OYCR | Office of Youth and Community Restoration

JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

Main contact for plan

Date: April 27, 2026

County Name: Santa Cruz County Probation Department

Contact Name: Sandra Mendez

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Background and Instructions:

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

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

There are ten sections to the plan:

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

Part 1: Subcommittee Composition and process (Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 1995 (b) and (c))

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

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Sandra Mendez, Chief Probation Officer	Sandra.Mendez@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-3207
Co-Chair (*If Applicable*)	Marisol Lopez, Children & Youth Senior Case Manager, Monarch Services	MarisolL@monarchscc.org	831-254-9799
District Attorney's Office Representative	Tara George, Chief Deputy District Attorney	Tara.George@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-2557
Public Defender's Office Representative	Heather Rogers, Public Defender	Heather.Rogers@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-5301
Department of Social Services Representative	Gloria Carroll, Division Director, Child Welfare	Gloria.Carroll@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-4062
Department of Mental Health	Lisa Gutierrez Wang, Director Children's Behavioral Health	Lisa.GutierrezWang@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-4948
Office of Education Representative	Faris Sabbah, Superintendent, County Office of Education	fsabbah@santacruzcoe.org	831-466-5904
Court Representative	Hon. Denine Guy, Superior Court Judge	Denine.Guy@santacruzcourt.org	831-420-2350
Community Members (*defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the*	Marisol Lopez, Children & Youth Senior Case Manager, Monarch Services	MarisolL@monarchscc.org	831-254-9799

juvenile justice system, or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system" (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b).))			
Community Members	Mary Valdez, Young person Lived Experience	marylynnvaldez22@gmail.com	831-740-7528
Community Members	Beatriz Rito, Parent Lived Experience	bettyrito85@gmail.com	831-316-2461
Community Members	Maricruz Velasco-Baldwin, Resource Manager, Rising Worldwide	mari@risingworldwide.org	831-429-7473
Community Members	Eric Fuentes Diaz, Children, Youth Case Manager, Monarch Services	efuentesdiaz@monarchscc.org	831-837-7034
Community Members	Beverly Brook, Community Outreach Minister	revbevbrook@gmail.com	831-588-5373

Additional Subcommittee Participants			
Santa Cruz County Probation	Valerie Thompson, Assistant Chief	Valerie.Thompson@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-3835
Santa Cruz County Probation	Jose Flores, Juvenile Division Director	Jose.Flores@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-3886
Santa Cruz County Probation	Sara Berman, Adult Division Director	Sara.Berman@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-3204
Santa Cruz County Probation	Sarah Fletcher, Juvenile Hall Division Director	Sarah.Fletcher@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-3852
Santa Cruz County Probation	Jimmy Cook, Assistant Division Director	Jimmy.Cook@santacruzcountyca.gov	831-454-3808

Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):
On October 31, 2024, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council SB 823 Subcommittee voted to elect community member Marisol Lopez as Co-Chair of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) SB 823 Subcommittee.

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

Meeting Date 1: November 10, 2025 Meeting Date 2: April 27, 2026

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable:

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

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council SB 823 Subcommittee members met on April 27, 2026, and approved the JJRBG plan with a eight voting approving the plan and one abstaining.

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

On November 20, 2025, the SB 823 Subcommittee reconvened in person and received key updates on our realigned population along with the development of the county's local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) and the implementation of the Redwoods Coastal Academy (RCA) camp program. The Subcommittee underscored the critical need to expand meaningful vocational pathways for youth placed in SYTF, while also

prioritizing targeted interventions that address and reduce interpersonal violence in relationships. The subcommittee was further engaged in the discussion of facility renovations which focused on the importance of designing spaces that support individualized, rehabilitative approaches. These discussions highlighted the need for environments that are responsive to each youth's unique needs, promote positive behavior, and enhance the delivery of programming and services.

The department received additional email and phone communication that provided further feedback on the plan. Members' input reflected both themes from the prior year's plan and new priorities that align with the department's direction and goals:

- **Programming (skills and personal development)-** Focus on building employment readiness skills, financial literacy, and healthy relationships, while providing culturally responsive programming. Emphasize public speaking to strengthen youth voice, support driver's license preparedness and integrate restorative justice and family-connection strategies.

- **Development of Youth Advisory Board-** Focus on youth autonomy, positive youth development and advocacy

- **Vocational and Certificate Programs**- Partner with agencies to develop vocational pathways, for apprenticeships, certificate programs, and paid work opportunities.

- **Reentry and Transition-** Implement a strengthened, holistic reentry approach that supports successful transition back into the community, equipping young people with essential life skills and ensuring their basic needs are met to promote long-term stability and success.

Part 2: Target Population (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(1))

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

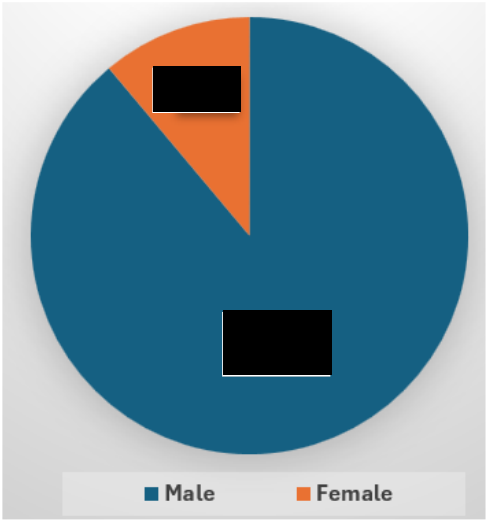
The "target population" is defined as "youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and *shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an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

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

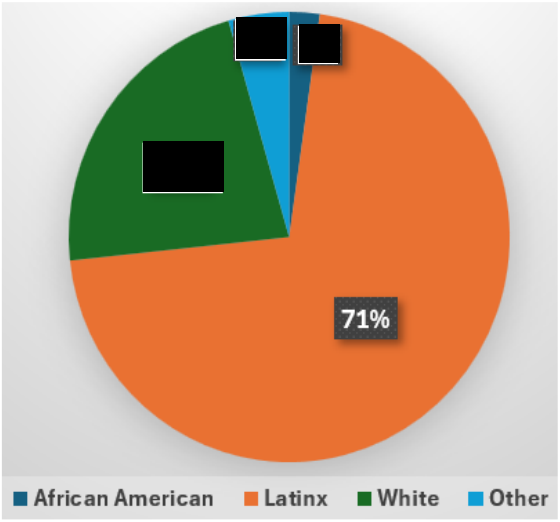
707(b) Adjudications

In 2025 45 youth were on probation for an adjudicated 707(b) offense:

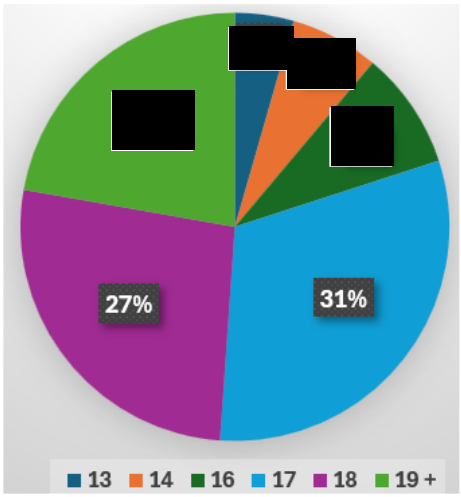
Gender



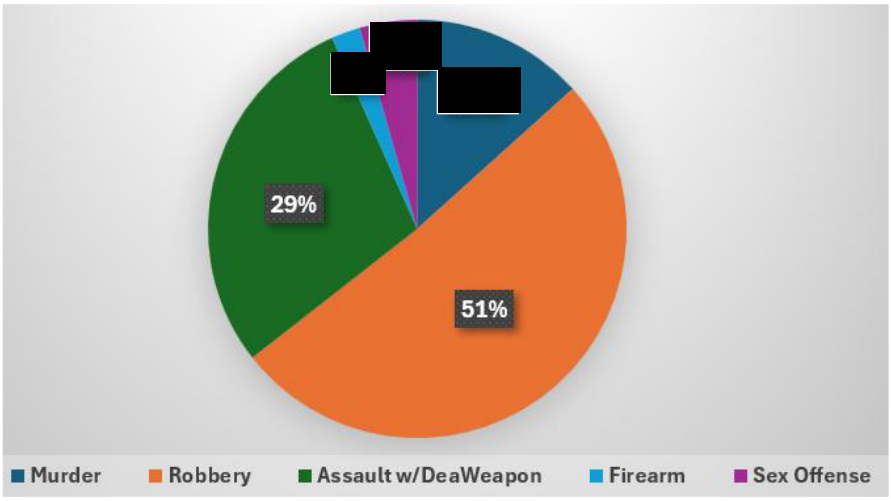
Ethnicity



Age at Adjudication



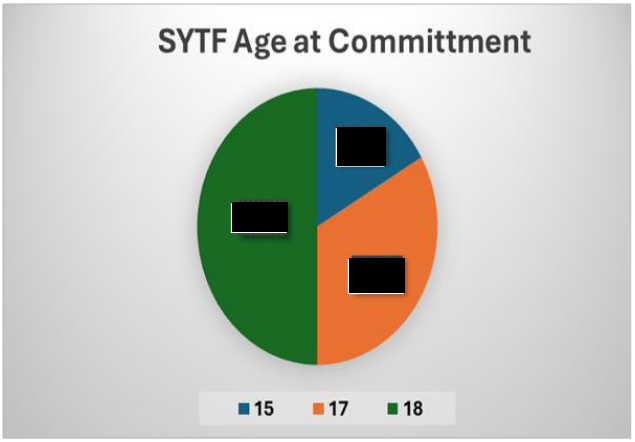
Charge Type



Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)

In 2025, the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) program served at total of [redacted] people, [redacted] Latino and [redacted] Asian [redacted]. Currently, [redacted] are receiving rehabilitative services at Sonoma County SYTF, [redacted] are served locally in Santa Cruz County, and [redacted] receiving services in the Santa Cruz County Jail. The charts below provide a detailed breakdown of the demographics for this population.

Age at Adjudication



Charge Type

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

The target population is comprised mainly of Latino males from South County. The approach to services and programs maintains focus on the needs of the target population. The Juvenile Division delivers a comprehensive continuum of services spanning investigation, diversion, pre- and post-adjudication interventions, community supervision, and out-of-home placement oversight for referred youth. The division also manages the care and custody of youth committed to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) under SB 823, in alignment with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment. Through strong, strategic partnerships with community-based organizations, the division advances trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices that center youth and family well-being while maintaining a steadfast commitment to public safety.

The Juvenile Division is dedicated to strengthening public safety by reducing recidivism through the intentional development of life skills and competencies in youth and their families. This work is driven by authentic engagement and strong collaboration with youth, families, and community partners.

Through culturally responsive supervision and services, the division not only advances community safety but also honors the trust placed in it by the court and juvenile justice system partners. Central to this mission is a focus on addressing the underlying root causes and social drivers that shape youth behavior.

Our approach goes beyond traditional enforcement or gang awareness models; it is grounded in a holistic, strengths-based framework that empowers young people, supports families, and promotes lasting, positive outcomes.

While our initiatives may not always carry the label of gang prevention or intervention, they are intentionally designed to address the root causes that can place youth at risk of gang involvement. Meaningful impact comes not from a label, but from the strength and intentionality of our approach.

At the heart of our work there is an individualized approach that begins with authentic engagement, building trust and connection between our staff, the youth we serve, and their families. By tailoring support, guidance, and opportunities for personal growth to each young person’s unique needs, we can reach a broader range of youth including those at risk of gang involvement in ways that foster participation, resilience, and lasting positive outcomes.

Many of our most impactful programs seamlessly integrate youth development, community engagement, and social support without ever needing to carry a gang-focused label. By creating inclusive environments where young people feel seen, valued, and empowered, we steer them away from gang involvement and other high-risk behaviors, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to build healthier, more positive futures. Some of the strategies utilized to accomplish this through:

- **Community Engagement** – Strengthening community connectedness by creating meaningful opportunities for individuals to actively contribute, build positive relationships, and engage in pro-social activities that foster a deep sense of belonging, shared responsibility, and collective well-being.

- **Coaching Model Approach**- Utilizing a strengths-based mentoring approach in which staff support youth through trust, guidance and skill-building, empowering them to make positive choices and achieve long-term success.

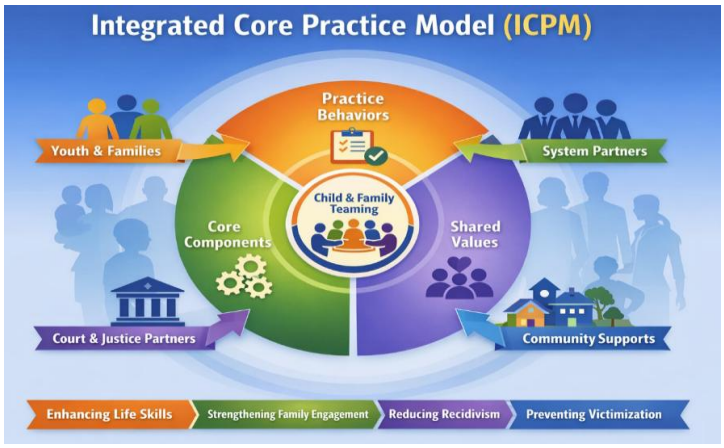
- **Family Support and Strengthening** – Empowering families through culturally responsive parenting education, counseling, and resource navigation that build resilience, strengthen relationships, and create stable, nurturing environments where youth can thrive.

- **Promoting Alternatives to Violence**- Providing conflict -resolution and restorative justice programs that equip youth with practical skills to navigate disagreements constructively, de-escalate conflict, foster accountability, and repair harm.

- **Community Policing and Strategic Collaboration** – Cultivating strong, trust-based partnerships among law enforcement, community-based organizations, schools, and residents to co-create coordinated, data-informed strategies that prevent gang involvement, disrupt cycles of violence, and promote long-term community safety and youth well-being.
- **Mentorship and Positive Role Models** – Expanding access to trusted mentors and credible messengers who model pro-social behavior, and inspire youth to envision and pursue positive, purpose-driven futures through meaningful engagement in community and extracurricular opportunities.

- **Early Intervention and Support Services** – Proactively identifying youth at elevated risk and delivering timely, individualized counseling and wraparound supports that address root causes, strengthen protective factors, and redirect trajectories toward stability, opportunity, and long-term success.

Through coordinated and collaborative implementation of these strategies, we can not only steer young people away from deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system but also build safer, stronger, and more supportive communities for all.



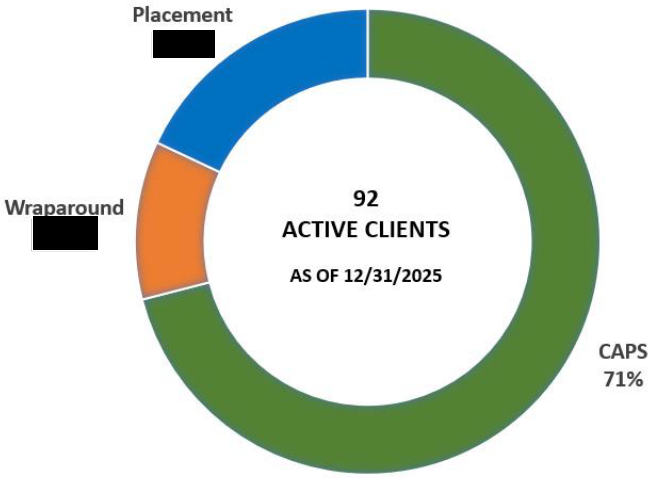
The Juvenile Division implements the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) as a foundational framework to guide consistent, high-quality engagement with youth and families. ICPM establishes a shared set of values, core practice components, and professional standards that align multidisciplinary partners in serving California's children, youth, and families. Central to this approach is Child and Family Teaming (CFT), a structured, collaborative, and strength-based process that brings youth, families, natural supports, and service providers together to drive individualized planning and accountability. Through CFTs, the division advances critical outcomes, including the development of pro-social life skills, sustained family engagement, reduced recidivism, and decreased victimization, while promoting long-term stability, safety, and well-being.

ICPM Guiding Practice Principles:

The department has provided training on the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) to community partners, highlighting its ten principles for effective family and youth engagement. By aligning our efforts across agencies, we ensure a consistent, coordinated approach that meets families where they are and strengthens the rehabilitative journey for youth. The Juvenile Division continues to collaborate with system partners to identify

and reinforce natural support systems early, recognizing the critical role of family, mentors, and community connections in a youth and family's success. Our youth-centered, trauma-informed approach remains focused on fostering positive change and lasting success for the families we serve.

The following chart outlines caseload types and percentages in the Juvenile Division:

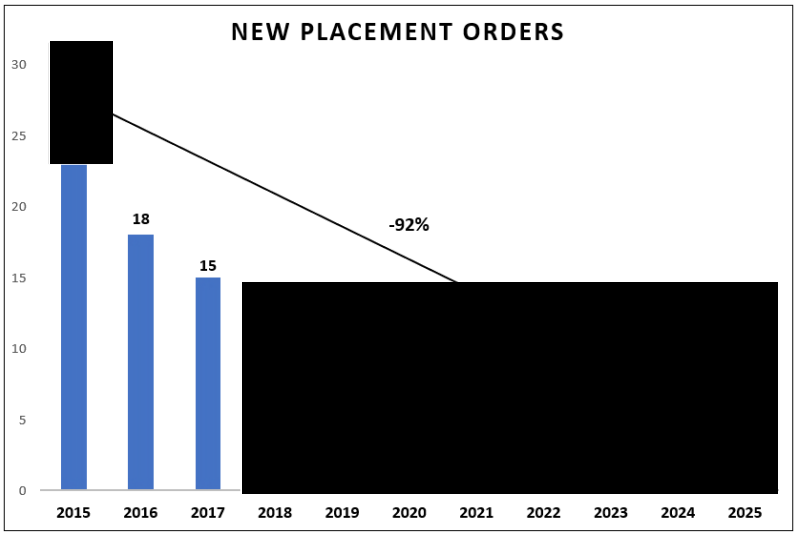


The Connecting and Promoting Success (CAPS) caseload serves approximately 71% of supervised youth and utilizes a youth-centered, needs-driven approach to support youth on informal and formal probation. CAPS focuses on fostering positive connections and promoting success for youth and their families. Wraparound caseloads specialize in intensive family engagement and behavioral health services for youth at risk of out-of-home placement. These caseloads operate under a team-based model that includes a transitional specialist, a behavioral health clinician, and a probation officer. Placement caseloads support youth placed in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), Ranch Camps, or Secure Youth Treatment Facilities, with placement decisions made by Juvenile Probation and ordered by the Juvenile Justice Court. This unit also serves extended foster care youth ages 18–21 who, despite receiving wraparound services, were removed from their homes due to significant behavioral and therapeutic needs.

In 2025, Probation facilitated 66 Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, creating meaningful opportunities for youth, families, and their natural supports to actively shape case plans and probation strategies. These collaborative forums strengthened family voice, increased accountability, and aligned services around individualized strengths and needs. This approach contributed to the significant decline in placement orders is a direct result of this intentional, coordinated approach. Through close collaboration with community and county partners, and in alignment with the Court, the Division leveraged effective, evidence-informed practices that prioritize stabilization, skill-building, and connection. This collective effort has proven impactful in keeping young people safely at home, reducing reliance on out-of-home care, and strengthening long-term outcomes within their communities.

These Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings intentionally convene county agencies and community-based organizations to align around the individualized strengths and needs of each youth and family through a coordinated, wraparound approach. By bringing decision-makers and service providers to one table, CFTs create shared accountability, streamline service delivery, and ensure families are active partners in identifying solutions. Over time, this individualized and collaborative case planning has strengthened the Division's ability to address underlying needs early and effectively stabilizing families and reducing the need for removal from the home.

The impact has been profound: through this unified, community-aligned strategy, overall, out-of-home placements in the past 10 years have significantly decreased by 92 percent, reflecting a measurable shift toward prevention, family preservation, and sustainable outcomes for youth.



In 2025, the Juvenile Division strengthened its implementation of the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) through the formal initiation of the JAIS Case Plan. Beyond assessing a youth's risk to reoffend, JAIS serves as a practical framework to guide supervision and intervention. Its core objectives are to:

- Equip probation officers with targeted supervision strategies grounded in each youth's strengths, needs, behavioral patterns, and underlying drivers of behavior.
- Intervene early by addressing unmet needs before they escalate into new law violations
- Reduce recidivism while on active supervision- which was held to 10 percent in 2025.

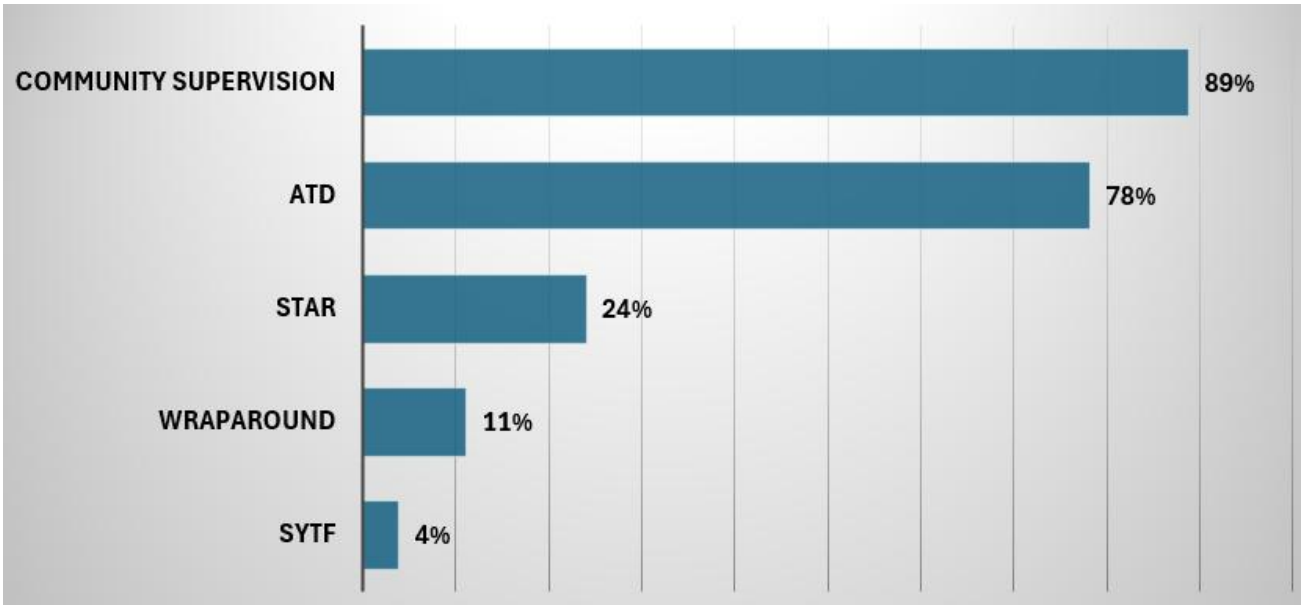
Juvenile Probation Supervisors and Division Managers maintain active oversight of the assessment process to ensure inter-rater reliability, fidelity, and consistency in application. As a result of this disciplined approach, 86 percent of cases requiring an initial assessment for moderate- to high-need youth received a full JAIS evaluation.

JAIS findings are consistently integrated into court reports and multidisciplinary case staffing, strengthening individualized case planning and supporting data-informed, equitable decision-making. This structured and evidence-informed practice continues to drive improved outcomes and accountability across the Division

In 2025, 96% of youth placed on an Alternative to Detention program successfully made their next court appearance and did not recidivate while awaiting court proceedings. These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based supervision strategies in maintaining public safety, supporting youth stability, and reducing reliance on secure detention. Data-driven strategies are at the heart of our reentry planning, guiding decisions for youth in placement and Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF), supporting wards, reducing technical violations, and strengthening pre-adjudication supervision.

Since 1999, the Juvenile Division has built a lasting legacy as a leader in juvenile justice reform, serving as a model site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). This foundation has guided the department's continued evolution toward upstream strategies that prioritize prevention and diversion, reducing reliance on detention while strengthening community-based responses. Over the years, the Division has continued advancing data-driven decision-making, risk-based detention criteria, streamlined court processes, and expanded alternatives to confinement efforts that not only improve outcomes for youth but also address disparities and better meet the needs of youth with specialized needs. This enduring commitment reflects a sustained shift toward early intervention, community partnership, and long-term public safety.

The graph below depicts the various services, placements and programs 602 Wards and SYTF youth have accessed.



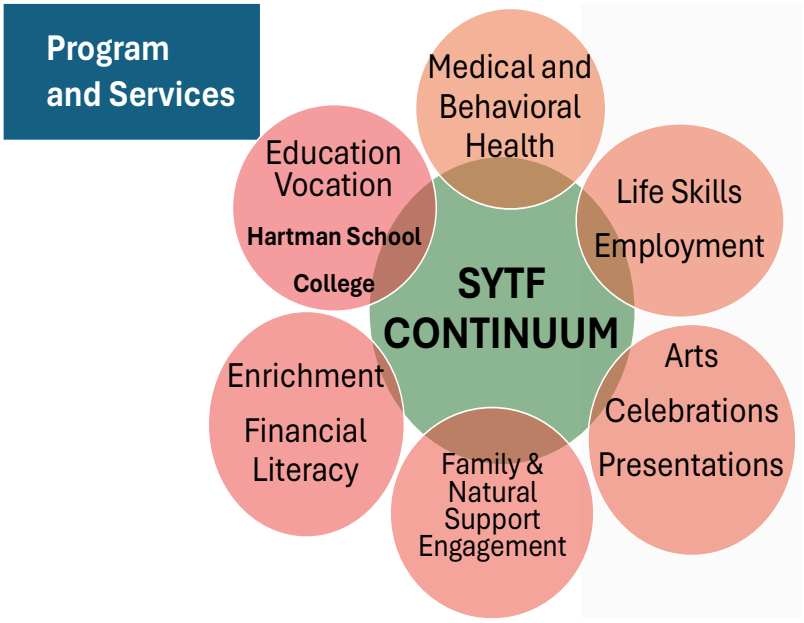
Part 3: Programs and Services (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(2))

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

Consistent with the intent of Senate Bills 823 and 92, which emphasize the importance of strong family and community connections in supporting youth rehabilitation, the Department obtained Board of Supervisors approval to establish a local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). Launched in December 2024, the program is now actively serving youth within Santa Cruz County, marking a pivotal shift toward localized, relationship-centered care. Prior to its implementation, Santa Cruz County partnered with Sonoma County to ensure appropriate placement for youth ordered into SYTF. Sonoma County continues to support those previously committed to its program, as well as [redacted] specifically ordered by the court to remain there. The establishment of a local SYTF reflects a transformative investment in keeping youth closer to their families, strengthening community ties, and advancing more effective, rehabilitation-focused reentry outcomes.

The Santa Cruz County Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) is purposefully designed to serve youth whose adjudication and disposition by the Juvenile Court reflects a need for a highly structured, rehabilitative environment. The program serves young people between the ages of 14 and 25 who have been adjudicated as wards of the court for offenses outlined in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), ensuring that those with the most complex needs receive targeted, intensive support aligned with their path toward accountability and positive change. SYTF provides a safe and secure rehabilitative environment aligned with the requirements of Senate Bills 823 and 92. The program emphasizes rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community. Programming is grounded in trauma-informed, culturally responsive practices and focuses on addressing individual needs in the areas of therapeutic treatment, education, life-skills development, personal growth, and career readiness, .

The program is designed to reduce recidivism while supporting the growth and development of youth, helping them build the skills necessary for long-term success and positive community reintegration. To support these rehabilitative goals, the facility utilizes a structured housing and supervision model that ensures youth are placed in environments that best meet their individual needs while maintaining safety, accountability, and access to appropriate programming.



Housing and Supervision

Housing assignments for youth vary based on classification, risk level, individual needs, and the safety of the youth and others within the facility. Classification is an on-going process throughout a youth's commitment, and youth may be housed in either unit within the facility as their needs change.

A direct supervision model supports this classification process and allows staff to continuously monitor youth progress, safety, and service needs. Santa Cruz County places strong emphasis on family engagement and natural supports, integrating these supports into collaborative treatment planning whenever possible.

Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP)

Each youth at the Santa Cruz County SYTF participates in an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP). The IRP is a personalized plan developed to address the youth's unique strengths, needs, and challenges while guiding their rehabilitation and preparation for successful reentry into the community.

The IRP is developed through a comprehensive assessment process that evaluates the youth's physical health, behavioral health, educational needs, family dynamics, behavioral concerns, and social development. Based on these assessments, a tailored plan is created that includes specific interventions, services, and measurable goals.

The IRP is a dynamic document that is reviewed and updated regularly to reflect the youth's progress and emerging needs. The plan supports personal growth, emotional healing, and skill development while promoting positive behavioral change and reducing recidivism.

Collaboration with youth, families, natural support, and treatment providers is essential to the success of the IRP process. This individualized approach empowers youth to build the foundation for long-term success.

Reentry Coordination and Case Management

Youth in the local SYTF program and Least Restrictive Camp programming benefit from the coordination and support of a Reentry Coordinator, who serves in the role of Senior Group Supervisor. The Reentry Coordinator works closely with the assigned Probation Officer, the youth, and family members or natural supports to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to rehabilitation and reentry planning.

Responsibilities include facilitating access to appropriate programming aligned with the youth's IRP goals, managing case activities, monitoring progress, and coordinating services across systems. The Reentry Coordinator collaborates with multiple stakeholders involved in the youth's care and rehabilitation, including:

- Family members and natural supports
- Pro-social community connections
- Juvenile Hall supervisors and administration
- Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Rising Scholars/Cabrillo College
- County Health Services and Behavioral Health providers

This multidisciplinary approach ensures that the youth's educational, emotional, behavioral, social, and medical needs are addressed while preparing them for successful reintegration into the community.

Evidence-Based Practices and Programming

Staff are trained in evidence-based practices designed to promote positive behavioral change, develop coping skills, and encourage pro-social behavior. Modalities such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) and Cognitive Behavioral Intervention- Core Youth (CBI-CY) promote and support aligned rehabilitative approaches in conjunction with our educators and behavioral health professionals.

Over the past year, Juvenile Hall management, supervisors, behavioral health staff, and education staff began training in and implementing PBIS. This framework establishes a consistent, facility-wide approach to teaching, modeling, and reinforcing positive behavior across all settings and daily activities. Using a three-tiered approach, PBIS promotes positive behavior for all youth while providing additional support for those with higher needs.

Staff have also been trained in the CBI-CY curriculum developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. This cognitive-behavioral intervention addresses criminogenic needs and focuses on skill-building activities related to cognitive, emotional, social, and coping skill development. The curriculum uses interactive worksheets and a flexible group structure that accommodates various service settings and mental health needs.

Incentive and Skill-Building Programs

Several structured programs have been implemented to reinforce positive behavior and promote skill development.

This past year, after hearing the youth's feedback and supporting opportunities for independence and personal choice, the facility began implementing additional options related to clothing and personal items.

SYTF youth have been provided with additional clothing items based on requests shared during youth feedback discussions and program meetings.

SYTF youth participating in various programs have also received t-shirts featuring the logos of community program providers, as well as sweaters provided by UC Santa Cruz and Cabrillo College. These items help foster a sense of connection to educational and community partners. Youth are provided with the individual choice of what they choose to wear while in the facility, allowing them to express personal preference while maintaining facility safety and appropriate standards.

Phased Behavior System

Youth in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility participate in a structured phased behavior and privilege system implemented this past year to reinforce accountability, positive behavior, and encourage progress toward rehabilitation goals. The system was designed with direct input from youth, ensuring expectations are clear and developmentally appropriate.

As youth demonstrate compliance with facility expectations, participation in programming, and positive behavioral progress, they may advance through phases that provide increased privileges and opportunities. This structured approach helps youth develop responsibility, self-regulation, and goal-oriented behavior.

Youth are provided with additional personal comfort and entertainment items for their rooms based on their length of time in the program, demonstrated behavior, and compliance with facility rules and expectations.

The phase system is aligned with the facility's PBIS framework, which emphasizes consistent expectations, positive reinforcement, and skill development. By integrating PBIS principles, the phase system helps promote a structured and supportive environment that encourages pro-social behavior and meaningful engagement in rehabilitation.

Juvenile Hall Store Incentive Program

Youth expressed interest in establishing a Juvenile Hall Store Incentive Program and continue to provide routine feedback regarding items available in the store. The store reinforces positive behaviors such as respect, responsibility, and cooperation through a structured reward system.

Youth earn incentives in the form of "C.O.R.E. Cash" for demonstrating positive behaviors. These incentives can be exchanged for snacks, hygiene products, art supplies, and privilege-based rewards. The program promotes goal setting, accountability, budgeting skills, and positive decision-making.

Stirring Up Success Kitchen Program

Until construction associated with the SB 81 Round 1 and Round 2 grant projects is complete and the Seed-to-Table program can be implemented through the development of the garden and culinary program, the "Stirring Up Success" kitchen program has been implemented as an interim initiative.

The kitchen program provides youth with hands-on experience in meal preparation for the unit, along with the preparation of snacks, additional food items, and celebratory events such as holidays and birthdays. Stirring Up Success teaches teamwork, responsibility, and independent living skills while fostering creativity, accountability, and practical life skills within a structured and supportive environment.

Youth also experience a sense of pride and accomplishment when preparing food for their peers and staff. Through participation in the program, youth have earned their Serve Safe certifications.

Family Engagement and Restorative Practices

Family engagement remains a core component of the SYTF program and was identified as a priority by youth during the program design process.

Family Engagement events provide opportunities for youth and their families to participate in shared meals, youth-selected activities, and connections to educational and community resources. Community providers ensure services are culturally, linguistically, cognitively, and developmentally appropriate.

Parent–Teen Mediation services have also been expanded to provide additional support during the transition back to the community, including follow-up sessions after youth return home.

An individualized Restorative Justice process has been implemented for SYTF youth, with a dedicated commitment to working one-on-one with youth for up to 1.5 years. This process helps youth understand the harm caused by their actions, repair relationships where possible, and build accountability prior to returning to the community. Restorative practices focus on healing, rebuilding trust, and strengthening community connections.

Educational and Vocational Opportunities

Educational opportunities are provided in collaboration with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and local partners. The Rising Scholars Juvenile Justice Program Coordinator, along with the volunteer weekend tutor, are both bilingual and bicultural. They share their lived experiences with youth and highlight the positive impact that education has had on their own lives, providing mentorship and inspiration for academic and personal growth.

During the past year, youth enrolled in college coursework through the Rising Scholars program were provided with individual laptops, a dedicated printer, and internet access to support independent completion of their coursework. Several youths have successfully earned vocational certificates, and expanding vocational programming remains a priority. Additional opportunities are expected to grow following the completion of planned facility renovations.

Youth Advisory Council

A Youth Advisory Council was also established this past year and has been met with strong engagement and excitement from participating in youth. The council provides youth with a structured opportunity to share feedback, offer ideas, and participate in discussions regarding facility programming, incentives, and activities. This initiative supports youth leadership, empowerment, and meaningful participation in shaping the rehabilitative environment.

Child and Family Team Model

Santa Cruz County Probation utilizes a Child and Family Team (CFT) approach to develop individualized rehabilitation plans and strengthen family engagement. This model supports collaborative decision-making and integrates family input into case planning. To reduce barriers to participation, the department provides transportation assistance for families when needed to support visitation, meetings, and programming participation.

Family Engagement and Restorative Practices represent newer, locally developed programming within the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), intentionally designed to strengthen rehabilitation through connection, accountability, and healing. Family engagement has been elevated as a core component of the SYTF model, informed directly by youth voice during the program design process. Structured Family Engagement events create meaningful opportunities for youth and their families to reconnect through shared meals, youth-selected activities, and access to educational and community-based resources. These

efforts are supported by community providers who ensure that all services are culturally, linguistically, cognitively, and developmentally responsive, promoting inclusion and relevance for each family served.

Facility Improvements

Although the Santa Cruz Juvenile Hall facility is smaller and older compared to many facilities across the state, significant improvements are currently underway to enhance programming space and better support youth rehabilitation.

In May 2025, construction began on renovation projects funded through SB 81 Round 1 and Round 2 grants. Planned improvements include upgrades throughout the facility, as well as the addition of a multi-purpose gymnasium and an outdoor garden space.

These improvements will expand opportunities for youth programming, recreation, and skill development while creating a more supportive and rehabilitative environment. The garden space will support future programming such as the planned Seed-to-Table initiative, which will integrate horticulture, nutrition, and culinary skill development.

The project has experienced some delays due to environmental factors and state regulatory requirements outside the department's control. Despite these challenges, the department remains committed to completing the improvements and expanding rehabilitative programming opportunities for youth.

Grant funding has also supported the development of dedicated counseling spaces and a secure conference room used for Child and Family Team meetings and family engagement programming. Tablets and MiFi devices are available to families who require internet access to participate in meetings or maintain communication with youth.

Redwoods Coastal Academy (RCA) Program

RCA is a program designed to help youth build safe, responsible, and positive behaviors while working toward meaningful personal growth. Youth progress is measured by participation, behavior, and goal achievement, not just time served, allowing for reductions in commitment with consistent positive progress.

The program emphasizes rehabilitation through structured support, including:

- Educational and vocational classes to advance academic and career goals.
- Counseling and mental health support to strengthen emotional well-being.
- Life skills development to foster long-term success and healthy behaviors.
- Individualized transition planning to prepare youth for successful reintegration into the community.

By fully engaging in RCA and embracing personal responsibility, youth are empowered to take ownership of their rehabilitation journey, develop essential life skills, and transition into the community ready to apply their growth toward meaningful, positive outcomes. RCA also functions as a Less Restrictive Program (LRP), extending rehabilitative support by offering opportunities such as furloughs to practice skills in real-world settings and strengthen readiness for successful reentry into the community.

Host County Program

To support implementation of SB 823, Santa Cruz County maintains a contract with Sonoma County Probation Department to utilize their SYTF program when necessary.

The Sonoma County SYTF program provides a secure rehabilitative environment with access to services including:

- Substance Use Treatment
- Behavioral Health Services
- Aggression Replacement Training
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Gender-Responsive Programming
- Culturally Competent and Bilingual Services
- Spiritual Support Services

Transitional services include referrals to the Intensive Case Management (ICM) Program, vocational and employment training programs, County Behavioral Health services, and community-based case management.

Youth placed in the host facility remain under the supervision of a Santa Cruz County Probation Officer to ensure coordinated case planning and timely reporting to the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Court. Probation Officers maintain face-to-face contact with youth at least once every 30 days.

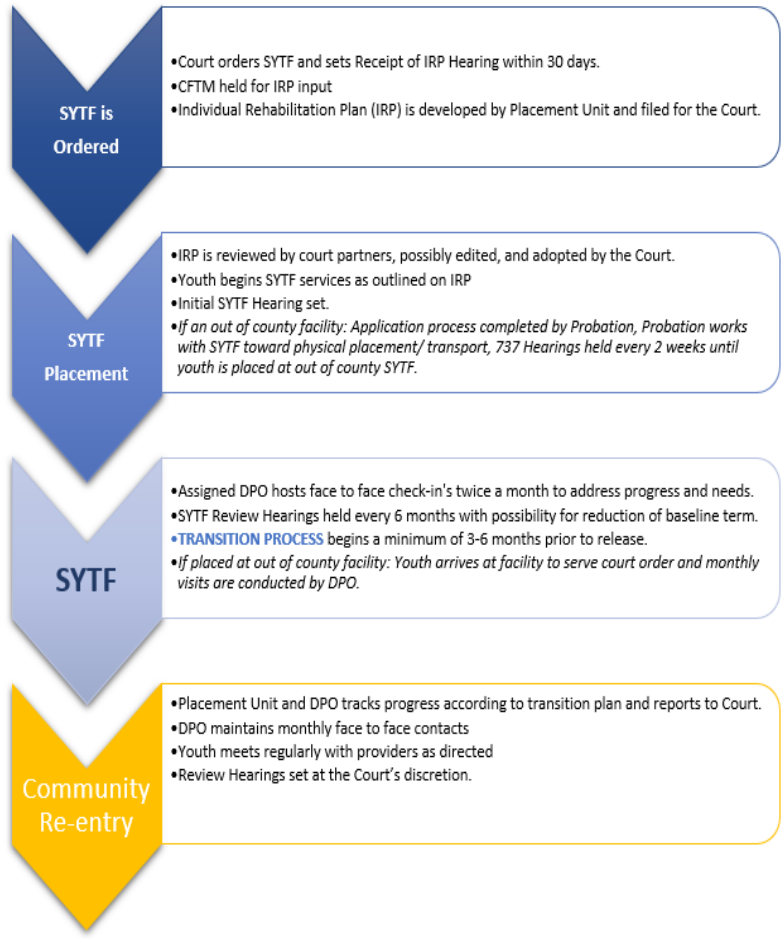
The department also provides transportation assistance or reimbursement for families to facilitate visitation. Sonoma County has extended visitation to two hours and offers virtual visitation options. Between February 2025 and February 2026, Probation completed 11 trips to Sonoma SYTF, providing a total of 17 family visits with youth.

Once the Santa Cruz SYTF program is fully operational locally, transportation assistance will continue to be available for families who need support accessing the facility. The county continues to house [redacted] people in Sonoma County prior to the development of the local SYTF program and plan to have them continue their rehabilitative program to prevent any disruption and on-going rehabilitative success.

Planning and Coordination

The department continues to utilize a collaborative SYTF workflow developed with court and probation partners in 2023. This workflow supports coordination beginning at the time of disposition and ensures that program planning and reentry planning occur throughout the youth's commitment.

Santa Cruz County Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)



Roles and Responsibilities SYTF

Juvenile DPO	ATD
Primary for, contacts, court reports, petitions.	Participates in Transition Hearing.

Roles and Responsibilities Community Re-entry

Juvenile DPO	ATD
Primary for court reports and contacts	Tracking and Monitoring.

STAR – Stable Transitions After Re-entry

The star program begins at Transition Process. STAR conducts Referral, Planning Meeting, Services, Pre-Release Re-entry Meeting and Follow up. ***See STAR Journey Map Tier 3B*** *for more information.*

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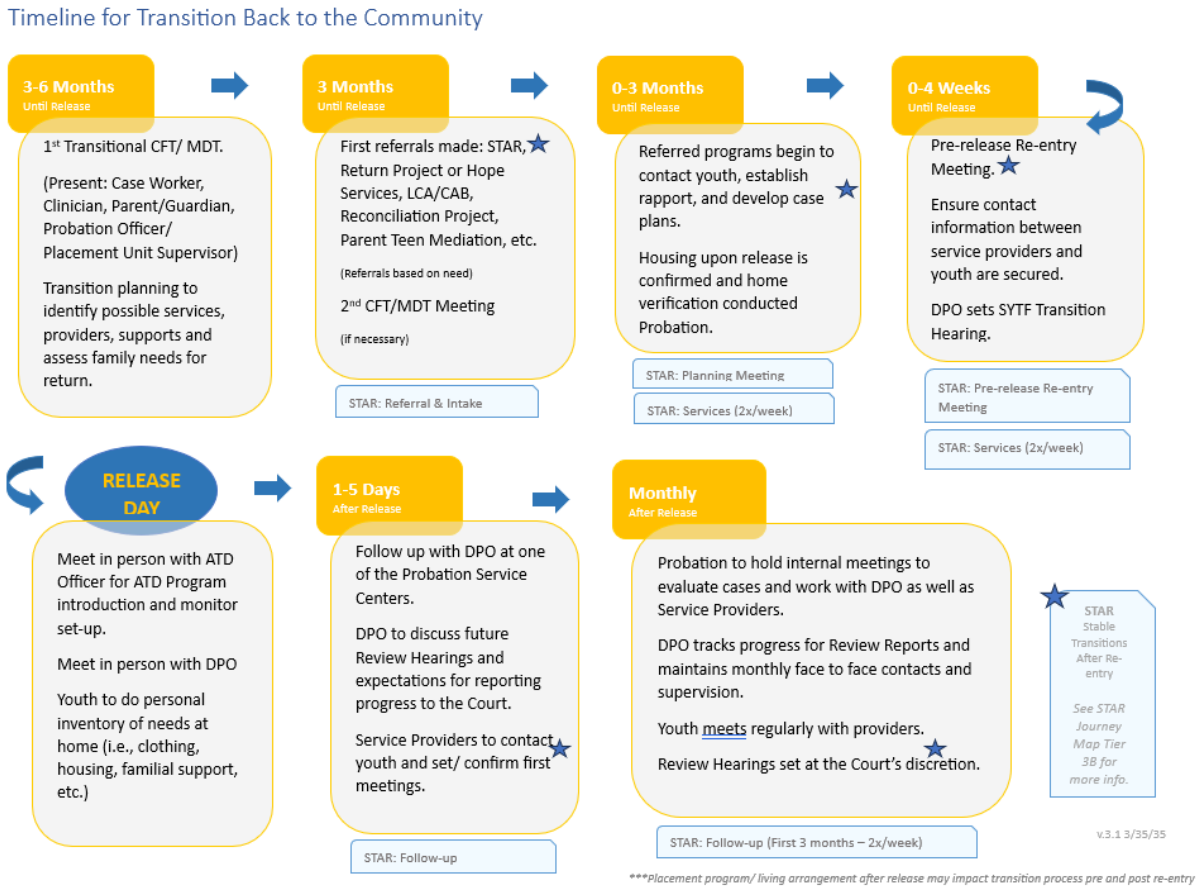

Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(3))

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8)):

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved the implementation of a local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), marking a significant advancement in the County's ability to provide locally driven, rehabilitative care for youth with the most complex needs. Since its launch, youth are now being served within the local SYTF program, strengthening continuity of care and maintaining critical connections to family and community. In addition, Santa Cruz County continues its partnership with Sonoma County to ensure access to specialized programming and treatment services, reinforcing a comprehensive approach that prioritizes individualized rehabilitation, regional collaboration, and successful reentry outcomes.

Within Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall, the Probation Department partners with the county's Children's Behavioral Health Division to provide comprehensive behavioral health services. Children's Behavioral Health staff deliver daily on-site support, including approximately two and a half hours of weekly psychiatric services. Available services include crisis intervention, behavioral health assessments, individual therapy, rehabilitation counseling, case management, advocacy, and linkage to community-based services. Youth also receive referrals to substance use disorder treatment when clinically indicated. Transition planning is a key component of care, with safety planning and court-related support provided to promote continuity of services upon release.

To address the needs of youth who have committed sexual offenses, the Probation Department may contract with HOPE Services to provide specialized sex offender treatment. For youth placed in Sonoma County facilities, the Sonoma County Probation Department delivers both individual and group-based sex offender treatment, as well as comprehensive mental health services. Santa Cruz County Probation maintains close collaboration with Sonoma County to ensure that all services are individualized and incorporated into each youth's case plan. A trauma-informed approach underpins all service delivery, with a focus on addressing underlying behavioral health needs and promoting positive youth development.

As youth transition back into the community, the County emphasizes continuity of care through structured reentry planning and supervision strategies. For youth with significant behavioral health needs, the Wraparound Program provides an intensive, team-based intervention model. This program includes a Probation Officer, Clinician, and Transitional Specialist who work collaboratively with the youth and their family over a period of approximately 6 to 12 months. Services include individual and family therapy, crisis intervention, case management, and frequent Child and Family Team meetings. Evidence-based practices utilized within Wraparound include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Trauma-Focused CBT (TF-CBT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), among others.

In addition, the Probation Success Centers (PSC) in Santa Cruz and Watsonville provide a centralized hub for reentry and supportive services. These centers offer workforce development, educational support, behavioral health counseling, substance use treatment referrals, family engagement services, and connections to housing and social services. The PSC model reduces barriers to access while strengthening coordination among service providers. Since the previous annual plan submission, Santa Cruz County has made significant progress in expanding its continuum of care. Key advancements include the approval and implementation of a local SYTF program, the continued use of out-of-county SYTF placement to ensure continuity of care for youth placed in their program prior to the opening of our local SYTF.

Through these coordinated efforts, Santa Cruz County remains committed to providing developmentally appropriate, evidence-based, and trauma-informed services that address the complex needs of justice-involved youth and support their successful rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8)):

Santa Cruz County applies grant funds to support programs and services that promote healthy adolescent development through a continuum of structured, skill-building, and youth-centered opportunities, both in custody and in the community. Youth voices were incorporated in the development of the SYTF program, with a priority placed on meeting their identified needs. These efforts emphasize positive youth development, leadership, life skills, education, and pro-social engagement.

A key advancement has been the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council, which provides youth with a structured forum to share feedback and actively participate in shaping facility programming, incentives, and activities. This initiative promotes youth voice, leadership, and engagement in the rehabilitative process. The Juvenile Hall Store Incentive Program reinforces pro-social behavior through a structured reward system. Youth earn "C.O.R.E. Cash" by demonstrating positive behaviors such as respect, responsibility, and cooperation. Incentives can be exchanged for approved items and privileges, promoting goal setting, accountability, budgeting skills, and positive decision-making.

To support life skills development, the County implemented the "Stirring Up Success" kitchen program as an interim initiative pending completion of SB 81-funded facility improvements. This program provides hands-on culinary experience, teaches teamwork and independent living skills, and fosters a sense of accomplishment.

Youth have earned food Safety Handlers' certifications and contribute to meal preparation and special events. Grant funds also support partnerships with community-based organizations that provide culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate services, including behavioral health support, educational tutoring, vocational training, arts and enrichment programming, and family engagement services. The Probation Department submitted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to expand and enhance both in-custody and community-based programming.

For youth placed in Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF's), including those served through contracts with Sonoma County, grant funds support access to evidence-based and innovative programming that promotes adolescent development. These include enrichment activities such as music-based programming and culinary arts, which encourage self-expression, creativity, and independence. Since the last reporting period, Santa Cruz County has successfully launched the Youth Advisory Council, expanded incentive-based programming, and implemented the Stirring Up Success kitchen program. The County has also continued to strengthen partnerships with community-based providers and is actively working to expand programming through a formal RFP process. These efforts have increased youth engagement, skill development, and access to meaningful rehabilitative opportunities.

Local Program or Services

Similar to our partner counties, Santa Cruz County delivers a continuum of services grounded in evidence-based practices (EBPs), promising approaches, and culturally responsive care tailored to adolescent development. The services outlined below reflect a comprehensive, youth-centered framework designed to meet the complex needs of our target population and support meaningful, lasting outcomes.

- **Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA) – TODOS Program:** Delivers intensive Functional Family Case Management and behavioral health services, strengthening family systems and promoting long-term stability for youth.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Workforce & Student Success:** Provides workforce development and employment pathways alongside the Student Success Project, equipping youth with the skills, confidence, and support needed to achieve academic and career goals.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Academic & Family Supports:** Offers targeted educational tutoring and culturally responsive family groups that reinforce academic success while strengthening cultural identity and family cohesion.
- **Travel Support for Commitments & Placements:** Removes financial barriers by covering travel costs for youth and families, ensuring continuity of care, connection, and oversight across placements.
- **Behavioral Health & Psychiatric Services:** Provides access to comprehensive behavioral health and psychiatric evaluations, ensuring timely identification and treatment of mental health needs.
- **Luna Evening Center:** Serves as a critical alternative to detention, providing structured programming focused on skill-building, behavioral health support, and positive youth development.
- **Conflict Resolution Center (CRC):** Advances restorative justice practices through education and mediation, fostering accountability, repairing harm, and building stronger more connected communities.
- **Encompass:** Provides comprehensive, trauma-informed wraparound services that address the complex behavioral health needs of youth and families.

- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Family Night:** Creates meaningful opportunities for family engagement through art and education, strengthening relationships and promoting positive family dynamics.
- **Health Services Agency – Children's Behavioral Health:** Delivers evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), equipping young people with practical tools to reshape thinking patterns, strengthen emotional regulation, and make positive decisions that support long-term well-being and success.

Sonoma County Programming update

Sonoma County has implemented the Groundwork Culinary Vocational Program as part of its continuum of care for youth impacted under SB 823, with a focus on rehabilitation, skill-building, and successful community reintegration. This structured, 10–12-week program is offered multiple times annually and provides youth with hands-on culinary training, access to industry-recognized certifications (e.g., ServSafe), and development of critical workforce readiness skills. Consistent with SB 823's emphasis on developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services, the program integrates culinary instruction with pro-social skill development, healing-centered practices, and relationship building. Youth engage in activities such as food preparation, recipe literacy, and garden-based learning, while also participating in restorative circles and shared meals that promote accountability, connection, and personal growth.

The program leverages community-based partnerships to provide access to local resources, mentorship, and pathways to employment. These partnerships support continuity of care beyond confinement, creating opportunities for youth to transition into paid training, internships, and employment upon release. Groundwork Culinary functions as a rehabilitative intervention aligned with SB 823 goals, equipping youth with tangible skills, fostering prosocial engagement, and supporting step-down opportunities into less restrictive settings and the community. The program is designed to reduce recidivism by strengthening protective factors, increasing self-sufficiency, and promoting long-term positive outcomes for youth.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8)):

Santa Cruz County continues to have an ongoing contract with Sonoma County for SYTF services.

The Sonoma County Probation Department is deeply committed to securing services that promote the well-being of youth and families while advancing a rehabilitative, youth-centered approach. In close collaboration with Juvenile Probation Officers, Sonoma County Juvenile Hall delivers comprehensive transition services that begin during custody and extend through aftercare, ensuring continuity of support and positioning youth for successful completion of probation. Family engagement is a cornerstone of this work. The department prioritizes meaningful connection with families throughout a youth's time in custody and during reentry, recognizing that strong family involvement is critical to long-term success. Grant funding will enhance these efforts by expanding access to community-based services and incorporating both virtual and in-person programming, increasing opportunities for connection, engagement, and support.

Innovative use of Flex-Funding further strengthens this approach by allowing the department to respond in real time to the unique needs of youth and families. These flexible resources remove barriers and create access to pro-social activities, services, and support that reinforce positive development and community connection. Virtual and in-person engagement strategies also strengthen case planning through Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings, ensuring families are placed at the center of decision-making. These collaborative meetings

align formal and informal supports, build on family strengths, and connect youth to community-based resources that address individualized needs.

While challenges to family engagement may arise, including strained family relationships, behavioral health needs, or complex case dynamics, the department remains steadfast in its commitment to overcoming these barriers. Through a responsive, individualized approach, Sonoma County continues to enhance outcomes for justice-involved youth. Ultimately, investment in family engagement expands the continuum of care within the facility and beyond, strengthens family connections, and promotes lasting rehabilitation, stability, and well-being for youth and their families.

Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz County prioritizes family engagement as a critical component of youth rehabilitation and applies grant funds to reduce barriers and increase meaningful family involvement throughout a youth's commitment and reentry process.

To support visitation, the County invested in transportation resources, including a 12-passenger van funded through SB 823, to assist families traveling to out-of-county placement. For youth placed in Sonoma County SYTF, extended visitation hours and virtual visitation options are available to maintain consistent family contact. Between February 2025 and February 2026, the County facilitated11 trips and 17 family visits through coordinated transportation efforts.

Family engagement is further supported through structured programming, including Family Engagement events and Parent–Teen Mediation services. These programs provide opportunities for families to strengthen relationships, improve communication, and participate in the youth's rehabilitative process. Restorative justice practices are also utilized to repair harm and rebuild trust, with individualized services provided for up to 18 months when appropriate.

The County incorporates families and natural support into all phases of case planning through Child and Family Team (CFT) and Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings. These meetings are family-centered, strength-based, and focused on collaborative decision-making. Individualized Rehabilitation Plans (IRPs) are developed within 30 days of SYTF placement and include input from youth, families, and service providers. Transition planning begins well in advance of release and ensures linkage to services, education, and community support. Grant funds also support flexible funding for the young adults we work with (Flex Funds) to address individualized needs that may otherwise create barriers to family engagement, education, vocational, and essential resources.

Santa Cruz County has made significant progress in expanding family engagement efforts, including the continued commitment to provide transportation, increased use of virtual visitation, and enhanced coordination with host county. The County has also strengthened restorative practices and mediation services, increased participation in CFT and MDT processes, and expanded opportunities for families to engage in programming and transition planning.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8)):

Santa Cruz County utilizes grant funds to support a comprehensive reentry framework that emphasizes education, employment, housing stability, and continuity of care. Educational programming is delivered in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Cabrillo College through the Rising Scholars program. Youth have access to college coursework, technology resources, and bilingual mentorship to support

academic success. Vocational training opportunities continue to expand, with additional growth anticipated following facility improvements.

The County has established a Reentry Coordinator position to oversee individualized transition planning for SYTF and Camp youth. This role ensures coordination across systems, alignment with each youth's Individualized Rehabilitation Plan, and connection to community-based services.

The Redwoods Coastal Academy (RCA), approved within the past year, will serve as a local camp-based step-down program and least restrictive placement option. RCA provides structured programming, including education, vocational training, counseling, and life skills development, within a supportive environment. Youth participate in individualized case planning and ongoing progress reviews to support successful reintegration.

The STAR (Stable Transition and Reentry) Program further strengthens reentry services by providing dedicated Reentry Specialists who develop individualized plans using validated assessment tools. Youth are connected to services prior to release, with coordinated referrals to behavioral health, education, employment, and community-based supports. Re-entry Specialists leverage the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment to develop individualized, strengths-based reentry plans tailored to each youth's unique needs and goals. Working in close partnership with host county staff, they ensure a seamless and coordinated transition back to Santa Cruz County, prioritizing continuity of care and stability.

This proactive process includes early connection to community-based services and supports, with referrals to key resources such as the Wraparound Program and the Probation Success Center when appropriate. These critical decisions are guided through Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, typically convened 90 days prior to release, where youth, families, and service providers come together to align on a comprehensive, supportive reentry plan. Through this structured, collaborative approach, reentry planning is not just a transition, it is a deliberate pathway to sustained success, accountability, and community reintegration.

Grant Funds directly support staff supervision (Deputy Probation Officer positions) in conjunction with alternatives to detention. Services supported by the grant:

- **Conflict Resolution Center (CRC):** Advances restorative justice practices through education and mediation, fostering accountability, repairing harm, and building stronger, more connected communities.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Workforce & Student Success:** Provides workforce development and employment pathways alongside the Student Success Project, equipping youth with the skills, confidence, and support needed to achieve academic and career goals.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Academic & Family Supports:** Offers targeted educational tutoring and culturally responsive family groups that reinforce academic success while strengthening cultural identity and family cohesion.
- **Behavioral Health & Psychiatric Services:** Provides access to comprehensive behavioral health and psychiatric evaluations, ensuring timely identification and treatment of mental health needs.
- **Luna Evening Center:** Serves as a critical alternative to detention, providing structured programming focused on skill-building, behavioral health support, and positive youth development.
- **Family Visitation for SYTF Youth:** Prioritizes consistent family engagement by supporting visitation, recognizing its vital role in rehabilitation and successful reintegration.

- **Travel Support for Commitments & Placements:** Removes financial barriers by covering travel costs for youth and families, ensuring continuity of care, connection, and oversight across placements.

The Probation Success Centers in Santa Cruz and Watsonville serve as centralized, community-based hubs for reentry, delivering a comprehensive continuum of support designed to stabilize and empower youth returning home. Through integrated services including workforce development, educational advancement, behavioral health care, housing assistance, and family support. These centers provide the critical foundation youth need to successfully reintegrate. By connecting youth and families to coordinated, strengths-based resources, the Success Centers play a vital role in promoting long-term stability, reducing recidivism, and advancing positive life outcomes.

Key advancements include the approval and implementation of the Redwoods Coastal Academy, expansion of the Rising Scholars program, bilingual and bi-cultural tutors with lived experience, increased access to technology for educational success, and strengthened coordination through the STAR Program and Reentry Coordinator role. These efforts have enhanced the County's ability to provide seamless and supportive transition for youth returning to the community.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8)):

Santa Cruz County applies grant funds to implement evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive programs that address criminogenic needs, behavioral health challenges, and underlying trauma. Facility staff, in partnership with Education and Behavioral Health partners, are trained in evidence-based practices including Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Probation staff were also trained in and began implementing Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Core Youth (CBI-CY). These approaches promote positive behavior, skill development, and structured interventions tailored to youth needs.

Through partnership with Children's Behavioral Health, youth receive specialty mental health services utilizing evidence-based modalities. Supplemental programming provided by partner agencies includes Safe Dates, parenting education, and Parent–Teen Mediation, all of which support healthy relationships, communication, and family stability.

<u>Safe Dates</u>

The dating abuse prevention program targets both male and female youth, with the following goals: 1) to raise awareness of healthy versus abusive relationships; 2) to educate about dating abuse, its causes, and consequences; 3) to provide skills and resources for helping themselves or friends in abusive relationships; and 4) to teach skills for developing healthy relationships, including positive communication, anger management, and conflict resolution.

<u>Parenting Education</u>

Positive Parenting offers young fathers and mothers support and education surrounding their role as healthy parental figures. Young people learn parenting skills and techniques and solutions to solve current and future parenting problems with an emphasis on the building of strong families.

<u>Parent Teen Mediation (PTM)</u>

The aim of Parent Teen Mediation is to give teens and their parents/guardians the chance to discuss their issues constructively in a safe and facilitated meeting. Trained mediators teach them positive communication skills, facilitate mutual understanding, work to strengthen relationships, and help parents and teens to develop mutually acceptable agreements that promote healthy interaction and home life.

The County has launched a comprehensive Family Engagement and Restorative Practices Program, a transformative initiative designed to place families at the center of the rehabilitative process. This program delivers structured Family Engagement events and expanded Parent–Teen Mediation services that create meaningful opportunities for families to reconnect, strengthen relationships, and build effective communication.

Grounded in healing-centered and restorative approaches, the program also provides individualized restorative justice services for up to 18 months, supporting youth in understanding the impact of their actions, repairing harm, and rebuilding trust with those affected. By actively engaging families as partners in the process, this program fosters accountability, strengthens support systems, and promotes lasting, positive outcomes for youth as they prepare to successfully return to their communities.

Sonoma County

The Sonoma County Probation Department delivers a continuum of programs grounded in evidence-based and promising practices, designed to be trauma-informed and culturally responsive to effectively meet the needs of the target population.

Positive Youth Justice

The organizing framework for the program is rooted in youth development research. The focus on key assets: skills (learning & doing) and connections (attaching & belonging). Behavior change and development are pursued through six practice areas: Work, Relationships, Health, Education, Community, and Creativity.

CBT for anger-related problems in children and adolescents

This variant of CBT focuses specifically on residents who have anger-related problems, including aggression, self-control, problem-solving, social competencies, and anger experience. For residents with anger problems, CBT is designed to 1) change how anger is experienced (e.g., how quickly a youth becomes angry, the intensity of the anger, and the amount of time spent feeling angry), 2) reduce aggressive behavior, and 3) improve social functioning.

Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

A multidimensional psychoeducational intervention designed to promote prosocial behavior in chronically aggressive and violent adolescents using techniques to develop social skills, emotional control, and moral reasoning. Program techniques are designed to teach youths how to control their angry impulses and take perspectives other than their own. The main goal is to reduce aggression and violence among youth by providing them with opportunities to learn prosocial skills in place of aggressive behavior.

Girls Moving On

Girls Moving On is a gender-informed cognitive-behavioral program for at-risk girls between the ages of 12 to 21 years. Girls Moving On is a comprehensive program that uses several complementary approaches, such as relational theory, motivational interviewing, and cognitive-behavioral intervention. The program is designed to provide girls and young women with alternatives to delinquent conduct by assisting them to identify and mobilize personal and community resources. Girls Moving On consists of seven modules: two are delivered on an individual basis and five are delivered in a group-based setting.

Cognitive Behavioral Interventions - Core Youth (CBI - CY)

This curriculum is designed to provide a thorough intervention that broadly targets all criminogenic needs for juvenile populations. Relies on a cognitive-behavioral approach to teaching individuals' strategies to manage risk factors in a way that is developmentally appropriate for youth. The program places heavy emphasis on skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development. Additionally, it provides modifications so that youth with mental illness can participate, though it is not dedicated exclusively to this population.

Triple P Parenting

Provides 17 core parenting strategies/skills that promote children's development by creating positive relationships and teaching new skills and behaviors.

Just Beginning

A structured visitation program designed specifically for young non-custodial fathers, particularly those in juvenile or justice system facilities with the goals of building and strengthening the relationship between father and child.

Supportive Virtual Family Time Program

Designed to create structure, guidance, and training for those supervising virtual parent-child visits, with the goal of helping them facilitate positive remote supervised visits between parents and their children in out-of-home care. Geared toward both private agency supervised visitation providers as well as case workers who will be supervising these virtual visits.

Prolonged Exposure Therapy for Adolescents (PE-A)

PE-A is a therapeutic treatment where clients are encouraged to repeatedly approach situations or activities they are avoiding because they remind them of their trauma (in vivo exposure) as well as to revisit the traumatic memory several times through retelling it (imaginal exposure).

Psychoeducation about common reactions to trauma as well as breathing retraining exercises are also included in the treatment. The aim of in vivo and imaginal exposure is to help clients emotionally process their traumatic memories through imaginal and in vivo exposure. Through these procedures, they learn that they can safely remember the trauma and experience trauma reminders, that the distress that initially results from confrontations with these reminders decreases over time, and that they can tolerate this distress.

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)

EMDR is guided by the Adaptive Information Processing (AIP) model, which is based on the theory that symptoms arise from maladaptive stored memories that include the thoughts, beliefs, emotions, body sensations, and behavioral responses that were experienced at the time of the traumatic event. This 8-phase psychotherapy treatment was originally designed to alleviate the symptoms of trauma. During the EMDR trauma processing phases, guided by standardized procedures, the client attends to emotionally disturbing material in brief sequential doses that include the client's beliefs, emotions, and body sensations associated with the traumatic event while simultaneously focusing on an external stimulus. Therapist directed bilateral eye movements are commonly used external stimulus, but a variety of other stimuli including hand-tapping and audio bilateral stimulation are often used.

Locally, the Probation Department collaborates with community partners to deliver evidence-based and culturally responsive services for Wards and SYTF youth, ensuring every opportunity for positive outcomes, growth, and long-term success.

- **Conflict Resolution Center (CRC):** Advances restorative justice practices through education and mediation, fostering accountability, repairing harm, and building stronger, more connected communities.

- **Supervising Deputy Probation Officers:** Dedicated funding supports officers trained in evidence-based practices, including Motivational Interviewing (MI), Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), validated assessments, coaching models, and Child and Family Teams (CFTs) to drive meaningful behavior change and support positive youth outcomes.

- **Behavioral Health & Psychiatric Services:** Provides access to comprehensive behavioral health and psychiatric evaluations, ensuring timely identification and treatment of mental health needs.

- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB):** Academic & Family Supports: Offers targeted educational tutoring and culturally responsive family groups that reinforce academic success while strengthening cultural identity and family cohesion.

- **Luna Evening Center:** Serves as a critical alternative to detention, providing structured programming focused on skill-building, behavioral health support, and positive youth development.

- **Family Visitation for SYTF Youth:** Prioritizes consistent family engagement by supporting visitation, recognizing its vital role in rehabilitation and successful reintegration.

- **Travel Support for Commitments & Placements:** Removes financial barriers by covering travel costs for youth and families, ensuring continuity of care, connection, and oversight across placements.

- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Workforce & Student Success:** Provides workforce development and employment pathways alongside the Student Success Project, equipping youth with the skills, confidence, and support needed to achieve academic and career goals**.**

Ongoing data monitoring throughout 2025 continues to demonstrate a sustained decline in youth entering the juvenile justice system, an encouraging indicator of the effectiveness of upstream strategies. This progress reflects the strength of coordinated efforts between the department and community-based organizations, whose shared commitment to diversion and prevention is driving meaningful, system-wide impact. The department remains steadfast in its use of continuous quality improvement practices, routinely evaluating program effectiveness to ensure services are impactful, responsive, and aligned with both current needs and future priorities. In February 2025, Probation further advanced these efforts by releasing a Request for Proposal to expand and strengthen rehabilitative services across both community-based and in-custody settings.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by non-governmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8)):

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department strategically partners with and contracts community-based organizations to deliver targeted, high-impact services for 707(b) Wards and youth transitioning from the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). Recognizing that most of the target population resides in South County, services are intentionally concentrated in this region to reduce transportation and financial barriers and ensure equitable access to critical support. This place-based approach strengthens engagement, promotes continuity of care, and meets youth and families where they are. Below are key service providers advancing this work:

- **Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA) – TODOS Program:** Delivers intensive Functional Family Case Management and behavioral health services, strengthening family systems and promoting long-term stability for youth.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Workforce & Student Success:** Provides workforce development and employment pathways alongside the Student Success Project, equipping youth with the skills, confidence, and support needed to achieve academic and career goals.
- **FOOD, WHAT?! (FW):** Empowers youth through a dynamic food justice model, using organic farming as a transformative platform to cultivate leadership, resilience, and lifelong healthy habits.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Academic & Family Supports:** Offers targeted educational tutoring and culturally responsive family groups that reinforce academic success while strengthening cultural identity and family cohesion.
- **Conflict Resolution Center (CRC):** Advances restorative justice practices through education and mediation, fostering accountability, repairing harm, and building stronger, more connected communities.
- **Encompass:** Provides comprehensive, trauma-informed wraparound services that address the complex behavioral health needs of youth and families.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB) – Family Night:** Creates meaningful opportunities for family engagement through art and education, strengthening relationships and promoting positive family dynamics.
- **Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center:** Delivers school-based programming focused on preventing dating violence, empowering youth with the knowledge and skills to build safe and healthy relationships.

Over the past year, our community partners have been instrumental in delivering high-impact, transformative services to the youth and families we serve. Their unwavering commitment and collaboration aligned with the department's strategic efforts have driven meaningful outcomes, including a sustained reduction in the number of youths on active supervision.

A powerful testament to this success is the measurable decline in youth on active supervision, decreasing from 94 youth at the close of 2025 to 79 by the end of February 2026, representing an approximate 16% reduction in a short period. Similarly, new placements into out-of-home care, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) decreased from [redacted] in 2024 to [redacted] in 2025, contributing to an extraordinary 92% overall reduction over the past decade. These sustained downward trends underscore the strength of our partnerships and the impact of a shared, data-driven commitment to keeping youth safely supported within their communities.

Part 5: Facility Plan (Welf & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(4))

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

- **Any less restrictive programs the county uses, and whether those programs are in facilities regulated by Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 1300) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations**

- **Any county juvenile facility improvements made to support long-term commitments**
- **How the county will ensure youth safety and protection, including for youth of different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics**

Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8)):

The Santa Cruz County Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) operates a highly structured, classification-based housing model that prioritizes safety while advancing individualized treatment and rehabilitation. Housing assignments are thoughtfully determined based on each youth's classification, assessed risk level, and unique needs, ensuring a balanced approach that protects both the individual and the broader facility community. From intake, youth-centered practices are embedded into the program. Each youth completes a gender identity form to support affirming and respectful placement decisions and is provided with a private room equipped with a sink and toilet, with access to individual showers as needed promoting dignity, privacy, and well-being.

The classification system is dynamic and continuously reassessed throughout a youth's commitment, allowing for responsive housing adjustments as progress is made. This is reinforced by a direct supervision model, enabling staff to maintain close, consistent engagement with youth monitoring behavior, supporting growth, and ensuring services remain aligned with evolving needs. A cornerstone of the program is the weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process, where a diverse team of professionals including Juvenile Hall leadership, medical and behavioral health providers, psychiatrist, education team, and probation supervisors collaboratively review each youth's progress, celebrate successes, and address challenges. This integrated, team-based approach ensures accountability, coordination, and continuous refinement of individualized treatment goals.

All rehabilitative programming is grounded in trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices, recognizing and addressing the complex experiences of youth while fostering healing, resilience, and long-term success. To ensure continuity of care and judicial alignment, Santa Cruz County also maintains a partnership with Sonoma County to provide SYTF services for youth placed prior to the opening of the local program or when ordered by the Court further demonstrating a commitment to flexibility, collaboration, and meeting the needs of every youth served.

Redwoods Coastal Academy (RCA) (Title 15–regulated, consistent with Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(4))

Redwoods Coastal Academy (RCA) camp commitment program opened in October 2025 and will request it be offered as a Least Restrictive Program (LRP) option for youth in the SYTF program. RCA is designed to support youth in making meaningful and positive life changes within a safe and structured environment. The program typically lasts approximately eight months; however, young people may complete the program sooner through sustained positive engagement or remain longer if additional support and progress are needed. Progress through the program is based on demonstration of Safe, Responsible, and Considerate behavior; and is supported through regular progress reviews, interviews, and the earning of progressions. When necessary, additional coaching and support are provided through Reset Status.

Comprehensive Services and Support

RCA provides a wide range of services tailored to the needs of each participant, including:

- Educational and vocational programming
- Individual, family, and group counseling
- Life skills and enrichment activities

- Medical and behavioral health services
- Substance use and faith-based support services

The Child and Family Team (CFT) play a critical role in developing individualized case plans and transition planning to support long-term success. The team includes youth, family members or caregivers, RCA staff, probation officers, therapists, and community partners. The CFT develops individualized case plans that incorporate family input, support youth development, and promote successful reintegration into the community. Each participant receives an individualized case plan outlining goals and services designed to support rehabilitation and long-term success. Case plans include educational, vocational, and therapeutic programming; individual counseling; family involvement; and behavioral goals aligned with the program's expectations of safe, responsible, and considerate conduct.

The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) at Redwoods Coastal Academy includes program staff, probation officers, therapists, and education staff. During these meetings, the team reviews each youth's progress and determines whether the youth qualify for a time reduction, remains on schedule, or requires additional time to support continued development. As youth advance through the program there are opportunities for furlough to support one's education and employment and home passes. As youth near completion of the program, planning focuses on preparation for successful reintegration into the community. Transition planning includes continued counseling, treatment services, and compliance with probation terms to support long-term success.

RCA staff continue to provide guidance and support to youth throughout the transition process. Staff are trained in evidence-based practices designed to promote positive behavioral change, develop coping skills, and support pro-social behavior. These approaches include cognitive behavioral strategies, motivational interviewing, and structured behavior management techniques. The use of incentives and appropriate sanctions supports accountability while encouraging youth to make positive behavioral changes. Through this structured programming and service delivery model, youth receive the support necessary to address underlying causes of their behavior while preparing for successful reintegration into the community. To support the implementation of the local SYTF and Camp program, the facility hired a Senior Group Supervisor in the role of a Case Manager. These improvements strengthen safety, programming capacity, and the overall rehabilitative environment for youth.

Over the past year, the facility has navigated the challenges of operating while renovation and construction projects are underway. Improvements implemented in previous years to support youth behavioral health and rehabilitation have continued to serve as valuable resources during this time. The soft counseling rooms located within the housing unit provide a safe and private space for youth to meet with staff and participate in supportive services. The library, which includes a small kitchen space, has become a welcoming area where youth can move more freely and work on longer-term school projects or personal activities. The Juvenile Conference Room, which was remodeled in previous years, is regularly utilized for Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, graduations, and Family Engagement Nights. The department looks forward to the expanded space and increased programming capacity that will become available once the renovation and construction projects are completed. These improvements will expand opportunities for programming, vocational development, and family involvement.

Santa Cruz County further contracts with Sonoma County for SYTF services.

Sonoma County

Sonoma County utilizes a classification system and direct supervision model designed to address the individual needs of youth in custody. Housing assignments vary based on classification, risk level, and individual needs to ensure the safety of youth within the facility. Youth may be housed in different units as necessary based on program needs and overall facility safety. Youth are assessed using the Positive Achievement and Change Tool (PACT), along with other risk assessment tools when appropriate. The Sonoma County Juvenile Hall follows recognized juvenile justice best practices in its approach to supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Case management begins at the time of commitment and includes completion of a risk and needs assessment, development and monitoring of an individualized case plan, and use of evidence-based practices including motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral interventions, and Core Correctional Practices (CCP). Structured incentives and sanctions are used to reinforce accountability and encourage positive behavioral change. Case planning and supervision address multiple domains including risk, responsivity, competency development, community safety, family dynamics, adolescent development, and services that address criminogenic needs.

Since the submission of the previous plan, Santa Cruz County has made substantial and measurable progress in advancing its local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) program. The official launch of the SYTF in December 2024 marked a critical milestone, enabling youth to remain connected to their families, communities, and support systems while receiving intensive, rehabilitative care. Building on this foundation, the County has strengthened its continuum of care through the ongoing implementation of trauma-informed programming, the expansion of evidence-based practices, and the creation of a Youth Advisory Council ensuring that youth voice directly informs program design and continuous improvement.

In parallel, the department has initiated construction on SB 81 Round 1 and Round 2 grant-funded facility enhancements. These strategic investments will significantly expand program capacity and create dedicated spaces for innovative services, including recreational, vocational, and garden-based programming further reinforcing a rehabilitative environment that promotes growth, skill-building, and long-term success.

Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System (Welf & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(5))

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

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department delivers a client-centered continuum of care grounded in evidence-based, culturally responsive, and promising practices designed to meet each young person where they are and support meaningful, lasting change. At the core of this approach is a commitment to improving individual outcomes while enhancing community safety, with a clear focus on reducing transfers to the adult criminal justice system and minimizing Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) commitments. Through individualized, strength-based interventions, youth are provided with proactive services tailored to their unique needs, experiences, and goals. Disposition recommendations prioritize the least restrictive, most appropriate settings, ensuring that youth remain connected to their families, culture, and community whenever possible. By leveraging commitment programs offered by host counties and aligning services to each youth's rehabilitative pathway, the department works to reduce recidivism and interrupt deeper system involvement.

This work is strengthened through close collaboration with system partners including the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Court, District Attorney's Office, and Public Defender's Office who share a unified commitment to

fairness, consistency, and individualized justice. Together, these partners ensure that each youth is supported through a balanced approach that promotes accountability, healing, and opportunity. Santa Cruz County maintains a strong emphasis on minimizing SYTF commitments by fully utilizing its continuum of community-based services. Every case is carefully assessed prior to court recommendations, with interventions tailored to maximize effectiveness and support long-term success. The use of the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) enables a structured, data-informed approach to identify each youth's strengths, risks, and needs guiding targeted service delivery and integrating court-ordered goals into a cohesive, individualized plan.

Probation remains steadfast in its commitment to rehabilitation, connection, and opportunity ensuring that youth are supported in becoming self-sufficient, law-abiding members of their community. Placement in the adult system or SYTF is reserved only for those rare cases where the Juvenile Court determines that all other interventions are insufficient. The overarching goal is clear: to surround youth with the right support at the right time, reducing the need for deeper system involvement and creating pathways for positive, lasting outcomes.

Our philosophy is brought to life through a comprehensive continuum of services and supervision intentionally designed to meet youth where they are, respond to their unique strengths and needs, and provide the right level of support at the right time to promote lasting, positive outcomes.

- **Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA): TODOS Program:** Delivers intensive Functional Family Case Management and behavioral health services, strengthening family systems and promoting long-term stability for youth.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB): Workforce & Student Success:** Provides workforce development and employment pathways alongside the Student Success Project, equipping youth with the skills, confidence, and support needed to achieve academic and career goals.
- **FOOD, WHAT?! (FW):** Empowers youth through a dynamic food justice model, using organic farming as a transformative platform to cultivate leadership, resilience, and lifelong healthy habits.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB): Academic & Family Supports:** Offers targeted educational tutoring and culturally responsive family groups that reinforce academic success while strengthening cultural identity and family cohesion.
- **Conflict Resolution Center (CRC):** Advances restorative justice practices through education and mediation, fostering accountability, repairing harm, and building stronger, more connected communities.
- **Encompass:** Provides comprehensive, trauma-informed wraparound services that address the complex behavioral health needs of youth and families.
- **Luna y Sol Community Action Board (CAB): Family Night:** Creates meaningful opportunities for family engagement through art and education, strengthening relationships and promoting positive family dynamics.
- **Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center:** Delivers programming focused on preventing dating violence, empowering youth with the knowledge and skills to build safe and healthy relationships.
- **Community Bridges Stable Transition and Reentry (STAR):** A transformative reentry initiative that strengthens continuity of care by connecting youth to individualized, responsive services that address their identified needs promoting stability, successful reintegration, and long-term positive outcomes.
- **Student Success Project:** A proactive, prevention-focused initiative that delivers targeted support services to youth identified as at-risk strengthening protective factors, promoting academic engagement, and preventing entry into the justice system.

- **Aztecas Soccer Academy:** A dynamic, strengths-based program that leverages soccer as a powerful pro-social outlet, combined with academic support and mentorship, to engage youth, build resilience, and divert them from system involvement.
- **Success Centers:** One-stop, community-based hubs that provide seamless access to critical services including employment, education, recovery support, assessments, and essential basic needs such as clothing and food creating a stable foundation for youth and families to thrive.

These partnerships have yielded a powerful, measurable impact, reducing overall caseloads while, more importantly, ensuring that over 71% of the youth we serve remain safely supported by general supervision, without escalating to higher levels of supervision or out-of-home placement. Notably, the department achieved its lowest number of new out-of-home placements in the past decade, just [redacted] youth representing a remarkable 92% reduction over 10 years. All service providers have been trained in the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM), creating a unified, family-centered framework for engaging and supporting youth. This intentional alignment has strengthened cross-system collaboration, enhanced consistency in service delivery, and expanded our collective capacity to foster positive outcomes while preventing further system involvement.

Part 7: Regional Effort (Welf & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(6))

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

While the county has successfully launched its own SYTF and is currently housing youth, it remains committed to partnering with Sonoma County to support those already placed elsewhere, ensuring continuity in their rehabilitative progress through the completion of their baseline time. Santa Cruz County's local SYTF is designed to meet youth rehabilitative needs closer to their families and communities, fulfilling the intent of SB 823 by providing structured, supportive services within a familiar environment. The Santa Cruz County Probation Department strategically leverages annual funding for the realigned population to ensure that youth receive the rehabilitative services they need whether housed locally or in Sonoma County to further prevent adjudication in the SYTF. Over the past year, [redacted] have benefited from Sonoma's specialized programs, and [redacted] are currently receiving services in our local SYTF, with a daily housing investment of $390 per youth in Sonoma. These efforts reflect the County's commitment to high-quality, individualized care and successful outcomes.

Part 8: Data (Welf & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(7))

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

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department utilizes a web-based application with a SQL server backend that enables the department to coordinate, communicate, record, and track each step of a youth's supervision process. Built-in features allow for streamlined case management, while multiple layers of security provide

system protection at a centralized data center, application and user levels that is Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliant.

The system allows for full case monitoring and reporting capabilities for both adult and juvenile clients and includes an institution module. The system is scalable and flexible and allows for tracking, recording, and reporting seamlessly. Moreover, it allows for:

- Integrated forms generation
- Document management
- The ability to create custom events to track outcomes
- Integration with third party assessment provider (JAIS)
- Reports generation

Different tools and data sources will be utilized to measure desired outcomes. Data is maintained in our case management system to retrieve client characteristics reports and information from case management records. The Probation Department routinely reports information in the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (CPSS), annually through the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) annual report and produce monthly data blasts. This information is used to direct resources and help guide decision making for the department's management team.

The data tracked:

- Race/Ethnicity
- Age
- Gender
- Residence
- Length of Stay
- Services
- Charges/Offenses
- JAIS
- Education
- SYTF Placement
- Stepdown Placement
- Visitation/Transportation
- Recidivism
- Transfers to Adult Court

Our department places a high value on data as a critical tool for measuring the collective impact of our work and guiding continuous improvement in serving youth and families. Internally, we keep staff informed and engaged through a monthly ***Data Blast***, highlighting progress and key trends that shape our practice. Externally, division reports capture the outcomes of our collaborative efforts with community partners, providing stakeholders and commissions with clear evidence of the meaningful, measurable impact our partnerships have on supporting youth and strengthening families.

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

Goal: The Santa Cruz County Probation Department is deeply committed to rigorous program monitoring and continuous quality improvement. All programs and services both with the host county and locally are closely evaluated to ensure they are effective and remain integral to our continuum of care. Individual, family, and community-level indicators are systematically assessed to determine whether our service models and local supervision are successfully meeting the needs of youth and families, ensuring that every intervention drives meaningful, measurable outcomes.

Planning	ACTIVITIES		OUTCOMES		
Identification of needs	**Services Provided**	**Who we reach**	**Outcome Indicator**	**Outcome**	**Measurement Tool**
• Youth receive physical and behavioral health support to progress toward a healthy life.	• Individual youth and family counseling, case management and family events/activities.	• Individual youth and families.	• # of youth who obtained behavioral health services.	• Build youth knowledge and skills. • Re- engage youth with families and communities. • Reduce recidivism.	• Attendance of counseling sessions at host county and locally. • Information entered in Caseload Explorer.
• Family will receive support to be able to meet with confined youth.	• Referrals for transportation, housing, food, and other support such as childcare, etc.	• Parents or guardians and other family members	• # of families who obtained referrals to transportation , housing, food & other services.	• Families have the opportunity to engage with youth in confinement.	• Visitation/Contact date information obtained from youth and families and host county. • Information entered in Caseload Explorer.
• Youth receive education and employment readiness support	• Completion of GED or diploma. Employability skills training and post-secondary education.	• Individual youth.	• # of youth who obtained skills, received certificate or diploma, obtained. • Access to post-secondary education.	• Build youth knowledge and skills and reduce recidivism. • Educational or Vocational enrollments.	• Information obtained from host county or local education placement. • Academic outcomes. • Attendance • Information entered in Caseload Explorer.

• Youth obtain and maintain employment upon their release.	• Assist youth obtain employment upon release. Refer to Probation Service Center (PSC) for employment or vocational training programs.	• Individual youth, families, and communities.	• #of youth who obtained employment . • #of youth maintained for at least 180 days.	• Build youth knowledge and engagement skills. • Re- engage youth with families and communities. • Reduce recidivism. • Obtaining living wages	• Information obtained from youth and PSC – Information entered in Caseload Explorer.

The comprehensive, multi-agency plan developed by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council strategically leverages resources and evidence-based strategies to create a seamless continuum of interventions ranging from delinquency prevention and early intervention to supervision, treatment, and, when necessary, incarceration. These efforts are rigorously evaluated using objective, standardized metrics, with results shared publicly to ensure transparency and inform data-driven decision-making. Key performance indicators, including program engagement, completion rates, and reductions in recidivism, guide our work. By centering positive outcomes for both youth and the community, the Council ensures that block grant funding is maximized to achieve meaningful, measurable impact.

Part 9: Other Updates: Describe any progress on elements since the previous annual plan submission: (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (d)(8))

Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.

Since the last reporting period, the County has not only successfully implemented a local SYTF but has also launched a locally operated Camp program both strategically aligned with the intent of SB 823 to advance rehabilitation through community-based, treatment-focused approaches. Together, these efforts represent a significant shift toward localized care, accountability, and improved outcomes for youth.

The following highlights below are further examples of the meaningful progress and rehabilitative achievements demonstrated by young people in both our local and host facilities, reflecting continued growth, accountability, and positive trajectory changes.

- **Academic Achievement and Milestones** – [redacted] youth successfully earned a community college degree, demonstrating exceptional commitment by participating in on-campus coursework through approved furloughs.
- **Post-Secondary Success** – [redacted] accepted to seven universities, [redacted] top-choice institution, reflecting remarkable academic growth and future potential.
- **Leadership and Statewide Engagement** – [redacted] selected to participate in an overnight furlough to support the OYCR Anniversary Event in Sacramento, highlighting trust, responsibility, and leadership development.
- **Universal Educational Engagement** – [redacted] actively enrolled in and attending community college courses, underscoring a strong culture of education, accountability, and forward momentum.
- **Continuum of Care Advancement** – [redacted] actively transitioning into a community Less Restrictive Program (LRP), representing a critical step in the continuum of care and a tailored progression toward sustained rehabilitation, stability, and successful reintegration.

Part 10: Prior-year expenditures-Summary of outcomes/Impacts: (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(9))

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

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

Please itemize expenditures by each subject area described in Part 4 of the annual JJRBG plan(s) that governed the fiscal year being reported (e.g., for FY 2024-25 expenditures, refer to the subject areas defined in your 2024 plan submission and any updates provided in your 2025 plan submission). When itemizing expenditures, counties may choose the format that works best for their internal reporting processes; however, the content must match the structure and content of the following outline:

1. **Expenditure Subject Area[1]**
    a. **Total Expenditures ($)**
    b. **Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)**
    c. **Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.**
    d. **Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.**

In Fiscal Year 2024–25, Santa Cruz County did not officially launch its local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) until the end of calendar year 2024. Prior to the local implementation, the County contracted with Sonoma County for the housing and supervision of its realigned youth population under SB 823. As a result, a portion of expenditures during this reporting period reflects out-of-county placement costs, alongside continued investment in local infrastructure, staffing, and program development to support the eventual launch of the County's SYTF.

OYCR has provided an example template below for your convenience. As previously mentioned, counties have flexibility in the layout chosen; however, the content must follow the structure of the outline above (1) (a) – (d).

EXAMPLE:

Expenditure Subject Area: WIC §1995(d)(3)(A) or Mental Health Treatment Program	Total Expenditures ($): $140,000	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No): No

Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area: The prior year's plan anticipated full implementation of specialized mental health and trauma-informed treatment services for the target population throughout the fiscal year however the county experienced delays in securing qualified clinical providers with expertise in treating justice-involved youth with complex trauma and co-occurring needs. As a result, contracted mental health expenditures were lower than planned during the reporting.

[1] This outline 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).

Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990:

Available funds were prioritized toward interim clinical assessments, crisis stabilization, and short-term therapeutic interventions for youth in the realigned population. These services supported early identification of behavioral health needs, informed individualized rehabilitation plans, and reduced behavioral incidents during custodial placement and reentry transitions.

Expenditure Subject Area:	*Total Expenditures ($):*	*Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No):*
Mental Health, Sex Offender Treatment, Behavioral Health and Trauma Based Needs	$ 272,655	*Yes*

Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area:

Expenditures for this subject area were consistent with the intent of the approved plan, though implementation required a phased approach. During FY 2024–25, Santa Cruz County's local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) was still in the design and development phase working towards implementation. As a result, the County contracted with Sonoma County to provide housing, supervision, and treatment services for all realigned youth from Santa Cruz County.

This approach aligned with the plan's overarching goal of ensuring that realigned youth receive appropriate secure care, treatment, and rehabilitative services, even while local capacity was still being developed. Contracting with Sonoma County allowed the County to maintain continuity of care and meet SB 823 requirements while simultaneously investing in the planning, staffing, and infrastructure necessary to launch a local SYTF.

Therefore, while expenditures were directed toward out-of-county placement during this period, they remained consistent with the plan's intent to provide safe, secure, and treatment-oriented environments for realigned youth until local implementation was achieved.

Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990:

Expenditures during FY 2024–25 improved outcomes for the realigned target population described in Section 1990 by ensuring continuity of care, access to rehabilitative services, and a structured environment during a critical transition period for Santa Cruz County.

Because the local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) was still in development, contracting with Sonoma County allowed all realigned youth to be placed in a secure setting that provided consistent supervision, evidence-based programming, and access to behavioral health and

educational services. This prevented disruptions in care and ensured that youth continued to receive services aligned with SB 823's rehabilitative goals.

These expenditures contributed to improved outcomes in several key areas:

- **Stability and Safety:** Youth were housed in a secure, structured environment with appropriate levels of supervision, reducing risk and promoting accountability.
- **Access to Treatment:** Youth received ongoing behavioral health services, including trauma-informed care, which supported emotional regulation and behavioral improvement.
- **Educational Progress:** Continued access to education and credit recovery opportunities supported academic advancement and long-term success.
- **Rehabilitation and Skill Development:** Programming focused on addressing criminogenic needs, building life skills, and preparing youth for successful reintegration.
- **Continuity During Transition:** By maintaining services through Sonoma County while developing local capacity, the County avoided service gaps and ensured a seamless transition toward a locally operated SYTF model.

Overall, these expenditures supported the intent of realignment by prioritizing rehabilitation, maintaining service continuity, and laying the groundwork for improved local outcomes as Santa Cruz County transitions to a fully implemented, community-based SYTF.

Expenditure Subject Area: ***Family Engagement***	*Total Expenditures ($):* *$72,487.76*	*Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No):* *Yes*

Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area:

Expenditures for this subject area were consistent with the intent of the approved plan, though implementation required a phased approach. During FY 2024–25, Santa Cruz County's local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) was still in the design and development phase and was working towards implementation. As a result, the County contracted with Sonoma County to provide housing, supervision, and treatment services for all realigned youth from Santa Cruz County.

Recognizing the distance as a barrier to meaningful family connection, Santa Cruz County made targeted investments in family engagement, with a strong emphasis on transportation support.

Family Engagement & Transportation Support

- Expenditures prioritized strengthening family connection by removing barriers to in-person visitation for youth placed out of county.
- The County provided roundtrip transportation for families to Sonoma County, ensuring consistent opportunities for visitation and engagement in their child's rehabilitative process.
- Additional efforts supported communication between youth and their families, reinforcing family involvement as a core component of treatment and reentry planning.

Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990:

Outcomes:

- Increased frequency and consistency of family visitation despite out-of-county placement.
- Strengthened family relationships, which are critical to youth stability and successful rehabilitation.
- Enhanced youth engagement in treatment, as family involvement is closely tied to positive behavioral and emotional outcomes.
- Improved reentry readiness through stronger family support systems and continuity of connection.

These expenditures directly aligned with the County's rehabilitative goals by recognizing family engagement as a key driver of positive outcomes and ensuring that geographic barriers did not limit a youth's ability to remain connected to their primary support system.