

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY INNOVATON CENTER, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

**3450 14th Street, Riverside, CA**

March 16, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (VOTING MEMBERS)**

**Chief Probation Officer**  
**Christopher H. Wright**  
Or Designee

**Public Defender**  
**Steven Harmon**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Mary Jo Ramirez**  
*(3rd District appointed – Term 2: 11/17/25)*  
California Family Life Center

**Director, Department of Public**  
**Social Services**  
**Charity Douglas**  
Or Designee

**District Attorney**  
**Michael A. Hestrin**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative Pete Serbantes**  
*(5th District appointed – Term 2: 11/17/25)*  
Camino Real Family Services

**Sheriff of Riverside County**  
**Chad Bianco**  
Or Designee

**Presiding Juvenile Court Judge**  
**Mark Petersen**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Drug & Alcohol Program**  
**Representative Jessica Clark**  
*(Appointed – Term 2: 11/17/25)*  
Solid Ground Wellness

**Director, Riverside University**  
**Health Systems-Behavioral Health**  
**Dr. Matthew Chang**  
Or Designee

**Chair of the Board of Supervisors**  
**Karen Spiegel**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Ernesto Rodriguez**  
*(1st District appointed – Term 1: 11/18/24)*  
Kindful Restoration

**Chairperson, Juvenile Justice**  
**Delinquency Prevention**  
**Dr. Amanda Wade**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Caryn Marsella,**  
*(Appointed – Term 2: 1/26/26)*  
Riverside Art Museum

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Sophia Juarez**  
*(2nd District appointed – Term 1: 11/18/24)*  
Reach Out

**Superintendent, Riverside County**  
**Office of Education**  
**Dr. Edwin Gomez**  
or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Keyneica Jones**  
*(Appointed – Term 1: 7/21/25)*  
Silence Aloud, Inc.

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Rick Saldivar**  
*(4th District appointed – Term 1: 11/18/24)*  
Chance Initiative

**Chief, Riverside City Police**  
**Department**  
**Larry V. Gonzalez**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Marshall Hamilton**  
*(Appointed – Term 1: 7/21/25)*  
SAFE Family Justice

*In accordance with State Law (the Brown Act):*

- *The meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council are open to the public. The public may address the council within the subject matter jurisdiction of this council.*
- *In compliance with Government Code Section 54953 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a member of the JJCC and need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Leticia Haro at (951) 955-2804. Requests should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the noticed meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to use video and audio devices, unless your disability permits audio only. Please note that the Brown Act requires you to disclose the nature of the relationship and presence of any person age 18 or older present in the room at the remote location.*
- *Disabled persons may request disability-related accommodations to address the JJCC. Reasonable accommodations can be made to assist disabled persons if requested 24-hours prior to the meeting by contacting Riverside County Probation Department at (951) 955-2694.*
- *The public may review open session materials at <https://rivcoprobation.org/juvenile-justice-coordinating-council-meeting-materials> or at Probation Administration, 3960 Orange St., Suite 600, Riverside, CA.92501*
- *Items may be called out of order.*
- *Agenda will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.*
- *Cancellations will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.*

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING**

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**RIVERSIDE COUNTY INNOVATION CENTER, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**3450 14<sup>TH</sup> Street, Riverside, CA**

March 16, 2026, 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2026 (handout) – Action Item
3. Applied Survey Research (ASR) Update (handout) – Discussion Item
4. JJCC Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates – Action Item
  - a) Request for RFP
5. SB 823 Subcommittee Updates (handout) – Action Item
  - a) SB 823 Subcommittee Membership
6. RFP Updates – Discussion Item
  - a) 095 Less Restrictive Program
7. DPSS – Harmony Haven Specialty Mentorship Program Update – Discussion Item
8. CBO Alliance Updates – Discussion Item
9. Approval of Acting JJCC Chairperson – Action Item
10. Approval of Fiscal Year 26/27 Budget (handout) – Action Item
  - a) FY 26/27 Available Funding
  - b) District Attorney
  - c) Public Defender
  - d) Probation
  - e) RCOE
  - f) Raising the Future
  - g) CBO Alliance Technical Assistance
  - h) Total Budget
11. JJCPA/YOBS Annual Consolidated Plan (handout) – Action Item
12. SB 707 Brown Act Overview – Discussion Item
13. Council Comments
14. Public Comments
15. Adjournment

Next JJCC Meeting: Date/Time: July 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Riverside County Innovation Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING  
January 26, 2026, AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Host Location:** Riverside County Innovation Center; 1st Floor Conference Room; 3450 14th Street, Riverside

**1. Call to Order – Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Chief Probation Officer Christopher Wright at 2:00 p.m.

The roll call of council members was taken. The following representatives were present:

Christopher Wright, Chief Probation Officer, Chairperson  
Janine Moore, Riverside University Health Systems, Behavioral Health  
Dr. Amanda Wade, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee  
Nereida Gutierrez, Riverside County Office of Education  
Frank Assumma, Riverside Police Department  
Joelle Moore, Supervising Deputy Public Defender, Public Defender's Office  
Patricia Cardenas, District Attorney's Office  
Caryn Marsella, Riverside Art Museum (RAM)  
Marshall Hamilton, SAFE Family Justice Center  
Zach Bell, California Family Life Center  
Pete Serbantes, Camino Real Family Services  
Jessica Clark, Solid Ground Wellness  
Ernesto Rodriguez, Kindful Restoration  
Sophia Juarez, Reach Out  
Rick Saldivar, Chance Initiative

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2025**

Christopher Wright presented the minutes from November 17, 2025, JJCC meeting (handout).

Christopher Wright made a motion for the JJCC to approve the meeting minutes from November 17, 2025, as written. Motion was seconded by Caryn Marsella. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

Abstained: None

**3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Approval of JJCC Members (CBOs)**

Christopher Wright opened discussion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> term approval of a JJCC member. In accordance with JJCC Bylaws, the board must have three CBOs who service youth of Riverside County and receive funding through the JJCC. Christopher Wright recognized Caryn Marsella from Riverside Art Museum, who completed her first term as of January 22, 2026, and has committed to a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. The other two JJCC funded CBOs serving in their first terms are Safe Family Justice Centers and Silence Aloud. We sincerely thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to serving the youth of Riverside County.

Christopher Wright made a motion for the JJCC to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> term for Caryn Marsella from the Riverside Art Museum as a JJCC funded CBO representative. Motion was seconded by Ernesto Rodriguez. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

Abstained: None

#### 4. Applied Survey Research (ASR) Juvenile Justice Plan Assessment and Recommendations

Kim Gillette from Applied Survey Research (ASR), the JJCC-contracted evaluation team, provided an update on the Juvenile Justice Plan. She summarized the purpose, process, key findings, and recommendations from the recent assessment. Developed in partnership with JJCC, the assessment reflects input from over 250 stakeholders, including youth, caregivers, service providers, and system leaders, gathered through interviews, listening sessions, surveys, and data analysis.

Key Findings:

- **Juvenile Arrest Trends:** California has reduced juvenile arrests statewide, but Riverside County saw a 76% increase since 2020 (vs. 28% statewide), driven by arrests of Black and Brown youth. In 2024, Black youth made up 6% of the population yet accounted for 20% of juvenile arrests, revealing significant racial disparities.
- **Budget Allocation:** Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has \$37.3M in funding available, with an approved \$16.11M for FY 25/26. Nearly half of the approved budget is allocated to community-based organizations (CBOs), while 29% goes to probation.
- **Geographic Disparities:** JJCPA-funded programs served over twice as many youth in Riverside compared to any other area. Meanwhile, probation-involved youth are concentrated in Hemet, Indio, and Perris, highlighting the need for more equitable distribution of services across the county.
- **Top Needs:** Mental health support, basic family needs, career development, positive adult relationships, and parenting support.
- **System-Level Needs:** Improved information sharing, referral processes, and trauma-informed training.

Based on these findings, ASR developed a framework linking identified needs: healing, guiding, learning, thriving, and connecting, to desired outcomes. The plan organizes priorities around the five Pillars of Wellness; each aligned with multiple outcome areas.

In conclusion, the plan incorporates the perspectives of youth, families, and community partners, with the objective of strengthening prevention efforts, enhancing coordination, and guiding strategic investments in juvenile justice.

#### **Comments:**

Dante Green inquired about how youth were engaged in the survey and whether there was a specific approach.

Kim Gillette explained that they collaborated with contracted CBOs to connect with youth participants. She encouraged members to share ideas for enhancing youth engagement and invited them to reach out to her directly.

Sergio Espericueta reported that 98% of students come from low-income families and that Hispanic, African American, Asian, and Filipino students comprise approximately 90% of the student population. He requested the board's support for these communities, with particular attention to the Palm Springs and Coachella Valley areas.

Rick Saldivar asked if all packet information came from awardees.

Kim Gillette clarified that the list of participating agencies and organizations that contributed perspectives is on page 2, third page in the ASR report.

Rick Saldivar highlighted that 45% of funding remains on the west side of the valley, emphasizing the need for greater representation in the Coachella Valley. He is engaging with local organizations that deserve inclusion.

Christopher Wright explained that a concerted effort is underway to identify key hot spots and determine where resources should be allocated. These efforts form a part of a broader strategic plan which is still in development and will guide future decision-making.

Elisa Judy urged Rick Saldivar to ensure Coachella Valley CBOs are connected to the JJCC and the CBO Alliance. She emphasized the importance of including these organizations in future RFP announcements to enable them to apply for funding and provide services to local youth. Additionally, Elisa recommended adding effective CBOs from Coachella Valley and across the county to the distribution list to promote equitable access to opportunities.

Pete Serbantes shared his experience serving on Bond Oversight Committees for Riverside Community College and Moreno Valley, where he observed significant disparities in resource allocation. He stressed the need for the JJCC and the County to review these issues and explore ways to ensure equitable resource allocation.

Ernesto Rodriguez stated that they are collaborating with Molina Health Care to establish a youth center in Indio and develop a similar facility in Hemet. He noted that while the development process takes time, both facilities are nearing completion and are scheduled to open within the next month.

## **5. JJCC Subcommittee Updates**

### **a) JJCC Ad Hoc Committee**

Deputy Public Defender Joelle Moore provided an update on the progress of the Ad Hoc Committee. The committee was tasked with balancing community and agency perspectives while guiding the development and implementation of a three-year strategic plan.

Key activities include:

- Gathering comprehensive input such as hotspot maps, service gap maps, listening session feedback, and prior meeting insights.
- Incorporating recommendations from ASR's juvenile justice plan and assessment.

With the ASR report now finalized, the committee will convene this week to synthesize all data and develop collaborative recommendations. These recommendations will be presented to the JJCC in time for the March budget meeting and will address:

- Allocation of additional funds
- Future Requests for Proposals (RFPs)
- Strategies aligned with the vision of continuous adaptation and learning to best serve youth.

### **b) SB 823 Subcommittee**

Assistant Division Director Jacob Brown provided an update on the status of the JJCC SB 823 Subcommittee and related actions from the previous meeting.

Highlights

- JJCC SB 823 Subcommittee Applications:
  - Six individuals applied for three available positions.
  - A vote to confirm appointments may occur later today.
  - Selected applicants will be contacted by SPO Leon Reynolds.
  - Once appointments are finalized, the subcommittee will be restored.

- Co-Chair Selection:
  - The process of selecting a co-chair will be determined by the subcommittee members.
- Youth Position:
  - No youth applications have been received.
  - A dedicated youth application will be created as previously voted. Until then, interested youth may apply using the standard community member application, marking “N/A” where sections do not apply.

The next JJCC SB 823 meeting will be held on March, 17, 2026.

## 6. Resource Family

Division Director Dulce Cendejas provided an update on the Resource Family Applicant (RFA) process, which creates a unified system for approving caregivers in California to ensure stable homes for children with relatives, familiar connections, and community caregivers. She noted that in November 2025, Assistant Division Director Cari Shepherd shared an overview of the program to raise awareness and encourage community participation.

Dulce introduced Maggie Juarez, an RFA-approved resource parent, who shared her personal experience. Maggie emphasized the exceptional support received from Probation and the Kin Care program, which influenced her decision to continue as a resource parent. She encouraged future resource parents to stay positive, maintain communication, and utilize available resources.

### Comments:

Janine Moore thanked Maggie Juarez for sharing her story.

## 7. JJCC Bylaws

Assistant Division Director Jacob Brown provided an update on recent modifications to the JJCC bylaws. Two versions were included in the JJCC packet: one showing tracked changes and the other as the final copy. A major change involved moving language related to Terms of Service from Article V to Article X. Additionally, the terms of service for the JJCC SB 823 Subcommittee community members were clarified as two-year terms, with a maximum of two terms.

### Comments:

Janine Moore recommended amending Article X to list Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health in place of Department of Mental Health.

Christopher Wright made a motion for the JJCC to approve the tracked changes to the JJCC bylaws. Motion was seconded by Joelle Moore. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

Abstained: None

## 8. SB 823 Subcommittee Membership

Christopher Wright stated that, in accordance with the JJCC Bylaws, the SB 823 Subcommittee must include at least three community members, such as individuals with experience providing juvenile programs, youth advocates, or those directly involved in the justice system. All previous community member terms have expired, leaving three vacancies. Public interest was solicited, and six applications were received.

#### Applicants:

- Diana Hernandez – Supports juvenile programs through Project Boon and youth ministries in her church.
- Dr. Monica Hunter – Board member of CBO Alliance; JJCC Ad Hoc Committee member; Pacific Oaks College Advisory Committee member; Board President of Family is All That Matters; Executive Director of Fruit of Our Hands.
- Abidan Padilla – Formerly justice-involved; member of Moreno Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; affiliated with Entrepreneurs Creating Opportunities; oversees AP Construction Training, offering second-chance employment for justice-involved youth.
- Ramon Ramos – Supports juvenile programs; formerly justice-involved; Chair of CBO Alliance and JJCC Ad Hoc Committee; serves the community as mentor, trainer, consultant, organizer, and philanthropist.
- Rick Saldivar – Director of Chance Initiative; program specialist at College of the Desert; JJCC voting member and Ad Hoc Committee member; Riverside County Probation VIP; Riverside County Sheriff Community Advisory Committee member; Cathedral City Fair Mobile Home Chair Commissioner; Vice Chair of Cathedral City Finance Committee.
- Dante Green Jr. – Formerly justice-involved; serves the community through mentoring; provides food and clothing to the unhoused; affiliated with Silence Aloud and Kids N Konflikt.

Christopher Wright requested that the board members vote on the appointment of individuals to the JJCC SB 823 JJCC Subcommittee. Each applicant was individually voted and approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### 9. SB 823 Mid-Year Actuals

Chief Deputy Probation Administrator Cheryl Williams provided an update on SB 823 Mid-Year Actuals. She explained that, as requested at the last JJCC SB 823 Subcommittee meeting, the update reflects expenditures from the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) funding.

- Budget Overview:
  - Original budget: \$17.9 million
  - Forecasted year-end spending: \$21.2 million
  - Includes \$2 million from an OYCR grant
  - Net overage: \$1.2 million above JJRBG budget
  - The reason for overages is the expansion of programs beyond AMC-YTEC to include Indio Juvenile Hall and a new unit at Southwest Juvenile Hall, which were not part of the original budget
- Report Details:
  - Actuals Column: Expenditures paid between July 1 and December 31.
  - Estimate Column: Projected expenses based on pending commitments.
  - Notes included for contracts that have ended, have no expenses yet, or are delayed due to background checks (e.g., RFP 94 community service programs).
  - For impacted programs, figures reflect forecasted spending for PTS programs in facilities, not full contract budgets.

#### 10. JJPC Membership

Dr. Amanda Wade provided additional information regarding the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJPC). She noted that the commission requires seven members to maintain operating authority for Riverside County.

Dr. Wade expressed appreciation to probation staff for assisting in sharing recent recruitment ads and requested JJCC members to help spread the word that JJDC is seeking commissioners.

Interested individuals can apply via the Probation Department website under the JJDC tab. Two applications must be completed and submitted to Cynthia Magill at the email address provided on the site. The commitment is 4 to 10 hours per month, and it is a voluntary position. For additional information, applicants may contact Dr. Amanda Wade or Cynthia Magill with Probation.

## **11. CBO Alliance Updates**

Ramon Ramos shared several updates and expressed appreciation for the leadership and commitment of those serving Riverside County youth.

CBO Alliance training was held last week with consultants and directors from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Ramon thanked Olivia Serna for organizing the event and Joelle Moore and Yumi for delivering impactful training sessions, including Transforming Juvenile Justice. Feedback received was highly positive.

The second day marked the launch of the Credible Messengers Mentorship Cohort, in partnership with Clinton Lacey (CM3), Annie E. Casey Foundation, and OYCR. Twenty-five credible messengers received training to support underserved youth.

A mentorship focus group was also launched with three contracted CBOs: Silence Aloud, Kindful Restoration, and Kids N Konflikt, aimed at developing a countywide framework.

Ramon highlighted Chief Christopher Wright's leadership in fostering a positive culture.

- Upcoming Initiatives:
  - Expansion of CBO Alliance to San Bernardino and San Diego.
  - Doing Business with the County Listening Session planned within the next month.
  - First Town Hall: "Upstream" is scheduled for June (date to be determined), in partnership with RAPSAs, RCP, RCOE, and potentially DPSS.
  - Raising the Future Event requested to return; Ramon will seek JJCC approval for budget support at the March meeting.
  - Youth Commission, led by Joe Matthews, will take the lead on planning youth-focused events.

### **Comments:**

Dr. Monica Hunter noted that although she was unable to attend recent events, including the Credible Messenger Mentorship Cohort, she received numerous calls confirming the positive impact of these efforts. She commended the team for their collective work, emphasizing that their dedication is making a real difference, and encouraged them to keep the momentum going.

Dante Green expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the program and extended his appreciation to Chief Christopher Wright for his leadership and support. He further reported that Probation Officer Thelwell recently referred a young man who successfully completed the Pathways Program. Through the Silence Aloud Bridge Wellness Center, Dante is currently assisting this individual and will accompany him to job interviews scheduled for tomorrow.

Christopher Wright expressed his appreciation to the CBO Alliance for their ongoing efforts and encouraged them to maintain their momentum. He acknowledged that while significant progress has been made, substantial work remains ahead.

## 12. Fiscal Year 26/27 Program Proposals

### a) District Attorney's Office

Assistant Director of the Division of Victim Services, Patricia Cardenas, delivered a brief presentation outlining their proposal for the upcoming year. She introduced their mission to collaborate with community partners to help youth remain in school, achieve academic success, develop positive life skills, and reduce truancy.

Patricia emphasized their multi-disciplinary approach to identifying service gaps and providing targeted support. The Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) has developed programs and strategies aimed at reducing crime, preventing victimization, and addressing the diverse needs of at-risk youth and their families. She shared highlights of the division's impact in 2025 and noted that the proposal for the following year will largely maintain the same framework:

- Gang Awareness Mentorship and Education (G.A.M.E)
  - 78 presentations, 8836 youth served
- Youth Empowerment and Safety (Y.E.S.)
  - 98 presentations, 15272 youth served
- Pro-Social Youth Engagement and DART Program
  - 384 youth, 399 Caregivers/parents
- SART
  - 107 Meetings
- SARB
  - 1127 Hearings
- DA Medications
  - 421 Hearings
- Literacy Programs for incarcerated youth
  - RMR (YTEC): 31 sessions, 665 youth served
  - WWW (SJH): 25 sessions, 253 youth served

Patricia outlined planned improvements for the upcoming year. To expand outreach, they intend to train senior staff, who are not currently assigned to the CPU, in the program curriculum, enabling them to participate in presentations. Selection will prioritize bilingual staff to increase accessibility.

She also highlighted the success of the Stories Program, which uses art as a healing modality and was well received. The CPU plans to increase outreach for this initiative next year.

Patricia reported that 14 school districts experienced a reduction in chronic absenteeism from 2024 to 2025 in areas served by CPU attorneys. She emphasized the program's pro-social youth impact, which includes career education, relationship building, literacy programs, social-emotional learning, educational experiences, conferences, camps, and mentorship.

### **Comments:**

Dr. Amanda Wade identified an issue with the JJCPA Budget Request form, noting that the goals section was not fully visible.

Olivia Serna confirmed that the formatting will be corrected to ensure complete visibility and clarity for the JJCC March meeting.

Rick Saldivar expressed his gratitude to Patricia for sharing her story and conveyed empathy. He emphasized the importance of recognizing our collective responsibility to prevent harm and mitigate its impact.

b) Public Defender's Office

Supervising Deputy Public Defender Joelle provided a brief presentation outlining a request for continued funding of the Support, Partnerships, Advocacy, and Resources for Kids (SPARK) program for the upcoming year. She reported that, after three full years of data collection, the program can now demonstrate a documented positive impact. Infrastructure improvements have strengthened data collection, and feedback from clients and parents remains universally positive.

Program Highlights for FY 2024/2025:

- Served 726 clients with direct one-on-one services, with 486 new clients
- Participated in 17 resource fairs countywide
- Conducted 21 trainings to community and agency audiences
- Completed 1,133 service referrals
- Achieved 92% success rate in school discipline advocacy cases, preventing full permits or school site changes for most youth
- Provided direct representation in 127 special education, discipline and other school legal matters, with 51 students receiving new or revised special education services and 92% receiving better outcomes in school discipline cases.
- Continued growth in partnerships with CBOs and school districts to streamline access to resources

Joelle introduced Tatiana Klunchoo, SPARK Resource Attorney for the Riverside Metro region, and Teresa Ruiz, Social Practitioner for the Southwest region. Both emphasized the importance of this funding in supporting clients and families through an integrated team approach. The program not only assists public defender clients in the juvenile system but also provides services to Riverside County residents ages 16–25. They described the collaborative efforts between legal and social service teams to meet the needs of the youth population.

**Comments:**

Jessica Clark inquired about the best method for organizations to directly communicate and raise awareness of their services.

Joelle Moore advised that inquiries should be directed to the central email address, [SPARK@rivco.org](mailto:SPARK@rivco.org).

Rick Saldivar stated that he has personally observed Joelle's team working in areas such as Mecca and North Shore, thereby affirming the accuracy of the information presented in the proposal.

Sophia Juarez expressed her gratitude to Joelle for the impactful work they are doing, particularly in supporting IEPs and youth in special education.

c) Probation

Assistant Division Director Veronica Soto provided an update on the Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS) program, which offers early supervision for youth on informal probation for 6–12 months. The program aims to intervene quickly to prevent deeper system involvement, focusing on improving school attendance, sobriety, counseling participation, family stability, and pro-social engagement. SSTS is part of the County's continuum of care and supports the five wellness pillars: education, psychological, social, physical, and financial.

### Program Highlights for FY 2024/2025

- 586 youth were served
- 92% successful termination – average 8 months
- 75% successful completion rate
- 80% did not commit a new offense
- 91% of caregivers reported positive engagement
- Activities: movie outings, art projects, Kids in Konflikt Summit at Crestmore, College Campus field trips, and participation in the 1 Life Hearth Poisoning and Overdose Awareness 5K Walk

### **Comments:**

Dante Green asked whether program participation is mandatory for success.

Veronica Soto explained that judges may require specific hours of community service or program attendance. Beyond court-ordered requirements, probation conducts assessments and refers youth to additional resources to support long-term success.

Abidan Padilla thanked LaToya Thomas and Jacob Brown for the opportunity to speak at YTEC and for purchasing his book. He shared that his motivational presentation, based on his life story, had a strong impact on youth, with excellent participation and essays submitted. Abidan highlighted OBCT's second-chance opportunities, including skills training, safety instruction, job placement, and partnerships with unions to sponsor participants once they enter the workforce.

Pete Serbantes commended Veronica Soto's enthusiasm; encouraged her to maintain it and noted that her message was clear.

Ernesto Rodriguez noted that the 92% successful termination rate was outstanding.

### **13. Public Comments**

No comments

### **14. Council Comments**

No comments

### **15. SB 707 Brown Act Overview**

Agenda item carried forward to the JJCC meeting to be held in March 16, 2026.

### **16. Adjournment**

Chief Christopher Wright thanked everyone for attending.

Next JJCC Meeting:

Date/Time: March 16, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Location: Riverside County Innovation Center (RCIC) 3450 14<sup>th</sup> Street Riverside, CA 92501

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

An attendance sheet was signed by all present and will be kept on file.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Probation Executive Assistant IV Leticia Haro.



Riverside County

# JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN

Assessment &  
Recommendations

**2026-27**

# Acknowledgements

Applied Survey Research (ASR) sincerely thanks all individuals who contributed to this effort, including the many unnamed youth and families who generously shared their experiences and perspectives to inform this Plan. ASR also extends appreciation to the agencies, community-based organizations, county departments, and other partners who participated in the data collection activities and whose insights are reflected throughout this report. ASR acknowledges the leadership of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Ad Hoc Committee, and a special thank you to the Riverside County Probation Department for their support throughout the data collection process. In addition, ASR appreciates the organizations that connected us to their youth and family participants in order to gather their perspectives – Calicinto Ranch, Kids in Konflikt, Raincross Boxing Academy, Rising Scholars College of the Desert, Riverside County Probation Department, Riverside County Public Defender’s Office, and The Carolyn E. Wylie Center.

## ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

### Applied Survey Research

- Kim Carpenter, Ph.D.
- Kim Gillette, M.P.H.
- Christa Bixby, M.A.
- Kimberly Corneille, M.A.
- Connie Chu, M.A.
- Sandra Arellano, B.A.
- Rebecca Handman, Ph.D.
- Laura Johnsen, B.A.

### JJCC Ad Hoc Committee

- Ramon Ramos, Chair
- Amanda Wade
- Deann McCarty
- Joelle Moore
- Monica Hunter
- Nereida Gutierrez
- Patricia Cardenas
- Rick Saldivar

## AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTED PERSPECTIVES

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & the Inland Empire
- California Family Life Center
- Chance Initiative
- Chavez Educational Services
- Desert Health Care District
- Friends of the Children Coachella Valley
- Integrated Learning Institute
- Kids In Konflikt
- Kindful Restoration
- Operation SafeHouse
- Rising Scholars College of the Desert
- Riverside County Department of Public Social Services - Children's Services Division (DPSS – CSD)
- Riverside County District Attorney's Office
- Riverside County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC)
- Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Riverside County Office of Education
- Riverside County Probation Department
- Riverside County Public Defender's Office
- Riverside University Health System (RUHS)
- Silence Aloud Inc.
- Superior Court of California
- The Exception
- The Inland Empire Coalition for Youth Justice
- Underground Scholars

# Table of Contents

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>III</b>
<b>TABLE OF EXHIBITS</b> .....	<b>V</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Juvenile Justice Trends in the State of California .....	3
Juvenile Justice Plan and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council .....	5
Funding Overview .....	5
Riverside County Background .....	6
Key Terms.....	7
<b>PLAN PROCESS AND TIMELINE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Meetings, Interviews, and Youth Listening Sessions .....	8
Online Surveys .....	10
Secondary Data.....	12
Development of the Plan .....	12
<b>THE LANDSCAPE OF YOUTH IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Youth Population-based Indicators .....	13
Indicators Specific to Youth Who are Justice-involved.....	20
<b>JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN FOR YOUTH</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>YOUTH STRENGTHEN THEIR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING</b> .....	<b>28</b>
Needs of Youth and Families: Healing.....	28
Barriers .....	29
Example Assets .....	30
Strategies and Recommendations .....	31
<b>YOUTH ARE GUIDED BY POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ADULT RELATIONSHIPS</b> .....	<b>34</b>
Needs of Youth and Families: Guiding.....	34
Barriers .....	35
Example Assets .....	35
Strategies and Recommendations .....	36

<b>YOUTH AND FAMILIES BUILD ACADEMIC AND CAREER SKILLS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND ADVANCEMENT.....</b>	<b>38</b>
Needs of Youth and Families: Learning .....	38
Barriers .....	40
Example Assets .....	40
Strategies and Recommendations .....	41
<b>YOUTH MAINTAIN OR OBTAIN STABLE HOUSING AND DEVELOP ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS .....</b>	<b>43</b>
Needs of Youth and Families: Thriving.....	43
Barriers .....	45
Example Assets .....	45
Strategies and Recommendations .....	46
<b>ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES.....</b>	<b>47</b>
Needs of Youth and Families: Connecting .....	47
Barriers .....	50
Example Assets .....	50
Strategies and Recommendations .....	51
<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>54</b>
Overview.....	54
<b>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN .....</b>	<b>57</b>
Alignment with the JJCC Three-Year Action Plan.....	57
Conclusion .....	60
<b>ABOUT THE RESEARCHER .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>APPENDIX A — STAGE-SETTING MEETING PROTOCOL .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>APPENDIX B — YOUTH LISTENING SESSION PROTOCOL.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>APPENDIX C — PROVIDER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>APPENDIX D — CAREGIVER SURVEY .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>APPENDIX E — PARTNER SURVEY .....</b>	<b>73</b>

# Table of Exhibits

Exhibit 1.	Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in the State of California, by Offense Type .....	4
Exhibit 2.	Riverside County’s JJCPA Approved Budget Allocations .....	6
Exhibit 3.	Plan Process .....	8
Exhibit 4.	Stage-Setting Meeting Participation.....	9
Exhibit 5.	Youth Listening Sessions Participation.....	9
Exhibit 6.	Provider Informational Interview Participation.....	10
Exhibit 7.	Caregiver Survey Participation .....	10
Exhibit 8.	Service Sector Representing in the Partner Survey.....	11
Exhibit 9.	Surveyed Partners, by Populations of Focus .....	12
Exhibit 10.	Riverside County Child Population Estimate, 2021-2040 .....	13
Exhibit 11.	Riverside County Child Population by Race/Ethnicity: 2016-2020 .....	14
Exhibit 12.	Riverside County Primary Language for English Learners in Public School, 2021 .....	15
Exhibit 13.	Percentage of People Earning a Living Wage in Riverside County, 2019-2023.....	16
Exhibit 14.	Percentage of Youth in School and/or Employed in Riverside County, by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2023.....	17
Exhibit 15.	Percentage of Chronically Absent Students in Riverside County, by Race/Ethnicity, 2023-2024.....	18
Exhibit 16.	Percentage of Students Suspended in Riverside County by Race/Ethnicity, 2023-2024 .....	19
Exhibit 17.	Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in Riverside County, by Type .....	20
Exhibit 18.	Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in Riverside County, by Identified Gender .....	21
Exhibit 19.	Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in Riverside County, by Racial/Ethnic Identity.....	22
Exhibit 20.	Annual Average Rate of Status Offenses per 10,000 Youths Under 18 in Riverside County, 2010-2023 .....	23
Exhibit 21.	Number of Out-of-Home Placements, by Month .....	24
Exhibit 22.	Average Daily Juvenile Population, by Location for FY 2024-25 .....	25
Exhibit 23.	Number of Youth on Psychotropic Medication, by Month for FY 2024-25.....	25
Exhibit 24.	Juvenile Justice Plan Key Needs and Desired Outcomes .....	27
Exhibit 25.	Partner Reported Highest Need Areas by Geography .....	48

Exhibit 26. Riverside County Map Representing Youth Participants in JJCPA-funded Programs, by City, 2024-25.....48

Exhibit 27. Riverside County Hot Spot Map of Areas with Most Densely Populated Probation Youth .....49

Exhibit 28. Summary of Key Outcomes, Needs, Opportunities, and Performance Indicators .....55

Exhibit 29. Pillars of Wellness and Associated Programs and Activities.....57

Exhibit 30. Alignment of Needs and Outcomes in the Plan with the Pillars of Wellness.....58

Exhibit 31. Continuum of Community Care.....59

# Executive Summary

The Riverside County Juvenile Justice Plan (Plan) for 2026–2027, created in accordance with 749.22 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, provides a comprehensive, data-driven roadmap to improve outcomes for youth and families impacted by or at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system. Developed by Applied Survey Research in partnership with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), the assessment and recommendations reflect insights from over 250 stakeholders—including youth, caregivers, service providers, and system leaders—collected through interviews, listening sessions, surveys, and secondary data analysis. This Plan is intended to guide system-wide efforts and is not expected to be fully funded by the JJCC.

## CONTEXT AND KEY FINDINGS

California has made significant strides toward community-based, developmentally informed juvenile justice practices over the past two decades, reducing detention and juvenile offenses statewide. Since 2020, Riverside County experienced a more dramatic increase in juvenile offenses (76%) than California (28%), driven largely by misdemeanor and felony offenses of Black and Brown youth.<sup>1,2</sup> There was large, disproportionate representation of Black youth among youth with offenses; Black youth represent 6% of the County’s population yet account for 20% of all juvenile offenses in the County in 2024.

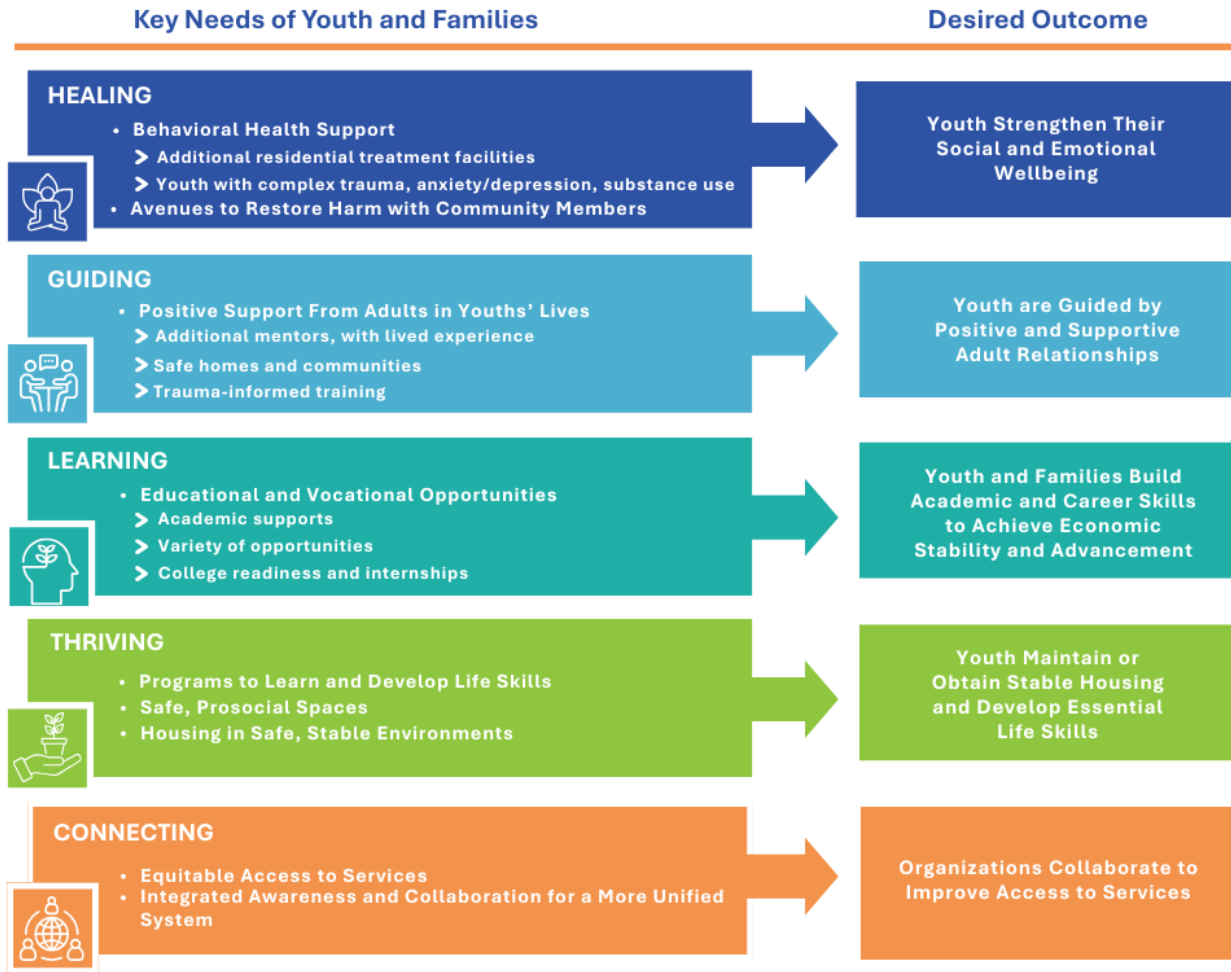
For FY 2025–26, the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has \$37.3 million in funding available, with an approved \$16.1 million dollars. Nearly half of the approved budget is allocated to community-based organizations—signaling a strong commitment to collaborative reform. Geographic inequities, behavioral health shortages, and barriers such as stigma, transportation, and housing instability challenge equitable service delivery.

The Plan identifies five core outcomes to guide system improvements. The following depicts a high-level summary of the identified key needs and desired outcomes for youth in the County.

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<sup>1</sup> State of California Department of Justice. (2020-2024). *Open Justice Data Portal*. Retrieved from <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests>

<sup>2</sup> State of California Department of Justice. (2025). *Open Justice Data Portal*. Retrieved from <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests>



## STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand access to behavioral health through drop-in centers, workforce pipelines, and residential treatment alternatives.
- Scale credible messenger programs and trauma-informed training across systems.
- Invest in career development for youth and caregivers to promote economic stability.
- Address geographic service gaps with mobile units and community-based hubs.
- Strengthen interagency collaboration and referrals for continuity of care.

## CONCLUSION

The Plan offers a clear framework for Riverside County to advance juvenile justice reform through a holistic, youth-centered approach. By aligning resources with identified needs and leveraging partnerships across systems, the County can reduce recidivism, promote equity, and support long-term success for its youth and families.

# Introduction and Background

## JUVENILE JUSTICE TRENDS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### 2000 to 2019

Over the past two decades, California has experienced a profound shift in the way it supports youth who come into contact with the justice system. As reported by the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), the years between 2000 and 2019 reflect a statewide movement toward more responsive, developmentally informed, and community-oriented approaches. By 2019, nearly 90% of youth referred to the system were receiving services in community settings, illustrating a deliberate departure from reliance on secure facilities.<sup>3</sup> This period of reform also coincided with substantial reductions in detention, with the number of youths held in detention declining from an estimated 19,000 in 2000 to approximately 4,500 in 2019 in California, signaling the impact of both policy changes and evolving practices. During the same timeframe, California observed a 73 percent decrease in juvenile offenses. According to CPOC, these improvements reflect the state's growing investment in prevention and early intervention, along with expanded use of evidence-based therapeutic models that prioritize risk reduction, rehabilitation, and long-term well-being.

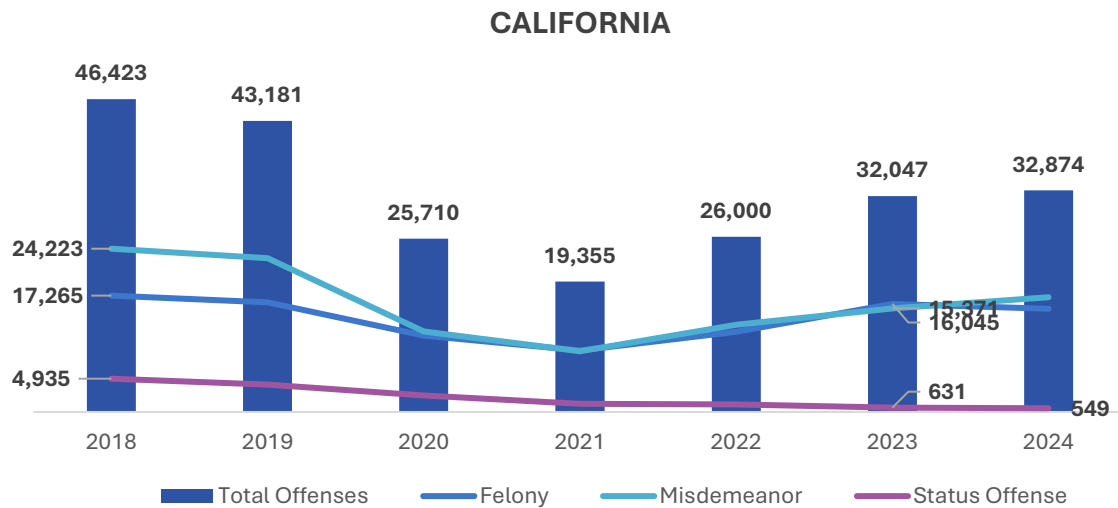
### 2019 to 2024

The trend in juvenile offenses in California from 2019 to 2024 forms a U-shaped pattern, reflecting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (see Exhibit 1). Offenses dropped notably in 2020 and fell to their lowest point in 2021 before rising again in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Despite these continued increases, statewide arrest totals in 2024 remained below pre-pandemic levels observed in 2019. Felony and misdemeanor offenses have both trended upward since 2021, with misdemeanor offenses showing a slight leveling off between 2023 and 2024. In contrast, status offenses have continued a steady and substantial decline across the state throughout the entire period.

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<sup>3</sup> Chief Probation Officers of California. (2025, December 9). *California's historic juvenile justice evolution*. Retrieved from <https://www.cproc.org/post/californias-historic-juvenile-justice-evolution-2>

**Exhibit 1. Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in the State of California, by Offense Type**



Source. State of California Department of Justice. (2025). *Open Justice Data Portal*. Retrieved from <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests>

**2020: SB 823—The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment**

In 2020, Senate Bill (SB) 823 initiated a major restructuring of juvenile justice in California by assigning counties’ full responsibility for system oversight and services. In addition, the legislation created the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) to provide technical assistance and policies for the realignment initiative and the data collection process. It also expanded juvenile court jurisdiction, raised the age limit for confinement in local facilities to 25, and allocated funding for local infrastructure and services. SB 92 (2021) then established the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) track and set June 30, 2023, as the closure date for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).<sup>4</sup> Youth returning to county jurisdictions after DJJ’s closure, along with those ordered to a SYTF, make up a population with complex needs and elevated risk factors. Many youth present with significant behavioral health challenges, and their older average age brings additional considerations for secure-setting programming and for coordinated reentry planning related to housing, education, and employment.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Chief Probation Officers of California, *The California Probation Approach to Safety Through Accountability and Opportunity: An Overview* (Feb. 2023), [https://www.cpoc.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/the\\_california\\_probation\\_approach\\_to\\_safety.pdf](https://www.cpoc.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/the_california_probation_approach_to_safety.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> California youth committed to a SYTF. (2025). Office of Youth and Community Restoration. <https://oycr.ca.gov/california-youth-committed-to-a-sytf/>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN AND THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) plays a key role in guiding local juvenile justice strategies by overseeing the development and implementation of each county's Juvenile Justice Plan (Plan). Chaired by the Chief Probation Officer and composed of representatives from law enforcement, education, behavioral health, human services, and community-based organizations, the JJCC is responsible for identifying priorities for evidence-based programs that reduce juvenile crime and improve outcomes for youth who are justice-involved.

The JJCC provides formal oversight of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding, ensuring that supported programs and services align with the Plan's goals and reflect local needs. Counties have broad discretion in how they allocate JJCPA resources, allowing flexibility in supporting efforts such as staffing and services provided by county agencies, and programming delivered by community-based organizations.

This approach is designed to strengthen supervision, case management, interagency collaboration, and community-based programming. It was created to support a comprehensive continuum of care for youth and their families. The recommendations provided in this report are intended to guide decision-makers on the strategic distribution of resources, including how JJCPA funding is awarded to community-based organizations.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

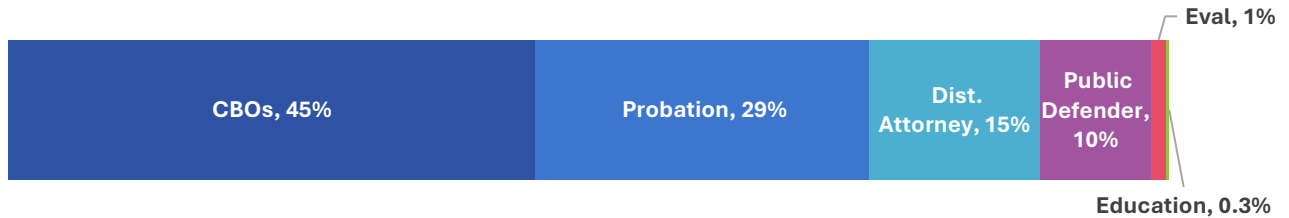
In 2000, the California Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 1913, the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act, which authorized funding for county juvenile justice programs. A 2001 Senate bill extended this funding and renamed the initiative the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). The purpose of JJCPA is to provide counties with a stable funding source for juvenile programs that have demonstrated effectiveness in reducing crime among under-resourced youth and young who are justice-involved.

Probation case management systems serve as the primary source of data used to meet the state's JJCPA reporting requirements. In addition to reporting the mandated outcomes, many counties—including Riverside County—also track and report local outcomes tailored to their program needs. These local outcomes often include indicators of academic progress, such as school attendance, grade point average, and school behavior, as well as behavioral health measures related to substance use, trauma, and anti-social attitudes.

For FY 2025-26, the statewide JJCPA allocation to Riverside County Probation is \$6,685,177. Additionally, Riverside County Probation has \$6,350,776 as the share of estimate growth funding from FY 2023-24 and a JJCC contingency balance of \$24,336,001. This totals \$37,371,954 in funding available in FY 2025-26.

For FY 2025-26, the approved budget includes expenditures of \$16,103,161, leaving \$21,268,793 as the contingency balance. As seen in Exhibit 2, the largest portion of funding (45%, \$7,320,350) is allocated to contracted CBOs, followed by 29% (\$4,618,579) to Probation Department, 15% (\$2,383,195) to District Attorney’s Office, 10% (\$1,529,803) to Public Defender’s Office, 1% (\$209,000) to required program evaluation services, and 0.3% (\$42,234) to Riverside Office of Education.

**Exhibit 2. Riverside County’s JJCPA Approved Budget Allocations**



Source: Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC, 2025).

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY BACKGROUND

Over the last few years, Riverside County Probation has engaged in a process of transformation in response to community input and best practices in the fields of youth development and probation. Some community stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding aspects of Probation’s operations, including the Youth Accountability Team (YAT) diversion program, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding allocation, and the request for proposals (RFP) process. Among the issues raised was the \$100,000 funding cap for community-based organization (CBO) proposals, a limitation that did not apply to County-operated programs.

In May 2023, Christopher Wright was appointed Chief of Probation. Since his appointment, he and the executive leadership team have articulated a strong commitment to juvenile justice reform. Combined with Probation’s participation in the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Transforming Juvenile Probation initiative, Probation staff members report a notable shift in organizational culture.

Probation is taking steps to respond to the community’s feedback. For example, the JJCC Ad Hoc Committee now includes CBO representatives charged with elevating the perspectives of the broader provider community. In addition, Probation removed financial caps in the 2024 JJCPA RFP process. Collectively, these actions reflect meaningful progress toward increased collaboration, transparency, and responsiveness. In addition, following the 2019 YAT settlement, Probation revised its youth referral practices and will ultimately conclude the YAT program as it will be replaced with a community-based diversion program through Safe Family Justice Center. As part of these changes, Probation committed to investing nearly \$8 million in community-based organizations serving at-

promise/opportunity youth.<sup>6</sup> In addition, the County selected a new JJCPA program evaluator in 2025 with a strong track record of community-based research and evaluation to further engage the community as important stakeholders in the prevention and intervention efforts with youths in the County.

## KEY TERMS

This report uses the following terms to refer to populations of focus addressed by this Plan. These include:

- **Youth who are at-promise/opportunity:** This term refers to young people who are not involved in the justice system but face multiple systemic barriers that increase youth’s risk factors for involvement with the justice system. These youth may access and utilize early intervention and prevention programs and services funded through JJCPA.
- **Youth who are justice-involved:** These youth have current or prior involvement with the justice system and have participated in probation services. These youth participate in JJCPA and JIRBG-funded programs and services.

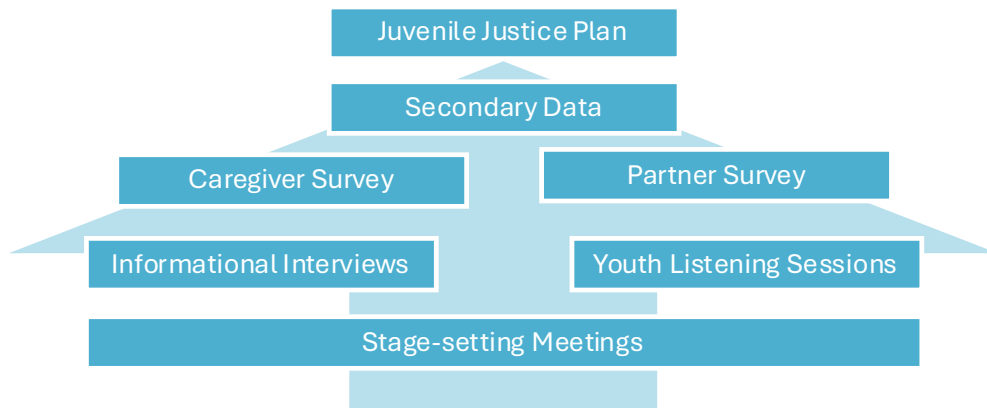
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<sup>6</sup> County of Riverside. (2019, September 13). *Notice of class settlements for Youth Accountability Team*. Retrieved from <https://rivco.org/news/notice-class-settlements-youth-accountability-team>

# Plan Process and Timeline

In August 2025, ASR began a multifaceted approach to gather data input for the Plan from a variety of community perspectives. These included stage-setting meetings, informational interviews, youth listening sessions, a caregiver survey, a partner survey, and secondary data analysis as seen in Exhibit 3. Data collection concluded in November 2025. In total 249 community members (including duplicates who participated through multiple pathways) participated in the Plan.

**Exhibit 3. Plan Process**



## MEETINGS, INTERVIEWS, AND YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS

All of the interviews and youth listening sessions were conducted remotely. The Probation Department assisted in coordinating conversations with Probation and other County Departments. All remaining data collection involved ASR outreaching and scheduling of participants initially identified in the stage-setting meetings or recommended by other interview or listening session participants. ASR developed tailored interview protocols and gathered written feedback and conversation transcripts to support thematic analysis and capture illustrative experiences.

### Stage-setting meetings

To get a broader understanding of the landscape of juvenile needs and services in Riverside County, in September ASR conducted three stage-setting meetings with members of the CBO Alliance, JJCC, and Probation core leaders as seen in Exhibit 4. The protocol for these meetings is in Appendix A. ASR gathered information at a CBO Alliance meeting and divided the participants into four breakout rooms of seven to eight people per room to hear from more people. Fifty people were engaged in these stage-setting meetings.

**Exhibit 4. Stage-Setting Meeting Participation**

Affiliation	# of Meetings	# of People
<b>Stage-setting Meetings</b>		
CBO Alliance	4	31
JJCC	1	13
Probation core leaders	1	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>

**Youth listening sessions**

In August, while ASR was gathering youth input for the FY 2024-25 Program Evaluation report, in addition to asking about the programs, ASR asked the youth questions about their goals for the future, barriers, and supports to reaching those goals. The protocol for the youth listening sessions is in Appendix B. With the help of CBO and County providers over the course of six listening sessions, 20 youths participated. In October, the Probation Department coordinated a listening session with seven youths in-custody. Additionally, another CBO gathered written feedback from four youths who are justice-involved. Thus, in all, 31 youths participated in data gathering for the Plan as seen in Exhibit 5.

**Exhibit 5. Youth Listening Sessions Participation**

Affiliation	# of Sessions	# of People
<b>Listening Sessions</b>		
Youths in community	3	17
Youths in-custody	1	7
System involved youths	3	3
System involved youths (written)	1	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>31</b>

To learn about youths’ needs, and gaps and barriers to services, ASR met with 27 providers from 12 different agencies as seen in Exhibit 6. The protocol for the provider interviews is in Appendix C.

**Exhibit 6. Provider Informational Interview Participation**

Affiliation	# of Sessions	# of People
<b>Informational Interviews</b>		
Department of Public Social Services - Children's Services Division	1	1
Desert Health Care District	1	2
Higher Education: Rising Scholars, Underground Scholars	2	2
JJDCP	1	2
Law Office of the Public Defender	1	6
Office of the District Attorney	1	6
Riverside County Office of Education	1	2
Riverside County Probation	1	2
RUHS Behavioral Health	3	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>

**ONLINE SURVEYS**

**Caregiver and partner surveys**

Four organizations, Kids in Konflikt, SPARK, Probation – SSTS, and Wylie Center shared an online caregiver survey to family members and guardians of their youth participants in August and September. The survey questionnaire is in Appendix D. Similar to the youth listening sessions, this survey also collected feedback for the annual program evaluation and this Plan. As an incentive, caregivers who completed the survey and voluntarily provided their email addresses were entered into a gift card drawing. Fifty-three caregivers responded to the survey as seen in Exhibit 7.

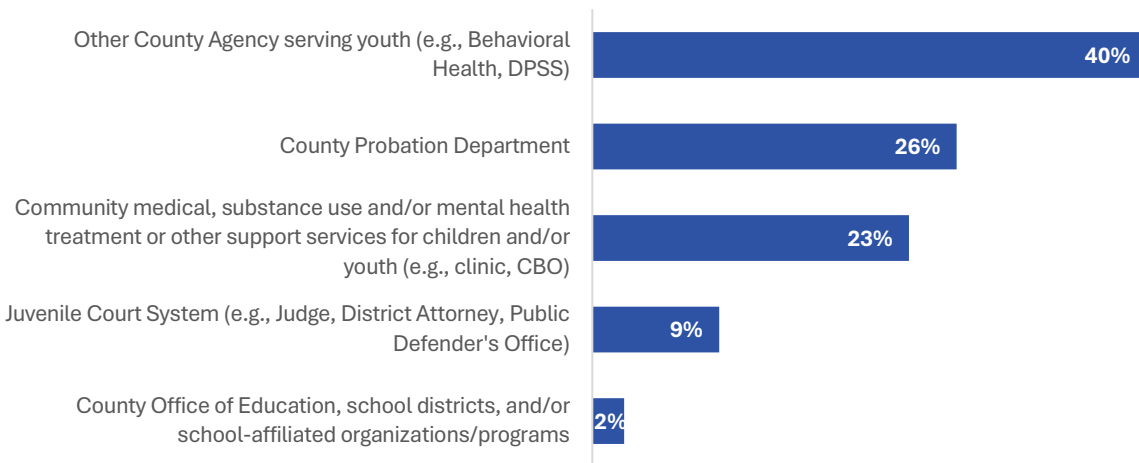
**Exhibit 7. Caregiver Survey Participation**

Affiliation – Caregivers of JJCPA Program Participants	# of People
Kids in Konflikt	23
SPARK	9
Probation - SSTS	11
Wylie Center	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>

**Partner survey**

ASR distributed a Partner Survey to obtain feedback from a larger group of providers than was reached through the interviews and listening sessions. The survey is in Appendix E. The participant list was developed collaboratively with the Plan’s implementation team to achieve representation from key service sectors. The survey was in the field for approximately four weeks in October 2025. Survey respondents were asked to rank items by their highest priority or greatest need/barrier. The primary service sectors identified by survey respondents are shown in Exhibit 8. Diverse service sectors were represented in the survey, including county agencies serving youth (e.g., Behavioral Health, DPSS; 40%), the Probation Department (26%), community medical, substance use and/or mental health treatment or other support services for children and/or youth (e.g., clinic, CBO; 23%), and the remaining (11%) including education and court-affiliated staff.

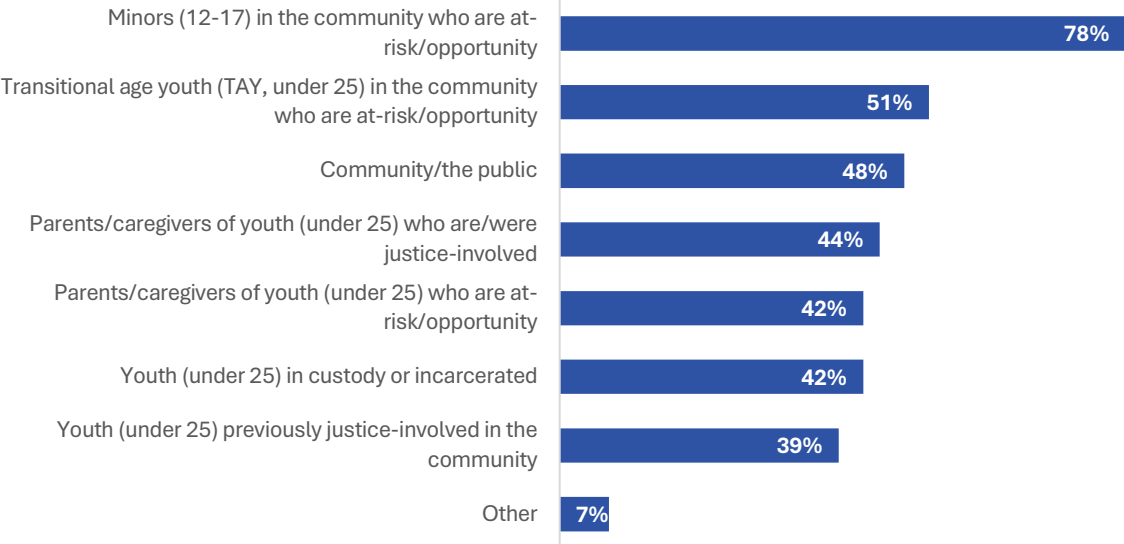
**Exhibit 8. Service Sector Representing in the Partner Survey**



Source: Partner Survey, 2025. N=88.

As seen in Exhibit 9, roughly three out of every four partners surveyed work with at-promise/opportunity youth ages 12-17 in the community. Over half work with transitional age youth who are at-promise/opportunity. About 40% work with youth under 25 who have been previously justice-involved in the community, and/or who are in custody or incarcerated. Similarly, approximately 40% work with parents/caregivers of youth under 25 who are at-promise/opportunity and/or who are/were justice-involved. Lastly, approximately half work with the community/the public, demonstrating significant depth of experience with the populations of interest for this Plan.

**Exhibit 9. Surveyed Partners, by Populations of Focus**



Source: Partner Survey, 2025. N=88.

**SECONDARY DATA**

In addition, data collected and reported as a part of the JJCPA FY 2024-25 program evaluation, plus additional data from public websites, were gathered and synthesized with the interview and survey data to identify common themes regarding needs, gaps, and opportunities to improve support of youth and their families.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN**

Data from all referenced sources were incorporated into the development of the Plan through a structured process that considered ranked priorities from the provider survey, insights gathered from individuals, small and large-group discussions, and other quantitative findings. Major themes were then consolidated to synthesize shared ideas across the data.

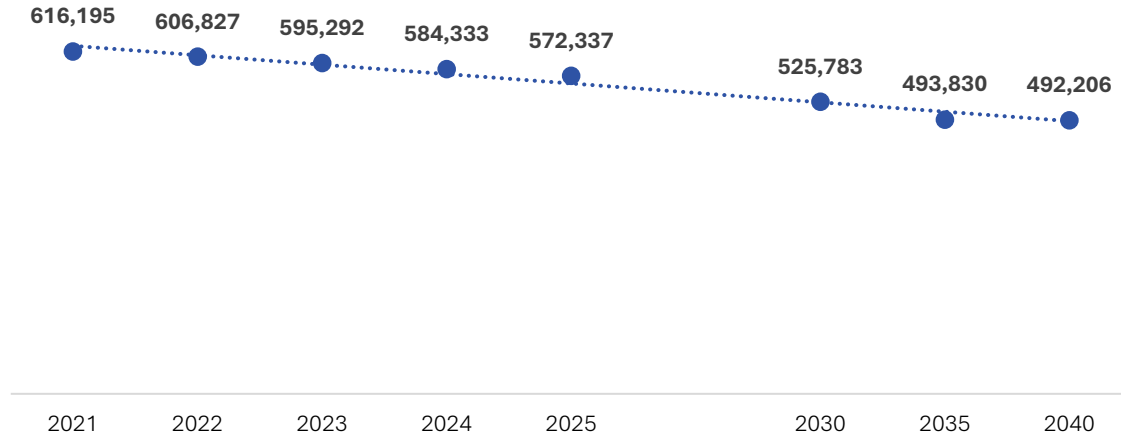
# The Landscape of Youth in Riverside County

## YOUTH POPULATION-BASED INDICATORS

To best serve the youth of Riverside County, it is important to understand the demographics of the populations of interest. When planning future programs and services, knowing the population trends, languages spoken, and potential needs will support data-driven decision-making.

Riverside County's estimated child population ages 0-17 declined steadily from 616,195 in 2021 to 572,337 in 2025, reflecting an overall drop of about 7% over this five-year period (see Exhibit 10). Population projections suggest further decreases, reaching 525,783 by 2030—an 8% reduction from 2025—before slightly stabilizing at 493,830 in 2035 and 492,206 in 2040. This consistent downward trend indicates a continuing decrease in the population of youth under 18. Amid this projected population shift, key implications might include shifts in funding priorities or lower enrollment in programs and interventions that serve youth who are system-impacted or under-resourced.

**Exhibit 10. Riverside County Child Population Estimate, 2021-2040**

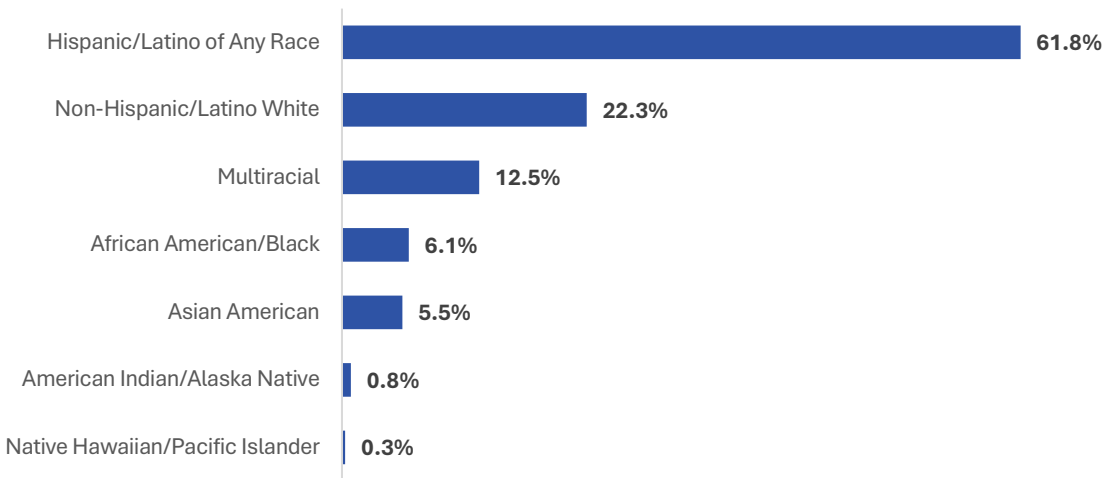


Source: KidsData.org, Child Population, by County, and Projected Child Population, by County sourced from California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025).

**Demographics**

Of the 616,195 children in Riverside County in 2021, 150,771 were ages 14-17, with almost even proportions of male and female.<sup>7</sup> As seen in Exhibit 11, the largest populations of youths by race/ethnicity for ages 0-17 were 61.8% Hispanic/Latino of any race, followed by Non-Hispanic/Latino White children at 22.3%. Fewer youths identified as Multiracial (12.5%) while African American/Black and Asian American children account for 6.1% and 5.5% respectively. Youths who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander comprised a small proportion of children in the County (0.8% and 0.3%, respectively).

**Exhibit 11. Riverside County Child Population by Race/Ethnicity: 2016-2020**

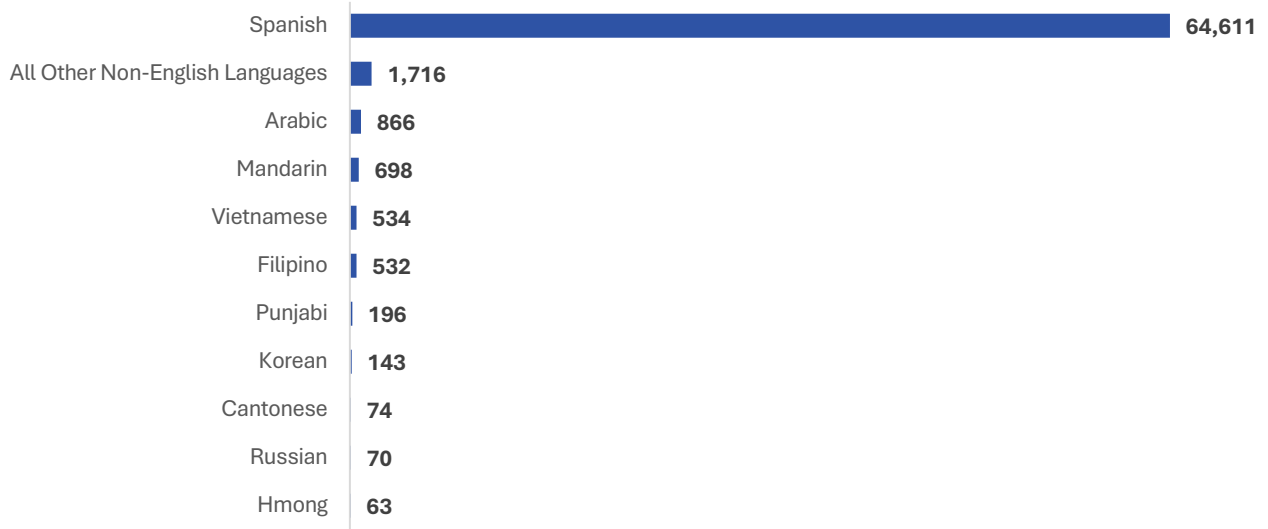


Source: Kidsdata.org, sourced from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (Aug. 2022).

<sup>7</sup> Kidsdata.org, Child Population, by Age Group and Gender, sourced from California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections; U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Housing Unit Estimates (Mar. 2025).

In Riverside County public schools, in 2021, 16.5% of children were English Learners.<sup>8</sup> The most common primary language of English Learners was Spanish, which included nearly 65k children (Exhibit 12).<sup>9</sup> The remaining primary languages comprise a very small proportion of English Learners. This can assist decision-making regarding the need for programs and materials in Spanish and other languages for families.

**Exhibit 12. Riverside County Primary Language for English Learners in Public School, 2021**



Source: Kidsdata.org, English Learners in Public Schools, by Primary Language, sourced from California Dept. of Education, English Learners by Grade and Language (Sept. 2021).

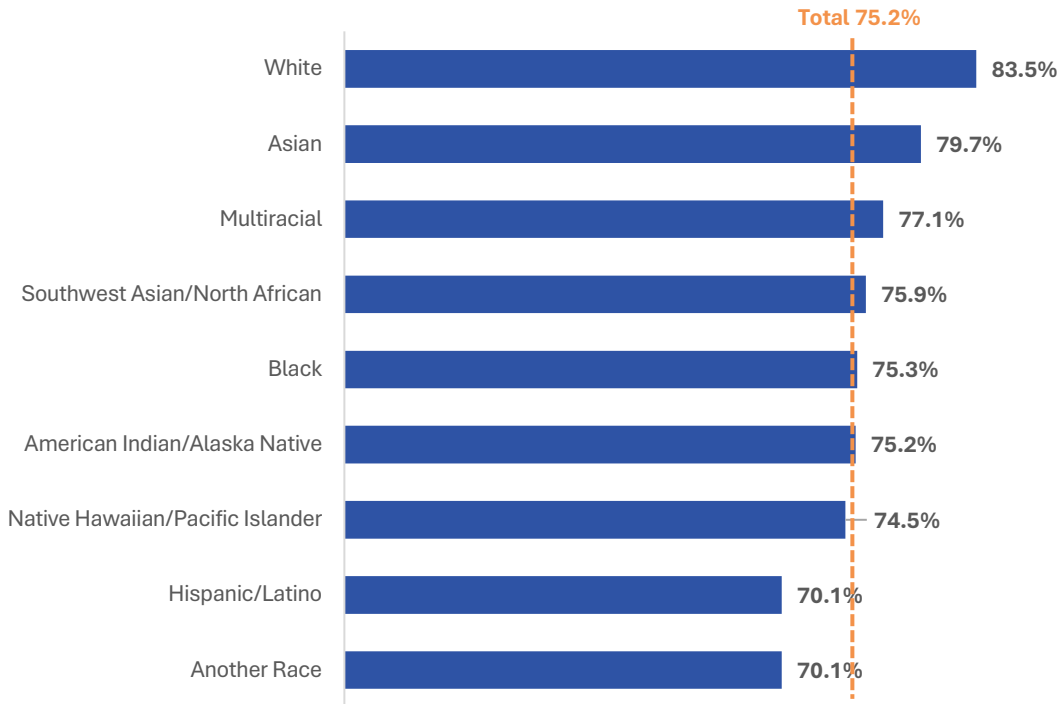
<sup>8</sup> English learners by grade and language. (2021). California Department of Education. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/fileselsch.asp>

<sup>9</sup> English learners by grade and language. (2021). California Department of Education. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/fileselsch.asp>

**Income and education**

In Riverside County, the overall rate of children living in poverty was estimated at 14%, slightly lower compared to 16% in California in 2019. However, there were subpopulations within the County experiencing higher rates of poverty, such as Hispanic/Latino children, who had a poverty rate of 17.2%.<sup>10</sup> When looking at adults’ income from 2019-23, the percentage of people earning a living wage also varied by race/ethnicity as seen in Exhibit 13. The overall rate was 75.2%, with some ethnicities/races (White, South Asian/North African, Asian, Multiracial) earning above that line. Adults who identified as Hispanic/Latino and Another Race (both at 70.1%) fell behind all other groups earning a living wage, while Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (74.5%), American Indian/Alaska Native (75.2%), Black (75.3%), and Southwest Asian/North African (75.9%) groups clustered near or at the County average.

**Exhibit 13. Percentage of People Earning a Living Wage in Riverside County, 2019-2023**

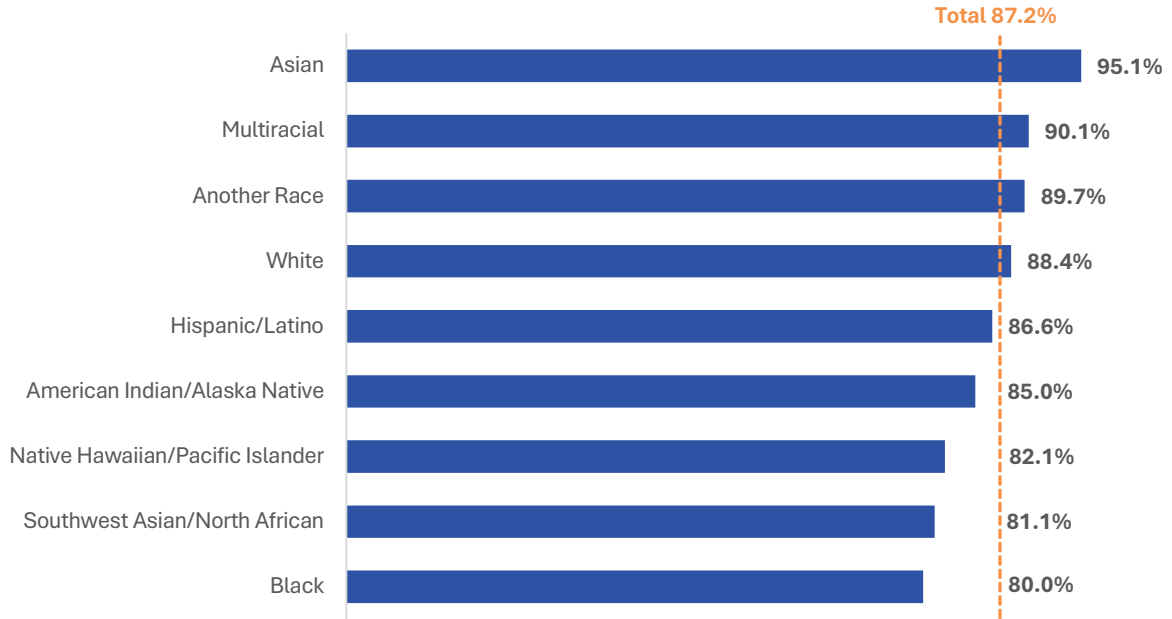


Source: Race Counts, racecounts.org, sourced from American Community Survey, 2019-2023. Note: The data label *Hispanic/Latino* appears as *Latinx* on the Race Counts website.

<sup>10</sup> kidsdata.org, Children in Poverty, by Race/Ethnicity: 2019, sourced from Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey summary files and public use microdata (Oct. 2020).

The proportion of connected youth measures the number of youths, ages 16-24, who are in school and/or employed. As seen in Exhibit 14, 87.2% of all youths within this age range in Riverside County were connected. Differences are notable by race/ethnicity—the proportion of connected youth was lowest among Black (80%) and Southwest Asian/North African (81.1%) youths, and highest among Asian (95.1%) youths.

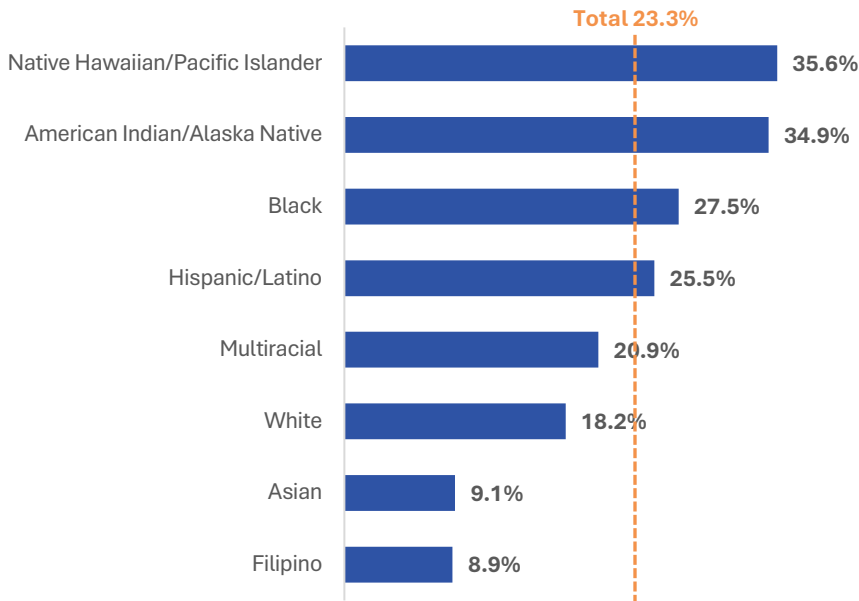
**Exhibit 14. Percentage of Youth in School and/or Employed in Riverside County, by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2023**



Source: Race Counts, racecounts.org, sourced from American Community Survey, 2019-2023. Note: The data label *Hispanic/Latino* appears as *Latinx* on the Race Counts website.

A student is considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year. In Riverside County, the total percentage of chronically absent students was approximately 23% in school year 2023-24 (Exhibit 15). Chronic absenteeism rates varied widely by race/ethnicity. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (35.6%), American Indian/Alaska Native (34.9%), and Black (27.5%) students had the highest rates, whereas Filipino (8.9%) and Asian (9.1%) students had the lowest rates. According to RaceCounts.org, students from low-income families who miss school sometimes miss because they do not have enough food or stable housing. Their absences are more likely to be marked as unexcused, which can lead to stricter punishment from schools.<sup>11</sup>

**Exhibit 15. Percentage of Chronically Absent Students in Riverside County, by Race/Ethnicity, 2023-2024**



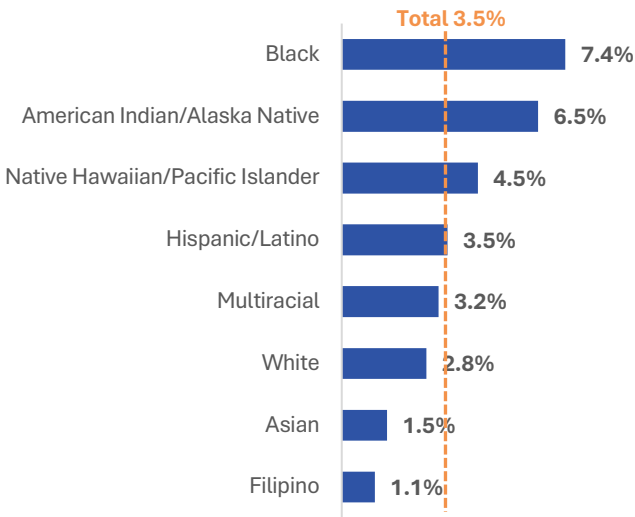
Source: Race Counts, racecounts.org, sourced from California Department of Education, 2023-24. Note: Data labels for *Hispanic/Latino* and *Filipino* appear as *Latinx* and *Filipinx*, respectively, on the Race Counts website.

<sup>11</sup> Riverside County. (2025). Race Counts. <https://www.racecounts.org/county/riverside/>

Every school district in Riverside County has a chronic absenteeism status of high or very high.<sup>12</sup> There are areas in the County that experience disproportionate issues with chronic absenteeism. The school districts with the highest status level are Riverside County Office of Education, Romoland Elementary, San Jacinto Unified, and Val Verde Unified.

School suspensions can negatively affect students' academic performance and overall well-being.<sup>13</sup> Black youths in Riverside County made up approximately 6% of the population under 18, yet over 7% of enrolled Black students were suspended in the County, as seen in Exhibit 16. According to Race Counts, “Schools lacking teacher and staff diversity, training on social emotional development, and trauma-informed restorative justice practices are more likely to suspend students of color.”<sup>14</sup>

**Exhibit 16. Percentage of Students Suspended in Riverside County by Race/Ethnicity, 2023-2024**



Source: Race Counts, racecounts.org, sourced from California Department of Education, 2023-24. Note: The data label *Hispanic/Latino* appears as *Latinx* on the Race Counts website.

<sup>12</sup> California Department of Education, *Chronic Absenteeism Indicator — Riverside County, All Students, 2025* (CaliforniaModel report), accessed December 19, 2025, <https://www6.cde.ca.gov/californiamodel/report?cdcode=3310330&indicator=chron&studentgroup=All&year=2025&reporttype=county>

<sup>13</sup> School suspensions do more harm than good. (2021). neaToday. <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/school-suspensions-do-more-harm-good>

<sup>14</sup> Riverside County. (2025). Race Counts. <https://www.racecounts.org/county/riverside/>

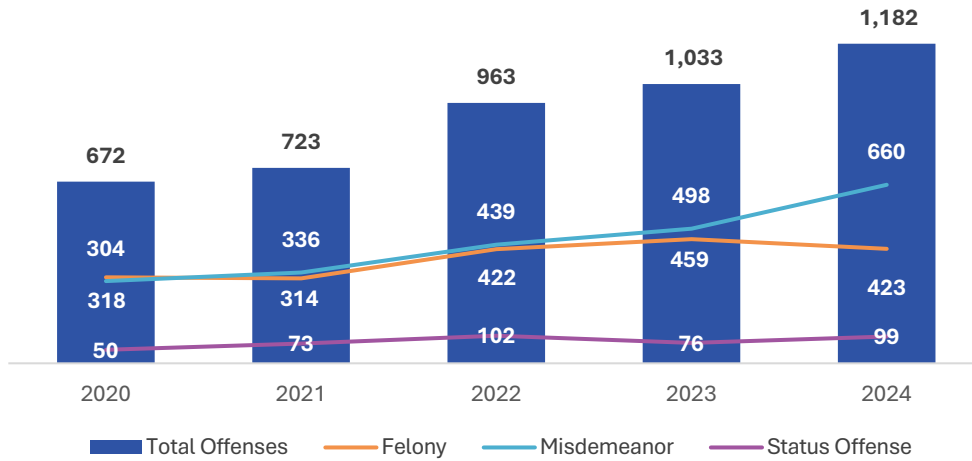
## INDICATORS SPECIFIC TO YOUTH WHO ARE JUSTICE-INVOLVED

Secondary data from the California Department of Justice, California Department of Finance, and the Riverside County Probation Department were analyzed to understand the youth arrest rates in Riverside County. A demographic profile of youths on probation in Riverside County was also provided for FY 2023-24.

### Trends in juvenile offenses

The trends in status offenses, misdemeanors, and felony offenses for juveniles 10-17 years of age in Riverside County for the calendar years 2020 to 2024 can be seen in Exhibit 17. Outpacing the State of California where California juvenile arrest rates of all types declined precipitously because of procedural changes in response to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, Riverside County has experienced a steady increase in juvenile offenses from 672 in 2020 to 1,182 in 2024, marking a 76% overall increase (Exhibit 17). The largest increases in total offenses occurred between 2021-22, and 2023-24. Felony offenses grew from 318 in 2020 to a peak of 459 in 2023 before slightly dropping to 423 in 2024 (8% decrease), while misdemeanors increased markedly with a 117% jump from 304 to 660 over the five-year period. Status offenses increased 98% overall from 50 in 2020 to 99 in 2024, peaking at 102 in 2022.

**Exhibit 17. Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in Riverside County, by Type**

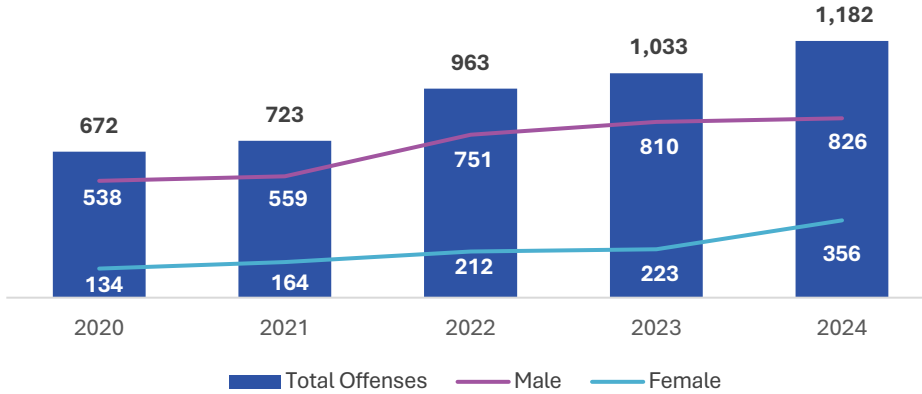


Source. State of California Department of Justice. (2020-2024). *Open Justice Data Portal*. Retrieved from <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests>. Note: Youth in Riverside County are not arrested for status offenses.

**Proportion of juvenile offenses by identified gender**

Males consistently comprised the majority of offenses, climbing from 538 (80% of total offenses) in 2020 to 826 (70% of total offenses) in 2024, while female offenses increased from 134 to 356, which more than doubled and grew by over two and a half times (166%) over the five-year period (Exhibit 18).

**Exhibit 18. Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in Riverside County, by Identified Gender**

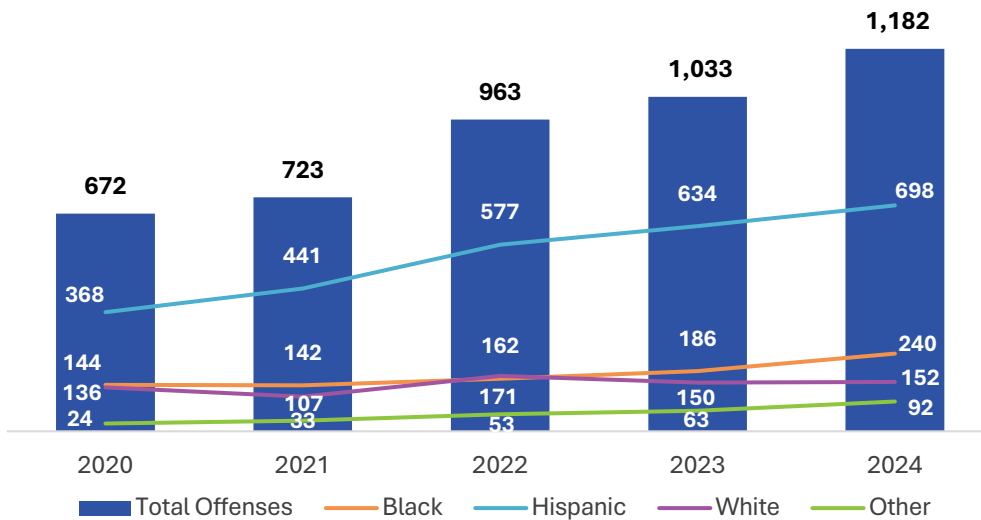


Source: State of California Department of Justice. (2020-2024). *Open Justice Data Portal*. Retrieved from <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests>

**Proportion of juvenile offenses by identified race/ethnicity**

Juvenile offenses by race/ethnicity increased for all subgroups and was driven largely by growing proportion of offenses among youths who identified as Hispanic, Other race/ethnicity, or Black, which accounted for most of the increase during the five-year period from 2020 to 2024 (Exhibit 19). Offenses of Hispanic youths nearly doubled, from 368 to 698 (90% increase), while offenses of Black youth rose from 144 to 240 (67% increase). Although a small proportion of youths with offenses, representation of youth in the Other race/ethnicity category nearly quadrupled from 24 to 92 (283%) over the five-year period. In comparison, the proportion of offenses for youths who identified as White fluctuated but rose slightly over this period (from 136 to 152; a 12% increase). When looking at the overall population under 18, those who are Hispanic/Latino of any race make up 62% of youths in the County and comparably 60% of juvenile offenses. However, Black youths make up only 6% of the County population, but comprised 20% of the total juvenile offenses.

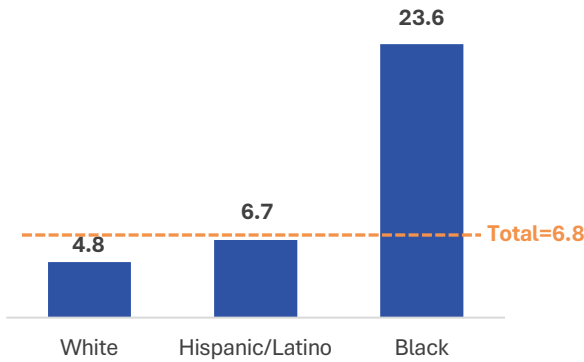
**Exhibit 19. Five-Year Trend in Juvenile Offenses in Riverside County, by Racial/Ethnic Identity**



Source: State of California Department of Justice. (2020-2024). *Open Justice Data Portal*. Retrieved from <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/arrests>

Rates of juvenile arrest by race/ethnicity provided another perspective on this data. Status offenses, or non-criminal acts, averaged about 7 per 10,000 youths under 18 as seen in Exhibit 20. However, Black youths faced a strikingly higher rate of 23.6 per 10,000 youths, almost three times the annual average. Status offenses for White and Hispanic/Latino youths were closer to the annual average. Research shows that status offenses are often attributed to structural racism and unequal access to resources.<sup>15</sup>

**Exhibit 20. Annual Average Rate of Status Offenses per 10,000 Youths Under 18 in Riverside County, 2010-2023**



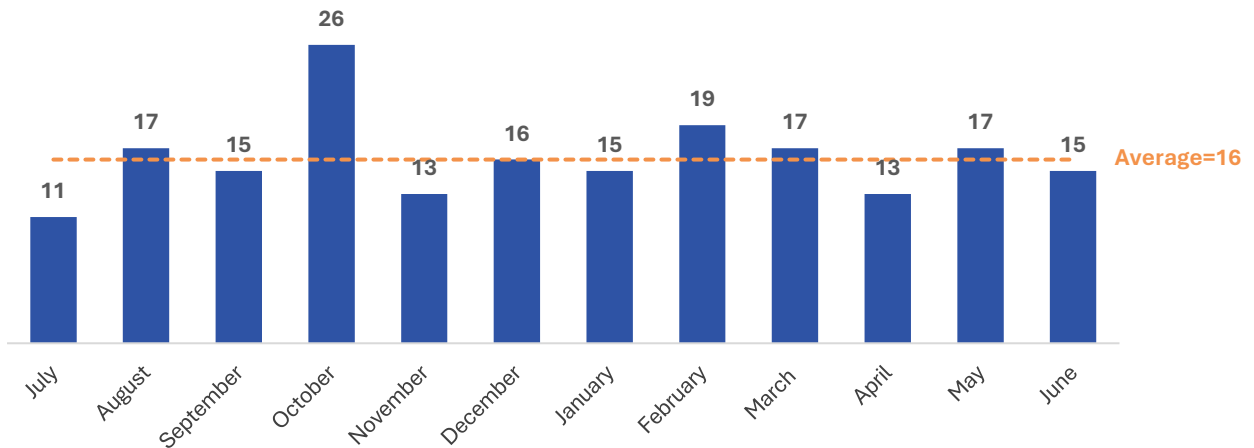
Source: Race Counts, racecounts.org, sourced from Open Justice Data, California Department of Justice (2010-23), American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Table B01001 (2019-23) The data label *Hispanic/Latino* appears as *Latinx* on the Race Counts website.

<sup>15</sup> BSCC California, Juvenile Justice Priorities, [https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s\\_sacjdpjuvenilejusticepriorities/#:~:text=Disproportionate%20Minority%20Contact%20and%20Status,the%20juvenile%20justice%20system%20%E2%80%93%20PDF](https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_sacjdpjuvenilejusticepriorities/#:~:text=Disproportionate%20Minority%20Contact%20and%20Status,the%20juvenile%20justice%20system%20%E2%80%93%20PDF)

**Out-of-home placements**

Across FY 2024-25, the number of out-of-home placements fluctuated moderately, ranging from 11 to 26 per month with a total of 153 unduplicated youths (Exhibit 21). The highest count occurred in October (26 placements) while the lowest was recorded in July (11 placements). Monthly totals remained relatively stable throughout the remainder of the year, averaging around 16 placements per month.

**Exhibit 21. Number of Out-of-Home Placements, by Month**

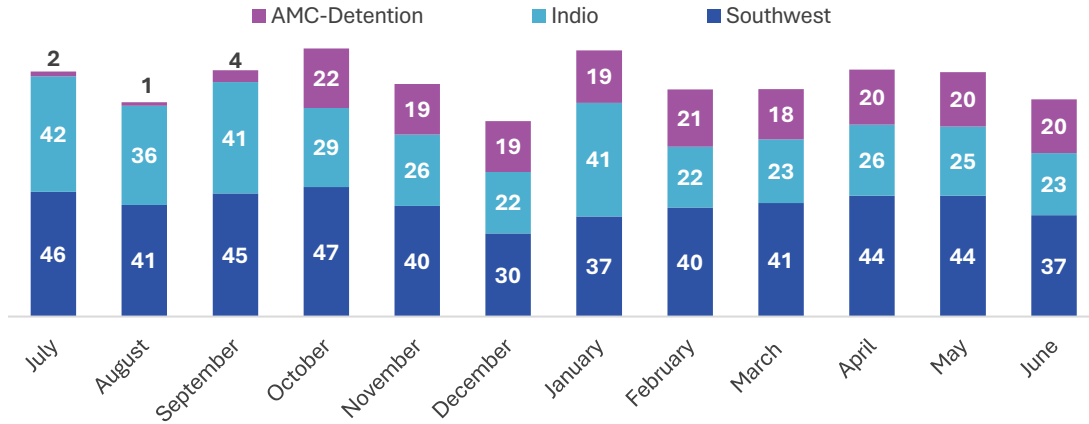


Source: Riverside County Probation. Breakdowns were sent to ASR via Excel (N=53).

**Average youth population in the juvenile detention facilities**

As shown in Exhibit 22, the average daily population (ADP) of youth in detention varied throughout the year and across the three facilities: Alan M. Crogan (AMC) Detention, Indio, and Southwest. It is important to note that youth placements are generally determined by operational considerations rather than youth’s county of residence. Over the 12-month period, the Southwest facility recorded the highest average monthly ADP, averaging 41 youth, with counts ranging from a low of 30 youth in December 2024 to a high of 47 youth in October 2024. Indio’s ADP monthly average across 12 months was 30 overall, ranging from 22 youths in February 2025 to 42 youths in July 2024. AMC-Detention consistently had the lowest ADP monthly average at 15 youth across 12 months, fluctuating between one youth in August 2024 and 22 youths just two months later in October 2024. Overall, all locations showed increases in ADP after August and December, with AMC-Detention experiencing the most pronounced seasonal fluctuations, while Southwest and Indio maintained more stable populations throughout the year.

**Exhibit 22. Average Daily Juvenile Population, by Location for FY 2024-25**

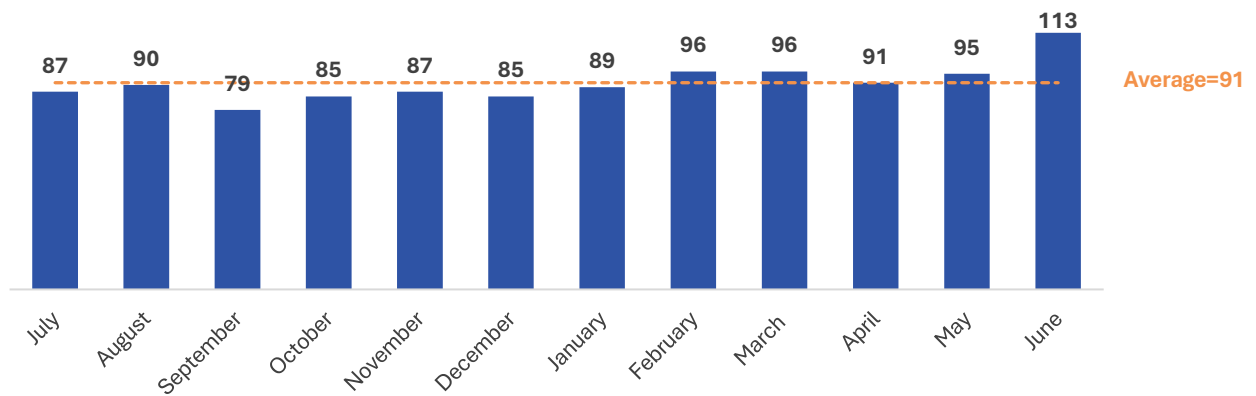


Source: Riverside County Probation. Breakdowns were sent to ASR via Excel. Note: Youth are generally not housed based on where they live, rather on operational structure.

**Psychotropic medication use among youths in custody**

Over the 12-month reporting period, the number of youths in custody on psychotropic medications ranged from 79 to 113, with an average of 91 as seen in Exhibit 23. The lowest count was observed in September (79 youths) while the highest occurred in June (113 youths). Overall, the number of youths on psychotropic medications remained relatively stable across most months, with a modest upward trend in the latter half of the year, rising from the mid-80s in early months to above 90 beginning in February.

**Exhibit 23. Number of Youth on Psychotropic Medication, by Month for FY 2024-25**



Source: Riverside County Probation. Breakdowns were sent to ASR via Excel.

# Juvenile Justice Plan for Youth

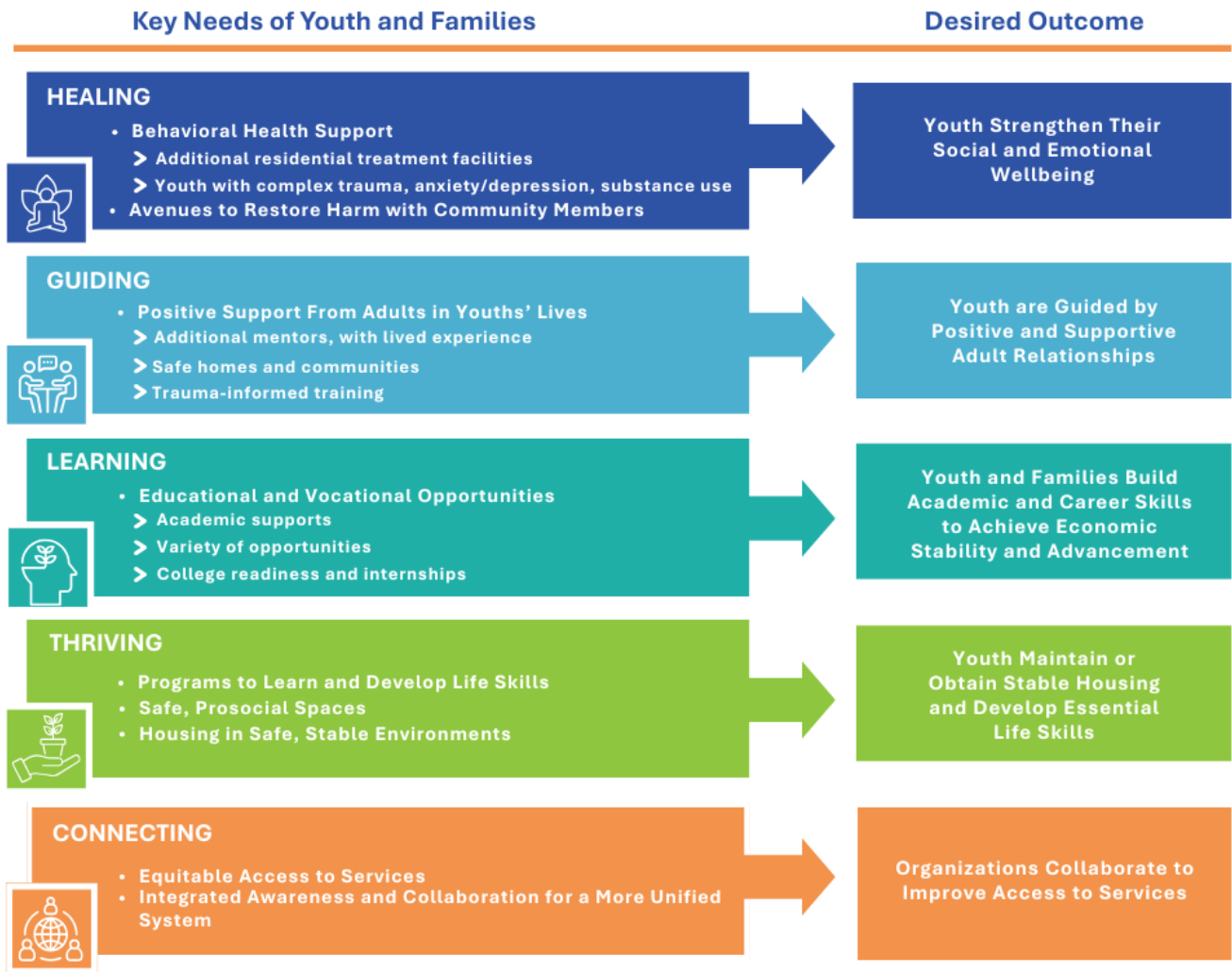
The combined analysis of primary and secondary data for this Plan resulted in the development of five key outcomes focused on strengthening services for youth and their families in Riverside County. These outcomes were informed by both qualitative and quantitative findings and reflect the insights of youth, families, service providers, and system leaders regarding what is needed to prevent initial or deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system. Exhibit 3 in the previous section provides an overview of the data collection activities referenced in this section.

The five categories of youth needs and the desired outcomes for the 2026-27 Plan for youth in Riverside County include:

- **Healing:** Youth strengthen their social and emotional well-being.
- **Guiding:** Youth are guided by positive and supportive adult relationships.
- **Learning:** Youth and families build academic and career skills to achieve economic stability and advancement.
- **Thriving:** Youth maintain or obtain stable housing and develop essential life skills.
- **Connecting:** Organizations collaborate to improve access to services.

For each desired outcome, the needs identified in the data are summarized as seen in Exhibit 24. The five outcome summary profiles that follow highlight insights from the combined data sources for each need and offer examples of key assets, programs, and strategies mentioned during data collection. These examples are not exhaustive; rather, they are intended to highlight available resources and potential approaches. Because this Plan was developed with a youth-centered focus, successful improvement efforts will depend on collaboration across youth-serving systems, to hold a shared vision, and a commitment to change service delivery systems, policies, and procedures that do not meet the County's standard of care to support the well-being and potential of its youth.

**Exhibit 24. Juvenile Justice Plan Key Needs and Desired Outcomes**





# Youth Strengthen Their Social and Emotional Well-being

## NEEDS OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES: HEALING

### Behavioral health support

Survey, interview, and listening session responses indicated behavioral health support (including mental health and substance abuse services) as the top need for youth to either avoid entry or reentry into the justice system. Forty-four percent (44%) of providers ranked **behavioral health therapy** as one of the top three most important needs to focus on, with 16% ranking it as their top one. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of providers ranked behavioral/mental health as one of their top three goal areas, with 50% of providers ranking it as their **top goal**.

Through listening sessions with youth and providers, participants described the need to **address the trauma** that youth and their families have experienced. One youth explained that, “many of us deal with issues that need attention if we want to move forward...but most of us never really get that.” Research has evidenced the prevalence of this trauma. The majority of youth who become justice-involved across the nation report exposure to traumatic events, with estimates reaching up to 90%. Approximately 70% meet the criteria for mental health disorders, and 30% meet the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>16</sup>

“Many of us deal with issues that need attention if we want to move forward...but most of us never really get that.”

- Youth Participant

Three participants described the need for additional **residential treatment facilities**. They noted a lack of space in the limited options available in the behavioral health residential centers, few options for youth under 18, and an increase in demand for youth with more complex needs. More specifically, it was reported that there are limited local Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) with few openings. Additionally, a provider explained that behavioral health residential centers do not take youth with a history of aggression, which is common among the youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Opportunities exist for STRTPs to more consistently hold placement preservation Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs) prior to issuing notices of removal for probation and dependent youth placed in STRTPs. In addition, access to secure Community

<sup>16</sup> Dierkhising, et al. (2013). Trauma histories among justice-involved youth: findings from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. [10.3402/ejpt.v4i0.20274](https://doi.org/10.3402/ejpt.v4i0.20274)

Treatment Facilities remains limited, with only two such facilities located in Southern California, both outside of Riverside County, for youth with significant emotional, behavioral, or psychiatric needs.

In addition, participants described the need for an increase in the support available for youth when dealing with **anxiety, depression, and substance abuse**. In the partner survey, 20% of providers ranked drug/alcohol rehabilitation as one of the top three most important needs of youth. Providers described how many youth are waitlisted for mental health services when support is needed immediately, and that more inpatient substance abuse treatment options should exist for youth. Providers explained that for youth with substance abuse treatment needs, many are not even fully detoxed after a month and require longer-term options through residential programs. Reported average stays of 45 days for youth at the Muir Wood residential treatment program in the County corroborate that some youth have relatively short stays, which are likely inadequate to address the youth’s detox and recovery needs.<sup>17</sup>

**“The current system could improve services for kids that have experienced severe trauma.”**

- Caregiver Participant

### Avenues to restore harm with community members

Youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system shared that they believe punitive approaches do not work well. They said they are not helping them and can make them “feel kind of alone.” Alternatively, providers described the importance of offering youth **restorative justice services**. These services use an approach that focuses on repairing harm. The approach encourages youth to take accountability, find the space to heal, and ultimately, repair the harm caused. A community-based organization leader explained how “hurt people, hurt people...and themselves too.”

## BARRIERS

Participants described the barriers many youth and families face in accessing and engaging in behavioral health services. About a third (33%) of providers in the partner survey ranked **high wait times** or **unavailability of desired programs or services** within the top three of the highest-ranked barriers, with participants specifically noting residential treatment facilities as well as the negative impact waiting can have when a mental health crisis requires immediate attention. This is consistent with data from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (2024), as cited in Riverside University Health System’s 2024 Community Health Assessment, showing that “35.0% of teens reported needing help for an emotional/mental health problem but did not end up receiving counseling for it.”

More than half (56%) of providers ranked a **lack of willingness or desire** to participate in the programming offered as one of the top three of the highest ranked barriers, with some linking this to

<sup>17</sup> Residential mental health & substance abuse treatment. (2025). Muir Wood Trusted Teen Treatment. <https://muirwoodteen.com/treatment/residential-treatment-centers-for-teens/>

the high wait times. As an example, they explained that there is a gap between when the youth returns to the community and when services are made available. Another example relating to the lack of willingness is the victim impact awareness program that was offered through Chapman University. It was mentioned that this program required both parties to participate. Because it was voluntary, they could not get people to say yes, and the program no longer exists.


Additional barriers participants described to pursuing mental health support included **prior trauma** (34% of providers ranked it as one of the top three of barriers), **stigma** (30% of providers ranked this within the top three of barriers, which was affirmed by caregivers who selected being worried about being judged or looked down on (11%), pointing to **stigma** as a barrier to seeking help. A provider explained how families felt that just walking into a building where mental health was provided was stigmatizing. Additionally, participants explained the **lack of time** that caregivers face (16% of providers ranked this within the top three of barriers). Many gave examples of parents, especially single parents, needing to prioritize getting to work. This left little time to help their children get to therapy sessions, especially within the confines of a typical work week. This was reiterated in the caregiver survey across all four programs (Kids in Conflict, SPARK, SSTS, and the Wylie Center). The most common challenge caregivers expressed facing when it came to accessing services was **being unable to afford taking time off** (16%).

## EXAMPLE ASSETS

- The County offers mental health/behavioral health therapy that youth and partners see as effective. Specific services that are working well that were highlighted in the partner survey include:
  - Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) drop-in centers (16 mentions)
  - Substance use prevention treatment services (nine mentions)
  - Multi-dimensional family therapy (MDFT, nine mentions), with a provider specifically noting the success of short-term outcomes
  - Riverside University Health System (RUHS) services specifically in behavioral health clinics (eight mentions)
  - Other programs mentioned, though less frequently: Latino Commission, 417 Recovery, Social Awareness Programming (SAP), Bridges, Oakgrove ILP
- The County's wraparound services were mentioned 10 times in the partner survey as a service that is working.
- The Wylie Center was mentioned five times in the partner survey, with specific mentions on the center's offerings of early intervention, medical therapy, mental health treatment, autism

services, housing counseling, and community education and parenting classes being beneficial.

- Kindful Restoration was mentioned five times in the partner survey, with specific mentions on the benefit of their case management, anger management, substance use services, and community service opportunities.
- Probation’s partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation through the Transforming Juvenile Probation initiative was highlighted as a point of pride. Learnings from this effort are being shared with probation officers, other County departments, and community-based organizations, with many participants viewing this initiative as a turning point for the County and for advancing alternatives to traditional probation practices.
- Participants in the interviews also noted the benefit of Care Spaces that offer free resources like counseling and parenting classes for the community in English and in Spanish.

 **Therapeutic services . . . allow me to talk about my feelings and past experiences in a safe space.**

*- Youth Participant*

## STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants expressed strategies and recommendations to help youth heal. Examples include:

- **Increase access to youth therapy.** This could be in the form of hiring more providers, supporting behavioral health career pathways, or offering therapy in more locations throughout the County. For example, as the partner survey highlighted the success of the TAY drop-in centers, a provider mentioned that it would be beneficial to have more TAY drop-in centers in other places in the County so more youth could access this model.
- **Prioritize centers that offer an informal, family-style setting.** This could create the feel of a living room that could potentially put people at ease, instead of offering services in county buildings with receptionists, etc.
- **Provide family counseling.** During the listening sessions and interviews, both youth and providers noted the important role families play, especially in prevention and reentry. Participants described the challenges youth face when returning to their families and the same environments that may have contributed to their involvement in custody, noting that these settings are not always conducive to healing. Expanding access to counseling and supportive services for justice-involved youth could help create a more stable and therapeutic

environment for their return. As one youth said, “Involving our families can help us heal and reduce the chances of going back to jail.”

- **Embed restorative justice programs into existing programs that youth are already participating in.** For example, the Make-it-Right restorative justice conferencing program demonstrated that youth who participated had a 19-percentage-point reduction in the likelihood of rearrest within six months.<sup>18</sup> Other providers described the value of incorporating healing circles, a restorative practice that is used to address trauma and develop coping skills.

- **Implement more programs like Pawsitive Change, developed by youth in custody.** This program pairs youth in custody with a shelter dog. They take part in training sessions, daily care, and mentoring focused on life skills and responsibility. It offers youth a powerful way to foster empathy and give back to their community.

“[youth do] not need someone who talks about [their] health all the time . . . but [they need to think], this is someone I can walk with.”

- Provider Participant

- **Establish a data-sharing agreement for justice-involved youth through an interagency legislative requirement, similar to AB 2083 for foster youth.** This data sharing agreement would be shared amongst the multidisciplinary team when youth enter custody, participate in assessment, engage in treatments, and complete Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment, so all providers are appropriately apprised of the youth’s situation. A provider recommended that this should be supplemented with training on HIPAA so providers are more aware of what can be shared amongst parties. In the partner survey, 15% of providers ranked increased data sharing among systems serving youth and their families as one of the three most important system improvements.
- **Identify more funding sources to support behavioral health for youth in Riverside County.** One example is to build upon what RUHS is doing with the CalAIM Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative to offer more services to families and behavioral health support upon release.
- **Prioritize residential facilities and strengthen existing facilities.** Strengthen the STRTPs’ ability to meet the needs of increased severity of youths’ mental health issues. Although STRTP staff are required to complete annual training, including client-centered and trauma-informed approaches, participant feedback indicates that additional and more frequent training would further strengthen staff capacity to meet the needs and goals of youth placed in STRTPs.

<sup>18</sup> Raphael, S., Shem-Tov, Y., & Skog, A. (2022). The impacts of the Make-it-Right program on recidivism. California Policy Lab. <https://capolicylab.org/impacts-of-make-it-right-program-on-recidivism/>

Another recommendation mentioned was to increase funding or incentives for “STRTP for one” models.

- **Support behavioral health workforce pipeline programs.** Invest in programs such as the BH-CONNECT Workforce Initiative<sup>19</sup> to increase accessibility of behavioral health providers in the future. Share the resources with schools and CBOs to help promote these opportunities.

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<sup>19</sup> Workforce initiative. (2025). DHCS. <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/CalAIM/Pages/Workforce-Initiative.aspx>



# Youth are Guided by Positive and Supportive Adult Relationships

## NEEDS OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES: GUIDING

### Positive support from adults in youths' lives

One quarter (26%) of surveyed providers ranked youth having **positive social connections** with peers and other adults as one of their top three goals. In addition, one of every 10 providers (10%) ranked **mentors/coaches/advocates** as one of the top three most important needs to focus on. Interview participants explained that more youth need to receive positive support from adult figures in their lives, both at home and outside of the home. Interviewees described the importance of youth being able to relate to these supportive adults, noting that this is especially possible if they come from similar backgrounds and have gone through similar experiences.

Interview participants noted the value of the shift of policies in Riverside to be more inclusive of credible messengers but also described a need for the **expansion of the time** the mentors are able to connect with the youth (for example, a provider noted that The Exception goes into the facility quarterly). They also noted the need for an increase in capacity and the number of mentors.

When youth were asked what could have helped them avoid circumstances that led to them being in juvenile hall, three out of the five who responded to the question noted that having a positive role model would have made a difference. They described the importance of having proper guidance, not just in terms of right and wrong, but also in how to achieve their personal goals. Many described the value of mentors who had similar lived experiences and were able to relate to them and their situation in a way others were not able to do.

Interviewees also described a need for youth to have access to homes and spaces that are safe and devoid of violence. This includes avoiding exposure to community **violence** (including gang-related violence) and violence in the home. Early intervention is needed for children and youth whose parents and caregivers have been incarcerated and/or are struggling with their own personal trauma. These are factors that can undermine safety, stability, and bonding.<sup>20</sup> Research has shown how parental incarceration is associated with harms to children's well-being across emotional, physical, behavioral, educational, and financial domains.<sup>21</sup> In addition, evidence links parental incarceration

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<sup>20</sup> Community violence. (n.d.). The National Child Traumatic Stress Network. [https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/community-violence?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/community-violence?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>21</sup> Martin, E. (2017). Hidden consequences: The impact of incarceration on dependent children. National Institute of Justice. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/hidden-consequences-impact-incarceration-dependent-children>

and justice-involvement with elevated risk of later behavioral issues and intergenerational involvement in the justice system.<sup>22</sup> One youth participant mentioned that being in foster care can be a barrier to achieving their goals. Six providers noted that parents do not have a place to go to get the support they need to address their own trauma, learn parenting skills, and get support from others in a safe space. Specifically, a provider noted that when youth leave a residential facility, they are being sent back to their community and homes that are not a healthy environment.

Interviewees reinforced the need for all County and CBO staff working with youth directly to connect with youth from a space of understanding in order to guide them most effectively. In order to do this, many described how critical it is to have staff trained in **trauma-informed approaches**. Providers working directly with incarcerated youth noted the opportunity for more capacity-building training for probation officers and law enforcement that includes compassionate, trauma-informed, and healing-centered care. Although there are legal training requirements for probation officers, and likely others, providers’ feedback suggested that additional education and integration of trauma-informed care across all youth-serving systems can better strengthen support for youth.

## BARRIERS

A barrier that participants described to youth building relationships with positive, supporting adults was prior **trauma** (34% of providers ranked this within the top three of barriers). Interviewees explained that prior trauma and traumatic experiences can influence how trusting youth are of the adults in their lives. A provider explained that a barrier to a solid connection with youth is “staff who are not trauma-informed and lack good engagement skills and cultural awareness.”

## EXAMPLE ASSETS

- Mentoring programs where youth connect with credible mentors who can understand their experiences and situations were highly valued by youth and noted by numerous providers as having a great impact.
- CASA advocates were mentioned four times in the partner survey as something that is working well for youth, noting the support youth receive and information about the process along the way.
- Caregivers expressed how probation officers enforced structure by actively reinforcing curfews and attendance at school, which they found helpful for their youth.

**“[What helps is] ... leadership and influence from a positive male figure, a positive brotherhood, and positive outlets.”**

- Youth Participant

<sup>22</sup> Turney, K., & Goodsell, R. (2018). Parental incarceration and children’s wellbeing. *The Future of Children*, 28(1), 147-164.

- Probation is collaborating with three of the JJCC-funded CBOs, Kids in Konflikt, Kindful Restoration and Silence Aloud, to implement a Focus Group Mentoring Program. The pilot program is an opportunity to explore how CBOs and probation officers can partner to support youth on probation by providing community mentors. This twelve-month project is being piloted with this idea that if it is successful, it could be shared with other CBOs locally and statewide. Riverside County is connecting with OYCR for technical assistance with this program implementation.

## STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants expressed strategies and recommendations to help **guide** youth. Examples include:

- **Expand the time credible messengers can visit with youth in juvenile hall.** One movement that

is becoming more readily known is the Credible Messenger movement, initially founded by Clinton Lacey. Research is showing success with the inclusion of credible messengers for youth who are justice-involved, with one study of 50 youths ages 14-25 in Sacramento, California showing that

64% of the youth completed the mentorship program. Ninety percent of the youth had no new gun charges, and 44% had no new arrests. One hundred percent of the youth received social services, where 83% completed life skills training, 77% completed anger management training, and 77% completed financial management training.<sup>23</sup>

With the passing of SB 823, county Probation Departments across the state began to reconsider and expand the types of visitors permitted into juvenile halls to support youth who would be in facilities for longer durations of time. In a survey of Probation Departments across California, 79% (30/38) allowed mentors/credible messengers into facilities.<sup>24</sup> Riverside County is one such county. Expanding the time limitations of when credible messengers are allowed to visit youth in juvenile hall and increasing the capacity of mentors to work with the youth enable youth greater access to this vital support.

- **Engage in county-wide trauma-informed training sessions for all staff** who work with the youth population. A provider explained how crucial it is to understand trauma and how to get into the

**“What works really well is when you put a person with lived experience in front of a youth.”**

*- Provider Participant*

<sup>23</sup> Lesnick, et al. (n.d.). Credible messenger mentoring to promote the health of youth involved in the juvenile legal system: A narrative review. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cppeds.2023.101435>

<sup>24</sup> OYCR. (2024). SB 823: 2025 DJJ realignment report.

right mindset to understand how to connect and engage with families and youth. One potential resource is SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation that hosts a trauma-informed response training for criminal justice professionals.<sup>25</sup>

- **Provide families with access to parenting classes and support.** Providers said that parents want to connect, learn from each other, and gain parenting skills such as conflict resolution. Community resource centers are potential places for these types of gatherings. Specifically for youth who are justice-involved, one provider described how essential support groups are for families who have youth in the justice system. Another described the value of parental peer support to navigate the process from start to finish, just like is done with the dependency court and CASA advocates. Probation could facilitate gathering parents together with the help of a therapist, social worker, or community educator to support families of youth who are justice-involved.

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<sup>25</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). Trauma training for criminal justice professionals (GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation). Retrieved December 19, 2025, from <https://www.samhsa.gov/technical-assistance/gains-center/trauma-training>



# Youth and Families Build Academic and Career Skills to Achieve Economic Stability and Advancement

## NEEDS OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES: LEARNING

### Educational and vocational opportunities

Participants across service sectors, the youth themselves and their caregivers mentioned educational and career development as a significant need for youth in the County. Specifically, participants across the data collection activities elevated the need to increase opportunities to support youth to complete high school, engage in tutoring and college readiness programs, and select school and career pathways that fit their personal goals. Research shows that youth who are involved in delinquency or who are incarcerated have high rates of disabilities that can impact their educational outcomes and opportunities. A national survey found that roughly one-third of adolescents in juvenile confinement facilities received educational funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 50% for emotional-behavioral disorders and 39% for learning disabilities<sup>26</sup>. Intervention and specialized support both prior and during incarceration is critical, as youth that are incarcerated were found to have below grade level academic achievement, be suspended from school (one study found 60% were suspended one year prior to entering custody), have high levels of truancy/absenteeism, low grade retention, be under-credited for their age, and tend to drop out of school (one study showed 40% of the incarcerated youth population had dropped out).<sup>27</sup>

Youth who are committed to a SYTF include youth up to age 25, which necessitates options for higher education and vocational training as a part of preparing youth for a successful reentry. Eighteen percent (18%) of providers noted **job skills, career preparation, and life skills** as one of their top three goal areas. Interview participants who work directly with currently incarcerated youth spoke about the youths' aspirations and drive to pursue education and trade skill opportunities. Youths in custody who participated in the listening session explained that what has helped them most to overcome challenges during their involvement with probation were the **job program, college program**, and taking

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<sup>26</sup> Pyle, N., Flower, A., Fall, A. M., & Williams, J. (2016). Individual-level risk factors of incarcerated youth. *Remedial and Special Education, 37*(3), 172-186.

<sup>27</sup> Office of Youth and Community Restoration. (2024). Building higher education pathways for youth in secure youth treatment facilities in California: A call to action. [Building Higher Education Pathways](#)

advantage of the opportunity to learn. Of the seven youths who participated, five identified having a goal to enter a trade. This included HVAC, electrician, plumbing, and construction. Youths described the need to offer pathways that align with the individual goals they wish to pursue, with a provider reinforcing the need for adults to be involved in helping youth see themselves as scholars. The provider reinforced, “involvement is important . . . and the realization that nobody does this alone. . . . It’s gonna be pretty difficult if you try to go at it solo.” A provider specifically mentioned the need for fiduciary support when transitioning back into the community for oversight of FAFSA funding, and another described the need for guidance in the transition process from attending college while in custody to attending while in the community.



There are important things missing that could help stop youth from getting into trouble. For example, **access to good education** is a major issue. Many of us didn’t have opportunities for tutoring or job training, which could help us and provide real chances for a **better future**.

- Youth Participant

Surveyed caregivers with youth on diversion and in the community cited **career development and job training** as needs, reflecting a high priority on supporting youth in their planning for life after high school through job preparation internships, and college or trade school pathways. In addition, **academic support** emerged as a top need from caregivers served by three of the four programs, indicating a moderate but meaningful need for tutoring and help with schoolwork for youth in the community.

Some providers described witnessing the reality of the school-to-prison pipeline, with some noting that this is exacerbated for the special education population. They noted a need to make the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process easier for families and youth, as well as the importance of ensuring each youth receives a plan and the identified services for them to succeed.

### Career development opportunities for caregivers

Career development, workforce training, and economic mobility programs for caregivers can have ripple effects that can greatly improve outcomes for justice-involved youth. Family economic stability is one of the largest protective factors against deeper system involvement.<sup>28</sup> Not only can economic stability reduce stress and increase stability, but it can also afford parents the time to engage with youth in their treatment. This is crucial, as family engagement has been shown to aid in reducing

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<sup>28</sup> Children, youth, families, and socioeconomic status. (n.d). American Psychological Association.

behavioral and mental health issues and improving academic outcomes for youth who are justice-involved.<sup>29</sup>

In the caregiver survey, caregivers highly rated career development and job training (41%) as a service that would be most helpful to them. Specifically, this was linked to support with finding a career path, job training, and building work skills. Providers in the partner survey echoed this need, with one provider stating, “youth whose parents are dealing with financial hardships” is one of the greatest needs to address for youth.

## BARRIERS

Providers and youth themselves identified barriers to youth engaging in meaningful educational and vocational opportunities. Youth who are at-promise/opportunity explained in the listening sessions how they had very little interest in education and learning instead preferring to be with friends or focus on other activities. Providers noted barriers with the cost of college, youth not seeing themselves as scholars, and limitations in options for educational and vocational paths, particularly for those in custody.

## EXAMPLE ASSETS

- Of the youths in custody who participated in a focus group (n=7), five described a career goal in a specific trade. This included trades like: electrician, HVAC, plumbing, and construction. They described the value of learning the trade while in custody and having the support to identify their personal goals and how to work toward them.
- Furlough options are available for attending college programs while in custody, enabling youth to access the community and put their newly developed skills into practice.
- Partnership with the **Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)**, a state-funded program that provides youth with an eligible disability to be provided access to education and career support. Youth are provided with educational stipends for books, tuition, and other necessary supports, as well as assistance with career opportunities, such as purchasing uniforms or permits. This is a partnership that continues even when a youth is released into the community. A youth described the DOR program as a program that “helps you reach your career goals in life.”
- **One-stop shops**, such as the Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) and Family Life Center. The YOC provides youth (ages 14-22) access to job training, resume support, interviewing practice, and support in identifying job opportunities. They provide individual and family

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<sup>29</sup> Family engagement in juvenile justice systems: Building a strategy and shifting the culture. (2025). The Justice Center.

counseling, college application assistance, anger management courses, and many events for youth to participate in.

## STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants expressed strategies and recommendations to help youth **learn**. Examples include:

- **Increase online instruction opportunities.** With the limitations of the environment in detention facilities, in-person instruction is considered the most ideal option. However, due to a lack of staff and requirements to meet a minimum number of full-time equivalent students (FTES), this often requires students enroll in the same courses. This limits choice and opportunity. Newer research recommends online options, as this provides the greatest variety possible when considering the limitations coupled with synchronous components, such as tutoring, or focusing on in-person courses that fulfill requirements for Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs). ADTs offer priority admission to the California State University system.<sup>30</sup>
- **Provide funding support for all aspects of educational pursuits.** The COE is provided state funding to assist youth in acquiring a high school diploma, but not for the pursuit of higher education. Enrollment fees are waived for students who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated through Rising Scholars programs. Books and materials costs can also be reimbursed from the college’s funding. However, tuition fees are not covered.<sup>31</sup> Interview participants discussed how youth struggle to pay for other aspects of their education and need support in applying for FAFSA and scholarship funding.
- **Expand career development options.** Opportunities to develop the acumen and skillset required for job placement enable youth greater stability after custody. Especially with youth being in secure youth track facilities for longer durations, using the time in custody to work toward something productive is essential. Providers suggested investing in additional workforce readiness programs in tandem with paid work experience. These programs should be individualized based on youth interest and personal goals, which will require additional Career Technical Education educators. A youth reinforced that not only is developing career



**“[They need] more programs for youth like specialized training in vocational jobs, i.e. nursing, trucking, plumbing, electrician, etc.”**

*- Caregiver Participant*

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<sup>30</sup> Office of Youth and Community Restoration. (2024). Building higher education pathways for youth in secure youth treatment facilities in California: A call to action. [Building Higher Education Pathways](#)

<sup>31</sup> Office of Youth and Community Restoration. (2024). Building higher education pathways for youth in secure youth treatment facilities in California: A call to action. [Building Higher Education Pathways](#)

goals important, but following up with youth to make sure they are on track is necessary because when they “get bored, old habits kick in.”

Seek more venues for exploring job skills, career preparation, and life skills such as the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) certification through the Building Trades Council, a statewide resource that offers youth access to a six-week or extended 130-hour program where they can acquire an MC3 certification. When paired with a project labor agreement or community workforce agreement, the certificate enables youth to be added to the city’s hiring list.

- **Expand furloughs opportunities to allow youth to access educational and vocational opportunities** outside of a juvenile facility. These opportunities enable youth access to prosocial activities and positive peer and adult support networks, which can continue when youth are released to their communities. Seek additional opportunities for furloughs for youth, as well as adapt policies to offer the opportunity for all youth in juvenile hall, regardless of duration of sentencing. When using the tiered system, youth are provided access to furloughs when reaching Level 4. However, for youths who are not in a facility for the duration of time it takes to reach that level, they do not have an opportunity to participate in furloughs. Adapt policies to be inclusive of those with shorter sentences qualifying for access to this opportunity.
- **Ensure every child and youth in need has access to special education screenings** coupled with IEP support. Train staff or peer parents to walk families through IEPs, including what to expect, how to advocate for what their child needs, and how to support youth in the process.
- **Expand career training opportunities for caregivers.** Caregivers could be invited to participate in CTE opportunities. Additionally, one-stop shops could offer career coaching and training for caregivers as well as the youth.



# Youth Maintain or Obtain Stable Housing and Develop Essential Life Skills

## NEEDS OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES: THRIVING

### Programs to learn and develop life skills

**Life skills training (LST)** and education have been shown to enhance mental health among youth in juvenile detention centers. In tandem with rehabilitative programming, this type of education promotes resilience and social reintegration.<sup>32</sup> In the caregiver survey, across all youth programs (Kids in Conflict, SPARK, SSTS, and Wylie Center), the most consistently prioritized service need was life skills training. It ranked among the top three by caregivers (ranging from 62.5% to 86.4%), emphasizing a strong demand for foundational skills needed for independent and successful adulthood. In the provider survey, 9% of respondents identified life skills training as one of the top three most important needs to focus on, suggesting that providers do not prioritize these skills as much as caregivers.

A youth respondent described the need for youth to learn how to “hustle the right way.” They described skills, including purchasing a car, conversational skills, cooking, cleaning, nutrition, paying bills, setting up auto pay, building credit, investing, and opening high-yield savings accounts, as critical skills to develop. Interview participants reinforced the need for life skills training, adding budgeting, financial literacy, making appointments, grocery shopping, scheduling the day, and positive relationship building to the list of skills needed.

The development of life skills happens inside and outside the home, reinforcing the need for providers, teachers, staff, and families to aid youth in acquiring tangible skills that will support them into adulthood.

### Safe, prosocial spaces

Prosocial, structured spaces reduce exposure to risk factors and build protective skills, including teamwork, decision-making, communication, interpersonal skills, and emotional regulation. Structured activities facilitated through quality after-school programs have been shown to reduce antisocial behavior and arrests.<sup>33</sup> This is critical for youth, especially from a neuroscientific

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<sup>32</sup> Esmaeili, S., & Latifian, M. (2024). Effectiveness of life skills education on mental health of juvenile offenders: A quasi-experimental study of Iranian youth.

<sup>33</sup> OJJDP 2021 annual report. (2023). OJJDP.

perspective, as they experience a “maturity gap” where they have high reward sensitivity coupled with an underdeveloped self-regulatory ability, which increases vulnerability to peer pressure. This can equate to an imbalance in higher risk-taking and emotionally charged situations, which at times can lead to contact with the justice system.<sup>34</sup>

In the provider survey, 9% of respondents identified **after-school activities/centers** as one of the top three most important needs to focus on, with 10% of providers identifying constructive/prosocial activity opportunities as one of their top three goal areas. Youth interview participants described the need for centers that offer activities, like sports, that are not affiliated with schools. They did explain that they were drawn to being around their friends, whether those friends were positive or negative influences; that is where they felt belonging and connection.

Interview participants noted needing to **create spaces** specifically designed for youth, where they would want to be, and around adults with whom they formed a connection. Many noted a need for safe spaces that were engaging for youth, that offered space to connect with their peers, keep busy after school, and create a sense of community.

### Housing in safe, stable environments

Research shows how youth experiencing housing instability, including homelessness, have disproportionate rates of contact with the law and justice system.<sup>35</sup> Stable housing is a social determinant of health that both predicts and can be perpetuated by justice system involvement. Often, without stable housing, survival behaviors, like stealing or substance abuse, can lead to delinquency and more frequent police interactions.<sup>36</sup>

In the partner survey, 44% of respondents identified **basic needs**, including employment, housing, and/or financial assistance, as one of the top three most important family needs to focus on, with 17% identifying housing support as one of the top three most important needs for youth.

When discussing housing for youth during interviews, and specifically the need for **stable housing**, participants discussed the need in four ways: (1) stable housing prior to involvement; (2) transitional housing post-release; (3) stable housing post-release; and (4) housing to supplement less restrictive programming. Participants, including youth, described how important a stable, supportive environment is, both in terms of prevention and when being released. Partners described how youth would make progress during their time at juvenile hall, but if they returned to an environment that was

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<sup>34</sup> Steinberg, L. (2008). A social neuroscience perspective on adolescent risk-taking. 10.1016/j.dr.2007.08.002

<sup>35</sup> Almquist, L., & Walker, S. (2022). Reciprocal associations between housing instability and youth criminal legal involvement: A scoping review. Springer Nature Link.

<sup>36</sup> Juvenile justice. (n.d.). <https://youth.gov/>

unhealthy, unstable, and lacked structure, this would directly reverse the progress made. Additional transitional housing facilities were identified as a need, especially for youth under 18 (as they generally return to their families) and those over 18 for whom returning home is not in their best interest.

Lastly, with the passing of SB 823 and the inclusion of youth on the secure track, the less restrictive program opportunity became an option for the court to provide to youth. Less restrictive programs (LRPs) can either be in a facility (governed by Title 15 standards) or outside of a facility (not governed by Title 15 standards), including those offered through community providers in residential settings or probation in residential settings. LRPs offer youth more freedom and independence than within a hall, where youth have access to the community with ongoing supervision and structure. They still receive day-for-day credit off their baseline commitments while in an LRP. Participants described the value of these programs and indicated a need for Riverside County to **increase residential settings** outside of a facility governed by Title 15 standards for youth to participate fully in the least restrictive environment possible.

## BARRIERS

Barriers to increasing the housing options for youth in Riverside County include that housing is expensive, and options are limited. Providers explained how families can get burnt out by youth who are repeatedly in the system. Providers note that they see families wanting their youth who are older than 18 to find alternative housing options outside of their home, noting that families feel as if the youth are “separate to them.” Additionally, with LRPs being a newer practice (2021), it is uncharted territory. Probation noted that, as part of implementing the newer practice, they are actively working through clarifying expectations for both community- and facility-based application, including considerations related to liability and the phased implementation outlined in the senate bill. In addition, the proper number of staff for oversight and transportation requires careful consideration, especially amongst changing numbers of youth in an LRP at any given time.

## EXAMPLE ASSETS

- Programs provided trauma-informed tools and programming that encourage positive self-development, self-esteem, and self-identity of youth were elevated. Examples include Kids in Konflikt (KIK), a program mentioned twice in interviews and six times in the partner survey, which uses trauma-informed engagement and neuroscience-based strategies to guide youth through a healing-centered journey that strengthens protective factors, rebuilds trust, and empowers them to envision and achieve a successful future. Kindful Restoration specializes in trauma-informed, evidence-based programs that equip youth with the skills, confidence, and purpose needed to thrive. Youths

**“Without Kids in Konflikt, I wouldn’t be the dad I am today. It has helped me grow, stay focused on my sobriety, and be more present for my kids.”**

*- Caregiver Participant*

affirmed this, stating that developing the ability to use positive self-talk and taking ownership to move forward is beneficial.

- Afterschool activities that are available, including sports, STEM clubs, and field trips.
- Building Resilience is a program that engages in trauma work with parents. This program focuses on working with parents to consider how they were raised and what they were passing on to their own children. It is a requirement for parents to participate with the youth in this program. Providers mentioned the great impact it had on the family dynamic.
- Hosting community resource events for youth, such as Raising the Future.

## STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants expressed strategies and recommendations to help youth **thrive**. Examples include:

- **Increase opportunities for prosocial activities.** Suggested examples were leadership development, after-school activities, and safer risk-taking activities. A youth explained how they are drawn to an adrenaline rush, so “finding positive outlets for that rush, [including] boxing, wrestling, riding quads, etc., help youth.”
- **Expand access to phase 4 opportunities.** As mentioned in learning, youth are eligible for furloughs when they reach phase 4. These phases are typically divided up into eight-to-nine-month phases, and thus, if they achieve their goal in that duration of time, they are then moved up a phase. Once youth reach phase 4, they are able to go on trips to watch a movie, attend a USC game, and the like. However, if a youth is sentenced to two to three years, they are not eligible to reach phase 4. A provider described an opportunity to envision the phase structure by moving away from a time-based structure; instead create a merit-based pathway for youth who have shorter sentences to be eligible for the same opportunities. The provider explained how this could instill hope and encourage youth to change their behaviors.
- **Invest in housing for LRP housing opportunities.** One model is a community-based LRP that in addition to housing, provides programming such as behavioral health treatment, education, vocational training, and life skills development.<sup>37</sup> These could be a large community facility or smaller group homes closer to the youth’s community.

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<sup>37</sup> California Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Youth and Community Restoration, *Less restrictive programs: Considerations and possibilities* (2024), OYCR\_OnePager\_LRPs.pdf, [https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/OYCR\\_OnePager\\_LRPs.pdf](https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/OYCR_OnePager_LRPs.pdf)



# Organizations Collaborate to Improve Access to Services

## NEEDS OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES: CONNECTING

### Equitable access to services

Geographic inequities in service across a county can impact aspects like consistency of receiving care after release, degree of parental involvement, and access to preventive care.<sup>38</sup> Despite a county having good programs at its disposal, if they are clustered in certain areas, not all youth or families are able to equally benefit. Equity requires county-wide planning and resource distribution as opposed to isolated programs.

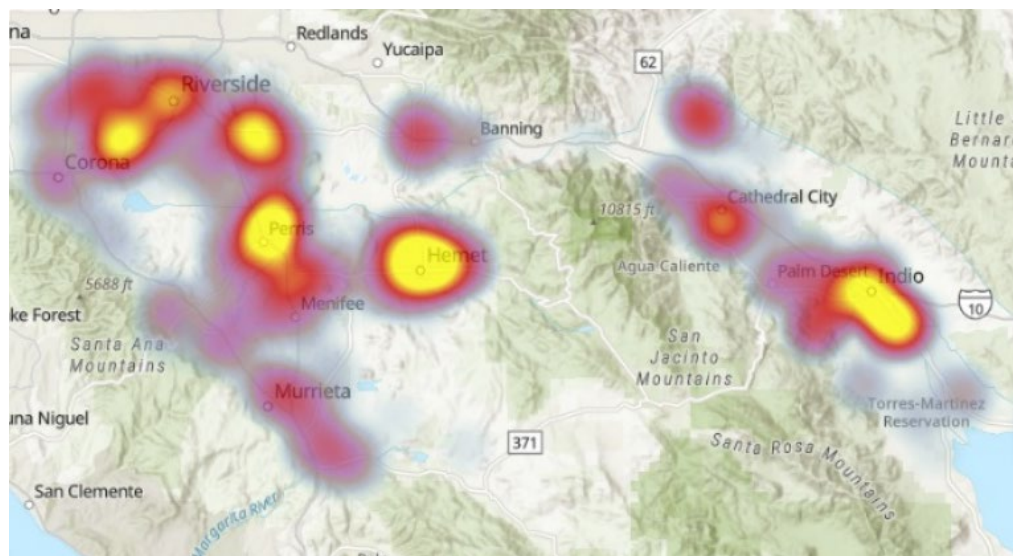
Providers referred to the geographic span of Riverside as a hindrance. In the partner survey, partners ranked the **highest need populations**. By region, partners ranked areas of highest need in the following order: Mid-county (including San Jacinto Valley and pass; 81 mentions), Desert (including Coachella Valley and Blythe; 79 mentions), West (39 mentions), Southwest (23 mentions; Exhibit 25). More specifically, Hemet was ranked as the highest need area with 32 mentions, followed by Riverside with 23 mentions, Desert Hot Springs with 20 mentions, Coachella and Moreno Valley both with 18 mentions, and Blythe with 16 mentions. Participants in the listening sessions and interviews mentioned the Desert the most often (10 times), followed by Mid-county with four mentions.

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<sup>38</sup> Martin, et al. (2024). Mental health aftercare availability for juvenile justice-involved youth in New York City. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law*. 52(3), 1-8.



**Exhibit 27. Riverside County Hot Spot Map of Areas with Most Densely Populated Probation Youth**



Source: Riverside County Probation BIOS. The yellow signifies the most densely populated youth involved with Probation, followed by red, then lavender. There was a small red spot in Blythe not shown due to scale.

Partners in the survey and in interviews described **populations** they saw as having the greatest needs. In accordance with wider national data, these providers noted Black (4 mentions), Latino (2 mentions), and Native American populations (2 mentions). Further, the aspect of **intersectionality** arose, as race, age, gender, disability, immigration status, and socioeconomic conditions interact. Providers who completed the partner survey specifically noted the following populations that they believed had the highest needs in the County: youth involved with child welfare, foster care, or are dually-involved (3 mentions), youth with special needs (2 mentions), families living in poverty (2 mentions), and undocumented individuals (2 mentions). Interviewees also noted (1 mention each) middle school-aged children, adolescents with mental health disorders, English as a Second Language speakers, the LGBTQI+ community, single mothers, and grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Lastly, a component often overlooked as an aspect of equity for youth and families is **language**. When youth or caregivers have limited English proficiency (LEP), they face barriers, including but not limited to lower access to services, lower quality interactions, and more challenges in system navigation.<sup>39</sup> Five partners identified a need for more information and services to be available in Spanish.

<sup>39</sup> Twersky et al. (2024). The impact of limited English proficiency on healthcare access and outcomes in the US: A scoping review. MDPI.

### Integrated awareness and collaboration for a more unified system

Even when a county has strong programs, they can only improve outcomes if youth and families know they exist and can access them. Participants interviewed explained how, too often, county and community providers work in silos. They explained how this led to a **lack of awareness** of what others are doing. Not only is increased awareness amongst providers necessary but also increased awareness amongst families and youth to be aware of the services that are available. In the partner survey, 48% of providers identified improved communication and collaboration among the various systems serving youth and their families as one of the three most important system improvements. In the same survey, 24% of providers ranked improving communication between the justice system/law enforcement agencies and families as one of the three most important system improvements for Riverside County.

With greater **collaboration and information sharing** amongst providers serving youth and families, there may be opportunity for greater continuity of care. In the provider survey, 38% of providers ranked continuity of services as one of the three most important system improvements. Three providers mentioned during interviews that families and providers do not know what services are available or where they are located. They mentioned that providers are “working in silos” and not collaborating or connecting youth and families to other services.

## BARRIERS

Barriers to youth accessing services included transportation and language. In the partner survey, 35% of providers identified transportation as one of the top three greatest barriers for youth. In interviews, participants explained that many youth come from families with a single parent, or a single car shared amongst parents, limiting options for transportation to services, especially if parents are working and using the cars. Participants described how public transportation is unreliable and hard to access, especially in the Desert regions where communities are more dispersed.

Additionally, participants described a barrier for individuals speaking Spanish to receive services and/or information in Spanish.

## EXAMPLE ASSETS

- Inland Southern California 211+ offers 24/7 access to community resource referrals for all Riverside County residents. This includes connections to programs ranging from food assistance, housing, healthcare, employment support, mental health support, and legal aid.

In 2024, residents from Riverside County made 88,409 calls to the center, with the top needs being housing (33%), food/meals (16.59%), and utility assistance (15.63%).<sup>40</sup>

- Riverside County’s CBO Alliance unites a diverse network of nonprofits with a shared mission to overcome systemic challenges and foster vibrant communities. They host capacity-building trainings, town hall meetings, and affinity learning groups. They also partner with Inland Southern California United Way, Riverside County Probation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Amity Foundation, NPO Centric, and OYCR.
- Support Partnerships Advocacy and Resources for Kids (SPARK) was mentioned four times in the partner survey as being a helpful program that connects youth to services. SPARK works to prevent youth from fully entering into the juvenile justice system by coordinating among community resources early to get youth what they may need. SPARK promotes connections to education and behavioral health services and collaborates with schools and community-based providers who can serve as “bridges” to facilitate youth connection to resources.
- To actualize a truly rehabilitative system, all partners need to operate from a rehabilitative space that focuses on healing and accountability. Caregivers who responded to the caregiver survey described the system’s rehabilitative role in their youth’s healing journey, with mentions of supportive programs that offer redirection, mental health diversion, compassionate judges, and a Probation Department that focuses on improvement, not punishment.

**“My grandson was able to obtain support and resources that he didn’t have access to before.”**

- Caregiver Participant

## STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants expressed strategies and recommendations to help youth **connect**. Examples include:

- **Consider funding additional “one-stop shop” service hubs.** These hubs are welcoming environments where youth and/or families can access all the services they need in one location. Services could include counseling, educational programming, housing services, food pantry, and a youth-friendly hangout space. Participants explained the need for one-stop shops to be located and centered where people already are to avoid the need for transportation and long-distance travel.

<sup>40</sup> Inland Southern California United Way. (2025). Inland Southern California 211 contact center 2024 annual report. [211+Annual+Report+2024.pdf](#)

- **Continue partner gathering opportunities.** The CBO Alliance, in partnership with Probation, has recently offered trainings and listening sessions. Holding more of these opportunities where youth service providers can get to know each other and build relationships can help systems become more aware of the services available in the County. Ideally, these would involve County programs from Probation, District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, schools, and CBOs. Providers can discuss the services they offer, ways to refer to each other, and possibly create partnership agreements.
- **Create day reporting centers (DRC).** DRCs are non-resident programs that offer supervised programs for individuals on probation. They aim to help youth transition into reentry and offer services such as parenting programs, employment workshops, counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy interventions, and housing services. DRCs are used with youth locally through the Riverside Day Reporting Center (DRC). While most of the evaluation research on DRCs has shown mixed results, the research has focused on adult centers. One evaluation examining day treatment programs for youth found that participating youth were “significantly less likely than control youth to be rearrested, rearrested for a felony, adjudicated or convicted for an offense, or sentenced to prison within one year of release compared with youth who completed residential programming.”<sup>41</sup>
- **Expand offerings in high-need locales** with limited access to services (such as the Desert region) **through mobile resource units (MRUs).** MRUs are specially equipped vehicles that bring essential services directly to underserved communities. These units typically provide access to healthcare, mental health support, or education. With the mobile nature of the units, they reduce travel barriers and offer more flexible care to communities.
- **Promote awareness events and resource fairs** for families and youth to learn about services and programming available in their communities. One participant explained how schools may consider using their auditoriums before an event (back-to-school night, sports, etc.) as a venue where parents can learn more about what is available in their communities.
- **Increase case management services for families.** Many participants noted that families want support with basic needs such as housing, career opportunities, and transportation, while at the same time are unaware of services in the community. A case manager could be the point person for families to connect them to needed services.
- **Gather and integrate feedback from youth and parents/caregivers.** Consider setting up a youth advisory committee for youth in juvenile hall and in the SYTF track. In other counties in

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<sup>41</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Program. (2011). *Model Programs Guide Literature Review: Day Treatment*. NCJRS Virtual Library. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/model-programs-guide-literature-review-day-treatment>

California, these committees consist of two youth per unit that gather monthly to discuss youth needs, challenges, and ideas for Probation. A provider described the importance of including families in the development of resources, specifically stating, “give the community an opportunity to sit in and listen to the development of the resources network within Riverside County...give them the opportunity to have a voice to tell us what they need.”



**When we are together, we do better. . . . It’s gonna take a village.**

*- Probation Participant*

# Summary

## OVERVIEW

The Plan outlined in this report draws on the most current data to present both a comprehensive and detailed overview of the youth landscape in the County, including demographic characteristics, geographic distribution, and key challenges.

In summary, five core outcomes were identified as the focus of the Plan based on the synthesis of quantitative and qualitative data. Exhibit 28 presents a summary table outlining these five outcomes and their prioritized needs in the left column, highlights opportunities for action in the center column, and provides example performance metrics in the right column to support the measurement of progress.

**Exhibit 28. Summary of Key Outcomes, Needs, Opportunities, and Performance Indicators**

DESIRED OUTCOMES AND KEY NEEDS	KEY OPPORTUNITIES	SAMPLE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<b>Healing:</b> Youth strengthen their social and emotional well-being.		
Need behavioral health support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase access to youth therapy; create more TAY drop-in centers</li> <li>- Provide more family counseling opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the number of youth in therapy</li> <li>- Increase family communication and coping skills</li> </ul>
Need avenues to restore harm with community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Embed restorative justice programs into existing programs that youth are already participating in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decrease recidivism</li> </ul>
<b>Guiding:</b> Youth are guided by positive and supportive adult relationships.		
Need positive support from adults in youths' lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand credible messenger programs</li> <li>- Provide families access to parenting classes and support</li> <li>- Engage in countywide trauma-informed training sessions for all staff that work with youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the number of youth who have at least one caring adult in their life</li> <li>- Increase number of providers who practice trauma-informed care to children and youth, recognizing and reacting appropriately to trauma-based behavior</li> </ul>
<b>Learning:</b> Youth build academic and career skills to achieve economic stability and advancement.		
Need educational and vocational opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand career development opportunities, especially for youth in custody</li> <li>- Ensure every child and youth has access to special education screenings coupled with IEP support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the number of system-impacted youth who have hands-on job training or an internship opportunity</li> <li>- Increase the number of youth screened for special education needs</li> <li>- Percentage of families receiving IEP orientation or coaching sessions</li> </ul>
<b>Thriving:</b> Youth maintain or obtain stable housing and develop essential life skills.		
Need programs to learn and develop life skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase opportunities for prosocial activities with embedded life skills components</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the number of youths who access after school and other informal programs focused on supporting youth development</li> </ul>
Need safe, prosocial spaces		
Need housing in safe, stable environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invest in housing for LRP housing opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in housing options for LRP</li> </ul>

<b>Connecting: Organizations collaborate to improve access to services.</b>		
Need equitable access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider funding additional “one-stop shop” service hubs.</li> <li>- Gather and integrate feedback from youth and parents/caregivers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in geographic distribution of “one-stop-shop” service hubs</li> <li>- Percentage of youth and families reporting improved ease of access to services</li> </ul>
Need integrated awareness and collaboration for a more unified system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue partner gathering opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in providers’ awareness of community resources</li> </ul>
Need career development opportunities for caregivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase case management services for families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in parents who access needed services</li> </ul>

# Implementation of the Plan

Although each outcome presented in this report includes distinct findings and recommended strategies, the final selection of approaches should be informed by both theory and practice. The following three steps provide a starting point for implementing the plan.

1. Evaluate opportunities within the County to align with the Plan’s recommendations.
2. Explore opportunities across systems, including other county departments and CBO partners, to align with the Plan’s desired outcomes.
3. Integrate the Plan’s recommended strategies into upcoming internal and cross system planning processes and assessments.

## ALIGNMENT WITH THE JJCC THREE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

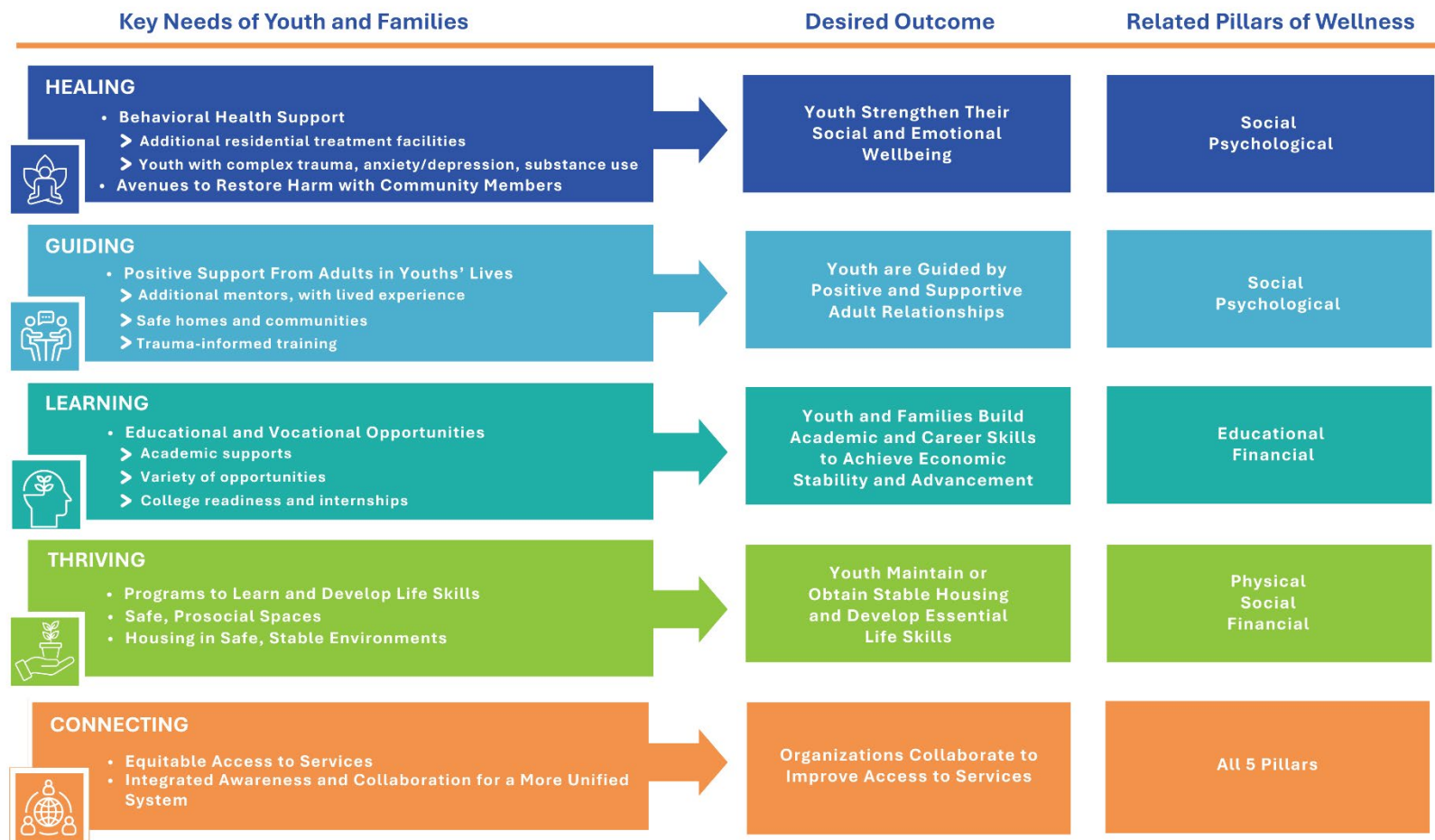
The JJCC Three-Year Action Plan prioritizes personally tailored goals based on a multidimensional, comprehensive, whole-person wellness approach. The Plan emphasizes five key dimensions, known as the Pillars of Wellness, that should be focused on for youth to be not only well, but successful: physical, social, psychological, educational, and financial. These are depicted in Exhibit 29, and include examples of potential activities and programs that could support youth.

**Exhibit 29. Pillars of Wellness and Associated Programs and Activities**

 <b>Physical</b>	 <b>Social</b>	 <b>Psychological</b>	 <b>Educational</b>	 <b>Financial</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Hygiene</li> <li>• Fitness</li> <li>• Sports</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Preventive Care</li> <li>• Stress Reduction</li> <li>• Sex Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Skills</li> <li>• Anti-bullying</li> <li>• Family Values/ Parenting</li> <li>• Anger Management</li> <li>• Substance Abuse Counseling</li> <li>• Gang Awareness</li> <li>• Prevention/ Intervention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive Behavioral Therapy</li> <li>• Self-Discovery</li> <li>• Pursuit of Purpose</li> <li>• Suicide Prevention</li> <li>• Healthy Self-Esteem</li> <li>• Personal Development</li> <li>• Life Coach/ Mentorship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarships/ Grants</li> <li>• Guidance Counseling</li> <li>• After School Programs</li> <li>• College Prep</li> <li>• Leadership Development</li> <li>• Academic Support</li> <li>• Effective Communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Literacy</li> <li>• Job Placement</li> <li>• Vocational Training</li> <li>• Career Readiness</li> <li>• Career Development</li> <li>• Entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Community Give Back</li> </ul>

The chart below demonstrates how the five outcomes in the Plan relates to the Pillars of Wellness. Each of the pillars is aligned with at least two of the outcomes. As the Connecting need and outcome is meant to increase access to all services, it indirectly supports all of the pillars. Conceptually, if the County improves upon an outcome area, the related pillars should improve. For example, if youth are guided by positive and supportive adult relationships, this would improve their social and psychological pillars.

**Exhibit 30. Alignment of Needs and Outcomes in the Plan with the Pillars of Wellness**



The Continuum of Community Care recognizes that youth need services across five key stages: Prevention, Diversion, Intervention, Reentry, and Aftercare (Exhibit 31). At the core of this continuum are needs assessment, resource connection, growth planning, and mentorship support, which guide individualized services throughout a youth’s involvement. The model emphasizes a holistic approach by including the Pillars of Wellness. Each outcome in the Plan is relevant across the full continuum of care.

**Exhibit 31. Continuum of Community Care**



## CONCLUSION

Riverside County is in a transformative phase of juvenile justice reform. The County has leveraged the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Transforming Juvenile Probation initiative to build momentum toward a youth-centered, rehabilitative approach. Under the leadership of the current Chief of Probation, significant structural changes have been implemented to strengthen transparency, including the removal of funding caps in the JJCPA Community-Based Organization Request for Proposals process. These changes have expanded opportunities for community-based organizations and fostered stronger partnerships through the relationship with the CBO Alliance. Collectively, these efforts position Riverside County to implement the Plan described in this report with a unified vision, ensuring that collaboration across systems drives measurable improvements in outcomes for youth and families.

## About the Researcher

Founded in 1980, Applied Survey Research (ASR) is a nonprofit social research firm based in Central and Northern California whose mission is to conduct community-based research and evaluation services that help people build better communities. ASR's award-winning services, including community assessments, strategic planning, program design, and program evaluation, focus on strengthening the capacity of our partners to achieve their goals.

[www.appliedsurveyresearch.org](http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org)

# Appendix A — Stage-Setting Meeting Protocol

## Questions

1. What programs, services, or systems of support are currently working well to address the needs and challenges of the youth at greater risk of entry and those newly entering, within, and leaving the juvenile justice system?
2. What are recent key changes that impacted available services and supports for youth at-risk of or currently involved the Juvenile Justice system in Riverside County?
3. What are the most critical gaps in services and supports that may increase the likelihood of a youth entering or reentering the justice system?
  - a. Are those gaps different for justice-involved youth versus other underserved/at-risk youth?
  - b. Are those gaps different depending on where youth live in the County? Or for particular populations?
4. What are examples of solutions (programs, policies, etc.) that you know or have heard about that could help fill identified gaps in support for youth in the County?

# Appendix B — Youth Listening Session Protocol

## Questions

1. What education, career or other life goals do you want to achieve in the next year or couple of years?
2. What barriers do you or other young people experience that make it hard to reach these goals [consider school, family, work, peers, providers, probation/law enforcement, etc.]?
3. Being in the custody of probation was probably not one of your goals. Looking back, was there anything that could have helped you **avoid the circumstances that brought you to juvenile hall**? [prevention/early intervention including youth programs, mentors/supports, school/teachers, friends/peers, family, law enforcement, development of communication, behavioral, or other skills]
4. What has **helped you the most to overcome challenges** during your involvement with juvenile probation? Are there any specific programs, activities, or mentors that have helped you that you can share? If so, what did you like about the person/program/activity?
5. What do you **look forward to the most** when you are released? If anything is possible, what would help you to **successfully complete your terms of probation** after release and to **reach your goals and dreams**? What do you want from yourself, your family, your school, and your community?
6. Is there anything else you'd like to share related to this topic?

# Appendix C — Provider Interview Protocol

## Questions

### 1. Introduction

- a. Please briefly describe your role and how long you've been in it.
- b. In what ways does your organization or program support youth who are at risk of justice involvement or already justice-involved?
- c. Where does your organization typically engage with these youth (e.g., Juvenile Hall, schools, community, residences)?

### 2. Unmet needs

1. Considering just the populations that your organization serves, what are the top unmet needs or key challenges of:
  - i. Youth at-risk of juvenile justice involvement in the County?
  - ii. Youth who are currently involved in the justice system (on probation, incarcerated, or at reentry) in the County?
  - iii. Parents/caregivers of these youth?

### 3. Populations and Barriers

1. Which areas of the County or populations of youth have been most affected by the circumstances you've mentioned? (Consider geography, language, culture, gender, ethnicity, etc.)
  - i. What barriers do these youth or families face in accessing services or supports?
  - ii. Are there specific gaps in services or supports that stand out to you for these populations?

### 4. Programs and Supports That Are Working

- a. What programs, services, or supports are currently working well for youth:
  - i. At greater risk of entering the system?
  - ii. Entering the system?
  - iii. While in the system?
  - iv. Transitioning out of the system?

5. **Ideas for Improvement**

1. Given the circumstances you have talked about today, if new funding became available:

- i. What new programs, services, or activities would you recommend?
- ii. What existing programs should be expanded or strengthened?
- iii. What gaps in services or unmet needs should be prioritized?
- iv. What key **system improvements** (consider education, law enforcement, behavioral health, human services, etc.) could positively impact the lives and futures of the youth that you serve or support?

6. **Anything else we should know?**

# Appendix D — Caregiver Survey

1. Please select which program you and your youth/child are currently receiving services from or received services from in the last year. If you participated in more than one program, select the one you participated in the most.

- Kids in Konflikt (1)
- SSTS (2)
- SPARK (3)
- Wylie Center (4)

2. How would you rate your satisfaction with the services you received from the program you selected in Question 1?

	Very dissatisfied (1)	Dissatisfied (2)	Neutral (3)	Satisfied (4)	Very satisfied (5)
Level of satisfaction (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. What did you *like* about the services you received in the program you selected in Question 1?

4. What did you *not like* about the services you received in the program you selected in Question 1?

5. What kind of services would be most helpful for *your youth/child* at this time? (choose all that apply)

**Academic Support** – Help with schoolwork and learning needs, like tutoring and homework help.

**Alternatives to Incarceration** – Programs like drug courts, diversion, or restorative justice that focus on helping youth instead of sending them to Juvenile Hall.

- Alternatives to School Suspension** – Options for students who are suspended, such as supervised programs or restorative justice activities, instead of being sent home alone.
- Basic Needs Support** – Help with things like housing, food, money, and other essentials.
- Career Development and Job Training** – Help with planning for life after high school, including job training, internships, resume writing, and college or trade school support.
- Conflict Resolution Training** – Teaches youth how to manage anger, solve problems peacefully, and communicate better.
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation** – Help for youth struggling with substance use, including detox and recovery programs.
- Family Therapy** – Counseling that helps families communicate better, set healthy boundaries, and build stronger relationships.
- Gang Prevention and Intervention** – Programs to keep youth out of gangs or help them leave gang life behind.
- Leadership Development** – Opportunities for youth to lead, speak up, and take responsibility in their communities or programs.
- Life Skills Training** – Practical lessons like learning to drive, manage money, sign a lease, or open a bank account.
- Mental Health and Behavioral Therapy** – Support for youth dealing with depression, anxiety, trauma, addiction, or other mental health issues.
- Mentors, Coaches, and Advocates** – Trusted adults who guide and support youth through challenges and help them build resilience.

**School-Based Counseling Services** – Easy access to mental health help at school for students who need it.

**After-School Programs and Centers** – Safe places with fun and skill-building activities like sports, art, tutoring, or volunteering.

**Teen Parenting Classes** – Classes that help young parents learn how to care for their children and build healthy relationships.

Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What kind of services would be most helpful for *you* at this time? (choose all that apply)

**Alcohol and Drug Services** – Help for dealing with alcohol or drug use. (1)

**Basic Needs Support** – Help with finding a job, housing, or financial assistance. (2)

**Behavioral Health Services** – Treatment for parents or caregivers who are struggling with mental health issues. (3)

**Career Development and Job Training** – Support with finding a career path, job training, or building work skills. (4)

**Family Therapy** – Counseling that helps families improve communication, build stronger relationships, and increase parental involvement. (5)

**Family Violence Intervention** – Programs that address domestic violence and support safer, healthier parenting. (6)

**Case Management, Referrals and System Navigation Support** – Help for parents/caregivers in finding and connecting to services and understanding how to get support for their families. (7)

**Legal Support** – Help for parents or families with legal issues, including justice system or immigration-related concerns. (8)

**Parent Support Groups** – Groups where parents/caregivers of youth can share advice, experiences, and resources. (9)

**School Support** – Help or resources offered through schools to assist parents/caregivers and students. (10)

**Parenting Classes** – Classes that teach parent/caregivers better communication, problem-solving, and relationship skills to support their children/youth. (11)

**Translation Services** – Language help to make sure families can understand and access services in their preferred language. (12)

Other (Please Specify) (13)

---

7. What challenges did you face when trying to get services like the ones listed above? (choose all that apply)

It was difficult to get connected because staff kept changing (1)

I couldn't afford to take off work (2)

I didn't have child care for my younger kids (3)

The services didn't match my culture or weren't in my language (4)

I wasn't eligible or lost eligibility (5)

I didn't have enough time (6)

- I didn't have transportation to get to or from the services (7)
  - My family's legal status made it hard to participate (8)
  - There was a long wait (9)
  - The program I wanted wasn't available (10)
  - I wasn't interested in joining the program or service (11)
  - I was worried about being judged or looked down on for getting help (12)
  - I didn't have any challenges (13)
  - Other (Please Specify) (14)
- 

8. Is your youth/child involved in the Juvenile Justice system (e.g. Probation, Juvenile Hall, etc.) or have they been in the past?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

8a. What are some good things about the Juvenile Justice system?

8b. What are some things that could be better in the Juvenile Justice system?

9. Is there anything else you'd like to add on this topic?

Thank you for answering these questions! Please answer the last few optional questions about yourself.

10. I am the \_\_\_\_\_ of the young person who received services from the program selected in Question 1.

- Mother (1)
- Father (2)
- Brother or Sister (3)
- Guardian (4)
- Grandparent (5)
- Other (Please Specify) (6) \_\_\_\_\_

11. What is your gender?

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Transgender (3)
- Non-binary (4)
- Prefer not to say (5)
- Other (Please Specify) (6) \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is your race/ethnicity? (choose all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- Middle Eastern or North African (2)
- Asian (3)

- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (4)
  - Black or African American (5)
  - White (6)
  - Latino(a) or Hispanic (7)
  - Prefer not to say (8)
- 

13. If you would like to be entered into a raffle for a \$50 Amazon gift card, please enter your email address. If you win, Applied Survey Research will contact you using the email address you provide below.

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## Appendix E — Partner Survey

What is the name of your agency or organization?

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Do you represent a specific program at your agency/organization?

No

Yes (Please enter the program name):

---

In that agency/organization, what is your primary role?

Agency or Division Director

Coordinator

Direct Service Provider

Manager/Supervisor

Program Lead/Director

Other (Please specify): 

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**What is your primary service sector?**

- Community medical, substance use and/or mental health treatment or other support services for children and/or youth (e.g., clinic, CBO)
- County Office of Education, school districts, and/or school-affiliated organizations/programs
- County Probation Department
- Juvenile Court System (e.g., Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender's Office)
- Non-Probation Law Enforcement (e.g., Police Department, Sheriff's Office, etc.)
- Other County Agency serving youth (e.g., Behavioral Health, DPSS)
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your race or ethnicity? (Please select all that apply)**

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

- White
- Another race/ethnicity (Please specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Which populations does your organization primarily represent or serve? (Select all that apply)**

- Minors (12-17) in the community who are at-promise/opportunity
- Transitional age youth (TAY, under 25) in the community who are at-promise/opportunity
- Youth (under 25) in custody or incarcerated
- Youth (under 25) previously justice-involved in the community
- Parents/caregivers of youth (under 25) who are/were justice-involved
- Parents/caregivers of youth (under 25) who are at-promise/opportunity
- Community/the public
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain or list what programs and services are *positively* impacting youth in your community. These are programs and services that already exist in Riverside County.

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When it comes to youth in contact or at higher risk of contact with the juvenile justice system, what are the top five *needs* that Riverside County Juvenile Probation Department should focus on to support their success? Please rank up to 5 areas of focus by entering '1' as your first choice, '2' as your second choice, etc. in up to five text boxes below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Behavioral and mental health (e.g., anxiety, depression, PTSD/trauma symptoms, substance use disorders, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Constructive/prosocial opportunities for youth (e.g., afterschool programs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family/parent/caregiver education and engagement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gang affiliation/involvement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing stability
- \_\_\_\_\_ Job skills, career preparation, and life skills (e.g., driver training, opening a bank account, completing a rental agreement)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Positive social connections from peers and other adults (e.g., mentoring)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Safety in neighborhoods (e.g., low crime, pro-social community-building activities, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Safety in the home (e.g., trauma/abuse, familial violence, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ School engagement and performance (e.g., decreased absences, disciplinary referrals, GPA, earning a diploma/GED)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Second chances and alternative pathways for youth aligned with restorative justice principles of holding youth accountable and repairing harm caused
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trauma-informed knowledge and approaches
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify):

Thinking of the top areas of need that you identified in the prior question, what are the top 10 *services/supports* that would have the largest positive impact when it comes to youth avoiding entering or reentering the justice system?

Please rank up to 10 choices by entering '1' as the highest impact, '2' as the second highest impact, etc. in up to 10 text boxes below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Academic support (e.g., to help youth who have academic issues and other special educational needs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ After-school activities/centers (e.g., safe places with programs designed to teach a variety of skills/hobbies and for youth to spend free time involved in constructive activities [such as sports, arts, tutoring, community service])
- \_\_\_\_\_ Alternatives to incarceration (e.g., to support rehabilitation such as the use of drug courts, diversion programs, and other restorative justice practices)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conflict resolution training (e.g., to provide communication, anger management, and conflict resolution skills)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drug/alcohol rehabilitation (e.g., to help youth detox and receive treatment for alcohol and other drug use)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Family therapy (e.g., to work on improving and strengthening family functioning [such as communication skills, relationship building, boundary setting, promote parental involvement, etc.])
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gang prevention/ intervention programs (e.g., to prevent gang involvement and help youth find alternatives to gang involvement)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing support (e.g., for youth without stable shelter including transitional and permanent housing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership development (e.g., to give youth leadership responsibilities, a voice, and a sense of ownership)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Life skills training (e.g., driver training, opening a bank account, completing a rental agreement)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mental health/behavioral therapy (e.g., to help youth who present with problems such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, conduct disorder, school/social problems, anger management issues, addiction, cooccurring diagnoses, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mentors/coaches/advocates (e.g., to help youth in difficult environments find a positive role model or caring adult to help them develop resiliency skills)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post-secondary career counseling/training/job placement (e.g., post-secondary education planning and support, vocational training, job placement and career planning, resume building)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prevention and early intervention services (e.g., programs in schools and the community that aim to prevent youth from entering the justice system)
- \_\_\_\_\_ School-based counseling services (e.g., to aid in early intervention and easy access to counseling for youth with mental health/behavioral health needs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transitional or "reentry" services (e.g., to help youth who are reentering their communities (such as families, schools) after being placed in juvenile hall, camp, group home or foster care, for example housing, continuity of services, mentorship, school or job support, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trauma-specific training/services (e.g., support of interventions that recognize the interrelation between trauma and behavioral and mental health issues and address the root causes and impacts of trauma in relationships, decision-making, and cognitive processing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wraparound services and support for youth with high needs including those in out-of-home care (e.g., case management, counseling, academic support, and other services that address the unique needs of youth)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify):

If desired, please provide additional explanation, details, or examples regarding your selections above.

---

Listed below are some of the *barriers or challenges* that prevent youth from seeking help or fully engaging in services. In thinking about the youth you serve or represent, please rank up to 5 barriers to accessing services and supports by entering '1' for the top barrier or challenge, '2' as the second highest barrier, etc. in up to five text boxes below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disconnection due to staff turnover

- \_\_\_\_\_ Financial hardships or cost of services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of childcare for younger siblings or other family members (e.g., youth is helping to take care of younger siblings or provide care to others in family)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services (e.g., services in other languages, service providers from diverse cultures/ethnic background)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of or loss of program/service eligibility
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of time (e.g., working multiple jobs while attending school, leaving no time to access needed services))
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of transportation to/from services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Legal status of families (e.g., undocumented immigrants have reduced eligibility for care, fear about consequences of seeking resources)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Long wait time or unavailability of desired programs or services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Low desire to participate in a program/service (e.g., denial of problem, unwillingness to put in effort, apathy/depression, lack of understanding of importance of problem or potential benefit of services)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stigma (e.g., negative cultural or familial beliefs about those who seek help through counseling, treatment programs, public assistance or other social services)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trauma symptoms that impair the ability to engage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify):

**From your perspective, what are the top five *services/supports* for the *families and caregivers* that would have the largest positive impact in preventing youth from entering or reentering the justice system? Please rank up to 5 services/supports by entering '1' for the highest impact, '2' for the next highest impact, etc. in up to five text boxes below.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Basic needs (e.g., employment, housing, and/or financial assistance)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Behavioral health services (e.g., treatment for parent or caregiver's mental health and substance use disorders, trauma-specific services, medication management)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family therapy (e.g., to work on improving and strengthening family functioning [communication skills, relationship building, promote parental involvement, etc.]
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family violence interventions (e.g., programming aimed at domestic violence, neglectful, or abusive parenting)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Information and referral/case management for services (e.g., to help parents of youth who are at higher risk know what resources exist and how to navigate systems of care to obtain appropriate support to meet their needs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Legal consultation (e.g., assistance for parents/families on justice or immigration issues)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parent support group (e.g., for parents of youth who are at higher risk to share resources and provide support and information)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parenting education/skills classes (e.g., to provide communication, relationship building, and conflict resolution skills for parents of youth who are at higher risk)

\_\_\_\_\_ Support to help navigate the systems youth encounter (e.g., knowledgeable/caring adults who can help parents/families learn how to navigate the system to obtain appropriate services to meet their needs such as a parent/family advocate or parent partner)

\_\_\_\_\_ Translation services

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify):

Listed below are some of the *barriers or challenges* that prevent *families and caregivers* from seeking help or fully engaging in services that reduce juvenile crime. While thinking about the families you serve or represent, please rank up to 5 barriers to accessing services and supports by entering '1' for the top barrier, '2' for the next highest barrier, etc. in up to five text boxes below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Disconnection due to staff turnover

\_\_\_\_\_ Financial hardships or cost of services

\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of childcare

\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services (e.g., services in other languages, service providers from diverse cultures/ethnic background)

\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of time (e.g., working multiple jobs)

\_\_\_\_\_ Lack of transportation to/from services

\_\_\_\_\_ Legal status of families (e.g., undocumented immigrants have reduced eligibility for care, fear about consequences of seeking resources)

\_\_\_\_\_ Long wait time or unavailability of desired programs or services

\_\_\_\_\_ Low desire to participate in a program/service (e.g., denial of problem, unwillingness to put in effort, apathy/depression, lack of understanding of importance of problem or potential benefit of services)

\_\_\_\_\_ Not eligible for services

\_\_\_\_\_ Stigma (e.g., negative cultural or familial beliefs about those who seek help through counseling, treatment programs, public assistance or other social services)

\_\_\_\_\_ Trauma symptoms that impair the ability to engage

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify):

Please rank up to five *youth-serving system improvements* that you think would help strengthen the County's capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable youth and their families by entering '1' for the improvement with the highest impact, '2' for the next highest impact, etc. in up to five text boxes below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Continuity of services (e.g., allowing youth to remain with their therapist when released from probation programs)

\_\_\_\_\_ Culturally appropriate services (e.g., service providers from diverse cultures/ethnic background, etc.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gender-specific services that address and are sensitive to the unique needs of young men and women
- \_\_\_\_\_ Improved communication and collaboration among the various systems serving youth and their families (e.g., sharing of information, multidisciplinary case management and planning, warm hand-offs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Improved communication between the justice system/law enforcement agencies and families
- \_\_\_\_\_ Increased data sharing among systems serving youth and their families (e.g., access to IT systems to cross-reference/report on shared clients)
- \_\_\_\_\_ LGBTQ+ services that are sensitive to the unique needs of these youth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Linguistically appropriate services (e.g., translation/services in other languages)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Restorative justice practices (e.g., support rehabilitation of youth by focusing on repairing harm and youth accountability rather than punishment)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sustained (long-term) funding for program/services
- \_\_\_\_\_ System of early identification of children and youth who are at higher risk of justice involvement (e.g., to offer children and families access to services and supports that address issues before they escalate)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trauma-informed system of care (e.g., to ensure all who have contact with youth understand the impact of trauma on youth mental behavior and health)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify):

**Which of the cities or regions below would benefit most from more funding? Please select up to 3 areas.**

- Banning
- Beaumont
- Blythe
- Calimesa
- Canyon Lake
- Cathedral City
- Coachella

- Corona
- Desert Hot Springs
- Eastvale
- Hemet
- Indian Wells
- Indio
- Jurupa Valley
- La Quinta
- Lake Elsinore
- Menifee
- Moreno Valley
- Murrieta
- Norco
- Palm Desert
- Palm Springs

- Perris
- Rancho Mirage
- Riverside
- San Jacinto
- Temecula
- Wildomar
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

What specific populations (e.g., ethnic groups, genders, age groups, youth/families with specific risk factors, etc.) have the greatest needs or challenges in accessing services and support? Please explain.

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Considering your responses to this survey, what else do you want the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council to know or consider as it sets funding priorities for the coming years?

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### Application for Community Member

Application Date: 01/29/2026

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name: Isaac Ernesto Duran Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED] Zip: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] Driver's License Number: [REDACTED]

Employment: [REDACTED] Job Title: [REDACTED]  
(If retired, please note previous occupation & employer)

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED] Zip: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

Educational Background: High School Diploma

Professional & Fraternal Affiliations: N/A

Community Activities: Youth Peer Support

References (Other than relatives):

Name: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Name: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Name: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED]

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

(You may use and attach additional pages.)

Which subcommittee are you applying for?

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Which category applies to you?

- Experience in community-based youth services       Youth Justice Advocates with expertise in the juvenile justice system.       Directly involved in juvenile justice system.

Please describe your qualifications in one of the three areas listed above and discuss what contributions you feel you might make to the subcommunities activities.

I mentor and counsel the Youth Programming. I have supported youth who faced barriers such as trauma, poverty, family instability and exposure to violence. I have worked directly with youth and families impacted by the system and understand how systemic barriers and inequities affect outcomes. I have direct lived experience with the juvenile system as a Youth my uncle was incarcerated.

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Please describe why you want to serve on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee:

I want to serve on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee because I am committed to supported youth in our community through evidence based, trauma informed practices. I believe in creating systems that are fair, rehabilitative, and focused on long term success.

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**MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Please check the box next to each requirement to acknowledge:

- Attend scheduled meetings  
 If unable to attend scheduled meetings provide advance notice and send a designee  
 Complete work assignments on time

Isaac Ernesto Duran

Print Name



Signature

01/29/2026

Date

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)**  
**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**  
**Available Funding**  
**Fiscal Year 2026/27**

**Agenda Item #10a**

**FY2025/26 Estimated Funding (in millions)**

**Amount**

FY 2026/27 Riverside Co Share of Statewide Allocation (\$107.1M)	\$	6,685,177
FY 2025/26 Riverside Co Share of Estimated Growth Funding (October 2026)	\$	7,233,464
FY 2025/26 JJCC Estimated Contingency Balance - 6.30.26	\$	24,793,865
<b>Total FY 2026/27 Estimated Available Funding</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>38,712,506</b>

**FY26/27 Budget Request (in millions)**

JJCC Approved Fully Executed Contracts	\$	5,496,560
District Attorney Office	\$	2,348,603
Public Defender Office	\$	1,549,000
Probation Department	\$	5,183,679
Riverside County Office of Education	\$	42,234
Raising the Future	\$	20,000
CBO Alliance Technical Assistance	\$	50,000
	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,690,076</b>
<b>Total Estimated FY2026/27 Contingency Funds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,022,430</b>

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
 Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)  
 JJCC Approved Fully Executed Contracts List  
 Fiscal Year 2026/27**

**Agenda Item #10a**

**Expansion Services Round 3 - Term Ends 6.30.2027**

**Amount:**

Operation Safe House	242,068
Kids in Konflikt	120,258

**Expansion Services CBO Contracts (RFP 94 - 6.30.28 )**

**Amount:**

Calicinto Ranch	707,427
Chavez Education Services	230,000
Community Outreach Ministry	43,760
Kindful Restoration	412,260
Raincross Boxing Academy	190,941
Riverside Art Museum	88,351
Safe Family Justice Center	349,100
Silence Aloud	334,411
The Carolyn E. Wylie Center of Children, Youth & Families	316,159
DPSS - Sigma Beta @ Harmony Haven***	100,000

**Community Led Diversion (RFP 93)**

Safe Family Justice Center	2,140,325
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**RFP Evaluation Services, GAP Analysis and Annual Plan**

Applied Survey Research "ASR"	171,500
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**Transformation Juvenile Probation (TJP) Certificate Program:**

The Exception	50,000
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<b><u>Total Executed Contracts</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 5,496,560</u></b>
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**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
 Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Acti Funding Request (JJCPA)  
 FY 2026-27**

<b>Agency/Department Name:</b>	Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Crime Prevention Unit
<b>Contact Name/Phone:</b>	Melissa Donaldson, Director; contact Denise Rodriguez, secretary dmrodriguez@rivcoda.org 951-955-0280
<b>Program(s) Service:</b>	De-Escalation and Assistance Resource Team (DART) / K-9 Support Dog Program
<b>Brief Description of Program:</b>	<p>The De-escalation and Assistance Resource Team (DART), a program of Riverside County District Attorney's Office (RCDAO or DA) is a comprehensive and quick response team called to provide an immediate response to crisis situations. The purpose of the team is to: a) help deescalate tension, fears, stress and anxiety; b) prevent violence and retaliation; c) provide education regarding penal consequences that can occur if students respond in a manner that violates the law; d) suggest healthy, helpful, and appropriate responses to incidents of hate, anger, violence, or injustice; and e) provide resources to help students deal with anger, depression, fear, or anxiety. Youth who are referred to DART are provided case management services by a SAFE Family Justice Centers specialist. The DART program partners with the Riverside County Probation Department, local law enforcement, the Department of Behavioral Health, and CBOs. DART also includes a multi-disciplinary meeting, the Violence Prevention Council, which provides a platform to engage community providers about resources, services, and provides education regarding topics that impact at-risk youth using the expertise of Riverside County providers.</p> <p><b>K-9 Support Dog Program:</b>          Provides comfort and rapport-building for youth during needs assessments, group sessions, DART activities, and counseling.</p> <p><b>SAFE Family Justice Centers (SFJC) Programs:</b>          Comprehensive case management and advocacy services for at-promise youth and families.          Long-term social emotional support through educational outreach and prevention teams.</p> <p><b>Social Emotional Learning Programs:</b>  <b>Girls Circle and Boys Council:</b> Structured group programs to develop self-esteem and relationship skills using evidence-based principles and practices, incorporating Motivational Interviewing, Cultural Responsivity, Strengths-Based approaches, and Trauma-Informed practices.  <b>iLead Teen Leadership Program:</b> Leadership development based on John Maxwell's values-based curriculum.</p>
<b>Types of Programming/Service: (Select all that apply)</b>	Other Mentoring Prosocial Learning Gang Awareness Legal Services
<b>Stage(s) Provided: (Select all that apply)</b>	Diversion Non-Probationer Supervision Other
<b>Performance Goals:</b>	Goal 1: Provide direct intervention and trauma-informed case management services for youth and their families to improve quality of life and deter entry into the criminal justice system.

	<p>Goal 2: Facilitate a multidisciplinary meeting for fellow youth-serving organizations that provide services in Riverside County to better serve the youth and families we interact with.</p> <p>Goal 3: Use a trained Support K9 to provide outreach, education, and intervention to youth during needs assessments, groups sessions, DART activities, and counseling.</p>
<p>Performance Objectives:</p>	<p>Objective 1: Provide trauma informed, free and confidential intervention programming that provides case management, needs assessment, financial assistance, access to pro-social activities, mentoring, and exposure to positive decision making. Support families with barrier reduction to help improve their overall quality of life.</p> <p>Objective 2: Strengthen cross-system collaboration by convening the Violence Prevention Council at least 10 times annually, engaging representatives from law enforcement, probation, behavioral health, schools, and community organizations to coordinate prevention strategies and share resources.</p> <p>Objective 3: Conduct visits with the trained Support K9 to school sites and community events throughout Riverside County so the K9 can provide quiet comfort and support to youth during needs assessments, groups sessions, DART activities, and counseling. Enhance youth engagement in crisis intervention and counseling services by incorporating the K-9 Support Dog, helping reduce anxiety and increase youth participation.</p>
<p>Origin of Referrals:</p>	<p>CPU serves at-promise youth in Riverside County and is intended to support youth who are experiencing different stages of exposure to the juvenile justice system and is intended to serve as a prevention program for area youth by focusing its efforts on engaging youth who have not entered the juvenile justice system. CPU has expansive partnerships and formal referral processes with critical stakeholders who refer into the program regularly and engages in exhaustive outreach to continue developing referral sources to reach youth. Currently, CPU has major referrals partnerships with government organizations that include but are not limited to County Board of Supervisors, Probation and Law Enforcement agencies, Public Defender, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Social Services, various county Multi-disciplinary Teams, county Child Advocacy Centers, statewide Victim Service Organizations, Department of Education, all 23 school districts in the county, local tribes and military bases, at-promise youth serving community based organizations and others, the Riverside County Child Abuse Prevention Council known as the HOPE Collaborative, direct public engagement, web and social media engagement, and more.</p>

<p>Past Outcomes:</p>	<p>Based on information from previous years, CPU anticipates that the number of community members reached by CPU programming, the frequency of success outcomes from truancy prevention efforts, and the overall availability of an increasing variety of quality programming and resources to meet if not exceed the levels seen in recent years and will consist of qualitative and quantitative outcome data.</p> <p>Responding to School Violence and Other Traumatic Incidents DART held 83 meetings involving youth. The meetings with the most youths in attendance were follow-up meetings (155 youths) and community meetings (90 youths). While only four youths attended the initial response meetings, those were mostly targeted to parents.</p> <p>Additionally, DART reported 136 CBO members and social workers in attendance at six violence prevention council meetings. DART reported HOPE scores, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) scores, and Benevolent Childhood Experiences (BCE) scores.</p> <p>K9 Support Program – Total: 14 visits; 1,628 attendees</p>
<p>Estimated Number of Youth to be Served:</p>	<p>Total: 1,000 for case management, pro-social learning &amp; mentorship &amp; 1,000+ in youth education attendance.</p>
<p>Expected Outcome/KPI:</p>	<p>Based on information from previous years, the CPU anticipates that the number of community members reached by CPU programming, the frequency of success outcomes from truancy prevention efforts, and the overall availability of an increasing variety of quality programming and resources to meet if not exceed the levels seen in recent years and will consist of qualitative and quantitative outcome data. DART: CPU will report the number of youths served and a breakdown of services received by youth. K9 Support Program: Report the number of K9 visits completed. Pro-social, Mentorship, and Case Management Programming: Report summary of services received.</p> <p>Report number of youth enrolled in groups and activities.</p> <p>CPU will report the number of at-promise youth who receive financial assistance supported by the Stability Fund.</p>
<p><b>Total Budget Request:</b></p>	<p>\$ 225,739</p>
<p>Salaries &amp; Benefits:</p>	<p>\$ 120,758</p>
<p>Operating Costs:</p>	<p>\$ 104,981</p>
<p>Fixed Assets:</p>	<p>\$ 0</p>

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
 Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Funding Request (JJCPA)  
 FY 2026-27**

<b>Agency/Department Name:</b>	Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Crime Prevention Unit
<b>Contact Name/Phone:</b>	Melissa Donaldson, Director; contact Denise Rodriguez, secretary dmrodriguez@rivcoda.org 951-955-0280
<b>Program(s) Service:</b>	Gang Awareness, Mentorship and Education (GAME)
<b>Brief Description of Program:</b>	<p>The Gang Awareness, Mentorship, and Education (GAME) program of RCDAO works to deter youth from gang involvement through powerful and compelling anti-gang presentations. Effective and practical parenting skills presentations are also provided as an educational tool for parents. Experienced prosecutors travel throughout the County and give presentations that teach youth about the devastating social and legal consequences of gangs. They also teach parents about gang paraphernalia, warning signs, and parenting strategies to keep their children out of gangs, and train educators and social services staff about local gangs. The GAME program consists of five main types of presentations: (1) gang awareness; (2) drug awareness; (3) fentanyl awareness; (4) GAME preview presentations; and (5) Parent Power presentations, which cover positive healthy relationships with children, effective discipline strategies, and strategies for helping youth avoid risky behaviors. Additional GAME outreach includes presentations at a conference, at juvenile justice facilities, and directly to youth and parents served by the RCDAO or Probation Department. The GAME program also partners with speakers and organizations that help highlight the impact of these topics with lived experience testimony.</p> <p>GAME also encompasses Youth Literacy Programs that are operated in the County's lock down juvenile justice facilities. The programs were designed to create an interest in reading and writing amongst its participants.</p>
<b>Types of Programming/Service: (Select all that apply)</b>	<p>Other          Mentoring          Prosocial Learning          Gang Awareness          Legal Services</p>
<b>Stage(s) Provided: (Select all that apply)</b>	<p>Diversion          Non-Probationer          Supervision          Other</p>
<b>Performance Goals:</b>	<p>Goal 1: Provide prevention education to youth.          Goal 2: Provide direct intervention for youth and their families to improve quality of life and deter entry into the criminal justice system          Goal 3: Provide pro social engagement to incarcerated youth through the literacy program.</p>
<b>Performance Objectives:</b>	<p>Objective 1: Increase access to youth safety education by providing prevention education in local schools and youth serving community programs on the topics of drug awareness, gang awareness, fentanyl, and parent power. Improve youth decision-making and resistance to peer pressure after participating in GAME programming.</p> <p>Objective 2: Provide direct intervention and confidential case management services connecting them with behavioral health, mentoring, educational, and community resources designed to strengthen family stability and reduce risk factors associated with justice system involvement. Services include needs</p>

	<p>assessment, financial assistance, access to pro-social activities, mentoring, and exposure to positive decision making. Support families with barrier reduction to help improve their overall quality of life.</p> <p>Objective 3: Improve pro-social engagement among youth in juvenile justice facilities by providing literacy programs to participants to increase interest in reading, writing, and educational activities</p>
Origin of Referrals:	<p>CPU serves at-promise youth in Riverside County and is intended to support youth who are experiencing different stages of exposure to the juvenile justice system and is intended to serve as a prevention program for area youth by focusing its efforts on engaging youth who have not entered the juvenile justice system. CPU has expansive partnerships and formal referral processes with critical stakeholders who refer into the program regularly and engages in exhaustive outreach to continue developing referral sources to reach youth. Currently, CPU has major referrals partnerships with government organizations that include but are not limited to County Board of Supervisors, Probation and Law Enforcement agencies, Public Defender, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Social Services, various county Multi-disciplinary Teams, county Child Advocacy Centers, statewide Victim Service Organizations, Department of Education, all 23 school districts in the county, local tribes and military bases, at-promise youth serving community based organizations and others, the Riverside County Child Abuse Prevention Council known as the HOPE Collaborative, direct public engagement, web and social media engagement, and more.</p>
Past Outcomes:	<p>Per ASR's Annual JJCPA Evaluation report for Riverside County 2024-2025, GAME served 9,975 youth during the reporting period.</p> <p>During the 2025 calendar year, members of CPU made a total of 78 GAME presentations to over 8,836 attendees.</p> <p>During FY 2024-2025, 918 youth participated in youth literacy programs.</p>
Estimated Number of Youth to be Served:	Total: 5,000 for GAME / 800 for youth literacy
Expected Outcome/KPI:	<p>Based on information from previous years, the CPU anticipates that the number of community members reached by CPU programming, the frequency of success outcomes from truancy prevention efforts, and the overall availability of an increasing variety of quality programming and resources to meet if not exceed the levels seen in recent years and will consist of qualitative and quantitative outcome data.</p> <p>Gang Awareness, Mentorship, and Education: The number of youths and adults who are reached with prevention education services will serve in the thousands. Report setting type &amp; language presentation was provided in.</p> <p>Literacy Programs: Report the number of youths served.</p>
<b>Total Budget Request:</b>	\$ 284,766
Salaries & Benefits:	\$ 179,785
Operating Costs:	\$ 104,981
Fixed Assets:	\$ 0

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)**  
**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Acti Funding Request (JJCPA)**  
**FY 2026-27**

<b>Agency/Department Name:</b>	Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Crime Prevention Unit
<b>Contact Name/Phone:</b>	Melissa Donaldson, Director; contact Denise Rodriguez, secretary dmrodriguez@rivcoda.org 951-955-0280
<b>Program(s) Service:</b>	Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)
<b>Brief Description of Program:</b>	Through the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) program, RCDAO and the SAFE Family Justice Centers focus on truancy prevention efforts in partnership with schools, students, and families. They work to prevent truancy through three levels of intervention: School Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings, SARB meetings, and truancy mediation meetings. The first level of intervention, the SART meeting, is where Deputy District Attorneys and SAFE Family Justice Centers advocates co-facilitate programming that educates students and families about supporting and protecting children's education. RCDAO plays a central role in the second level of intervention, school districts' SARB meetings, by providing legal expertise related to truancy. RCDAO's truancy mediation meetings, the final phase in the SARB process, are authorized by the Education and Welfare and Institutions Codes. In these meetings, Deputy District Attorneys meet with students and families who continue to fail to improve their truancy, even after the district's SARB meetings.
<b>Types of Programming/Service: (Select all that apply)</b>	Other Mentoring Prosocial Learning Gang Awareness Legal Services
<b>Stage(s) Provided: (Select all that apply)</b>	Diversion Non-Probationer Supervision Other
<b>Performance Goals:</b>	Goal 1: Improve school attendance among truant youth Goal 2: Provide direct intervention for youth and their families to improve quality of life and deter entry into the criminal justice system
<b>Performance Objectives:</b>	Objective 1: Provide intervention services for truant youth utilizing the SARB model and identifying and addressing primary reasons for the cause of truancy in a youth's life.  Objective 2: Provide free and confidential intervention programming that provides case management, needs assessment, financial assistance, access to pro-social activities, mentoring, and exposure to positive decision making. Support families with barrier reduction to help improve their overall quality of life.
<b>Origin of Referrals:</b>	CPU serves at-promise youth in Riverside County and is intended to support youth who are experiencing different stages of exposure to the juvenile justice system and is intended to serve as a prevention program for area youth by focusing its efforts on engaging youth who have not entered the juvenile justice system. CPU has expansive partnerships and formal referral processes with critical stakeholders who refer into the program regularly and engages in exhaustive outreach to continue developing referral sources to reach youth. Currently, CPU has major referrals partnerships with government organizations that include but are

	not limited to County Board of Supervisors, Probation and Law Enforcement agencies, Public Defender, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Social Services, various county Multi-disciplinary Teams, county Child Advocacy Centers, statewide Victim Service Organizations, Department of Education, all 23 school districts in the county, local tribes and military bases, at-promise youth serving community based organizations and others, the Riverside County Child Abuse Prevention Council known as the HOPE Collaborative, direct public engagement, web and social media engagement, and more.
Past Outcomes:	Per ASR's Annual JJCPA Evaluation report for Riverside County 2024-2025, SARB served 1,717 youth during the reporting period.  During the first half of the 2025-26 school year, the CPU SARB team participated in over 1,655 attendance-related meetings with students, parents/guardians, and district personnel (including SART, SARB, and DA Mediation Hearings). Of those students, 12.1% improved their attendance within 30 days of the meeting.
Estimated Number of Youth to be Served:	Total: 1,500
Expected Outcome/KPI:	Anticipated outcomes include helping youth experience a change in circumstances by providing case management and barrier reduction services for children and parents and helping students improve their attendance within 30 days of a SART, SARB, or DA Mediation meeting.
<b>Total Budget Request:</b>	\$ 1,494,305
Salaries & Benefits:	\$ 1,251,288
Operating Costs:	\$ 243,017
Fixed Assets:	\$ 0

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
 Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Acti Funding Request (JJCPA)  
 FY 2026-27**

<b>Agency/Department Name:</b>	Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Crime Prevention Unit
<b>Contact Name/Phone:</b>	Melissa Donaldson, Director; contact Denise Rodriguez, secretary dmrodriguez@rivcoda.org 951-955-0280
<b>Program(s) Service:</b>	Youth Education and Safety (YES)
<b>Brief Description of Program:</b>	RCDAO's Youth Empowerment and Safety (YES) program consists of presentations that educate the public, families, educators, and youth about the dangers associated with peer pressure, unsupervised internet use, improper youth/adult relationships, unhealthy teen relationships, and oversexualization and exploitation of vulnerable youth. Specifically, the YES program consists of seven types of presentations: Bullying/Cyberbullying, Healthy relationships/Teen Dating Violence, Hate Crimes, Internet Safety, Human Trafficking, Juveniles and the Law, and the Power of Education. The presentations explain the consequences associated with voluntary involvement in risky and illegal activities and where to go for assistance for possible solutions.
<b>Types of Programming/Service: (Select all that apply)</b>	Other Mentoring Prosocial Learning Gang Awareness Legal Services
<b>Stage(s) Provided: (Select all that apply)</b>	Diversion Non-Probationer Supervision Other
<b>Performance Goals:</b>	Goal 1: Provide prevention education to youth Goal 2: Provide direct intervention for youth and their families to improve quality of life and deter entry into the criminal justice system
<b>Performance Objectives:</b>	Objective 1: Increase access to youth safety education by providing prevention education in local schools and youth serving community programs on the topics of healthy relationships, bullying, internet safety, hate crimes, juveniles and the law, human trafficking, and the power of education.  Objective 2: Provide free and confidential intervention programming that provides case management, needs assessment, financial assistance, access to pro-social activities, mentoring, and exposure to positive decision making. Support families with barrier reduction to help improve their overall quality of life.
<b>Origin of Referrals:</b>	CPU serves at-promise youth in Riverside County and is intended to support youth who are experiencing different stages of exposure to the juvenile justice system and is intended to serve as a prevention program for area youth by focusing its efforts on engaging youth who have not entered the juvenile justice system. CPU has expansive partnerships and formal referral processes with critical stakeholders who refer into the program regularly and engages in exhaustive outreach to continue developing referral sources to reach youth. Currently, CPU has major referrals partnerships with government organizations that include but are not limited to County Board of Supervisors, Probation and Law Enforcement agencies, Public Defender, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Social Services, various county Multi-disciplinary Teams, county Child Advocacy Centers, statewide Victim Service Organizations, Department of Education, all 23 school districts in

	the county, local tribes and military bases, at-promise youth serving community based organizations and others, the Riverside County Child Abuse Prevention Council known as the HOPE Collaborative, direct public engagement, web and social media engagement, and more.
Past Outcomes:	<p>Based on information from previous years, CPU anticipates that the number of community members reached by CPU programming, the frequency of success outcomes from truancy prevention efforts, and the overall availability of an increasing variety of quality programming and resources to meet if not exceed the levels seen in recent years and will consist of qualitative and quantitative outcome data.</p> <p>During the 2025 calendar year, members of CPU made 98 YES presentations to 15,272 students, families, and other members of the community. During that same time period, members of the GAME team made a total of 78 presentations to over 8,836 attendees. Community education and outreach for youth, parents, and professionals will enhance awareness and skills to address concerning behaviors presenting in youth.</p> <p>The number of youths and adults who are reached with prevention education services will serve in the thousands.</p> <p>Report setting type &amp; language presentation was provided in.</p>
Estimated Number of Youth to be Served:	Total: 1,000 for case management, pro-social learning & mentorship & 1,000+ in youth education attendance.
Expected Outcome/KPI:	<p>Based on information from previous years, the CPU anticipates that the number of community members reached by CPU programming, the frequency of success outcomes from truancy prevention efforts, and the overall availability of an increasing variety of quality programming and resources to meet if not exceed the levels seen in recent years and will consist of qualitative and quantitative outcome data. Youth Safety: The number of youths and adults who are reached with prevention education services will serve in the thousands. Report setting type &amp; language presentation was provided in. Pro-social, Mentorship, and Case Management Programming: Report summary of services received. Report number of youth enrolled in groups and activities. CPU will report the number of at-promise youth who receive financial assistance supported by the Stability Fund.</p>
<b>Total Budget Request:</b>	\$ 343,794
Salaries & Benefits:	\$ 283,813
Operating Costs:	\$ 104,981
Fixed Assets:	\$ 0

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
 Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Funding Request  
 (JJCPA) FY 2026-2027**

<b>Agency/Department Name:</b> Law Offices of the Public Defender	
<b>Contact Name/Phone:</b> Joelle Moore, Supervising Deputy Public Defender, (951) 304-5603	
<b>Program(s)/Service:</b> SPARK-Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids	
Brief Description: (Provide a brief description of the program)	SPARK, through the Law Offices of the Public Defender, is an intervention and prevention program designed to benefit middle and high-school aged youth who are represented by the Public Defender's Office and at-promise Transition Age Youth (TAY) throughout Riverside County. SPARK's services expand the traditional role of the youth's attorney, going beyond the courtroom and embracing a research-backed, holistic approach to rehabilitation and wellness. SPARK team members work collaboratively, using evidence-based practices, to assist in identifying unaddressed academic and mental health needs, as well as other barriers to successful transition into adulthood, as early in the process as possible, and link youth to individually tailored and appropriate resources through coordinated community partnerships. Legal consultations, advocacy and referrals are also provided, as well as information sharing and trainings for partnering agencies, school districts, and community-based organizations.
Types of Programming/Service: (Hold CTRL to Select all that apply)	Legal Services Other
Stage(s) Provided: (Hold CTRL to Select all that apply)	In-Custody Supervision Diversion Non-Probationer Other
Performance Goals/Objectives:	<b>Goals:</b> Given the diverse needs of the population we serve, SPARK has multiple goals: 1) prevent prolonged entry into the justice system by establishing and utilizing a coordination of community resources early in the court process; 2) promote favorable outcomes, such as increased access to education and increased protective factors for those who enter the system; (3) remove barriers and promote positive transitions to adulthood for Transition Age Youth using an integrated, community-based approach; (4) facilitate increased access to information, awareness and support through community engagement, trainings and collaborative partnerships. <b>Objectives:</b> Assist in identifying unaddressed or under addressed academic and mental health needs, as well as other barriers to successful transition into adulthood, provide support, ongoing guidance and advocacy during special education, school discipline, and Inland Regional Center proceedings to bolster community supports and preserve less restrictive placements where appropriate, and link youth and families to appropriate resources through information sharing and community partnerships.
Origin of Referrals:	SPARK provides coordinated, accessible services countywide, with a team in each of the three Riverside County regions. Referrals can be made from within the Public Defender's Office, by other County Agencies, School Districts or Community Based Organizations, as well as by the clients and/or families directly. Referral forms are available within the community, but the team is also accessible via phone, email, at various community events, or during walk-in hours at locations throughout the county, including embedded within RUHS Behavioral Health's Transition Age Youth Drop-In Centers.
Past Outcomes:	SPARK's volume of clients receiving direct services in FY 24-25 increased to 726, with 486 new clients. The team completed 1133 service referrals. SPARK attorneys provided direct representation in 127 special education, discipline and other school legal matters, with 51 students receiving new or revised special education services and 92% receiving better outcomes in school discipline cases. SPARK social workers connected 298 youth/families to new or additional resources within the community and provided ongoing support to confirm connections. SPARK team members conducted 21 trainings to community and agency audiences, participated in 17 resource fairs across the county, and engaged in 106 stakeholder & community collaborative meetings, reaching a total of over 7,500 attendees. SPARK received universally positive satisfaction ratings in recent parent surveys.
Estimated Number of Youth to be Served:	Total: 500 Direct-Service Clients (does not include presentation and resource fair audiences, or participating family/guardians of direct-service clients)
Expected Outcome/KPI:	Performance indicators include but are not limited to: Consistent Direct Service Volume, Improved Outcomes in Direct Representation School Discipline and Special Education Matters, Client/Participant/Parent Surveys to Measure Increased Knowledge and Outcome Satisfaction, and Consistent Community Engagement as Measured by Participation in Community Events, Trainings, and Information/Resource Sharing.
<b>Total Budget Request:</b>	\$1,549,000
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,490,000
Operating Costs	\$ 44,000
Fixed Assets	\$ 15,000

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
 Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Acti Funding Request (JJCPA)  
 FY 2026-27**

<b>Agency/Department Name:</b>	Probation
<b>Contact Name/Phone:</b>	Veronica Soto/ 951-600-6291
<b>Program(s) Service:</b>	Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS)
<b>Brief Description of Program:</b>	Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS) is a supervision model for youth ages 12-18, granted informal probation pursuant to 654.2, 725, and 790 WIC. The overall goal of the program is to assist the youth (and their parents) with successful completion of probation by the youth's first review hearing. Case management will include youth/family engagement, as well as appropriate supervision to assist the youth with the following: improvement in school attendance/performance, abstinence from alcohol/substance abuse, participation in appropriate counseling (based on their needs), and positive community involvement through community service and/or participation in pro-social activities.
<b>Types of Programming/Service: (Select all that apply)</b>	Other Mentoring Prosocial Learning Gang Awareness Legal Services
<b>Stage(s) Provided: (Select all that apply)</b>	Diversion Non-Probationer Supervision Other
<b>Performance Goals:</b>	To have each youth participant successfully complete informal probation by their first review hearing.
<b>Performance Objectives:</b>	Offer SSTS to all applicable youth and maximize case management, intervention strategies with an emphasis on school performance, sobriety, and pro-social engagement for successful outcomes.
<b>Origin of Referrals:</b>	Referrals will generate within the Probation Department, as applicable upon the disposition of a youth in Court.
<b>Past Outcomes:</b>	According to the Applied Survey Research (ASR) report for fiscal year 2024-25, 586 youth were served by the program. Of the 289 closed STSS cases, 266 (92%) clients successfully completed their informal probation. A youth engaged in the SSTS program explained how the program helped assist with employment and accomplishing their goal of finishing school. Youth in SSTS had 53 new violations. Overall, 91% of caregivers were satisfied or very satisfied with the program.
<b>Estimated Number of Youth to be Served:</b>	Total: 700
<b>Expected Outcome/KPI:</b>	75% Successful completion rate (or higher) by first Review Hearing; Recidivism rate below 8% for successful participants (For the next year/12 months).
<b>Total Budget Request:</b>	\$ 5,183,679
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits:</b>	\$ 4,666,368.15
<b>Operating Costs:</b>	\$ 518,310.82
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>	\$ 0



## Office of Youth and Community Restoration

# Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act & Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG) 2026 Consolidated Annual Plan

Date:	March 2026
County Name:	County of Riverside
Contact Name:	Tiki Copeland
Telephone Number:	951.955.2835
Email Address:	TiCopeland@rivco.org

## 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. Please use this template or ensure your submission meets the accessibility standards by reviewing either the Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF checklists published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website here [Accessibility Conformance Checklists | HHS.gov](#). Your submission will be posted to the OYCR website once it is confirmed to meet the accessibility standards.

**Once the report is complete, attach the file to an email and send it to: [OYCRgrants@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCRgrants@chhs.ca.gov).**

## Contents

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act & Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG) 2026 Consolidated Annual Plan .....	1
INSTRUCTIONS: .....	1
Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A)) .....	3
A. Assessment of Existing Services .....	3
B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas .....	8
C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy .....	9
D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions .....	15
Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)) .....	16
A. Information Sharing and Data .....	16
B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils: .....	16
C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements .....	17
Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) – (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a)) .....	27
A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders .....	27
B. Regional Agreements .....	28
C. Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements .....	28

# Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

## **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.

Riverside County law enforcement consists of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and 29 city police agencies. Additional resource providers include the District Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Probation Department, and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), which provide a continuum of services such as Successful Short Term Supervision (SSTS, page 17), Support, Partnerships, Advocacy, and Resources for Kids (SPARK, page 20), De-escalation and Assistance Response Team (DART, page 18), and Gang Awareness, Mentorship and Education (GAME, page 18), Youth Empowerment and Safety Program (YES, page 19), and Student Attendance Review Board (SARB, page 19).

Educational services throughout the county are provided by public school districts, private schools, and the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE). RCOE provides alternative and continuing education for youth who have struggled academically and/or behaviorally in the traditional school setting, as well as to those detained through the Riverside County juvenile justice system. This includes youth detained at the county's three juvenile detention and treatment facilities.

RCOE court school programs provide small, structured learning environments, credit recovery, Career Technical Education pathways, special education services, and transition support for youth returning to their home districts. Educational programming is aligned with state standards and includes trauma-informed practices, integrated behavioral supports, and collaboration with probation and behavioral health partners.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain. Many justice-involved youth enter with substantial credit deficiencies, interrupted educational histories, and unmet social-emotional needs. Graduation rates and consistent school re-engagement following release continue to be areas of focus. Strengthening family engagement, expanding workforce readiness opportunities, and enhancing post-release follow-up services are identified needs to support long-term success and reduce recidivism. Data analysis is used not only to monitor academic progress, but to inform cross-agency strategies that support school engagement as a protective factor against reoffending. For youth who graduate from RCOE programs, the County has focused on higher education opportunities by collaborating with local colleges.

Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) provides services to people throughout Riverside County through its wellness, mental health, substance abuse, and prevention programs. These services are provided at various community hospitals and clinics, in addition to co-locating at the Probation Department's treatment/detention facilities. RUHS-BH collaborates with the Probation Department to provide wraparound services to youth and their families.

Numerous community-based organizations (CBOs) provide a variety of programs and services to youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system which include: food and housing assistance, counseling services, educational and employment programs, mentoring, pro-social development, as well as general support services. Some CBOs are contracted through the county to provide these services, free of charge, to youth and families. These contracted CBOs are: Calicinto Ranch, Inc., Carolyn E. Wylie Center for Youth and Families, Chavez Educational Services, Community Outreach Ministry, Kids in Konflikt, Kindful Restoration, Operation Safe House, Raincross Boxing Academy, Riverside Art Museum (RAM), Safe Family Justice Centers, and Silence Aloud Inc. In addition, numerous non-contracted entities assist in providing a variety of services across the county.

In July 2025 the County entered into a contract with SBX Youth and Family Services to provide Specialty Mentorship Services at Harmony Haven Children and Youth Center (page 24), a county-owned transitional placement for Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 300 foster youth experiencing placement disruption. The Harmony Haven Specialty Mentorship Program utilizes evidence-informed and evidence-based practices aligned with DPSS expectations, Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), and best practices for working with foster youth with complex needs. These services include Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), Positive Youth Development (PYD), Restorative & Relational Practices, Critical Mentoring and Engagement-Based Intervention.

In November 2025, the County entered a contract with the Safe Family Justice Centers (SFJC) to deliver Community-Led Diversion (CLD) services. The program is designed to offer a more effective response for youth involved in low-level offenses who have come to the attention of law enforcement, but do not require formal court intervention. The Probation Department is working closely with SFJC to launch the program, which will rely on a countywide network of community-based organizations to provide pre-court diversion services to eligible youth. The model also allows the District Attorney's Office to route referrals they deem suitable directly to CLD. This initiative aligns with the County's Transforming Juvenile Probation (TJP) framework, which prioritizes diverting youth away from the formal justice system and connecting them to supportive, community-rooted services.

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

Since January 2025, the County has partnered with the third-party research firm, Applied Survey Research (ASR) to strengthen data collection, analysis, and evaluation across JJCPA-funded programs. ASR develops tracking measures, analyzes services delivered to youth and families, and produces an annual evaluation report that includes referral trends, service types, outcome data, and feedback gathered through youth and family surveys.

This year, ASR also completed a comprehensive 3-Year Juvenile Justice Plan (JJP) informed by input from 24 county and community agencies and more than 250 participants. The plan identifies current needs, service and system gaps, and desired outcomes for justice-involved and at-risk youth and provides recommended strategies to guide future JJCPA funding decisions. In addition, ASR is developing a Comprehensive Measurement Report to establish consistent data points for cross-provider review and analysis, as well as an Evaluation Sustainability Report to support a long-term, self-sustaining evaluation framework. These efforts will enhance the County's ability to monitor outcomes, identify gaps, and make data-driven decisions that strengthen services for youth and families.

Quarterly meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council provide a consistent, structured forum for collaboration among county agencies and community-based organizations. These meetings bring partners together to share updates, review data, and discuss emerging needs affecting youth and families. By fostering open dialogue and cross-agency problem-solving, the JJCC helps remove barriers and ensures that diverse perspectives inform planning and decision-making. The result is stronger relationships, greater transparency, and a more coordinated, community-aligned approach to juvenile justice strategies across the county.

Quarterly Juvenile Justice and Dependency Brown Bag meetings with agency stakeholders provide a shared forum to discuss emergent issues, new or changing legislation and protocols, available resources and general trends between the regions within the county.

Since the establishment of the JJCC Ad Hoc Advisory Committee (AHAC) in January 2024, significant progress has been made in strengthening communication and collaboration among county agencies and community partners. In July 2024, the AHAC developed a 3-Year JJCC Action Plan to guide coordinated efforts and ensure alignment with shared priorities. The committee provides ongoing technical assistance by answering questions, facilitating local connections, and offering clarification to support meaningful analysis and informed decision-making.

The AHAC also works closely with the County's CBO Alliance to enhance communication between county departments and community-based providers and to elevate the work being done across both groups. Together, these efforts promote transparency, build trust, and reinforce a unified approach to improving outcomes for youth and families.

In response to AB 2083, the Interagency Leadership Team which includes Probation, RUHS–BH, RCOE, the Inland Regional Center, the Courts, and the Public Defender has established a coordinated system of care to better support children and youth with complex needs. This team meets monthly to provide oversight and strategic direction to the System of Care Steering Committee, composed of DPSS, Probation, Behavioral Health, and RCOE. The Steering Committee’s work is further advanced through several specialized subcommittees, each addressing targeted goals monthly.

Collectively, these structures are designed to strengthen collaboration, improve communication, and ensure a unified, countywide approach to serving foster youth and other vulnerable populations. The overarching aim is to create a more seamless, responsive, and integrated system that enhances outcomes for children and families across Riverside County.

There are several other collaborative efforts among multiple agencies designed to meet specific goals. These collaborative efforts include:

- Dual Status Staffing: Comprised of Probation and DPSS. The group meets once per month to maintain communication regarding how best to serve each dual status youth.
- Interagency Placement Committee: Comprised of Probation, RUHS-BH, RUHS-PH, and RCOE. The group meets twice per week to determine eligibility and suitability for out-of-home placement of applicable youth.
- AMC-YTEC Treatment Team: Comprised of Probation, RUHS-BH, RUHS - Correctional Health, and RCOE. The group meets bi-monthly per unit to address the progress of each youth in the treatment program.
- Behavioral Health Commissions Children's Committee: Comprised of Probation, RUHS-BH, RCOE-Special Education Local Plan Area, Victor Community Support Services, Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), and DPSS. The group meets monthly to discuss behavioral and mental health updates, and to provide parent support and training.
- Child Welfare and Attendance Committee: Comprised of Probation, RCOE, DPSS. The group meets monthly to discuss at-risk youth, various issues surrounding school attendance, and available services.
- Independent Living Plan (ILP) Consortium: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, Oak Grove Thrive, Aspiranet Transitional Housing Placement and Foster Care (THP+FC), Aspire THP+, RCOE, RUHS-BH and RUHS-PH. The group meets bi-monthly to discuss current ILP events, how to better serve ILP youth, and networking with community partners to assist in serving ILP youth.

- Juvenile Competence Attainment Team: Comprised of Probation, RUHS- BH, Inland Regional Center, and RCOE. The group meets regularly as needed to review/assess services available to assist minors in restoring competency.
- Support Letter Subcommittee: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, and RUHS- BH. The group meets following the submission of a new STRTP for consideration to interview potential providers and/or review Short-term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) program statements.
- Interagency Committee on Placements: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, and RUHS-BH. The group meets monthly to maintain communication regarding issues with placement providers.
- Joint Provider Meeting: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, RUHS-BH, and Placement Providers. The group meets twice yearly to disseminate information regarding Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), review current legislation, policy, and forms related to youth in out-of-home care.
- Interagency Educational Partnership: Comprised of RCOE, Public Defender, Probation and a CBO. The group meets monthly to discuss how to better meet the needs of foster youth in the county.
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Committee: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, RUHS-BH, RCOE, BSCC, and IRC. The group leads the identification, coordination, and establishment of the key components needed to operate a County-wide CSEC Program. The group meets monthly.
- Child Family Team Meetings (CFTM) Committee: Comprised of Probation, DPSS, RUHS-BH, RCOE, and IRC. The group meets monthly to provide a shared forum for departments to align and strengthen CFTM practices, including developing training that supports consistent processes and procedures across teams.
- DPSS/Probation Collaborative Meetings: Comprised of Probation and DPSS. This group holds collaborative quarterly meetings with DPSS and Probation staff to provide guidance, education, and training to social workers and probation officers who serve dual-status youth and dependent youth on informal probation.
- Executive Advisory Council: Comprised of DPSS, Probation, RCOE, Riverside USD, and RCC. This council meets quarterly to ensure that the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program is effectively supporting local educational agencies in providing coordinated, high-quality services to foster youth, reviewing progress and strengthening collaboration across the region.

## 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.

Riverside County is committed to providing a county-wide strategy which prioritizes focus areas. The county collaborated with Riverside County Information Technology (RCIT) to complete GIS (Geographic Information Systems) hot-spot mapping to identify trends across various regions and drive decision making. The overarching goal of this mapping is to identify the location of juveniles, offense types and chronic absenteeism trends. Currently the hot-spot mapping includes:

- Juveniles: Information on youth location (by city), offense type, age, and race.
- Juveniles by City: Information on the number of youths by city.
- Chronic Absenteeism: Information on chronic absenteeism and suspension data, organized by school district and individual schools.
- Daytime Burglaries: Information on the date of burglary, including age and race of individuals involved.
- Probation Department field offices, detention and treatment facility locations.

The annual Program Evaluation Report, completed by ASR, included the following hot-spot mapping:

- Juveniles served by JJCPA funded CBOs, by city

Both hot-spot maps now serve as key data inputs and have proven to be a valuable resource for identifying high-need areas across the county. These insights will guide strategy development and help target future service enhancements where they are needed most. As part of the JJCC 3-Year Action Plan, the AHAC also created a comprehensive wellness focused service model that integrates programs and supports across five dimensions: Physical Wellness, Social Wellness, Psychological Wellness, Educational Wellness, and Financial Wellness. This model is designed to align services to an individual's goals and circumstances, recognizing that a multi-dimensional, whole-person approach is essential for fostering long-term stability and community well-being. Over the coming year, the AHAC will continue assessing available services to ensure that high-need areas have access to supports that align with the wellness model. ASR will play a central role by evaluating the quality of existing services and reviewing the performance of future award recipients, helping the County maintain a strong, data-driven foundation for program improvement.

## 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 County established the JJCC Ad Hoc Advisory Committee (AHAC) in January 2024 to strengthen coordination and advance the work of the JJCC. In July 2024, the AHAC developed a 3-year JJCC Action Plan that outlines the County's strategic direction and reinforces a continuum of high-quality community care from prevention through re-entry, aimed at diverting youth from deeper involvement in the justice system. The plan's goals include assessing countywide services, elevating community voice through surveys and engagement, evaluating contracted programs, conducting hot-spot mapping to identify high-need areas and service gaps, ensuring those areas have access to comprehensive wellness-aligned services through JJCPA contracts, and supporting provider capacity through training and funding opportunities. In addition, ASR completed both the JJCPA funded Program Evaluation Report and the Juvenile Justice Plan (JJP), further informing data-driven planning and future investment decisions.

### Evaluation Reports

ASR completed the FY 25/26 Program Evaluation Report for all programs receiving JJCPA funding, aligning the analysis with the JJCC 3-Year Action Plan and its 5 Pillars of Wellness framework. The report included raw data on the number of youth served by program, city of residence, gender, age, and race, along with additional insights such as average program engagement length, family-inclusive services, youth and parent survey results, and outcome measures. Each program was mapped to the 5 Pillars of Wellness to help the JJCC identify service gaps and make informed strategic decisions.

In January 2026, ASR also completed a comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan (JJP) informed by more than 250 participants, including county partners, community organizations, and youth. The plan provided three-year recommendations aligned with the AHAC's wellness framework and was designed to capture broad community input, identify needs and service gaps, highlight promising practices, outline key opportunities, and propose actionable next steps to guide countywide strategy. The JJP identified the following needs:

- **Youth needs** included mental health, family/basic needs, career development, positive adults/mentors, life skills, peers/gangs, prevention and early intervention
- **Caregiver needs** mental health, family/basic needs, career development, parenting classes/support groups
- **System needs** information and referrals, continuity of care, trauma-informed care training

The JJP provided the following opportunities for the county:

- **Increase access to therapy** for youth and families
- **Embed restorative justice programs** into existing programs
- **Expand credible messenger** programs
- **Provide parenting classes** and support to families
- **Trauma-informed training** countywide for all staff/agencies that work with youth
- **Expand career development** opportunities for youth, including those in-custody
- **Increase access to special education screenings** for youth, coupled with Individualized Education Plan support
- **Increase prosocial activities** with life skills components
- **Expand career development** opportunities for youth, including those in-custody
- **Invest in Less Restrictive Placement (LRP)** housing opportunities

### **Countywide Pre-Work Hot-Spot Mapping Efforts**

Extensive planning and coordination were required to understand the current landscape and identify existing resources, programs, and service gaps across the county. This foundational work was critical to ensure that any subsequent strategies would be responsive, targeted, and align with local needs.

- **Comprehensive asset mapping** across regions to identify what resources and supports were already in place, both at the school level and within community-based organizations.
- **Collaboration with multiple stakeholders**, including district leaders, community agencies, county departments, and site-level staff, to gather insights and build a shared understanding of the current ecosystem.
- **Data collection and analysis** to highlight disparities, overlap, and opportunities for collaboration or reallocation of efforts.
- **Review of best practices and existing models** within and outside the county to inform potential implementation strategies.
- **Cross walking services and funding streams** to better align programming and avoid duplication.

The mapping process allowed the County to move forward with clarity and purpose, ensuring that our actions would complement existing efforts. The thoroughness of this phase reflects the County's commitment to doing this work thoughtfully, with a long-term view toward sustainability, equity, and impact.

## **Building a Culture of Collaborative Practice**

As part of our ongoing efforts, the County continues to develop a collaborative workflow that fosters organic partnerships between county agencies and CBOs. This evolving practice is grounded in shared goals and mutual accountability, with a strong focus on:

- **Responsible stewardship** of public resources, funding, and staffing.
- **Alignment of systems and services** to reduce duplication and increase impact.
- **Open communication and co-creation**, ensuring that efforts are responsive to the needs of our communities.
- **Adaptability and trust**, allowing the collaboration to grow naturally while remaining purpose driven.

This is an on-going cultivation of a sustainable, value-driven approach to working together across sectors. Through this model, we are reinforcing a commitment to shared responsibility and collective outcomes, recognizing that no single agency or organization can do this work alone. On October 25, 2025, the CBO Alliance, Probation Department, University of California Riverside Underground Scholars, Riverside County Office of Education and Board of Supervisors District 4 sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Raising the Future Event.” Event highlights included free admission and registration, access to vital community resources, networking opportunities for youth and workshops hosted by leading local and state organizations.

In Year 2, the County evolved to include a more intentional focus on continuous improvement through the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) cycle, allowing teams to test, reflect, and refine practices in real time. At the same time, the County strengthened the support system for those delivering services across the county.

The CBO Alliance continued their work by hosting consortium sessions. In collaboration with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, OYCR, RAP foundation, the Probation Department and the Office of the Public Defender, they provided targeted training to build capacity. Other targeted training has included cross agency collaboration, youth engagement strategies, Cal-AIM, and a six-month Credible Messenger and Mentorship Certification program through the Annie E. Casey Foundation. They selected 30 Credible Messengers throughout the county to enhance services. From January 13, 2026, through January 15, 2026, the CBO Alliance and Probation Department, in collaboration with Annie E. Casey Foundation and OYCR hosted multiple sessions for the Credible Messenger and Mentorship Certification program and new Community-Led Diversion and Focus Group Mentoring programs.

As the County moves forward, the CBO Alliance will continue to grow this network, offering expanded capacity-building opportunities, wellness-focused resources, and spaces to align efforts across agencies. This ensures that those doing the work on the ground are equipped, supported, and part of a larger, unified approach to serving our communities.

## **Community-Led Diversion Model & Supportive Community Services**

In November 2025, the County entered into a contract with Safe Family Justice Centers (SFJC) to implement countywide Community-Led Diversion (CLD) services. This initiative is designed to provide a more effective response to youth involved in low-level offenses who have come to the attention of law enforcement but may not require formal court intervention. SFJC is working closely with the Probation Department to operationalize the model, which will serve all non-mandatory referrals as defined by the Welfare and Institutions Code. The District Attorney's Office will also be offered the opportunity to divert referrals they feel are suitable for CLD. To support this work, SFJC is building a countywide network of community-based organizations where youth can access CLD services in their respective communities.

The Probation Department currently oversees the 654.1 WIC Drunk Driving Program. Once the CLD model is fully implemented, all 654.1 WIC matters will also be routed through CLD for assessment and service connection, ensuring a consistent, community-centered approach to diversion.

## **Community Supervision and Support**

Youth placed on community supervision receive an evidence-based assessment to determine the most appropriate level of supervision and services. Recommendations for treatment and support are then tailored to each youth's identified needs and aligned with the responsivity principle. Targeted service areas commonly include behavioral health, substance use treatment, individual and family counseling, anger management, and educational support. Wraparound services are available for youth and families with higher levels of need and who meet established criteria.

Evidence-based practices are embedded throughout the Probation Department and among community service providers. Motivational interviewing and cognitive-behavioral interventions are used consistently in both community and detention/treatment settings. The department also emphasizes reinforcing positive behavior and utilizes graduated sanctions to support and promote rehabilitative progress.

## **Harmony Haven Specialty Mentorship & Trauma-Informed Engagement Program**

The County identified a need to provide additional support to youth placed at Harmony Haven Children and Youth Center, a county-owned transitional placement for Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 300 foster youth experiencing placement disruption. To address this need, the County entered into a contract with SBX Youth and Family Services to provide Specialty Mentorship Services at the center. The Harmony Haven Specialty Mentorship Program utilizes evidence-informed and evidence-based practices aligned with DPSS expectations, Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), and best practices for working with foster youth with complex needs. These services include Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), Positive Youth Development (PYD), Restorative & Relational Practices, Critical Mentoring and Engagement-Based Intervention. The Harmony Haven Specialty Mentorship Program provides an effective, trauma-informed intervention that complements clinical and case management services. By prioritizing relationship-building, engagement, and emotional safety, SBX supports the Department

of Public Social Services (DPSS) goals of stabilization, reduced length of stay, and successful transitions to family-based placements.

### **Treatment Programs**

When efforts by a probation officer to redirect a youth's behavior are unsuccessful, and less restrictive options are no longer deemed suitable, the juvenile Court may order the youth detained or committed to a treatment program. Following adjudication, every youth receives comprehensive screenings and assessments to identify suicide risk, health and educational needs, vulnerability to victimization, and any history or indicators of sexual exploitation. Before an out-of-home placement or treatment program is considered, a multidisciplinary screening committee, comprised of Probation, Behavioral Health, Public Health, and RCOE reviews the case and provides a recommendation to the Court.

When appropriate, youth being considered for out-of-home placement are further evaluated to determine whether a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) or placement through the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process is most suitable. Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs) are also convened to ensure the youth, parents, and other supportive individuals have a voice in identifying needs and shaping the service plan.

Youth committed to a treatment program receive a targeted case plan that includes educational, vocational, and therapeutic services. Treatment offerings include individual, group, and family behavioral health counseling; substance use education; and sexoffense specific programming. Evidence based interventions such as Aggression Replacement Training, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Seeking Safety, and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy are also provided. Probation Department staff facilitate additional social emotional and life skills programming, including life skills, victim awareness, gang disassociation (Crossroads), restorative justice and conflict resolution, healthy living, and the Just Beginning parenting program. Gender responsive programming is offered through Girls Circle and The Council for Boys and Young Men.

Community-based partners further enhance services by providing programs such as Real Men Read, Women Who Read, Women Wonder Writers, educational tutoring, employment services, and mediation support. Youth who earn a high school diploma or equivalent are connected to community college enrollment or job-readiness training. Community-based organizations play a critical role in helping youth with career assessments, interview preparation, and employment placement support that often continues after youth return to their communities.

Upon successful completion of a treatment program, youth transition to the supervision of Enhanced Aftercare probation officers to support their re-entry and continued progress.

## Transforming Juvenile Probation

Riverside County was selected by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to participate in the Transforming Juvenile Probation (TJP) Certificate Program held in Washington, D.C. from June 10-14, 2024. Since then, a Core team was developed, which consists of members from the Probation Department, Public Defender, District Attorney, a Superior Court Judge, a CBO representative and a Youth Advocate. Riverside County established a Capstone Proposal for this initiative, which aims to establish and maintain a continuum of quality community care from prevention to re-entry, diverting youth from further entanglement with the justice system. Goals include equitable access to resources needed for total wellness by eliminating service gaps and developing a robust evaluation system. The plan is to achieve this through community engagement, key stakeholder partnerships, and training collaboratively with county and community organizations, and educational institutions. The following goals were achieved during FY 25/26:

- Identified year one area of focus for TJP.
- Created and trained all Probation staff on Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Probation Transformation training series.
- Provided TJP training to county collateral partners and community stakeholders.
- Sought and identified volunteers within the Probation Department that will serve as Subject Matter Experts (SME) for TJP to assist with enhancing policies and procedures, as needed.
- Established Case Plan Workgroup.

The following goals have been established for FY 26/27:

- **Case Planning:** The Probation Department will continue to implement best practices for developing case plans, including conducting Child Family Team Meetings (CFTMs)
- **TJP Core Team:** With technical support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the TJP Core team will continue to meet monthly to discuss TJP initiatives and best practices.
- **Focus Group Mentoring Program:** The Probation Department, in collaboration with 3 of the JJCPA funded CBOs, will launch a comprehensive Mentoring Partnership Program designed to support youth involved in the probation system. The program serves youth transitioning from in-custody treatment services back into their homes, schools, and neighborhoods, as well as youth currently supervised in the community.
- **Continued Training:** The Probation Department will continue to expand TJP training opportunities for juvenile staff working in in-custody detention and treatment settings. Further training needs for county and community partners will continue to be evaluated.
- **Workgroups:** The Probation Department will continue to evaluate all areas of juvenile services and implement new workgroups as needed.

## D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year:

The Comprehensive Plan remains guided by the JJCC 3-Year Action Plan in alignment with the JJP. With Year 2 objectives now completed, the County is entering Year 3, which emphasizes deeper data evaluation to strengthen data-driven and evidence-based decision-making. The AHAC will continue partnering with ASR to assess funded CBOs and to review and implement recommendations outlined in the JJP. ASR is developing a Comprehensive Measurement Report to establish key data points for cross-provider analysis, as well as an Evaluation Sustainability Report to support a long-term, self-sustaining evaluation framework. These efforts will reinforce ongoing strategic planning and implementation.

During this year, the Probation Department will collaborate with CBO partners to implement the CLD Program and the Focus Group Mentoring Program. The CLD Program is designed to divert youth from the formal court system by providing evidence-based, need-responsive services within the community, with the overarching goal of reducing future law enforcement contact. Once fully implemented, the former 654.1 WIC Drunk Driver Program will also transition into the CLD referral process. The Focus Group Mentoring Program aims to strengthen re-entry support for youth returning to the community following in-custody treatment, as well as enhance services for youth on probation in the community. Both programs rely on strong community partnerships, which directly support the goals of the TJP.

The AHAC will recommend releasing a new Request for Proposal (RFP) that directly addresses the opportunities identified in the JJP. This RFP will prioritize high need areas highlighted in the hotspot maps and expand support for youth and families as they navigate multiple systems. Its purpose is to broaden the reach of services across the full continuum, from prevention through re-entry, while reinforcing the Five Pillars of Wellness. Designed as a community-based initiative, the RFP will focus on serving youth where they live, strengthening neighborhoods and increasing access to meaningful, localized support.

Riverside County will continue deepening collaboration between county agencies and community partners through joint training, listening sessions, and community-centered events. This year, the County will also host the 3rd Annual Raising the Future event, a countywide collaborative gathering dedicated to uplifting and supporting youth across Riverside County.

If your Plan has not been updated this year, explain why no changes to your plan are necessary:

Not Applicable

## Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) – (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))

### 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 County's partnership with RCIT continues to advance the use of GIS hot-spot mapping to identify youth demographics and high-need service areas. This mapping integrates data from the Probation Department's Client Management System, including youth location by city, offense type, age, race, field office assignments, and detention or treatment facility locations, along with daytime burglary data from the Riverside Sheriff's Office and chronic absenteeism data from the California Department of Education. This year, the Probation Department convened a county-community data-sharing event to present these findings and strengthen shared understanding of local needs.

All programs funded through the JJCPA are required to provide data to ASR to support the evaluation of program outcomes. ASR has worked closely with all funded agencies to establish consistent, reliable data points and outcome measures and is currently developing a new data-tracking system scheduled for implementation in FY 26/27.

The contracted program evaluation team submits annual reports to the JJCC that include program descriptions, service types, meeting frequency, attendance, client demographics, and success rates. Each program is also mapped to the 5 Pillars of Wellness, allowing the County to identify service gaps and make informed recommendations for future investments. ASR will continue monitoring the established data points and outcome measures to inform the annual Program Evaluation Report.

### B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils:

Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code Section 749.22?

Yes    No

If no, please explain what vacancies exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies began, and your plan for filling them: Not Applicable

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

Using the templates below, provide details for each program, strategy, and/or system enhancement that will be funded by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), identifying any program that is co-funded with Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds.

To include multiple programs, copy and paste the template fields "1. Program Name," "2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based," and "3. Description" as many times as necessary.

### 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.

1. Program Name: **Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS)**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Diversions programs targeting youths' risk and needs have demonstrated success in reducing recidivism (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2018). Specific targeted needs include an increased emphasis on school grades and attendance, and abstinence from alcohol and illegal substances. Officers also provide appropriate referrals to counseling services based on needs and facilitate positive community involvement through community service and/or pro-social activities. Officers are trained to utilize Motivational Interviewing, an evidence-based model for communicating change talk.

3. Description:

The program provides for the supervision of a large percentage of non-wards in Riverside County. The caseloads are comprised of 654, 725, and 790 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Probation youth. Currently, there are 10 caseloads allocated throughout the county. The overall goal is to target specific needs and to assist youth and parents to successfully complete probation by their first review hearing. Staff are required to set an appointment to meet with the youth at the youth's residence within 15 days of the dispositional hearing. They have a mandatory 4-week follow-up Child Advocate Team (CAT) meeting, where child advocates are invited to the meeting. At these meetings, parents, probation officers, and the identified CAT members identify barriers youth may face in successfully completing probation and Court ordered programs. Prosocial activities and field trips are also planned as part of the case plan. SSTS probation officers connect youth to community-based organizations and resources in their areas.

1. Program Name: **De-escalation and Assistance Response Team (DART)**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Schools routinely struggle with the aftermath of violent incidents, racially motivated fights and hate speech, student or faculty accidents, deaths and suicide attempts, on-campus overdoses, and serious crime arrests, and must manage the resulting, often negative, impacts on school climate, campus safety and student emotional well-being. In response, the District Attorney's Office has spearheaded a comprehensive and quick response team called to provide an immediate response to such crisis situations.

3. Description:

This program is provided by the District Attorney's Office. The purpose of the team is to: a) help de-escalate tension, fears, stress and anxiety; b) prevent violence and retaliation; c) provide education regarding penal consequences that can occur if students respond in a manner that violates the law; d) suggest healthy, helpful, and appropriate responses to incidents of hate, anger, violence, or injustice; and e) provide resources to help students deal with anger, depression, fear, or anxiety. DART includes various local law enforcement partners, RUHS-BH, counseling organizations, drug and alcohol recovery organizations, the Safe Family Justice Centers, youth shelter and safety organizations, and other public and private organizations that specialize in crisis intervention.

1. Program Name: **Gang Awareness, Mentorship, and Education (GAME)**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Gang Awareness, Mentorship, and Education (GAME) program, facilitated by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, delivers approximately 250 presentations annually and reaches an estimated 25,000 individuals each year, primarily youth. These presentations address critical issues affecting youth safety and well-being, including gang involvement and substance use, with particular attention to the growing impact of fentanyl in Riverside County. The program's broad reach and sustained implementation demonstrate an ongoing need for prevention-focused education and early intervention.

3. Description:

The GAME program is designed to deter youth from gang involvement and increase awareness of the serious risks associated with gangs and drug use. Experienced prosecutors conduct impactful presentations throughout Riverside County, educating youth on the social, personal, and legal consequences of gang affiliation and substance use. The program also provides educational workshops for parents, focusing on recognizing gang paraphernalia, identifying early warning signs, and applying effective parenting strategies to reduce risk factors. In addition, GAME offers training to educators and social service professionals to strengthen community capacity to identify, prevent, and respond to gang activity.

1. Program Name: **Youth Empowerment and Safety Program (YES)**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Current community conditions, including evolving social dynamics and increased use of technology among youth, have contributed to heightened concerns among parents, educators, and community leaders regarding issues that influence youth decision-making and safety. Challenges such as bullying, cyberbullying, online exploitation, and exposure to violence underscore the need for structured prevention and education programs. Gender-responsive, evidence-based curricula, including Girls Circle and Boys the Council for Boys and Young Men, have demonstrated effectiveness in improving protective factors, strengthening resiliency, and reducing delinquency and recidivism among participating youth.

3. Description:

The Youth Education and Safety (YES) program, facilitated by the District Attorney's Office, provides educational presentations and prevention programming to youth, parents, educators, and the broader Riverside County community. Program topics include bullying and cyberbullying prevention, internet safety, human trafficking awareness, teen dating violence and healthy relationships, hate crimes, juvenile law, and the importance of education. The program incorporates One Circle Foundation's evidence-based Girls Circle and Boys the Council for Boys and Young Men curricula to promote resiliency, build social-emotional skills, and strengthen positive peer relationships. In addition, the iLead program, developed from leadership expert John Maxwell's values-based leadership framework, is offered to support youth in developing character, leadership capacity, and practical life skills through structured learning and peer engagement.

1. Program Name: **Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) program**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

During the 2024–2025 school year, Riverside County reported 95,416 chronically absent and truant students, according to the California Department of Education. Although this represents a decrease from prior years, the county's truancy rate of 22.1% remains significantly higher than the statewide average of 19.4%. Chronic absenteeism and truancy are strongly associated with poor academic outcomes and an increased likelihood of not completing high school. Research indicates that approximately 82% of incarcerated adults in the United States did not graduate from high school, and more than 70% have reading skills below a fourth-grade level. In California, truancy is the leading predictor of juvenile delinquency, and truant youth are at greater risk of becoming victims of crime. These data highlight the importance of early intervention and coordinated efforts to address attendance barriers and support at-risk youth.

3. Description:

The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) program is facilitated by the District Attorney's Office in partnership with Riverside County's 23 local school districts and the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE). SARB meetings bring together school officials, families, and community partners to address the underlying causes of chronic absenteeism and truancy. The program provides families with information on

compulsory education requirements and access to supportive community-based resources. Truancy mediation is conducted in accordance with the California Education Code and Welfare and Institutions Code to reinforce attendance expectations while identifying appropriate interventions and support strategies. When needed, case management services are provided to assist families facing complex challenges and to promote long-term student stability and school engagement. Riverside County is home to six school districts recognized by the California Department of Education in 2025 for maintaining model SARB programs, reflecting the county's commitment to effective truancy prevention and intervention.

1. Program Name: **Aware to Care Exchange System (ACE)**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Research (Finkelhor et al., 2009) shows that prolonged exposure to violence and trauma can seriously undermine a child's ability to learn, form relationships, and focus appropriately in the classroom. A recent national survey revealed that 60% of American children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse, with 40% being direct victims of two or more violent acts. Prolonged exposure can impact a child's ability to behave appropriately and learn in school. Research consistently demonstrates that exposure to traumatic events in childhood and adolescence is both widespread and strongly associated with significant behavioral, emotional, and academic consequences.

National survey data indicate that more than half of children and adolescents (over 50%) have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event within the past year. Within that timeframe: Approximately 25% experienced physical assault; approximately 20% experienced maltreatment; more than one-third (over 33%) witnessed domestic or community violence.

Child Protective Services data further demonstrates the scope of exposure. In 2019 alone, agencies received 4.4 million referrals involving approximately 7.9 million children, with more than 60% of substantiated cases involving neglect and over 10% involving physical abuse. These figures likely underestimate true exposure, as not all incidents are reported.

Beyond exposure, the psychological impact is significant. A national study found that approximately 5% of adolescents meet criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at some point in their lifetime, with higher rates among girls. Expanding on this, a comprehensive umbrella review synthesizing 12 systematic reviews and meta-analyses encompassing more than 121,000 children and adolescents found that approximately 25% of trauma-exposed youth develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (95% CI: 20–30%) (Shadows of Trauma, PMC 12042603).

Trauma exposure is associated with increased risk of anxiety, depression, aggression, substance use, academic difficulties, and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Without early identification and trauma-informed intervention, youth who experience repeated adversity are at elevated risk for school disengagement, behavioral escalation, and deeper system involvement. Collectively, these data underscore the importance of early notification systems, coordinated cross-agency responses, and

trauma-informed school practices to mitigate the long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences and reduce risk factors associated with justice involvement.

### 3. Description:

The Aware to Care (ACE) Program is a trauma-informed, cross-agency initiative facilitated by the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) in partnership with local first responders, including law enforcement, fire personnel, and emergency medical services. The program establishes a structured notification process through which designated school personnel are informed when a student has been exposed to a potentially traumatic event.

Upon notification, trained school staff provide timely, supportive interventions tailored to the student's needs. Responses may include check-ins, classroom accommodations, connection to school counseling or behavioral health services, family outreach, and coordination with probation or community partners when appropriate. All communication follows secure and confidential protocols.

The program emphasizes early identification and supportive engagement rather than punitive response. By addressing trauma-related stress before it escalates into behavioral or academic difficulties, Aware to Care strengthens protective factors, improves school engagement, and reduces risk factors associated with suspension, school disengagement, and justice involvement.

This coordinated approach supports JJCPA goals by promoting prevention, stabilizing at-risk youth, and enhancing cross-system collaboration to reduce deeper system penetration.

### 1. Program Name: **Support, Partnerships, Advocacy, and Resources for Kids (SPARK)**

#### 2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Research consistently demonstrates that youth with disabilities are more likely to enter the juvenile justice system than youth who do not have disabilities. Most estimates indicate approximately 70 percent of youth involved in the juvenile justice system have one or more diagnosed or undiscovered disability, with some studies estimating the number to be as high as 85 percent. Nationally, 60 to 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health condition, with a significant number warranting immediate treatment. These youth experience a disproportionate increase in school discipline leading to out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, which then leads to increased grade retention, drop-outs, and justice system involvement. Outcomes are further impacted due to frequent school transfers, gaps in enrollment and attendance, lack of consistent adult support for education, and the impact of trauma on learning and behavior. Evidence-based best practices for improving outcomes for these youth include collaborating with youth and families, using a strengths-based, trauma-informed approach to identify disabilities and facilitate appropriate assessments, education advocacy to ensure access to adequate interventions and resources, building strong partnerships with community service providers and effectively

coordinating across multiple agencies. SPARK's model directly aligns with this framework to bolster the resilience of youth and improve outcomes.

### 3. Description:

SPARK is a countywide intervention and prevention program within the Public Defender's Juvenile Justice Unit designed to benefit middle and high-school aged youth who are represented by the Public Defender's Office and at-promise Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) throughout Riverside County. SPARK services expand the traditional role of the youth's attorney, going beyond the courtroom and embracing a research-backed, holistic, individualized approach to rehabilitation and wellness. The overarching objectives include preventing prolonged entry into the justice system, promoting favorable outcomes, and streamlining access to information and community support. To accomplish this, SPARK resource attorneys and social services practitioners work collaboratively with families, juvenile justice attorneys, multidisciplinary team members and community-based providers to identify unaddressed academic and mental health needs and other barriers to successful transition into adulthood. Team members link youth to appropriate resources, tailored to the unique needs of the clients, as early in the court process as possible through coordinated partnerships and provide ongoing support. Legal consultations, advocacy and referrals are also provided, as well as information sharing and training for partnering agencies, school districts, and community-based organizations.

#### 1. Program Name: **Community-Led Diversion**

#### 2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

At one time or another, adolescents may engage in risky behaviors, act without thinking, or make undesirable decisions more often than they will as adults. Research demonstrates that most youth that are arrested and charged with delinquent behavior will never be arrested for a second delinquent act nor become repeat offenders in adulthood. Further, formal juvenile justice system processing has the potential to increase the likelihood of recidivism among youth, particularly for low-risk offenders (Gatti et al., 2009; Petrosino et al., 2013). As such, diversion programs designed to reduce the risk of criminal socialization by providing positive social interactions, instilling structure, and addressing the underlying causes of such behavior may avoid a youth's unnecessary exposure to the formal justice process which may increase youth's involvement in the system and delinquency.

#### 3. Description:

Riverside County aims to create a Community-Led Diversion model as a county-wide pre-file diversion option for youth who engage in low-level offenses and are eligible pursuant to the Welfare and Institutions Code and the Rules of Court, as an alternative to prosecution. Within these parameters, applicable cases submitted to Probation by law enforcement will be screened for diversion eligibility. Additionally, any cases that fall within the legal discretion of the District Attorney will also be eligible for diversion should the DA find it appropriate and/or in the interest of justice. The county has contracted with SFJC to provide CLD. SFJC will sub-contract with other CBOs to provide a collaborative approach to working with the youth, family, and broader community to provide a pathway to intervention and supportive services. These

services by design will effectively address the needs of specific behaviors of the youth, while increasing positive change and reducing the likelihood of re-offense, and diverting youth away from formal system involvement.

1. Program Name: **Supportive Community Services**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Some identified predictors of juvenile delinquency include youth lacking strong social ties, anti-social peers, incorrigible behavior, poor attitudes about school, and poor performance in school. Comprehensive community-based programs that assist youth with academics, truancy, individual and group counseling on basic life skills, and mentoring programs are important intervention measures in the communities where our youth reside.

3. Description:

Contracts were awarded to various community-based organizations to provide mentoring programs, individual and group counseling, academic/vocational services, drug and alcohol counseling programs, transportation, pro-social programming, and truancy prevention. The County has contracts in place with 11 CBOs whose services and focus areas are listed below.

Calicinto Ranch, Inc. provides year-round faith-based programs and activities at their Western Guest Ranch for At-Promise youth who have an incarcerated parent (s) to assist them in breaking the cycle of crime. Youth participate in overnight in-person camps as well as in-person ranch events and activities including Christmas events and gift giving, Thanksgiving and Easter Events as well as year-round communications with youth and their families. Outdoor educational ranch activities include restorative, positive interaction with Law Enforcement along with interaction with animals, emotional support dogs and horses! Children receive lots of delicious food. Youth build positive life skills, develop character, work on conflict resolution and gain understanding on making good choices. Youth are referred to community resources to help them with family needs and to explore/develop goals for their future.

The Carolyn E. Wylie Center for Children, Youth, and Families (Wylie Center) provides an extensive range of services designed to support children, youth, and families. These services include early intervention, medical therapy, mental health treatment, autism services, housing counseling, as well as community education and parenting classes. Through the JJCPA grant, the Outreach Department is dedicated to mitigating the effects of trauma by implementing early prevention and intervention programs. These programs encompass school-based counseling, substance education, anger management, victim impact programs, sexual harassment prevention, financial education, and virtual community services. The services are accessible to elementary, middle, and high school students, along with additional resources available for parents, youth, and school staff.

Chavez Educational Services, LLC provides self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness, and relationship skills. Program

is interactive and addresses issues of self-efficacy, independent decision-making, personal goal setting, anger and conflict identification and resolution.

Community Outreach Ministry provides interventions for at-risk juvenile teens to be mentored in “Gearing Up For STEM” Mentor Protege Workshops after-school or weekends to introduce mentees to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics by assembling Robots to develop hands-on-skills in small groups of 12 teens. Mentees develop mechanical and engineering skills using tools-of-the-trade while enhancing STEM literacy, following step-by-step schematics, critical thinking and problem solving in school, in the community or in the institution. Mentees learn valuable lessons in teamwork, education and vocational skills comparable to real world on-the-job training and experience. Mentees will also acquire knowledge about jobs and internships in STEM Fields. A Resource Book will provide teens and families with comprehensive community support services contributing to wellness.

Kids in Konflikt (KIK) empowers young people to overcome challenges, build resilience, and break cycles that lead to unhealthy lifestyles and conflict. Through dynamic, transformative courses delivered via google classroom, asynchronous outline learning, self-paced study and in-person instruction, we help youth rewire their thinking, build new knowledge and skills, and redefine their future. We guide them in strengthening their minds, gaining confidence, and developing leadership skills, empowering them to break free from self-doubt, negative behaviors, embrace growth and pursue a future filled with purpose and opportunity.

Kindful Restoration provides Culturally Relevant Programming/Trauma-Informed Care, Gender-Specific Programming, Life Coaching/Mentoring/Personal Development, Domestic Violence/Victim Awareness, Anger Management, Mental Health Services/Assessments, Substance Abuse Treatment/Counseling, Parenting Classes, Financial Literacy, Support Groups, Gang Awareness/Gang Disassociation, Community Service, DUI Programming, Family Structure/Support Services/Trauma-Informed Care, Vocational Training/Certification/Career Readiness/Job Placement, Employment Assistance/Career Development/Job Placement, Substance Abuse Prevention and/or Education, Job Coaching/Job Placement/Career Development, Mental Health Services for Youth and Family. Additional programs provided since approval: Community Health Care Worker Services, Criminal Thinking/Insight Development, Employment Assistance, Enhanced Care Management, Housing, Job Preparation, Life Coaching/Mentoring Personal Development, Life Skills, Reentry Services, and Vocational Training Support.

Operation Safehouse provides programs for Riverside County youth in the midst of crisis. Available resources and services include: Day emergency shelter, food, recreational activities, on-site school, GED classes, transportation and outreach services. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and group counseling are also available.

Raincross Boxing Academy provides basic life skills education through individual and group learning. The program provides academic and educational services to include tutoring, and SAT prep. School counselors and college representatives discuss/assist with admission requirements and financial aid. Various speakers

present on their backgrounds, careers, and educational pathways. Role models from a variety of professional fields are available for assignment as mentors and partnerships with various local businesses are maintained for apprenticeship opportunities.

Riverside Art Museum (RAM) provides services to build self-esteem, participate in pro-social leisure activities, and develop pro-social attitudes. Participants are afforded interactive training workshops encouraging self-regulation skills of communication and problem solving. Participants learn the fundamentals of art (composition, perspective, value, and color), collaborate and design a mural of their choice over a 10–12-week program.

Safe Families Justice Centers provides free and confidential services. Services include advocacy for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Offers assistance with safety planning, restraining orders, victim compensation, address confidentiality, 10-week Domestic Violence Education classes, and survivor support programs. Home to Riverside County Police Activities League (PAL) providing programming for at-risk youth ages 5-17 such as group mentorship focusing on character/life skills, social emotional learning, and diversion classes (Victim Awareness, Shoplifting Awareness, Teen Anger Management, Substance Use Education, and Healthy Relationships)

Silence Aloud, Inc. Rise Up is a supportive services program for justice-involved youth and their families, ages 0–25. Through both in-person and virtual offerings, the program provides trauma-informed care and targeted supports including: individual and group therapy (including substance abuse and anger management), life skills and workforce development workshops, peer mentoring and gender-specific groups, supportive services like transportation, housing navigation, and legal assistance, access to clothing, hygiene supplies, emergency assistance, and youth navigation services, specialized services for survivors of sex trafficking and abuse, including trauma-focused therapy such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). The program builds on our holistic, youth-centered approach and directly supports Riverside County's goal of reducing recidivism and increasing total wellness in at-risk youth.

1. Program Name: **Harmony Haven Specialty Mentorship & Trauma-Informed Engagement Program**

2. Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Harmony Haven Specialty Mentorship Program utilizes evidence-informed and evidence-based practices aligned with DPSS expectations, Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), and best practices for working with foster youth with complex needs. These include: Trauma-Informed Care (TIC): Services acknowledge the impact of abuse, neglect, placement disruption, and system involvement. Mentors prioritize emotional safety, predictability, and non-punitive engagement. Positive Youth Development (PYD): Youth strengths, voice, and leadership are centered to promote self-efficacy and prosocial behavior. Restorative & Relational Practices: Group circles and activities focus on repairing trust, de-escalation, and relationship-building rather than compliance. Critical Mentoring: Mentors use empathy-based approaches that

honor lived experience and address power dynamics between youth and adults. Engagement-Based Intervention: Structured activities (e.g., pep rallies, group challenges) are used intentionally to engage youth who may refuse traditional services.

### 3. Description:

SBX Youth and Family Services provides Specialty Mentorship Services at Harmony Haven Children and Youth Center, a county-owned transitional placement for foster youth experiencing placement disruption. Services are delivered through a combination of individual mentorship, group-based engagement, and structured singular activities, as reflected in the monthly service calendar. Programming is designed to: Stabilize youth during temporary placement, reduce resistance to services, rebuild trust with caring adults, support emotional regulation and positive behavior and increase readiness for foster placement or reunification. Key service components include One-on-One Mentorship: Regular individualized sessions focused on emotional support, coping skills, goal setting, and de-escalation, Group Mentorship & Restorative Circles: Trauma-informed group sessions addressing peer conflict, communication skills, and shared experiences. Collaborative groups are designed to include transferable workforce skills such as public speaking, teamwork, and understanding technology, Singular Engagement Activities (Pep Rallies & Special Events): Structured, developmentally appropriate events that allow youth to experience joy, connection, and positive adult interaction, Care Team Collaboration: Ongoing coordination with Harmony Haven staff and DPSS to align mentorship services with stabilization and transition planning. All services are delivered in a predictable, consistent manner to support youth who have experienced instability.

## Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) – (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a).

### **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.

Riverside County employs a variety of strategies to address the needs of non-707(b) youth offenders:

A validated risk and needs assessment is used to determine the appropriate level of supervision and intervention services for each youth.

Individualized case plans are developed collaboratively between the probation officer, youth, and family to establish goals and action steps for the supervision period. These plans are reviewed and updated regularly to monitor progress.

Targeted interventions and referrals are provided based on each youth's specific needs, with service intensity matched to their assessed level of risk and need.

Cognitive Behavioral Interactive Journaling (such as Courage to Change or Forward Thinking) is facilitated by probation corrections officers and probation officers. Through journaling, the goal is to have the youth make positive changes to their thoughts, feelings, and ultimate behaviors.

Positive reinforcement strategies are widely used to encourage and support pro-social behavior and goal attainment.

A graduated sanctions matrix is utilized to provide structured alternatives to custody. This matrix promotes fairness, reduces bias, and ensures consistent responses to both positive and negative behaviors.

Behavioral Health provides various counseling services to eligible youth and their families, including Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS).

Specialized supervision models are implemented based on eligibility and assessed needs. These include Wraparound services, Home Supervision, and Aftercare Services.

The Interagency Placement Committee reviews all potential out-of-home cases and applies the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process whenever possible. The goal is to keep youth connected and in the homes of relatives or loved ones.

Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) are utilized when necessary and in compliance with Continuum of Care Reform (CCR).

## B. Regional Agreements

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

Riverside County does not currently have regional agreements as part of its YOBG funded services.

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

Using the templates below, provide details for each program, strategy, and/or system enhancement that will be funded by the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG). Explain how they complement or coordinate with the programs, strategies and system enhancements to be funded through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) program.

To include multiple programs, copy and paste the template fields "1. Program Name," "2. Nature of Coordination with JJCPA," and "3. Description" as many times as necessary.

### 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.

1. Program Name: **Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center (AMC-YTEC)**

2. Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

In Riverside County, youth may be committed to a secure treatment program at the Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center (AMC-YTEC). The program serves youth based on age, gender, criminogenic risk factors, and behavioral health needs.

RUHS-Behavioral Health delivers evidence-based treatment services, including:

Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)

Trauma-informed therapy

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)

Clinical therapists provide individual, group, and family therapy to address each youth's specific treatment needs. In addition, qualified Behavioral Health Specialists deliver substance use treatment through two evidence-based programs: **A New Direction** and **Living in Balance**.

Together, these services create a structured continuum of in-custody treatment interventions designed to address criminogenic and behavioral health needs not otherwise met through Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)-funded programs.

### 3. Description:

The goal of the secure treatment program in Riverside County at the Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center (AMC-YTEC) is to successfully reintegrate youth into the community through evidence-based screenings and assessments, targeted treatment interventions, focused educational services, and vocational programming within a non-punitive, therapeutic environment.

This treatment model operates as a true continuum of care, providing structured in-custody programming paired with comprehensive reentry planning. While completing their commitment, youth are assigned to an Enhanced Aftercare Deputy Probation Officer trained in Wraparound models. The Enhanced Aftercare officer collaborates closely with the youth, family, and treatment staff to develop and implement a structured release plan that supports long-term success.

Upon entry, youth undergo comprehensive assessments, including:

- Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) administered by Probation
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) screening
- Clinical assessment conducted by RUHS-Behavioral Health

Assessment findings are shared within the multidisciplinary treatment team to determine individualized treatment needs. Each youth is assigned both a probation case worker and a behavioral health therapist who jointly develops treatment goals based on:

- Risk and needs assessments
- Behavioral history
- Career assessments
- Educational status
- Future goals

The program utilizes a four-level school campus model in which youth advance as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors prior to graduation from the YTEC program. Advancement is based on progress demonstrated through evidence-based screenings, behavioral performance, and treatment engagement.

Treatment teams meet at least monthly to review progress, adjust goals, and determine readiness for promotion to the next program level.

Ensuring educational achievement and employability skills is a core component of rehabilitation. All youth attend school daily. Education services are fully accredited through the Riverside County Office of Education. Academic placement is determined using the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Edmentum Exact Path diagnostic assessment, which evaluates reading and math proficiency and assigns grade-level curriculum accordingly.

Youth who complete high school may enroll in postsecondary or career technical education programming through Riverside Community College (online coursework), California Family Life Center (CFLC), and Interactive Creative Educational Video (iCEV) career technical education courses.

Certificated coursework includes financial literacy, professional communication, business office software, and vocational pathway programs

In addition to standard programming, youth with behavioral health needs may receive more intensive or specialized services, including:

- Increased frequency of individual or family therapy
- TraumaFocused - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Substance use treatment
- Intensive aftercare planning and service linkage

Junior level youth who demonstrate appropriate behavior and commitment to rehabilitation may qualify for:

- Furloughs with guardians
- Off-site vocational and educational opportunities
- Supervised outings
- Pro-social recreational activities

In the final phase, youth transition to community supervision under an Enhanced Aftercare Deputy Probation Officer. Prior to release, youth are screened to determine the most appropriate post-release supervision and service model, which may include wraparound services.

Deputy Probation Officers assigned to Aftercare are trained in evidence-based case management approaches that actively engage the entire family in the youth's rehabilitation and stabilization.

Beyond treatment and education, youth receive practical reentry preparation. During the program, youth are assisted in obtaining:

- Birth certificate
- California identification card
- Social Security card
- Food handler card
- High school transcripts

These structured experiences reinforce accountability, skill development, and positive community engagement ensuring youth leave AMC-YTEC prepared for a successful transition home.

1. Program Name: **Enhanced Aftercare**

2. Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

Enhanced Aftercare probation supervision is provided to youth who were court-ordered committed to treatment at the Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center (AMC-YTEC) in Riverside County and who successfully complete the program.

Because these youth receive structured supervision and treatment before, during, and after their commitment time, service gaps are significantly reduced. The continuity of care model ensures consistent case management, behavioral health support, family engagement, and reentry planning throughout all phases of supervision.

Enhanced aftercare services are specifically designed to address criminogenic and behavioral health needs that are not otherwise met through Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)-funded programs, providing a higher level of individualized support and intervention to promote long-term stability and successful community reintegration.

3. Description:

Upon court order committing a youth to treatment at the Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center (AMC-YTEC) in Riverside County, the case is transferred to the Aftercare Unit. The Aftercare Supervisor reviews the case and assigns it to a designated Aftercare Probation Officer (PO).

Once the youth enters the program, the assigned PO initiates contact as early as possible. The purpose of this early engagement is to establish rapport with the youth, ease the transition into treatment, set clear expectations for successful program completion, and ensure educational and programming needs are being met.

The PO also works to establish and maintain a positive connection with the youth's parent(s) or guardian(s). Maintaining family engagement during the youth's time out of the home is critical to long-term success. The POs support family engagement by making monthly contact with parents/guardians, attending bi-weekly treatment team meetings and participating in Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs)

When youth advance to junior status within the four-level campus model, they may earn eligibility for graduated furlough home passes of increasing duration, consistent

with facility guidelines. Prior to final approval for a furlough, the PO conducts a residence verification to ensure the home environment is safe and appropriate, supports the youth's continued progress and does not pose a detriment to rehabilitation efforts

Throughout the commitment, the PO works in partnership with Aftercare Behavioral Health services to begin delivering supportive services to the family as early as possible, reducing barriers to successful reentry.

As the youth approaches graduation, structured transition planning intensifies. During a CFTM, the PO collaborates with the treatment team, aftercare behavioral health staff (through RUHS-Behavioral Health) and the parent(s)/guardian(s). Together, the team finalizes the release plan and confirms post-release treatment services to ensure all parties clearly understand next steps, expectations, and service linkages. Probation also coordinates with the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) and the youth's prospective school district to facilitate timely school re-enrollment with minimal disruption.

Once the youth returns home, the Aftercare PO utilizes motivational interviewing techniques, the full service partnership (FSP) and or wraparound model. These evidence-based approaches actively engage both the youth and family in meeting case plan objectives.

Depending on assessed level of need, youth and families may receive contact multiple times per week. Aftercare POs provide:

- Transportation assistance
- Educational and vocational referrals
- Employment guidance
- Linkage to community-based services

Consistent with the department's commitment to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP), youth are continually reassessed to ensure services remain aligned with evolving needs, supervision is provided at the least restrictive level necessary, interventions support long-term stability and success

Through early engagement, structured transition planning, and intensive community-based supervision, the Aftercare model is designed to promote accountability, strengthen family systems, and support sustainable reintegration into the community.