

**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act &  
Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG)**

**Consolidated Annual Plan**

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Instructions:

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(b) call for consolidation of the annual plans required for JJCPA and YOBG.

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan.

The rest of this document is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so.

Your submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.

*Please e-mail your plan to:*

**JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov**

# Juvenile Justice Plan

## Part I. Countywide Service Needs, Priorities and Strategy

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## Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy

*Authority:* Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A) The multiagency juvenile justice plan shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following components:

(i) An assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.

(ii) An identification and prioritization of the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas in the community that face a significant public safety risk from juvenile crime, such as gang activity, daylight burglary, late-night robbery, vandalism, truancy, controlled substances sales, firearm-related violence, and juvenile substance abuse and alcohol use.

(iii) A local juvenile justice action strategy that provides for a continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency and demonstrates a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(B)(ii) Collaborate and integrate services of all the resources set forth in clause (i) of subparagraph (A), to the extent appropriate.

### A. Assessment of Existing Services

Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.

The types of agencies listed above work in conjunction with juvenile probation in Santa Cruz County. There are strong partnerships with many county agencies including Children's Mental Health and Family and Children's Services, and the same can be said with community based organizations who participate with probation in a variety of ways such as participating on a number of grant funded efforts and also different task forces that focus on juvenile justice issues. Probation also works closely with law enforcement and share representation on different task forces and initiatives.

Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration amongst the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.

Collaboration is a component of the Juvenile Justice System in Santa Cruz County as many different agencies and organizations have bought into and participate in on a regular basis. There are a number of examples in our county in which many organizations have come together to work on different initiatives for the purpose of improving services offered to youth and families. One example is the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force which has representatives from the following agencies: Applied Survey Research, Children's Mental Health, Community Action Board, Community Bridges, Conflict Resolution Center, County Office of Education,

Human Services Division, Pajaro Valley Prevention Student Assistance and the United Way.

## **B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas**

Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.

There are many neighborhoods in Santa Cruz County that have significant public risk. In Watsonville, South Santa Cruz County, the population is 53,111 and the majority is Latino. Watsonville Police report approximately 700 documented gang members, of the 700 approximately 250 are juveniles. There are several neighborhoods in Watsonville where the many juveniles have been arrested and the public may feel unsafe as the question suggests.

There are several schools in Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) that are targeted by gang members for recruitment of youth. These schools are in neighborhood where gangs are prevalent, very active and violent, recruiting youth into gangs, selling drugs and intimidating other youth. These schools include; Watsonville High School, EA Hall Middle School, Rolling Hills Middle School, Pajaro Middle School, Radcliff Elementary School and Freedom Elementary School.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education Alternative Education (Court and Community Schools) are the alternative placement to Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Many of these students are involved in diversion programs or the juvenile justice system. These and other students have to walk to school (transportation is not provided) and they report feeling unsafe crossing "gang" neighborhood or PVUSD schools where gang are actively recruiting or intimidating youth.

## **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

Describe your county's juvenile justice action strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well as a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Juvenile Probation Division, is responsible for the intake, investigation, pre and post adjudication services which include alternatives to detention programs and community supervision, out-of-home placement, and prevention of out of home placement for juveniles referred to the Probation Department. The Juvenile Division incorporates a system of care model that consists of six essential values when working with juveniles and their

families. The six values are family preservation, interagency collaboration, utilizing the least restrictive setting, family involvement, natural setting and cultural competency

The Juvenile Division is committed to ensuring public safety through the reduction of recidivism by increasing the life skills and competencies of the youth and families we serve. The Juvenile Division accomplishes this by adhering to the Principles of Risk, Need and Responsivity which focuses on key supervision strategies including evidenced based supervision, family engagement, decreasing criminogenic risk factors, increasing protective factors, utilizing alternatives to detention, and providing services/interventions and programs that increase critical thinking skills. Probation has strategically and successfully partnered with community stakeholders to support the Juvenile Divisions efforts to provide comprehensive and culturally responsive supervision and services that the court, court partners, and community rely on to enhance community safety.

## **Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

*Authority: Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(B) Programs, strategies, and system enhancements proposed to be funded under this chapter shall satisfy all of the following requirements:*

*(i) Be based on programs and approaches that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing delinquency and addressing juvenile crime for any elements of response to juvenile crime and delinquency, including prevention, intervention, suppression, and incapacitation.*

*(iii) – Employ information sharing systems to ensure that county actions are fully coordinated, and designed to provide data for measuring the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.”*

*Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A) The multiagency juvenile justice plan shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following components:*

*(iv) A description of the programs, strategies, or system enhancements that are proposed to be funded pursuant to this subparagraph.*

### **A. Information Sharing and Data**

Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Juvenile Division, relies extensively on a case management system, AutoMon’s Caseload Explorer, which is used for a number of case management functions. The information system requires regular trainings for staff to remain current on updates and also allows for our staff to suggest functionality options to be built into the system as needed.

An overview from the AutoMon is as follows: Caseload Explorer helps efficiently track and manage Juvenile Offenders while adhering to jurisdictional security and judicial mandates. Caseload Explorer stores demographic and personal information such as gender, DOB, address and phone, as well as information related to their offense such as charge type, restrictions and conditions. Caseload Explorer also tracks Active Referrals or Case file(s), as well as the assigned Supervisor and/or Caseworker. If the Juvenile is placed into a juvenile facility, Caseload Explorer allows caseworkers to easily manage intake with a customizable intake/release workflow, providing the functionality to track appointments and release information, manage property, record behavioral habits, and access events and disciplinary action.

### **B. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

Using the template on the next page, describe each program, strategy and/or system enhancement that will be supported with funding from JJPCA, identifying anything that is co-funded with Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) moneys.

## JJCPA Funded Program, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, strategy and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

### **Program Name:**

Luna Evening Center (LEC) – Specific programs included within the programming at the LEC are: Barrios Unidos and Alcance Weekend Work Program.

Additionally, JJCPA also funds the Live Oak Resource Center and Mountain Community Resource programs.

### **Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:**

Luna Evening Center - Promoting prosocial behavior, building accountability, diversion/restorative justice.

Barrios Unidos – CBT, gang dissidence, violence prevention, life skills.

Alcance Weekend Work Program – Community engagement, work readiness, pro-social behaviors and relationships.

Live Oak Resource Center – Pro-social behavior, accountability and restorative justice.

Mountain Community Resources – Pro-social behavior, accountability and restorative justice.

### **Description:**

Luna Evening Center: A partnership with Probation, Mental Health and Alcance. The program helps provide additional support to probation-involved youth that are struggling with substance use/abuse and other high-risk behaviors. The Evening Center provides a structured after-school environment where youth can examine the thoughts and feelings that affect their behavior and learn skills to make the best choices possible. It is a short-term immediate intervention designed to maintain youth in their home and in their community.

Barrios Unidos: In collaboration with Encompass Youth Services, provides mental health services and counseling. This program is bilingual, culturally sensitive, and personalized to meet the individual needs of youth and to enhance strengths and assets of each family. We provide individual, group and family counseling for youth and families facing the challenges that arise in the process of growing up. Participating in counseling improves family, peer and community relationships, increases self-confidence and school



performance, and reduces drug and alcohol use. Counselors schedule regular 50 min appointments usually on a weekly basis.

**Alcance Weekend Work Program** - The mission of Alcance is to provide youth and adults with employment services, work skills development and community engagement. We honor and serve those who are under-resourced, at-risk or involved in the justice system. The Alcance program offers opportunities for low-income youth and adult to improve their quality of life and to reach their full potential through employment services, leadership development and meaningful community engagement.

**Live Oak Resource Center:** Aim to improve the quality of life and strengthen families while promoting a healthy and safe community. Much of their work is “Front End” work with families who have not entered the criminal justice system. They are strength based and set goals with their families. They also serve youth and families outside of Live Oak. Some of their services include:

- Parent Education
- Counseling (Group and one on one)
- Health Care Access
- Live Oak Summer Sports League (FREE)
- Youth Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Resume assistance
- Neighborhood/Community Events
- “Roots and Wings” Program (Foster Parents Support Services)
- Community Service Option

**Mountain Community Resource Center:** -Parent Education- We offer group classes and one-on-one sessions, helping parents address a wide range of topics including preventing tantrums, traveling in the car, managing chores, the power of self-esteem, and more. Classes are available in English and Spanish.

- Teen Program: Support for probation-assigned youth and their families in San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley communities, including case management, community outreach, coordination of court mandates and more. Our afterschool program for middle and high school students is Tues. & Wed. from 2:30 to 4:30pm.

-Community Advocacy- Bi-lingual short and long-term advocacy, helping our community access resources and set goals to address issues of housing, employment, healthcare, education, substance abuse, domestic violence prevention, childcare and more.

-Food Distribution- Fresh, local organic produce, protein-rich foods, whole grains and more are available to the community every Thursday from 11am to 12pm.



### **Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

*Authority: Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a) – On or before May 1 of each year, each county shall prepare and submit to the Board of State and Community Corrections a Juvenile Justice Development Plan on its proposed programs, strategies, and system enhancements for the next fiscal year from the Youthful Offender Block Grant Fund described in Section 1951. The plan shall include all of the following:*

*(1) A description of the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded by the block grant allocation pursuant to this chapter, including, but not limited to, the programs, tools, and strategies outlined in Section 1960.*

*(2) A description of how the plan relates to or supports the county’s overall strategy for dealing with youthful offenders who have not committed an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707, and who are no longer eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Facilities under Section 733 as of September 1, 2007.*

*(3) A description of any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported by the block grant allocation pursuant to this chapter.*

*(4) A description of how the programs, placements, services, or strategies identified in the plan coordinate with multiagency juvenile justice plans and programs under paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 30061 of the Government Code.*

#### **A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders**

Describe your county’s overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders who are not eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this Plan relates to or supports that strategy.

In 2016, the focus of the Juvenile Division was on solidifying the use of evidence based practices by implementing Risk Based Supervision and JAIS Assessment and Case Plan as a supervision strategy. By re-assigning caseloads based on risk levels and regularly re-assessing risk levels, the Division is able to focus intensive levels of supervision to youth assessed with moderate and high level risk factors. Additionally, through treatment/intervention matching, the Division ensures dosage is appropriate for the assigned caseloads and does not “net widen” by increasing engagement with youth assessed with lower risk factors.

Placement alternatives will have a greater significance moving forward as a result of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Report that was provided to the state legislature in January of 2015. The report was part of a comprehensive two year effort by California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to outline a process to eliminate group homes as we know them today. Starting in 2017, use of congregate care/foster care placements will decrease dramatically. Instead, youth ordered into placement will be placed in Short-term residential treatment programs (STRTP) with a strong emphasis on mental health services so that the youth can successfully transition back to lower levels of care. Efforts will also focus on increasing placement of youth in local foster homes. Local efforts are underway to respond appropriately to these changes through

cooperation between the Human Services Division (HSD), Probation and Health Service Agency (HSA).

It should be noted that during 2016, the Juvenile Division was very actively involved in a number of meetings with county agencies and community stakeholders. In addition to attending various meetings and working on a variety of workgroups the Probation Department also co-chairs the County CCR Steering Committee with Child and Family Services. Much of the work done in 2016 focused on identifying the changes required by the CCR and becoming more informed on those changes. It is anticipated that 2017 will transition from gathering information and discussing roles and responsibilities to actual CCR implementation. The three main areas to be targeted during the implementation phase will include decreasing long-term use of group homes, expanding capacity of home-based family care, and identifying and meeting children's medical, emotional/behavioral, developmental and educational needs.

In 2016, the Juvenile Division continued to administer the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) by initiating use of the JAIS Case Plan. In addition to determining a youth's level of risk to reoffend, the JAIS has three goals:

To help probation officers quickly establish appropriate supervision strategies based on youth strengths and needs, anticipated behaviors and attitudes, and the reasons for behaviors and attitudes;

To provide probation officers with effective strategies for dealing with problems behaviors before they escalate into law violations;

To reduce recidivism in the community (which was 12% in 2016).

## **B. Regional Agreements**

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOBG funds.

N/A

## **C. Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

Using the template on the next page, describe the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the YOBG program. Explain how they complement or coordinate with the programs, strategies and system enhancements to be funded through the JJCPA program.

# **YOBG Funded Program, Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement**

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, placement, service, strategy, and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

## **Program Name:**

Luna Evening Center (LEC);  
Probation Officer who visits Ranch Facilities and other out-of-home placements.  
Probation Officer who may work primarily in the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) caseload.  
Detention assessments and continuous services to ensure evidenced based practices.

## **Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

Please see narrative for LEC in JJCPA section

## **Description:**

Please see narrative for LEC in JJCPA section.

The Probation Officer referenced above travels to different placements and ranch camps on a monthly basis to ensure youth are complying with court directives but also working on reunification.

The Probation Officer (portion of a FTE) with YOBG funds works with youth to help them gain access to pro-social necessities such as a driver's license and work permits.

The Department is able to use YOBG funds to continue to provide assessments on youth who based on the results of the assessment are sometimes able to be diverted from the juvenile system or allowed to return home pending future court hearings. Further, YOBG funds also assist with our continuing efforts around risk based supervision strategies.