and family engagement/support for those youth identified as SB823 and those youth pending SB823 eligibility. Any transitional, reentry support services will also be culturally responsive and whenever possible utilize evidence-based, promising, and trauma-informed practices with an annual review of services and programs through an outside provider to measure the effectiveness of such programming. While funding may be applied to county-based custody, care and supervision of SB 823 eligible youth pursuant to the statute, priority will be given to funding programs and services if funds are limited.

A. *Behavioral Health, Sex Offender Treatment, or Related Behavioral or Trauma-based Needs*

   Allocated funds will be used to expand the number of behavioral health clinicians serving the target population youth and to procure additional evidence-informed services for this population including treatment for violent sex offenders. As set forth above, robust,

individualized case planning will occur for each target population youth at the outset and will include information from risk/needs assessments and any behavioral health issues identified through existing screening tools.

Planned additional services in the areas of behavioral health, sex offender treatment and or trauma may include:

- Substance use education and counseling
- Evidence-based cognitive behavior therapy approaches and/or groups
- On site/on-call 24-hour behavioral health services that are available 7 days a week
- Medication Assisted Treatment ("MAT")
- Psychiatric services
- Sex offender treatment, including treatment for violent sex offenders
- Trauma-focused clinical interventions
- Gang intervention services and support
- Socially and culturally inclusive restorative practices
- Mindfulness based programs
- Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing ("EMDR")
- Art and Music Therapy

Staff members and involved systems professionals will receive training in national best practices to support reentry needs.

B. Support programs or Services that promote healthy adolescent development

DJJ Realignment funds will be utilized to procure services for the target population which are evidence-informed, rehabilitative, developmentally appropriate, and support the Positive Youth Development Model. Identified services include Restorative Circles, Cognitive Behavior Training, Reentry Services, System Navigator/Peer Mentor/Credible Messenger, Educational/Vocational Services, and Life Skills. Treatment and service providers will be required to support pro-social development by including the youth's voice in programming decisions, offering programs that support healthy relationships, financial literacy, job readiness, pro-social and adolescent development, hygiene and self-care, mindfulness, artistic expression and enrichment, and opportunities for leadership development.

To continue to promote a youth's healthy development, appropriate medical screenings, behavioral health, and dental screenings will occur along with preventative care including dental cleanings every six months.

C. Family Engagement in Programs

Recognizing that family can provide extensive knowledge about a youth and their background, the identification of a youth's family and/or familial support will be done within 72 hours from the youth's entry into a juvenile facility. Once identified, any familial support will be essential members of the case conference with a meeting held within 30 days from the youth's intake at the facility. With the engagement of the youth, family, service providers and peer mentor/navigator, a robust individualized case plan will identify a youth's immediate physical and behavioral health and basic needs, educational goals, and support systems.

The engagement of family through regular onsite visitation at the juvenile facilities is a significant source of support for youth and enabling a youth to connect to family whilst in custody oftentimes promotes the youth's well-being. In recognition of this, the Probation Department has expanded the definition of "family" to allow visitation between an in-custody youth and individuals such as aunts, uncles, cousins, adult siblings, non-biological relatives, other supportive adults, and more. In addition, the newly constructed multi-purpose rehabilitation center on the juvenile justice campus will serve as a more welcoming space for visitation.

Additionally, since some of the County's target population youth are parents themselves, programs including the Teen Parenting program and the Just Beginning and Child Bonding curriculum will be provided to youth in custody. Psychoeducation on parenting and resources in the community will also be provided. These programs allow youth to find commonality, strength, and encouragement to assist in meeting the demands of parenthood while in and out of custody. They are facilitated through use of videos, education materials, activities, and structured visits to assist in their child's development.

D. Reentry, Including Planning and Linkages to Support Employment, Housing, and Continuing Education

Reentry planning for the target population youth will begin upon intake at the juvenile facility. The County will build upon the existing reentry model presently utilized by the County's Youth Development Court (YDC), which is a post-Prop 57 court developed to assist youth in making a successful transition from lengthy local juvenile commitments as well as those youth who had been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice to their communities. Through this model, reentry case planning involving the youth that identifies the youth's support network, engages the youth's family/caregiver, services providers, and community providers begins at the time of intake. This process encourages the youth to start planning for their success both in and out of custody and immediately identifies their supportive partners. Thereafter, through regular case conferences involving the youth and identified case conference members, this reentry plan will be a fluid, working document that follows the youth throughout their commitment. Reentry plans include housing, basic needs, employment, education, counseling, behavioral health services, and any other

factors, inclusive of culturally appropriate services, involved in promoting the youth's well-being within the youth's community. A validated risk/needs assessment is also used as a valuable tool in guiding the plan.

At least six months prior to release, the reentry plan will focus on a community-centered reentry phase during which the youth will obtain supportive and transitional services from the clinical and educational teams as well as community-based providers whilst in custody. During this phase, educational, vocational, housing, and career opportunities for the youth outside of the facilities will be pursued to allow a measured transition back to the youth's community.

In collaboration with Probation, the Orange County Department of Education (DOE) provides educational opportunities to youth within the County's juvenile facilities. Target population youth engage in educational programming based upon their age and high school graduation status. Youth generally focus on completing credits necessary to earn a California High School Diploma or GED , while former youth not only obtain their diploma, but continue on with advanced studies via transferrable community college courses, career technical education sequences that lead to pre-apprentice certifications, or, depending on length of stay, may engage in upper division university coursework leading to a bachelor's degree.

Community-based organizations who partner with Probation will assist youth in finding housing and employment opportunities for the target population. Community partners will be subject to an objective process like a Request for Proposal. Orange County intends to set aside funding to support rental assistance, clothing for job opportunities, and other related issues needed to maintain or secure housing, services, or employment.

After establishing a reentry plan, assigned probation officers will work collaboratively with the youth, the youth's family/caregivers/support network, the juvenile facility staff, community reentry partners, and other stakeholders (i.e., Department of Education and Health Care Agency) from the time the youth is committed through their termination of wardship.

E. Evidence-based, Promising, Trauma-informed, and Culturally Responsive Services and Programs

The Probation Department is dedicated to providing evidence-informed, rehabilitative, and developmentally appropriate programming to the target population youth. The services and programs will be centered on a Positive Youth Development Model and support a youth's pro-social development by including their voices in programming decisions and working collaboratively to meet their needs.

Services and programs will be provided through existing partnerships and new contracts with providers such as the Orange County Health Care Agency and community-based organizations. Such services will include: consistent evidence-based cognitive behavior

therapy approaches and/or groups, substance use education and treatment, sex offender treatment, aggression replacement therapy, trauma-focused clinical interventions, gang intervention services and support, positive pro-social programming, creative arts programming, and mindfulness-based programs.

All probation staff are trained in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex (LGBTQI) communities and culture to ensure fairness and respect for LGBTQI youth in the facilities. Such training allows staff to promote environments of sensitivity and professional boundaries for all youth, inclusive of LGBTQI youth, and promotes competency in working with LGBTQI youth. Probation staff are also familiar/trained in corrections supervision strategies that have been proven effective by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute including, but not limited to, trauma-informed interactions, cognitive behavioral strategies that influence behavior, and incentive-based interventions.

Probation staff will have the opportunity to attend training specific to: Addiction and Recovery, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), Conflict Resolution, Effective Communication and De-escalation, Education as a Tool for Successful Reentry, Cultural Diversity/Humility, Implicit Bias, Racial Profiling, Avoiding Manipulation, Helping Youth Grieve, Impact of Trauma on Development, Managing Stress, Coping with Grief and Loss, Secondary Trauma, Wellness and Self-Care, Youth Trauma, DJJ Realignment: Preparing for Transitional Aged Youth, Core Correctional Practices, and many courses on youth behavioral health intervention and disorders.

Funding will be used to provide appropriate training to probation staff and collaborative partners in the areas of trauma, culturally responsive practices and other identified need areas. Additional proposed training includes areas such as restorative justice/practices and reentry focused topics.

F. Nongovernmental or Community-based Providers

Utilizing existing relationships with non-governmental and community-based providers through the YDC, new services and enhancements to existing programs provided through such entities will be pursued. Services and programs supported by grant funding will include mentorship, restorative circles, team building and leadership development, financial literacy, creative and culinary arts, pro-social programming, job training, furlough opportunities, enrichment activities, gang intervention services and support, and transportation to secondary education/vocational sites and/or employment.

To ensure continuity and collaboration during reentry, the development of relationships between the primary service provider and organizations such as community agencies, schools, faith-based organizations and public services will be encouraged.

Probation will continue to utilize established protocols and processes to provide linkage and collaboration between community-based providers and non-governmental entities within the County.

Facility Plan

(WIC section 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, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. This shall include a description of less restrictive programs used by the county, including whether the programs are in a facility regulated by Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 1300) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. This should include how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics.)

The County of Orange (through its Probation Department) operates one secure juvenile detention facility, Orange County Juvenile Hall (JH), and two juvenile camp facilities, Orange County's Youth Guidance Center (YGC) and Youth Leadership Academy (YLA). The Probation Department employs a staffing pattern at each of the juvenile facilities that exceeds state/federal recommended minimum staff to youth ratios. In addition, Probation leverages its existing partnership with the Orange County Department of Education as well as the Orange County Health Care Agency to ensure the educational and behavioral health needs of each youth are met. All sworn Probation staff at these facilities are familiar/trained in corrections supervision strategies that have been proven effective including, but not limited to, trauma-informed interactions, cognitive behavioral strategies that influence behavior, and incentive-based interventions. The environment within Probation's facilities strikes the necessary balance between maintaining safe/secure juvenile facility operations while providing resources necessary to address the rehabilitative needs of all detained youth.

With the above in mind, Secure Track youth will be housed/supported in any unit at JH. The youth's prevailing needs will determine where in JH that youth may be placed. In addition to the above-described staffing/partnership structure, JH currently has specialized housing, programs and considerations based on youth gender identity, age, behavioral health needs, offense type and severity of the offense. Target population youth and committed Secure Track youth, absent another prevailing housing need, will be housed with their like peers considering the most appropriate setting based on age, risk level and other needs. This strategy will allow Probation the flexibility to house older male Secure Track/target population youth together, while other Secure Track/target population youth, including female and younger individuals may be housed in other areas of JH to better accommodate their specific needs and/or address the different stages of maturity, and program appropriateness.

As Secure Track youth progress through the JH facility program, they can be moved/housed within YGC, or YLA to continue their custodial commitment until they are released. Should the court order a Secure Track youth directly to YGC, or YLA, the committed youth will be integrated into the YGC/YLA populations, absent extenuating circumstances.

The County of Orange is currently working on strategic plans to renovate, build and potentially redesign the existing juvenile detention facilities including the relocation of at least one juvenile camp. To this end, the County has contracted with an architectural design firm for research, development, and a design plan. Phase One of the overall redesign includes the current construction of a new facility currently called the Youth Transitional Center (YTC) on the grounds

of the current Juvenile Hall, with targeted completion by Spring 2027. This new facility will be used as a replacement for the existing YGC facility once completed. The plans for YTC include up to 60 beds in living units and a transitional housing unit with 8 beds for youth preparing to re-enter the community. Phase Two of the overall redesign includes two additional 28-bed housing units for youth serving long-term commitments on JH grounds and 40 additional apartment style beds within an Independent Living Program (ILP) outside the perimeter of YLA/JH. New classrooms (educational/vocational), a library and a school administration office are also proposed in the second phase of the project. The Probation Department, justice stakeholders and community partners will continue to work together to design and build facilities that create a more therapeutic, trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate setting for all youth including those committed to the SYTF. Specialized housing and considerations based on a youth's gender identity, age, behavioral health needs, offense, and severity of the offense are also being considered. The shared vision/goal of all new or renovated space for target population youth and those committed to the SYTF is a more homelike setting, appropriate and livable for longer term commitments when necessary.

Included in these plans are step-down units or facilities that will meet the needs of the SYTF population. Currently, youth are eligible to transfer to less-restrictive programs within the two camp facilities, YGC and YLA. Both camps are required to comply with Title 15 regulations, as well as the 8-bed transitional housing unit currently being constructed within the YTC. Orange County also has step-down options within the community that would not be required to comply with Title 15 regulations. For example, youth can be released by court order to a college campus dorm/housing, community provider referred housing, or to reside with family, this can occur with or without court ordered electronic monitoring. Additionally, the Probation Department has a contract with Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (PGYCC), that youth can participate in as a less restrictive program. As shared above, there are plans to build 20- 2-bedroom apartments outside JH's perimeter as part of an ILP for transitional aged youth needing additional support to enter back to the community.

Youth in the SYTF and in the target population will also be provided appropriate space for physical activities and the development of reentry skills as they move through the phases of their commitments. Space will be designed to enhance existing and future services. Activities will include secondary educational programs, career technical education, vocational skills training, and life skills that will assist the youth in successful reentry.

Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System

(WIC section 1995(d)(5): Provide a description of 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 transfers of realigned youth into the adult criminal justice system.)

Building off the YDC model, the County has seen a reduction in transfers to the adult criminal justice system through a collaborative endeavor between the Juvenile Court, Probation, juvenile justice stakeholders, and community-based organizations. Planned enhancements to YDC through the services and programs identified in the County's realignment plan will add another layer of rehabilitative services and reentry support for youth within the target population.

Additionally, by developing a robust, well-informed, individualized case plan that also considers criminogenic needs and includes ongoing case conferences which engage the youth, their family/support network, services providers, peer mentor/navigator and any other community-based providers, the likelihood of any target population youth entering the adult system is reduced. Family engagement training and planning will continue to be offered to staff. Additional SB823 DPCO positions have been proposed to provide similar services to the remaining SB823 population when staffing levels are available. Moreover, with a focus on reentry at the outset of a youth's case, planning for continuation of care that minimizes a disruption of services and establishes community and peer support, promotes stronger ties to a youth's community and reduces their chance of entry in the adult system.

Regular assessments of the effectiveness of existing and future programs and services must also be done to ensure appropriate successful outcomes for the target population and the retention of these youth within the juvenile justice system. Programming will be evaluated with a focus on providing services that will decrease the likelihood of transfer to the adult system. Where appropriate, implementation of existing services will be enhanced through continuing education of staff in areas including trauma informed practices, implicit bias, and conflict resolution.

SYTF youth will also be provided with step-down opportunities outlined specifically within their individualized plan. Youth will be given specific target goals to effectuate the step-down process. The identification of specific goals will incentivize youth to meet those goals through positive reinforcement.

Regional Effort

(WIC section 1995(d)(6): Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported by the County's block grant allocation.)

There are no regional agreements or arrangements that will be supported by the block grant allocation.

Data

(WIC section 1995(d)(7): Describe how data will be collected on the youth served and outcomes for youth served by the block grant program including a description of outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds)

The Orange County Probation Department has a data collection system. This data system has the capability to track "recidivism" related measurements such as risk/needs assessments, number of arrests, and sustained petitions. The system can also produce reports of real time data to provide outcome measures for the programs and interventions supported by block grant funding.

Evaluation of Data

Data will be collected to evaluate the impact of the County's plan on the youth's rehabilitation, recidivism, and public safety. Data points may include youth development and wellness data, including, but not limited to, education attainment, employment, behavioral health, housing, family connections, foster care, and other wellness outcomes. Although the current system can capture some of these data points, an evaluation is necessary to determine what added programming and/or personnel resources are needed to capture additional data. Additionally, Probation has contracted with an independent data evaluator, Justice System Partners (JSP), to allow for an objective review and report on the outcomes and data regarding our programs.

Other Updates

(WIC section 1995 (d)(8): Describe any progress on elements since May 1, 2025)

The County of Orange has made huge strides in focusing on and fulfilling many of the proposed components of the previous realignment plan. With existing County partners, community-based organizations (CBO), and various service providers, we have implemented several evidence-based treatment programs/services and created a wide variety of supportive and youth focused resources, specific to the target population. The updates below provide specific information on the responsiveness of the County of Orange to meet the needs of the youth and the commitment to provide services, programs, and opportunities to the youth within the target population.

Contracts were signed with the community-based organization, Project Kinship (PK) to provide Restorative Circle Services, Cognitive Behavioral Training Services, Re-Entry Services, and System Navigator/Peer Mentor Services. These contracted services have been in place for two years. The services are currently being provided to youth within all juvenile facilities and referred youth within the community. Additionally, a PK Youth Transformation Program drop-in site opened in June of

2025 and is located within the Juvenile Justice complex, which allows for the availability of additional services for the target population within the community. PK staff are trained in various evidence-based practices, several staff have justice system lived experience, and they provide practice-based evidence services within both the juvenile and adult justice arenas within Orange County.

The department has maintained a contract with the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, as an alternative detention and program opportunity for eligible male youth who are 18-25, under juvenile court jurisdiction and serving a commitment within our juvenile facilities. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) jointly operate Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (Pine Grove) in Amador County. Camp partners include Amity Foundation and Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) which collaboratively instill a therapeutic community for youth participating in the camp. Pine Grove provides housing, care and training to county youth. Youth who participate in the program will receive various supportive programming, as well as firefighting specific training. Comprehensive rehabilitative program services are uniquely designed to accommodate youth employment schedules, youth specific needs, and address: positive reinforcement ethics, criminal addictive thinking, violence interruption and knowledge, motivational incentives and success, restorative justice and empathy, substance abuse counseling, reentry and reintegration programs and transitional planning and housing. Additional program services include an athletic fitness/sports program, college coursework, community service, religious services, and volunteer programs. Youth will receive 96 hours of training to receive six professional entry-level wildland fire service certificates. One certificate is received from CALFIRE, and five additional certificates are received from the National Wildfire Coordination Group. Youth will use the skills they learn in training on various conservation and fire prevention projects. [redacted] youth participated in the program for several months; however, [redacted] returned due to a medical issue. To fulfill many of the proposed programs within the County's previous plan, the Orange County Probation Department (OCPD) has solicited providers for various services and resources focused on providing opportunities for the target population. Contracts are currently pending with two providers that will provide vocational certifications in Graphic Design, Construction, Culinary Arts, and Medical Billing. A contract was secured with the vendor, Skills Up, to provide hands on automotive training at Probation's Multipurpose Rehabilitation Center (MRC) on site fully equipped auto shop. OCPD continues to meet with the leadership of local colleges and universities to expand existing services for the target population. Probation has recently released an additional Request for Proposal (RFP) to expand educational and vocational opportunities for the targeted population. College level classes continue to be provided to eligible youth through our partnership with local community colleges. Additionally, youth have the opportunity to attend virtual classes offered through local universities.

Probation has recently released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Theater Arts and Musical Instruction Services. Probation is looking to offer this opportunity to the targeted population by contracting services to instruct dancing, singing, and acting within the facilities. It is proposed that the performance instruction will culminate in musical productions that can be attended by the

youths' families, peers and staff.

The department continues to utilize six Transitional Care Coordinator (TCC) DPCOs. These staff work with the target population and focus on developing a robust, well-informed, individualized case plan within monthly case conference meetings that include the youth, parent/guardian, peer mentor, CBO personnel, as well as behavioral health and education representatives. TCC staff also assist with Medi-Cal and public assistance referrals for eligible youth and/or their families, in coordination with the Social Services Agency (SSA).

OCPD has contracted with Open Gate International for culinary arts vocational training. The 12-week program trains youth on the basics of kitchen procedures and focuses on the demands and requirements of food preparation, cooking, and the presentation of food. This program is provided on a rotational basis within all the juvenile facilities.

The Health Care Agency (HCA) provides behavioral health and various other supportive programs to youth within the facilities. Utilizing allocated funds, behavioral health clinicians continue to serve the target population with clinicians on site at the facilities seven days a week until 9 pm, and clinicians on call after hours. This has allowed for youth behavioral health needs to be addressed when issues are presented or during crisis situations. In addition, several clinicians have received specialized training in various evidence-based modalities to provide enhanced behavioral health services to ensure youth receive the behavioral health treatment they need. These enhanced behavioral health services include Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and the Matrix Model, an intensive treatment designed to address substance use. HCA utilizes Peer Mentors to provide support to the target population while in- custody and for continued assistance and community linkages upon release.

Although HCA provides programming to youth that focuses on life skills such as self-respect, building healthy relationships, financial literacy, job readiness, and other pro-social and adolescent development skill building; the department has contracted with Partners 4 Wellness to provide life skills specific programming to target population youth.
To ensure an objective review of the outcomes related to our current programming, OCPD has contracted with Justice System Partners (JSP) since August 2024 to provide consulting services regarding research, as an independent data evaluator. JSP has gathered and analyzed data related to the target population over the past several months.

Construction of the new Youth Transitional Center (YTC) began in Spring of 2025, beginning with the demolition of several existing buildings. The new facility is slated to be completed in Spring/Summer of 2027. This facility will include five-12 bed units and a unit with eight transitional housing beds. The transitional housing program will allow for a step-down option for youth who are preparing to re-enter into the community. This project is considered Phase One of several phases planned as part of the Orange County Juvenile Hall Masterplan project. The County is currently in the planning stages of Phase 2, which is proposed to include two 28–bed housing units for youth serving long-term commitments and 40 additional apartment style beds within an Independent Living Program outside the perimeter of YLA/JH.

Prior- Year Expenditures- Summary of Outcomes/ Impacts

(WIC section 1995 (D)(9): Please use the table provided below to summarize prior-year expenditures (e.g. for the 2025 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.)

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area (i.e., were the goals described for this expenditure subject area met)? (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.
Behavioral Health	$1,060,676.80	Yes	Program services focus on reducing recidivism and reduction of criminal thinking.	The program team works with participants to build emotional intelligence and develop an understanding of the impact of adverse childhood experiences on identity, behavioral patterns, and psychosocial stages of development.
Family Engagement	$121,349.81	Yes	Engages participants and their families to support case plans, foster healthy relationships, and provides community service support.	Focuses on relationship-building, facilitating group activities, understanding high-risk neighborhoods, and advocating for youth needs. Services also involve training in positive behaviors, creating community support networks, maintaining communication with probation officers, and providing regular reports. Additionally, the program offers community-based advocacy, follow-up on referrals, and educates families to encourage personal and social success. Connects youth to community resources, support pro-social activities, and assist with educational, employment, and vocational needs.

Reentry	$638,962.08	Yes	Program provides reentry system navigation services and advocacy to Probation Youth to ensure smooth transitions back into the community.	Creating supportive relationships with youth in custody, system navigation and advocacy for youth and young adults who are transitioning back to the community, to ensure connections to resources and successful integration post- release.
Evidence Based Services and Programs	$8,799,027.00	Yes	The program provides rehabilitative programs, housing, basic care, and training to Probation youth.	The program addresses positive reinforcement ethics, criminal addictive thinking, violence interruption, motivational incentives, restorative justice, substance abuse counseling, reentry and reintegration programs and transitional planning and housing. Services also include an athletic fitness/sports program, college coursework, community service, religious services and volunteer programs.

[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). CBO is excluded since it is §1995(d)(3)(F).*