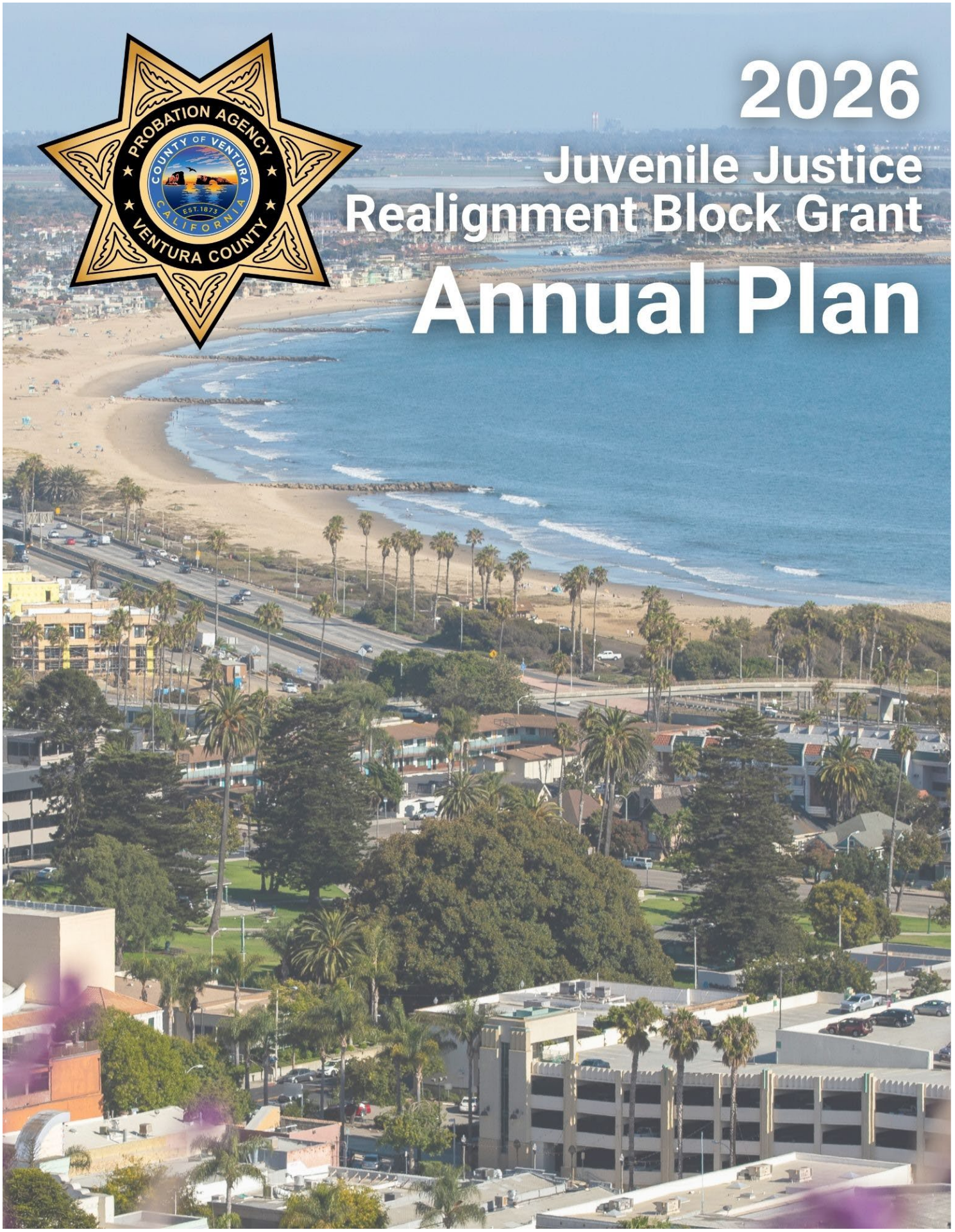


2026
Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant
Annual Plan

Background

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).)

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

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chair	Ronald L. Miller II *Chief Probation Officer*	Ron.Miller@venturacounty.gov	(805) 654-2100
Co-Chair	Valerie Salazar *Community Member 1*	Valerinajs@gmail.com	(805) 298-0087
Court	Judge Gilbert Romero *Supervising Juvenile Judge*	Gilbert.Romero@ventura.courts.ca.gov	(805) 289-8823
District Attorney's Office	Kevin Drescher *Chief Deputy District Attorney*	Kevin.Drescher@venturacounty.gov	(805) 662-1701
Public Defender's Office	Michael Rodriguez *Chief Deputy Public Defender*	Michael.Rodriguez@venturacounty.gov	(805) 654-3199
Department of Social Services	Leticia Morales *Deputy Director Children & Family Services*	Leticia.Morales@venturacounty.gov	(805) 477-5311
Department of Mental Health	Dr. John Schipper *Behavioral Health Division Manager*	John.Schipper@venturacounty.gov	(805) 981-4200
Office of Education Representative	Dr. Consuela Hernandez Williams *Associate Superintendent*	CWilliams@vcoe.org	(805) 383-1920
Community Member	Dwight Thompson *Community Member 2*	Dwight4homes@gmail.com	(805) 479-6555
Community Member	Sal Flores *Community Member 3*	F.Sal.15@yahoo.com	(805) 651-8647

SUBCOMMITTEE SELECTION PROCESS:

During the JJRBG Subcommittee meeting held on November 19, 2024, the council deliberated on the advantages of appointing a co-chair. It was concluded that having a co-chair would offer valuable perspectives in agenda setting and the selection of presenters. Following this discussion, a co-chair was selected. The council will continue discussions in future meetings regarding term lengths and the review of membership.

Subcommittee meetings held on:

- November 4, 2025
- April 7, 2026

The Annual Plan was updated and approved by the majority of the subcommittee on

April 7, 2026.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBCOMMITTEE PARTICIPATION:

The plan is based on submissions from the previous year. While the goals related to the target population remain unchanged, the providers and programs may vary. The proposed plan for this year was submitted to subcommittee members on April 2, 2026, for review, comment, and input. The plan was subsequently approved on April 7, 2026.

PART 2: TARGET POPULATION

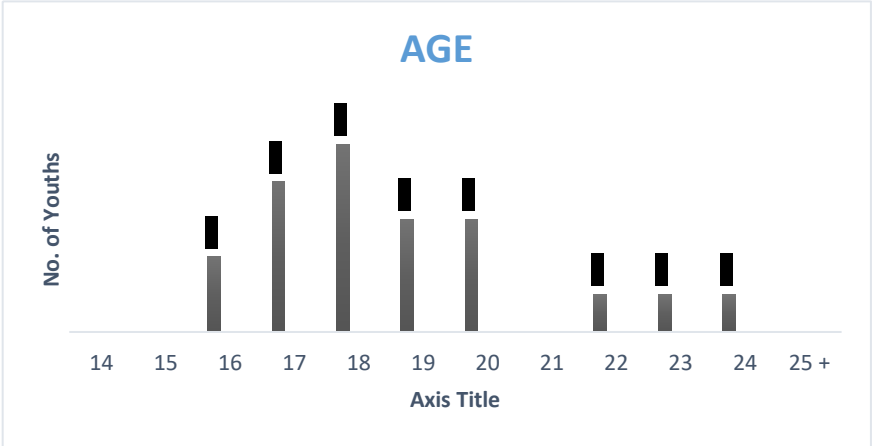
The “target population” is defined as “youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an offense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

In Ventura County, the block grant supports youth who have been realigned from the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) or those who would have previously been eligible for commitment to the DJJ before the passage of Senate Bills 823 and 92.

TARGET POPULATION DISAGGREGATED BY CATEGORIES

GENDER	
Male	Female
[redacted]	[redacted]

RACE / ETHNICITY	
Caucasian	Hispanic
[redacted]	[redacted]



Program	Number of Youths
Rising Scholars	21
Creative Writing	[redacted]
Agriculture	[redacted]
Auto Tech	[redacted]
Arise	22
Boys and Girls Club	22
Reins of Hope	[redacted]
Prison Education Project	[redacted]
Paxton Patterson	[redacted]
Visual Arts	18
Healthy Lifestyles/Alpha Leadership	15
Moral Reconation Therapy	[redacted]
MANDO	20

Placement and/or Facility	Number of Youths
Juvenile Facilities (Ventura County)	12
Woman of Substance and Men of Honor (Ventura County)	[redacted]
Pine Grove (Amador County)	[redacted]
Ventura County Jail	[redacted]

PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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)):

The Ventura County Juvenile Facilities complex sits on a 45-acre parcel in an unincorporated area of the county near the community of El Rio and was completed in 2003. The original total capacity of the facility was 420 youth. The detention component houses up to 240 youth and the commitment component housed up to 180 youth. The housing units are based on the "new generation" pod design. In addition to the housing components, the Juvenile Facilities includes outdoor recreation areas for both detention and commitment programs, a multipurpose gymnasium, a visiting center, intake/community confinement area, a booking area, classrooms, and program and facility administration offices, medical services, and kitchen and laundry services.

Recent upgrades to the facility include significant revamping of the youth gym space and the Boys and Girls Club. Additionally, previous commitment living spaces were converted to a library and a music center. The library space is run in conjunction with the Ventura County Public Library. The new music center has spaces for sound mixing, recording, music theory, and music instruction.

Youth under the care of the Ventura County Probation Agency (VCPA) are provided with constructive, approved curriculums that offer individual and group activities as well as the following programs within the facilities:

Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE)

- **Special Education Services -** The identification of students who receive special education services is crucial. Once students are enrolled, the VCOE office manager identifies students who receive special education services through CALPADS (state data system). Once students are identified, the students' home school of residence is contacted immediately to request their Individual Education Plans (IEPs), where all required services are outlined. VCOE will then notify appropriate service

providers that there is a new student who needs the required services, including Educationally Related Social Emotional Services (ERSES), counseling, speech, Collaborative Educational Services (COEDs), Special Circumstance Educational Support (SCES), and Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) services to coordinate efforts with districts to ensure that Annual IEPs and Triennial IEPs are completed per required timelines.

Throughout the 2024-2025 academic year, [redacted] SYTF students were enrolled, and [redacted] received special education services.

Students receive services due to various identified eligibilities such as emotional disturbance, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech/language impairment, intellectual disabilities, autism, and hard-of-hearing. Annual IEPs and Triennial IEPs take place according to the required timelines. Providence staff also conduct initial assessments at the request of parents.

The Providence School staff are notified daily of the students who receive special education services and their eligibility. During Critical Case meetings, the school counselor shares this information with VCPA, medical, and behavioral health.

- **California Dashboard -** Providence is also a part of the *California Dashboard Accountability System.* The Dashboard is an online tool that displays student performance and reviews achievement levels for disaggregated groups. The Dashboard Accountability System monitors student success in the areas of chronic absenteeism, suspension, English learner progress, graduation rate, college and career readiness, ELA, and math. In 2025, the suspension rate was identified at the Orange performance level. Of 189 students served, 3.7% were suspended for at least one day. English learner progress indicator data showed that 43.1 percent of the 51 English learners and 44 percent of the 50 Long-Term English Learners enrolled and assessed were making progress toward English language proficiency. Performance levels that were not identified for any other area. Go Here to access the Providence Dashboard.

- **College and Career Exploration -** Students participate in the Get Focused, Stay Focused! Career and College Exploration course. The course is designed to help students explore their identity and ambitions and develop a 10-year career and education plan for realizing their dreams. The Career Choices curriculum engages students in a career and life planning process that will motivate them to stay in school and work towards life-long achievement. Students work on decision-making, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills.

  Students also take an in-person Automotive Technology class while in high school. VCOE offers the College and Career Prep course through APEX. VCOE also offers a career course as an additional option within the guided curriculum.

- **Guest Speaker Program -** Providence partners with community organizations that provide in-person or Zoom presentations to the students. These organizations are:
  - BRITE, a community non-profit organization, presents alcohol, drug, and tobacco prevention education.
  - Moorpark College, Oxnard College, and Ventura College conduct outreach presentations to the students.
  - College instructors share information about their programs (e.g., automotive, dental hygienist, nursing, and theatre).
  - Oxnard College provides a yearly panel presentation of previously incarcerated students attending college. The panelists share their stories, challenges, and successes and discuss the support systems that contributed to their success.
  - Project Rebound is a program that supports the higher education and successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals wishing to enroll and succeed at California State University.

- M.A.N.D.O YDG: an agency dedicated to mentoring and developing youth through career and vocational planning, counseling, and mentorships.
- Hamish Brewer: motivational speaker who shares his personal and professional experience with students to work relentlessly and empower students living through the toughest situations to envision and create a better future for themselves.

- **VCOE and VCPA Vocational Services Contract -** In the Spring of 2023, the VCOE and the VCPA entered into a contract regarding vocational services. The VCOE is contracted to provide vocational services for male and female youth (under 18) and transitional-aged youth (TAY) (ages 18-24) who have completed high school and are in custody at the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities.

  The VCOE provides the following Career Technical Education courses:

  - Transportation/Automotive Engine Repair
  - Agriculture/Natural Resources

- **College Classes -** The Ventura County Office of Education and VCPA have a formidable partnership with the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD). The VCCCD consists of Moorpark College, Oxnard College, and Ventura College. Every graduate is strongly advised to take a college course. The VCOE counselor enrolls those who decide to take a college course in collaboration with the Oxnard College Rising Scholars Counselor and VCPA. Currently, 18 students are enrolled in online VCCCD college courses. As of March 27, 2026, [redacted] are ***dually enrolled*** in high school and taking a college class. The students are long-term residents of the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

  The *Oxnard College Rising Scholars* counselor supports the incarcerated students in the completion of their courses. The Rising Scholars counselor works with college instructors to ensure that the instructors address the limitations of their confined students. The Rising Scholars counselor also facilitates tutoring and special education services.

- **Students with Short Commitments -** As stated above, the Providence counselor links young people who are not enrolled in college and will be leaving the facility within a short period of time to the *VCCCD Rising Scholars* counselor and provides community college information. The Providence counselor connects them to agencies and helps students search for local jobs in the area in which they are transitioning.

  - **Newly Incarcerated Students -** Newly detained students taking online college classes continue to take their classes with the assistance of the VCOE and VCCCD Rising Scholars counselors. The VCOE counselors work closely together to accommodate the students' needs and course completion while they are detained.

  - **Upon Release -** Once released, youth taking college courses while in the facility continue to take the courses. Oxnard College provides students with computers and hot spots to ensure they have the resources necessary to continue taking online courses. In addition, the VCOE counselor and the Oxnard College Rising Scholars Counselor assist students in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

  - **Non-College Participants -** Youth who are not taking a college course and have a release date, are connected to the *VCCCD Rising Scholars* counselor and given local community college information. VCOE also links them to community agencies and help students search for local jobs in the area in which they are transitioning.

- ***In-Person College Classes -*** VCPA and the Ventura County Community College District are currently working together in an effort to offer in-person classes. The VCOE is collaborating with both partners on this endeavor. Currently, Oxnard College is offering one in-person class: *Chicano Studies.*

  In Spring 2025, VCPA collaborated with California Lutheran University and offered another in-person Criminal Justice Class using the Inside Out Program where students from the community attend class with the incarcerated students. California Lutheran University will also offer Pathway Workshops to graduates and high school students, offering a look at various subjects including Philosophy, English, and Theatre. The collaboration with California Lutheran University will continue and two additional in-person Inside Out courses will be offered in Fall 2026, and Spring 2027.

- ***Collaboration -*** Providence School and VCPA collaborate closely to support student success. Their partnership reflects a symbiotic relationship, with both entities working together to provide coordinated support for students.

  The Educational Services agreement between the VCPA and the VCOE states, "Probation agrees to designate a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO) as a liaison between Providence Court School and Ventura County Probation Agency. This liaison will be the main source of communication between Providence and Probation staff."

Daily	*Providence staff and VCPA collaborate informally on a day-to-day basis. Collaboration includes informal face-to-face meetings or conversations, phone calls, and emails. Office staff, teachers, and para-educators collaborate with deputy probation officers to support each other with student behavior challenges. Teachers award students points for classroom behavior. Points awarded are included in the VCPA incentive system.* *Formal communication takes place as well. VCPA sends Providence daily population sheets, booking sheets, school rosters, court schedules, transfer lists, and lists of released students. Providence staff also works with VCPA to schedule visits for special education service providers.*
Weekly	*Every week, the Providence counselor participates in Critical Case Meetings where critical cases are discussed. VCPA, the behavior health director, the Juvenile Facility psychiatrist, and the school counselor collaboratively discuss how to address the needs of students. In addition, teachers participate in Treatment Team Meetings where VCPA, behavioral health, teachers, and parents meet and plan how to address the needs of each student.* *VCPA sponsors Release Plan Meetings for students at Providence School, and the induction/transition specialist attends these meetings. The induction/transition specialist works with field probation officers to ensure that students re-enroll in school by emailing a list of released students who have yet to re-enroll. Field probation officers notify us of any updates on students who have been released yet not re-enrolled in school.* *VCOE participates in monthly meetings with VCPA school partners to address challenges, identify solutions, and determine next steps.*
Quarterly	*VCOE also meets quarterly with Juvenile Facilities Partners (medical, VCPA, and behavioral health) to share and discuss crucial information. VCPA*

	participates in the School Site Council and the completion of the Single Plan for Student Achievement.
Ongoing	*The counselor and induction/transition specialist participate in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings where VCPA assembles the people involved in the detained foster child's life to determine how best to help the student and address their needs regarding safety and well-being.* *VCOE collaboratively completes Juvenile Facility orientations and high school graduation ceremonies.* *At the upper management level, the VCPA Chiefs, the VCOE Superintendent and Associate Superintendents collaborate to address the educational needs of detained students.*

- **Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) -** Providence Court School is WASC Accredited. The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) is a world-renowned accrediting association. The ACS WASC accreditation is an ongoing six-year cycle of excellence whereby the school demonstrates the capacity, commitment, and proficiency to support high-quality student learning and ongoing school progress. During the 2024 - 2025 academic year, VCOE Court and Community Schools (Providence Court School and Gateway Community School) conducted a WASC review. The WASC Committee visited both campuses. As a result, Providence and Gateway schools received a 6-year accreditation with a mid-cycle review. This accreditation validates the integrity and quality of the program.

  The WASC visiting team identified various strengths: student/staff relationships, positive school culture (pride and appreciation, clean campuses), use of technology in the classrooms (Newline Boards, 1:1 ratio, hot spots), transition/induction specialists, counselors, rigorous curriculum aligned to the state standards, partnerships with local community colleges, strong leadership, flexible/professional staff and college and career readiness programs, and post-secondary planning. The visiting committee concurred with the schools' identified areas for growth: decrease chronic absenteeism, increased parent/family engagement, increase academic supports, interventions, and mentoring for students, professional development for staff, consistent implementation of curriculum in all instructional programs, increased time for staff collaboration and professional learning communities, and continued implementation of student supports.

  The next WASC midyear cycle is due in 2028.

<u>Ventura County Behavior Health (VCBH)</u>:

As an embedded program within the Ventura County Juvenile Facility, VCBH offers behavioral health, educationally related social emotional services (ERSES), and substance use treatment services to youth and young adults housed at the facility. These services include risk assessment, crisis intervention, treatment planning, individual, family and group therapy/counseling.

- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)** An evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy used to treat mood disorders, suicidal ideation and aims to change behavioral patterns such as self-harm and substance use. DBT teaches skills across four main topics: mindfulness, interpersonal effectiveness, emotional regulation, and distress tolerance.

- **Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)** (*Interface*) uses a cognitive-behavioral approach and fosters moral development in treatment-resistant clients through education, group counseling, and structured exercises. Moral Reconation Therapy outcome studies show a reduction in the recidivism rate of offenders 30%-50% for periods up to 20 years after release. Re-arrest and re-incarceration rates can be up to 65% lower than expected. The group members complete 12 steps in a weekly group process until completion of the 12 steps.

- **Aggression Replacement Training (ART)** An evidence-based, proven-effective approach for working with challenging youth. The model can be used in schools, community agencies, juvenile institutions, and other settings.

- **Substance Use Treatment Services (SUTS)** Individual and group counseling with a focus on addressing substance use disorders. Group structure follows the Matrix**,** an integrative treatment model meant to directly address the needs of people who suffer from addiction through the strategic combination of evidence-based therapies.

- **Co-Occurring Disorders Program: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)** Group therapy is specifically designed for co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. The group focuses on three key parts: breathing retraining, education, and cognitive restructuring. Each area of focus is effective in reducing symptoms such as anxiety, negativity, distress, irritability, and physical tension.

- **Educationally Related Social Emotion Services (ERSES)** A unique service where youth with an Individualized Educational Plan can receive school based mental health services. A behavioral health clinician (.5 FTE) is stationed at the facility, providing individual counseling as well as collaboration and coordination of care with VCPA school staff as needed.

- **Co-Parenting Sessions** Treatment for youth with their own children that focuses on the work with the other parent and their child in a supervised and guided manner. It teaches youth to work with the second parent in order to successfully raise their child in a healthy and safe environment. Successful co-parenting has been linked to decreased behavior issues and increased self-esteem of the child.

- **Seeking Safety** is an evidence-based practice; it teaches present-focused coping skills to help clients attain safety in their lives. It is highly flexible and can be conducted in any setting by a wide range of counselors and also peers. There are 25 treatment topics, each representing a safe coping skill relevant to both trauma and/or substance abuse, such as “Asking for Help”, “Creating Meaning”, “Compassion”, and “Healing from Anger”. Seeking Safety strives to increase hope through emphasis on ideals; it offers exercises, emotionally evocative language, and quotations to engage patients; and provides concrete strategies to build recovery skills.

- **Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)** uses a cognitive-behavioral approach and fosters moral development in treatment-resistant clients through education, group counseling, and structured exercises. Moral Reconation Therapy outcome studies show a reduction in the recidivism rate of offenders 30%-50% for periods up to 20 years after release.

Wellpath:

- **Health Care Services** (*Wellpath*) for youth is available onsite, 24 hours per day. Wellpath provides Health Education, Dental Care, Community Healthcare, and Psychiatric Services. Medical offices and examination rooms are on campus. Wellpath provides medical services under contract with the County. Tattoo removal is offered to all youth in custody at no cost.

Community Organization Services:

- **Alpha Leadership Program** (*Women of Substance and Men of Honor*) is a 13-week program and is offered to both male and female youth. Topics cover Priorities and Goals, Individual Identification and Finances.

- **Healthy Lifestyles** (*Women of Substance and Men of Honor*) is a 10-week gender specific program and is offered separately to both male and female population. Topics cover Boundaries, Diversity, Feelings, Friendships, Role Models, Hygiene, STDs, HIV, Sexual Assault, Date Rape Drugs and Protection

- **Treatment for Youth who have Offended Sexually** (*Anew Therapeutic Services*) is a comprehensive program that consists of weekly individual therapy. The program offers a creative and interactive curriculum tailored to individual youth. They work in collaboration with VCPA and the Court on client case management services.

- **Ventura County Arts Council** provides art, poetry, and guitar classes. They have produced books about youth art and poetry and have completed three murals in the facility, two of which involved youth. They will be expanding their program to include photography and podcasting.

- **Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard & Port Hueneme (BGC)** is embedded within the facility. An initial Youth Development Specialist was provided by the BGC at no expense; however, a second Youth Development Specialist is funded by this grant. The BGC is a Targeted Re-entry Program focusing on the development of programming for youth while in the facility with a goal of linking the youth to Boys and Girls Clubs in the community. The BGC has implemented the following programs within the facility:

    - Money Matters: Youth are taught how to set goals, budget, save and invest.

    - Jesse's Place: One Way: This program empowers participants to take responsibility for their actions and begin personal transformation. Grounded in Biblical teachings and cognitive principles, it emphasizes mindful decision-making and accountability. Through reflective writing and self-examination, participants gain insight into the impact of their choices and develop empathy and growth. Aligned with restorative justice, the program encourages amending past wrongs, restoring relationships, and engaging in acts of service during incarceration. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a mindset of service that extends beyond release, enabling participants to positively impact their communities and rebuild their lives with integrity. The long-term aim is to create lasting change by empowering participants to transform their own lives and make a meaningful impact on others.

- **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Education and Mentoring** (*Forever Found*) is provided to the youth. They implement awareness programs, provide support and mentorship/advocacy to the youth. Warning signs are discussed as well as how to report them effectively. They are present at all Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings for youth identified as a concern for exploitation according to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT). Mentors talk weekly with their assigned youth and transition with them into the community for support.

- **Reins of H.O.P.E** is an evidence-based equine assisted psychotherapy program (EAP) that enhances Behavioral Health's therapeutic program and is an alternative therapeutic modality found to assist youth in ways unique and often superior to more passive counseling modalities. EAP

addresses a variety of mental health and human development issues such as behavioral issues, depression, anxiety, substance use, PTSD and sexual trauma among the youth. There are typically female and male groups.

- **Dating Matters** (*Coalition for Family Harmony*) is an evidence-based teen dating violence prevention model that includes prevention strategies for individuals, peers, families, schools, and neighborhoods. Dating Matters includes seven primary components that work together to reinforce protective factors and reduce risk factors for teen dating violence across the social ecology, at the individual, relationship, and community levels. These components also focus on preventing dating violence and promoting healthy relationships across the lifespan.

- **ARISE** (*Coalition for Family Harmony*) is a six-week program that focuses on life skills, as well as gang intervention and prevention. It is taught in a group setting, giving the participants experience listening to other viewpoints, voicing their thoughts and values, and working on team activities together. ARISE is evidence-based and will augment the facilities' cognitive behavioral programming. Engaging in an ARISE group teaches youth life skills such as communication, mediation and listening skills that they can apply in their daily lives.

- **Lived Experience Mentors** (*Coalition for Family Harmony*) embed community mentors, with lived experience, within the facility to assist youth in every aspect of their stay in the facility: from detention, through their commitment and upon release. The mentors will engage youth daily to learn about their passions and goals and support them and their families to reach those goals while in the facility and with VCPA and an Interface (pending grant) case manager through release and community reintegration. Because of their shared experience, they would be able to assist with easing anxiety and tension as they work through challenges and conflicts with this population. They would also play a pivotal role on the multi-disciplinary team that works with the youth and their families.

- **Lived Experience Mentors** (MANDO) are former Juvenile Facility residents who have an existing contract to work with justice involved youth in the community. The mentors engage youth weekly to learn about their passions and goals and support them to reach those goals while in the facility and with VCPA. Because of their shared experience, they are able to assist with easing anxiety and tension as they work through challenges and conflicts with this population.

- **Paws to Share** is an evidence-based intervention in which therapy dogs and their handlers visit youth to provide comfort and stress relief.

- **Studio Be Pilates and Yoga** program is designed to support youth in building healthy coping strategies, reducing stress, and improving overall physical and emotional well-being. These sessions promote mindfulness, self-regulation, and positive outlets for managing emotions while encouraging healthy lifestyle habits.

- **Ventura County Library** provides library services based on the operational needs and capabilities of VCPA at a minimum of eighteen (18) hours per week total, allowing youth to participate in literacy tutoring and library browsing opportunities.

- **Nate's Place** utilizes evidence-based practices such as COPE-7 curriculum, along with the 12-Step Facilitation Group, to address addiction recovery and promote overall mental well-being. This program supports youth in understanding and accepting addiction through a structured, evidence-based curriculum.

- **Music Freqs** provides one on one and group music instruction that includes introduction to music, voice, guitar, bass, ukulele, piano, drums, mandolin, banjo, stage performance, disc jockey songwriting, recording, stage management, and theatre and acting.

- **Prison Education Project** courses are taught by volunteer university students and professors from 20 regional universities: USC, UCLA, Cal Poly Pomona, Pitzer College, and various other Cal State Universities. These volunteers may ultimately become mentors for youth and guide them through the contours of re-entry once they are discharged. If youth want to pursue college, PEP will assist youth in meeting tuition needs.

Programming Conducted by Juvenile Facilities Staff Members:

- **Paxton Patterson** (construction/vocational skills) is a program which provides youth the opportunity to enhance their skills in construction to ultimately assist with obtaining employment upon release from custody.

- **Music N' Society** provides opportunities for self-expression, growth and teaches the value of teamwork. This program provides youth understanding of basic song structure and music theory utilizing guitar, drums, and bass. They explore lyrics, artists, and their contributions to society.

- **Futsal, Flag Football & Basketball** provide the youth with opportunities to learn and play various team sports.

- **Orijin Tablets** offer individualized programming, educational, vocational and recreational opportunities to the youth. Tablets provide movies, addiction recovery, assistance with re-entry, financial literacy, anger management and the ability for video family visits. Tablets can also be utilized in conjunction with employment services to enhance the job application experience. Some programs offered are evidence-based.

- **Screen Printing** is a program that provides an opportunity for youth to learn the art of screen printing by engaging in both instructional and practical use of screen-printing equipment.

- **Driving Simulator** is an immersive driver's training tool that teaches youth how to safely operate a motor vehicle.

- **Dating Matters** is an evidence-based teen dating violence prevention model that includes prevention strategies for individuals, peers, families, schools, and neighborhoods. Dating Matters includes seven primary components that work together to reinforce protective factors and reduce risk factors for teen dating violence across the social ecology, at the individual, relationship, and community levels. These components also focus on preventing dating violence and promoting healthy relationships across their lifespan.

- **Book Club** is a program where youth read literary works and discuss topics and issues in the books. Youth will then watch movie versions (if available) before moving on.

- **Culinary Arts** is a program where youth learn how to prepare non-bake cooked items, including charcuterie boards, energy bites, caprese cups, sandwich and wraps, yogurt bowls, ham Caesar salad, cheesecake berry parfaits, and tiramisu. Youth are able to eat their creations at the end of each session.

- **Real Life, Real Choices** is course provides detained youth with essential daily living and independent life skills in a secure, structured juvenile hall environment. Instruction focuses on health, safety, responsibility, and preparation for reentry, while fully complying with Title 15 minimum standards governing education, supervision, and welfare of youth in detention.

- **Victim Impact** is a course consisting of 13 units, each requiring approximately 2.5 hours to complete. It is built around the 10 core crime areas that are highlighted in the OVC *Victim Impact: Listen and Learn* DVD (property crime, assault, robbery, hate and bias, gang crime, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, drunk and impaired driving, and homicide). In addition, there are two introductory units and a final unit, Making Amends

- **Anger Management** is a course which gives participants an opportunity to explore the role anger plays in their lives and offers strategies and skills for managing how they experience and express anger and other difficult feelings. The curriculum incorporates both cognitive-behavioral and mindfulness techniques to help participants increase their ability to think about their thinking.

- **Voices** is a gender-responsive, trauma-informed curriculum developed by Dr. Stephanie Covington to support adolescent girls in discovering and embracing their authentic selves. Rooted in research and clinical experience, the program provides a safe, structured, and supportive environment where girls can explore identity, relationships, wellness, and future aspirations.

- **Creative Writing** is an eight-week creative writing course for incarcerated youth focuses on self-discovery, building empathy, and exploring personal narratives through different writing styles. The one-hour session structure includes a short warm-up, a central writing exercise, and a closing discussion.

Volunteers in Probation (VIP):

- **JF Library Book Club Program** allows youth to read and discuss topics and issues in a selected book. Youth will work on projects related to the significance of the book and will be required to present their interpretation and feelings of the book at the end of the program.

- **Religious Services** – Religious services from various denominations are offered to all youth in the facility.

PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

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

The Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant is not used directly to fund mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs. However, the target population is serviced via a contract with Ventura County Behavioral Health that provides the following:

- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy
- Moral Reconation Therapy
- Aggression Replacement Therapy
- Substance Use Treatment Services
- Co-Occurring Disorders Program
- Educationally Related Social Emotional Services
- Co-Parenting Sessions
- Seeking Safety

Additionally, VCPA contracts with Anew Therapeutic Services to provide sex offender specific treatment inside of the Juvenile Facilities.

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

VCPA intends to use grant funds to support holistic, developmentally appropriate programs and services that address the full range of adolescent needs, including mental health, education, relationships, and life skills. As part of this approach, selected staff will be certified as facilitators in evidence-based programs (EBPs) such as Safe Dates, Dating Matters, and Moral Reconation Therapy.

Currently, staff deliver EBP programming including Voices, Anger Management (The Change Companies), and Victim Impact. In addition, through a partnership with SeeAg, staff will also receive certification to deliver Roots of Success, a program designed to empower youth by building practical workplace skills.

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

Ventura County recognizes the extensive body of research surrounding the role of families and supportive adults in the lives of justice involved youth and the impact those roles have. It is widely accepted that family and supportive adults are critical in the development of children, yet their involvement when a youth enters the justice system is historically minimized. Instead, families/supportive adults need to be engaged, as they can offer protective factors to youth and increase their success on probation. Family support and engagement is one of the target areas identified in the County's Juvenile Justice Plan, therefore, the principles are embedded in contracts with program providers.

Every SYTF youth in the facility has an assigned Deputy Probation Officer who creates case plans for them. Part of this case plan is a multi-disciplinary meeting that involves the youth, behavioral health, the district attorney, the public defender or legal representation, the school, and the youth's family. The purpose of the meeting is to help the youth and their family navigate the youth's current commitment and their eventual return to the community. Additionally, the facility offers family engagement in the form of pro-social activities outside of the regularly offered visits. These included family meals, family game night, and family painting night.

Prior to a youth's release into the community, the youth's facility Deputy Probation Officer, along with the Cal-AIM case manager, host a pre-release meeting which involves the youth, behavioral health, the youth's family, and the youth's field Deputy Probation Officer (if applicable), to address any barriers the youth may face upon their release. During these meetings, the youth will be linked with services in the community to ensure a warm handoff to local Community Based Organizations (CBOs), mental health providers, and physical health providers. The youth will also be provided a re-entry care plan linking them to support in the community. This collaborative approach ensures youth and their families will be provided with re-entry support upon their release.

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

The Transitional Housing program, Women of Substance & Men of Honor (WOSMOH), provides supportive services to young adults (ages 18–24) released from juvenile custody. Services include transitional housing, case management, employment support, community dinners, budgeting, self-help, substance use programming, the Alpha Leadership Class, and therapeutic services. The program is structured across four levels: Hope to Overcome, Hope to Work, Eagle's Nest, and Angel's Nest, each designed to offer a safe and supportive environment while promoting employment and housing stability.

Within the facility, in-person college courses are offered through Oxnard College. Youth also have ongoing access to secondary education through asynchronous online classes. In addition, youth participate in the Inside-Out program offered by California Lutheran University (CLU), which brings together CLU criminology students and youth in the Juvenile Facility in a collaborative learning environment. CLU also provides "Pathway 101," a series of two- to three-session workshops covering topics such as Chicano Studies, storytelling and oral interpretation, and political science.

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

Youth residents, and their respective families, will receive all programming and services at the Juvenile Facilities and/or locally based programs available in the community. Treatment and programming will be through a multi-disciplinary approach, age-appropriate based on adolescent brain science, trauma-informed, culturally proficient, and family focused-youth centered. Assessments, case plans, and services provided will be strength-based, culturally sensitive, individualized, and tailored to meet the needs of the Youth/TAY residents.

Contracted service providers working with this population will have demonstrated training and knowledge in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including awareness and self-monitoring of implicit bias towards race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, and sexual identity, preferences, and socio-economic status. Providers with knowledge of adolescent brain development and trauma informed care will be sought when incorporating new programs.

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

VCPA currently partners with numerous nongovernmental and or community-based providers to deliver programs to the target population.

VCPA intends to partner community-based organizations and non-governmental agencies to provide the following new programming in the Juvenile Facilities:

Roots of Success is an environmental literacy and job readiness program designed to prepare individuals, especially youth and those facing barriers to employment, for careers in the green economy. The program combines foundational knowledge about sustainability, climate change, energy, water, and environmental justice with practical workplace skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem solving. Through interactive multimedia lessons participants gained both the awareness and competencies needed to pursue

entry level jobs or further training in fields like renewable energy, conservation, and environmental services, while also building a sense of responsibility towards their communities and the environment.

PART 5: FACILITY PLAN

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

All youth in this target population will be housed at the Juvenile Facilities. They will have access to all treatment, programming, educational and vocational services offered at the facility. Secure Youth Treatment Facility Commitment youth will be initially housed in a secure single-person room with their own bed and restroom facilities. The housing units are well lit, have high ceilings, an abundance of natural light, and an attached recreation area. All youth, despite housing units, will have access to common areas, unit recreation yards, gymnasium, vocational and career center, workout gym, Boys and Girls Club, library, Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR), and large recreation yards with basketball courts and a soccer field.

All youth residents will be assessed for appropriate housing. In general, non-high school graduate youth will be housed separately from the graduate population, however, both populations will be assessed for appropriate housing. Due to the limited number of female youth in the target population, housing units have been co-ed, while assuring safety and security and gender specific issues. Youth with special needs have also been accommodated and provided all needed and appropriate housing as well as programming to ensure their safety and security.

The Women of Substance & Men of Honor (WOSMOH) program is a nonprofit reentry and youth support organization focused on helping vulnerable young people successfully transition into stable, productive lives. The program primarily serves individuals who have been involved in the juvenile justice system or the foster care system, offering a structured network of support that addresses both immediate needs and long-term development.

The program provides a combination of basic needs assistance and rehabilitative services. Participants may receive essentials such as clothing, food, hygiene supplies, and housing support upon release while also engaging in mentoring, education, and employment readiness programs. The organization emphasizes life skills development, positive role modeling, and personal accountability, often beginning engagement while youth are still in custody and continuing that support as they reenter the community.

Pine Grove Conservation Camp program in Amador County is a state operated juvenile rehabilitation program that combines custody, education, treatment, and hands-on workforce training for justice involved youth, typically ages 18 to 25. Operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in partnership with Cal Fire, the camp focuses on preparing participants for successful reentry by developing employable skills, strong work habits, and personal responsibility. Youth are trained and certified in wildland firefighting and participation in conservation work such as fire prevention, land restoration, and flood control, often contributing thousands of hours of service to communities across California each year

In addition to vocational training, the program emphasizes rehabilitation through education, counseling, and structured behavioral treatment. Participants engage in academic programs leading to high school

diploma or GED, as well as trauma informed therapy, substance abuse treatment, and life skills development.

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

The facility has made significant progress on creating an internal stepdown program that will be contained in a building that is separated from all current housing. The original name for this location was Santa Cruz. This program will have dormitory style rooms, wood flooring, and décor that aspires to feel more home-like. Additionally, the program structure will allow youth to wear their own clothes and eventually allow them to furlough into the community for employment, vocational, and educational purposes. Youth housed in this stepdown program will still have access to all supports and services offered to residents of the Juvenile Facilities. This stepdown program will be regulated by Subchapter 5 of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations.

PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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)):

Related to retaining youth within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, VCPA emphasizes the importance of preventing youth from entering the adult criminal court system and recognizes the value of providing rehabilitative services within their county of residence. VCPA utilizes evidence-based risk and needs assessments to evaluate all youth entering the Juvenile Facility, generating insights that inform case planning and intervention strategies.

VCPA maintains that community safety is best supported through purposeful family reunification, comprehensive reentry planning, and successful community reintegration. These priorities are integrated into all youth interactions prior to release. Through continuous process improvement within the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), VCPA seeks to deliver programming and services that are culturally responsive, trauma-informed, evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and centered on positive youth development. Collectively, these efforts are intended to provide a meaningful alternative to the adult criminal justice system that is trusted by justice system partners.

Additionally, all youth transfer hearing cases and SYTF commitment recommendations are reviewed by at least a Division Manager prior to submission to the Court.

PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORT

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)):

VCPA does not have any regional plans in place at this time.

PART 8: DATA

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

Data will continue to be collected through the case management system by existing staff, including Watch Commanders at the facility and service providers operating within it. To ensure the data is targeted, meaningful, and supports data-driven, performance-based decision-making, VCPA will seek to assign an analyst to oversee this process. Data will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to assess performance and progress toward outcome goals. If targets are not being met, strategies and efforts will be adjusted accordingly.

VCPA has established a research unit to assess the effectiveness of its programming; however, a comprehensive evaluation has not yet been completed. In addition, the agency is undertaking a contracted overhaul of its case management system. Upon completion of this project, it is anticipated that the data measures outlined below will be readily accessible.

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)):

Performance Measures:

- Demographic information
- Number of youth in program
- Number of multi-disciplinary case plans implemented within 30 days of commitment
- Programs and Services enrolled
- Programs and Services completed
- Number of multi-disciplinary community re-entry plans implemented within 60 days of release

Outcome Measures:

- Number of youth who received baseline reductions
- Frequency of baseline reductions
- Youth stepped down to Lesser Restrictive Placements
- Number of youth remaining in the community conviction-free for 12 months
- Number of youth remaining in the community conviction-free for 24 months

PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

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.

***Pawsitive Steps*,** a dog training and therapy program, was slated to begin during this previous year. After negotiating and executing a contract for services, the provider withdrew from the process, essentially shelving the program. Fortunately, VCPA was concurrently negotiating with Paws To Share, a therapy animal program, who was able to step in to fill the therapeutic void.

Life Builders was another community-based program that VCPA sought to bring into the facility to facilitate program on life skills and emotional intelligence however they declined to complete the eligibility process.

Interface Child and Family Services was previously contracted to provide program service coordination throughout the facility. That contract was not continued. VCPA has subsequently assumed the duties of program and volunteer coordination.

SeeAg *(Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture) a Ventura County based 501(c)(3)* proposed to restore, operate, and program the County-owned Juvenile Facilities (JF) Farm. This proposal represented a unique opportunity to transform the underutilized farm site into a vibrant educational resource, community hub, and model for sustainable agriculture — all while advancing County priorities related to education, workforce development, food security, and community health. Some of the goals for this partnership, that was authorized by the Board of Supervisors in March of 2026 would include:

- Restore and Reimagine a Valuable County Asset: SEEAG would revitalize the existing JF Farm infrastructure, implement sustainable farming practices, establish long-term operations, maintenance and farming protocols, and grow food to donate to the community. Expand Hands-On Education, Workforce Development, and Paid Apprenticeship to VCPA Youth.
- SEEAG will work closely with VCPA to design youth programs that incorporate service learning, paid internships, skills development, and pathways to employment — fostering positive outcomes and reducing recidivism for system-involved youth in Ventura County.
- Re-Establish Senior Nutrition Initiatives: SEEAG would aim to work with the Ventura County Human Services Agency and other organizations to provide volunteer engagement opportunities for local seniors and donate produce to their programs.
- Support Food Security Efforts Countywide: SEEAG would donate all food grown on the farm through its programs, the VCPA, Food Share of Ventura County and other local organizations, supporting County goals around food access and health equity.
- Create a Strong Community Volunteer Program: SEEAG envisions this farm as a welcoming hub for volunteers and supporters to grow, learn, and make a tangible impact together.

PART 10: PRIOR-YEAR EXPENDITURES-SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES/IMPACTS:

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 **previous year's** JJRBG submission.

Expenditure Subject Area[1]	Total Expenditures ($)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.
Medical Services	$415,516	Yes	Expenditures remained aligned with the plan to provide comprehensive healthcare via CFMG (California Forensic Medical Group).	Ensured the physical health and stability of the target population, reducing medical emergencies and supporting overall readiness for rehabilitation programs.
Employment Preparation (VCOE and Pinegrove)	$214,649	Yes	Funding was utilized as planned for VCOE Vocational training and Pinegrove Fire Camp	Provided realigned youth with marketable job skills and certifications, directly reducing recidivism by creating viable pathways to legal employment post-release.
Therapeutic	$153,133	Yes	Consistent with the plan to implement gang intervention via Coalition for Family Harmony/Arise	Improved emotional regulation and social outcomes by addressing root causes of criminal behavior and facilitating safe community reintegration.
Continuing Education	$8,683	Yes	Expenditures directly supported the plan to provide essential textbooks and tuition	Advanced the academic achievement of the population, fostering long-term self-sufficiency and higher-level career opportunities.
Life Skills	$5,375	Yes	Expenditures were used to implement the "Dating Matters" program via the Coalition	Promoted healthy adolescent development by teaching social-emotional skills and conflict resolution, reducing the likelihood of future interpersonal violence
Program Coordination	$95,776	Yes	Funding supported the contractual agreement with Interface to oversee program delivery	Provided essential administrative oversight and quality control, ensuring that rehabilitative services were delivered effectively and remained aligned with state standards.
Housing	$2,330,559	Yes	Expenditure supported the salaries and benefits of staff specifically assigned to the SYTF units	Maintained a safe, stable, and supervised environment, which is the foundational requirement for all other rehabilitative and therapeutic interventions to succeed.

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

JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: May 1, 2026
County Name: Ventura
Contact Name: Ronald Miller II
Telephone Number: (805) 654-2100
E-mail Address: Ron.Miller@Venturacounty.gov