

# Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

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## Background and Instructions:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure.

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth.

County plans are to be submitted and revised in accordance with WIC 1995, and may be posted, as submitted, to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website.

## Contents:

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**Part 1: Subcommittee Composition**

**Part 2: Target Population**

**Part 3: Programs and Services**

**Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds**

**Part 5: Facility Plan**

**Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System**

**Part 7: Regional Efforts**

**Part 8: Data**

**Part 1: Subcommittee Composition (WIC 1995 (b) )**

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

| <b>Agency</b>                                   | <b>Name and Title</b>   | <b>Email</b>  | <b>Phone Number</b> |
|---|---|---|---------------------|
| Chief Probation Officer<br>(Chair)              | Brian Richart   | brian.richart@edcgov.us   | (530) 621-5625      |
| District Attorney's Office<br>Representative    | Nora Hall   | nora.hall@edcgov.us   | (530) 621-6472      |
| Public Defender's Office<br>Representative      | Teri Monterosso<br>Margaret Huscher                                     | teri.monterosso@edcgov.us<br>margaret.huscher@edcgov.us                       | (530) 621-6440      |
| Department of Social<br>Services Representative | Don Semon<br>Daniel Del Monte<br>Leslie Griffith                        | don.semon@edcgov.us<br>daniel.delmonte@edcgov.us<br>leslie.griffith@edcgov.us | (530) 642-7300      |
| Department of Mental Health                     | Nicole Ebrahimi-<br>Nuyken  | nicole.ebrahimi-<br>nuyken@edcgov.us  | (530) 621-6545      |
| Office of Education<br>Representative           | Ed Manansala  | emanansala@edcoe.org  | (530) 622-7130      |
| Court Representative                            | Honorable Michael<br>J. McLaughlin<br>Honorable<br>Suzanne<br>Kingsbury | dlambie@eldoradocourt.org   | (530) 621-6426      |
| Community Member                                | Victor Antonio  | victor@newmorningyfs.org  | (530) 344-4848      |
| Community Member                                | Karen Carey   | karen@tahoeyouth.org  | (530) 541-2445      |
| Community Member                                | Mario Guerrero  | mario@casaeldorado.org  | (530) 622-9882      |
| <b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>     |   |   |                     |
| Community Member                                | Karen Houser  | karenhouser6@gmail.com  | (530) 318-8756      |
| Community Member                                | Matt Huckabay   | matth@thecenternow.org  | (530) 626-1450      |
| Community Member                                | Chelcee Thomas  | cthomas@liveviolencefree.org  | (530) 544-4444      |
| Community Member                                | Chris Proctor   | cproctor@bartonhealth.org   | (530) 543-5472      |
| Community Member                                | Brian Conway  | brconway@aol.com  | (559) 270-6668      |
| Probation Department<br>Representative          | Kaci Smith  | kaci.smith@edcgov.us  | (530) 621-5625      |

|                                     |                |                          |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Probation Department Representative | Karla Kowalski | karla.kowalski@edcgov.us | (530) 621-5625 |
|                                     |                |                          |                |

**Part 2: Target Population (WIC 1995 (C) (1) )**

Briefly describe the County’s realignment target population supported by the block grant:

The realignment target population includes youth, aged twelve to eighteen, who have been adjudicated for committing an offense described in Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code, who would otherwise be eligible for a commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. After these youth reach eighteen years of age, jurisdiction continues possibly until age twenty-three but remains at age twenty-five for the following exceptions: 1. The youth would have faced an aggregate sentence of seven or more years in Criminal Court, or 2. The youth is committed to a state hospital or mental health facility.

Eligible youth will be considered for commitment and treatment in El Dorado County, at the local detention facility, the Juvenile Treatment Center (JTC) in South Lake Tahoe, on a case by case basis depending on their assessed need. If El Dorado County cannot meet the youth’s assessed needs, services will be sought through an alternative contracted county provider.

El Dorado County currently contracts with surrounding counties to provide detention services, and will continue to accept youth who meet the realignment target population who may fall under the above identified eligibility criteria for short-term detention and longer-term commitments.

Additionally, in this process the Subcommittee has considered the establishment of a regional sexual behavior treatment program, referred to as Sexual Treatment Opportunities Program (STOP), as an option for other counties to refer for housing and programming youth who sexually offend. In the event that El Dorado County is unable to implement STOP, the County will use realignment funding to seek treatment in an out-of-county facility, if one becomes available, for local juveniles who sexually offend.

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

Reviewing prior El Dorado County DJJ commitments from 2010 to 2020, the majority (60-70%) of youth were committed as a result of sexually-based offenses. In more recent years, between 2018 and 2020, there were 20 youth with sustained WIC 707(b) offenses who were eligible for a DJJ commitment. Of these youth, two Caucasian males were committed for offense types of murder and robbery; the youth were 19 and 16 years of age, respectively. Of the remaining 18 youth, disaggregated data is as follows:

The majority (83%) of El Dorado County youth with sustained WIC 707(b) offenses are Caucasian males.

| Gender | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Female | 1    |      | 2    |
| Male   | 3    | 5    | 7    |
| Total  | 4    | 5    | 9    |

| Race      | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-----------|------|------|------|
| Caucasian | 4    | 4    | 7    |
| Hispanic  |      | 1    | 2    |
| Total     | 4    | 5    | 9    |

Data by age groups shows that 44% of youth with sustained WIC 707(b) offenses are between the ages of 16 and 17 (inclusive). Since 2018, there have been no youth under the age of 14 that qualify.

| Age   | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------|------|------|------|
| 14-15 | 2    |      | 3    |
| 16-17 | 2    | 3    | 3    |
| 18+   |      | 2    | 3    |
| Total | 4    | 5    | 9    |

Looking at the breakdown by offense type reveals that 50% of all sustained offenses are burglary related. Sexual offenses are the second most frequent offense at 28%, while assault and robbery each account for 11% of all offenses.

| Offense  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------|------|------|------|
| Assault  | 1    |      | 1    |
| Burglary |      | 3    | 6    |
| Robbery  |      | 1    | 1    |
| Sexual   | 3    | 1    | 1    |
| Total    | 4    | 5    | 9    |

During this 3 year time period, two male youth completed a DJJ Diagnostic 90 day evaluation, but were not subsequently ordered by the Court to serve a DJJ commitment. Offense types were robbery and assault, and race was Hispanic and Caucasian, respectively.

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

The identified target population will be housed at the local juvenile detention facility, the JTC, where treatment and programming will be provided by either clinical Probation Department staff members at the facility, or by highly trained providers from local community based organizations contracted to provide needed services. Youth with specific needs (such as a female-specific program) may be committed to a regional facility hosted by another county with programs designed to focus on and meet the specific need. There are currently no alternative programs available.

### **Part 3: Programs and Services (WIC 1995 (c)(2) )**

Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population:

Each youth or young adult in the target population, who is serving a commitment to the JTC will be screened and assessed for risk and need, utilizing available tools such as the following:

1. The Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) is a 126 item, multiple choice assessment measuring a youth's risk to reoffend, identifying strengths (protective and stabilizing factors) and criminogenic risk factors.
2. The Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-2 (MAYSI-2) is a brief behavioral health tool designed for juvenile justice programs and facilities that identifies pressing behavioral health needs through a 52 question self-report inventory. The tool also generates a score to identify each youth's adverse child experiences score (ACES), to guide trauma-informed care.
3. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is an intake screening tool utilized to assess risk of sexual victimization and abusiveness.
4. The Addiction Severity Index (ASI) is a semi-structured interview designed to address seven targeted areas in substance-abusing youth, identifying the level of care needed to address treatment needs.
5. The Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI-A2) identifies probability of substance use disorders in adolescent clients and provides clinical insight into family and social risk factors.

On an ongoing basis, the Department conducts evaluations of assessments appropriate for the populations served, and adjusts practices as needed to ensure an evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive approach to evaluating each youth or young adult. In addition to risk and need assessments, behavioral health staff conduct and/or review educational and mental health assessments in order to assist with each youth's treatment plan.

Treatment oversight is coordinated by the Mental Health Program Coordinator, a full-time staff member employed by the Probation Department, and the Treatment Team, which consists of representation from educational services, behavioral health, alcohol and other drug counselor, the youth's supervising Deputy Probation Officer (or designee), and an assigned facility Supervising Deputy Probation Officer.

The Treatment Team and Mental Health Program Coordinator review and discuss each youth's assessment results in parallel with other relevant information about the youth to inform treatment needs. Youth are assigned to individual and/or group services based on assessed criminogenic need, behavioral health need/stabilization, family/criminal history, and goals for transition.



Available individual services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Individual therapy
2. Suicide prevention/assessment and crisis intervention
3. Individual substance abuse prevention, treatment, and relapse prevention planning
4. Any identified need found appropriate to be treated on an individual basis

Group services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
2. Matrix Model - Substance abuse education, treatment, and relapse prevention
3. Coping with Anger Program
4. Boys Council
5. Girls Circle
6. Change Companies Interactive Journaling

Additional Interventions/Services may also include:

1. Vocational and/or Employment Skills
2. Incarcerated Students Program, offering college education through a local community college
3. Health Education and Parenting
4. Healthy Relationships
5. Trauma Counseling
6. Family Focused Re-Entry Services
7. Transitional Age Youth Services

Medical Services are provided through a contract with Wellpath. Wellpath provides onsite medical services seven days per week as well as telepsychiatry services.

Behavioral Health services are coordinated by the Mental Health Program Coordinator and provided through contracts with community based organizations such as Tahoe Youth and Family Services and A Balanced Life.

Given the additional needs of the target population, block grant funding will be utilized to acquire additional specialized therapeutic services to address high-need and individualized care, by either hiring specialized Probation Department staff or contracting with local community based organizations for services. For example, to serve a sex offending population, therapeutic providers will be secured to provide services specific to treatment of this specialized population. Further, block grant funding may be utilized to hire additional sworn officers for supervision and group facilitation, therapeutic providers as previously mentioned, and/or supplemental contract services as needed to meet individual need and frequency of service.

Reentry planning will occur throughout the youth's commitment, goals will be identified and established, and a transitional release plan will be developed with input from the youth and family. Every six months, a review hearing will be held with the Court and the youth's progress toward the goals of both the commitment being served and the transitional plan will be discussed.

Once a local youth is released from the JTC after completing a commitment, the youth may be supervised by a probation officer in the community (depending on age at time of release, a young adult who has reached the age of jurisdiction would not be supervised if the Probation Department no longer retains jurisdiction). If a youth or young adult is supervised, a transition plan will occur prior to release, which will put into place a comprehensive plan including housing, necessary services, education, employment, etc. If a young adult will not be supervised, a transitional plan will still be put in place in order to assist the young adult with humanitarian needs and a path for success upon release.

**Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds (WIC 1995 (3)(a) )**

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population:

The Department plans to utilize grant funds to hire additional mental health providers who will be able to provide an array of behavioral health and trauma-based services to the detained population. If services are provided in-house for youth who sexually offend, funds will be used to hire highly trained treatment specialists to provide services and programming specific to this population. Funding may also be utilized to align with an educational entity to help develop and grow this treatment program. Additional programming staff or contractors will be considered for all committed youth who are detained locally.

However, in the South Lake Tahoe region, where the JTC is located, it has historically been a challenge to secure mental health providers on a consistent basis. Therefore funding may be used to contract with community based organizations to provide these identified behavioral health services and/or specialized services. Otherwise, the county will use funds to commit the youth or young adult to a regional facility in another county that has a program developed to better address the specific need, should those programs materialize.

Grant funds may also be used to train staff members in specialized assessments, interventions and trauma-informed approaches to meet the needs of higher level, more sophisticated youth. Any newly hired Department staff will be required to complete relevant, appropriate, ongoing training that meets and exceeds industry standards.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (B) )

The Department plans to use grant funding to continue facilitation of Healthy Relationships, a curriculum that promotes self-esteem, identification of healthy adolescent/young adult relationships, as well as domestic violence prevention. Funds may also be utilized to support the facilitation of My Future Matters, a six-week curriculum focused on self-esteem, team building, leadership, and service to others. These programs are facilitated jointly by probation staff as well as teaching staff employed by the El Dorado Office of Education. If these programs are not available, or further curriculum is needed, funds will be used to research and support alternative or supplemental programs with similar goals.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (C) )

The Department plans to support family engagement by utilizing grant funds for family counseling sessions and parenting classes; these strategies have been identified as imperative to family progress, and helpful to support a youth's transition to the family home upon release to the community.

For youth or young adults who lack familial support, the Department will utilize Family Finding to locate family members or supportive adults who are contacted and introduced to the idea of establishing or reestablishing a relationship with the youth.

For youth released from custody and under community supervision, the transition plan may include goals to continue family engagement, counseling, and/or reunification services started while the youth was in custody.

Given the geographical location of the JTC in the South Lake Tahoe basin, the Department recognizes the hardship placed on families residing on the West Slope of the county, who need to travel over a Sierra Mountain pass to visit with their child. In these instances, family engagement will be supported by utilizing grant funds to provide transportation assistance in order for families to visit youth or young adults at the JTC. Further, if inclement weather prohibits traveling back to the West Slope safely, funding will be used to lodge a family in the South Lake Tahoe region until travel is safe. Lodging may also be funded and used for a multiple day visit or event which promotes healthy adolescent development. Video communication platforms, such as Zoom, will be utilized to supplement in-person family therapy and engagement, as necessary.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing and continuing education for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (D) )

As described in Part 3, Programs and Services, reentry planning occurs while the youth or young adult is in custody, and a transition plan is developed as the youth nears release. The transition and reentry service plans are individualized on a case-by-case basis, depending on the youth or young adult's needs, including but not limited to emotional, physical, and mental health needs, educational progress, maturity level, and support/familial services in place. Each transition plan includes appropriate risk and needs assessments, to safely serve the youth or young adult, as well as the community.

To support potential employment opportunities, community-based workforce development specialists and the youth's supervising probation officer will assist the youth or young adult in drafting a resume, completing job applications, participating in job skills training, and exploring resources such as the Employment Resource Center and the County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). The Probation Department currently partners with the Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) program. Youth or young adults may be referred to the NCCT which provides intensive training in the construction trades and job placement through union contracts upon graduation. Further, HHSA's Employment Services offers a Youth Services Program for 17-24 year olds. These options may be available for any young adult who is being supervised in our community by a probation officer.

For youth or young adults who need housing support upon release, grant funding may be used for housing vouchers, either through a partnership with HHSA or through local housing providers, if necessary. The Department has a transitional living house in Placerville to serve the adult population who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Grant funding may be used to secure a bed in the transitional house while finding permanent housing, when appropriate.

Post-secondary education will continue to be provided at the JTC, through the Incarcerated Students Program provided by Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC). Currently, vocational services include Culinary Arts, and additional options will be considered in the future. Undergraduate classes are also available through the LTCC opportunity. Upon release from the JTC, youth can continue college classes through LTCC, and/or the youth's supervising probation officer will work with the youth to identify interest in a course of study, then research, and enroll in a continuing education program.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive services for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (E) )

The Department plans to use grant funds to support the evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive services described above in Part 3, Programs and Services.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers: (WIC 1995 (3) (F))

The Department will utilize grant funding for services through a contract with local community based organizations when necessary, either because the specific service or program need is not administered by Probation Department staff, or because the local community based organization runs a successful service or program that is believed to be beneficial to youth or young adults in the realigned target population.

## Part 5: Facility Plan

Describe in detail each of the facilities that the County plans to use to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. (WIC 1995 (4) )

The target population will reside at El Dorado County's sole juvenile detention center, the Juvenile Treatment Center (JTC), located in South Lake Tahoe. The JTC is a co-ed, two unit, secure residential facility with a 40-bed maximum capacity. The two units each have a capacity of 20 beds, and are independent from each other with separate school settings, recreational rooms, living quarters, and restroom facilities. JTC Central Control is located between the units, where assigned probation staff can observe and serve both units concurrently. Other areas of the facility include a medical office, kitchen area, sally port, staff office areas, one secure outdoor recreation area, and one large, multi-purpose room utilized for events, training, visitation, and meetings.

Both the target population, as well as the general population will be housed at the JTC. Populations will be separated by unit; one unit housing general population youth, and the target realignment population in the second unit. This second unit includes any specialized subset of the target population, such as juveniles who sexually offend.

Considerations for housing assignments within units are based on assessment results, criminal history, commitment length, age, in-custody behavior history, victimization risk, criminal sophistication, developmental stage, gender identity, gang affiliation, and behavioral health needs.

Although males and females may be housed together in the same unit of general population youth, females will not share living quarters with males. Furthermore, the females of the general population will not interact with the male target population in the second unit.

The Department has pursued additional funding from the BSCC to address and improve facility space dedicated to housing the target population. If awarded, and accepted, these funds would be used to address and improve environmental factors, such as additional treatment and programming space, expanded recreation space to accommodate different populations, heating for outdoor recreation areas and interior renovations to create a home-like environment. Facility improvements will be constructed with the goals of security and safety, as well as a trauma-informed context whenever possible.



## **Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System**

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system: (WIC 1995 (5) )

Utilizing an evidence-based, trauma-informed, youth and family centered, treatment plan focused, cognitive based approach to rehabilitation, retaining youth and young adults in the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system, will provide better outcomes, including reduced recidivism and more empathy to victims and the community. Keeping the realignment target population in the hands of county services and providers and remaining focused on returning youth back to our community, ensures a commitment by probation officers, providers, and community leaders to affect positive change in these youth and families. For example, youth who remain in the juvenile justice system have access to sealing their juvenile court records, enabling positive progress into young adulthood in the community. Building local programs and services, as well as regional agreements with other counties, incentivizes retention in the juvenile justice system.

## **Part 7: Regional Effort**

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

El Dorado County will accept realigned youth into the JTC for treatment from established contract counties including but not limited to: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mono, Nevada, and Placer. Further, should El Dorado County be considered as a regional facility for the secure track treatment of youth, the JTC will accept referrals from those counties and others in the region who are in need of a program designated to treat youth.

Out of county youth referred to the JTC for services will be subject to an assessment period, to determine appropriateness for treatment at the JTC. Youth found to be appropriate will be accepted dependent on available bed space. El Dorado County anticipates the ability to provide treatment for up to 10 youth in need of long-term services.

Youth case management will be administered by El Dorado County with collaboration with the youth's county of residence (referring county). The youth's probation officer from the referring county will be required to meet with youth in this secure track program no less than monthly, with video communication platforms as an option, but must meet in person at least quarterly. The youth's probation officer from the referring county is required to collaborate with JTC staff to transition the youth to the referring county upon completion of the youth's commitment, including the establishment of services within the referring county's jurisdiction for effective transition into the community.

**Part 8: Data**

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant: (WIC 1995 (7) )

Data will be collected using the Probation Department's existing case management system, Caseload Explorer by Automon. Programming modules will be developed within the case management system, and Probation staff will enter data accordingly for all programs and interventions in which the realignment target population participated.

Anonymous youth satisfaction surveys will be used to measure progress, attitude and belief changes, as well as provide valuable feedback for staff and management.

Provider surveys will also be used to measure various engagement components, such as perception of relationship health between provider and the youth or young adult.

In the event additional resources are needed, funding may be utilized to purchase software, development resources, data entry resources, or other resources that assist data collection and outcomes.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to determine the results of the programs and interventions supported by block grant funds: (WIC 1995 (7) )

Possible outcome measures to determine program and intervention results may include the following:

- Intervention attendance and engagement
- Program and intervention completion
- Recidivism
- Changes to youth's assessment results
- Community supervision after release
- Community transition support
- Timeline between release and engagement in community services
- Detention/commitment lengths
- Program satisfaction/feedback
- Changes to youth's outlook of future success
- Population characteristics (such as age, ethnicity, offense, and previous child welfare involvement)
- Educational factors
- Measurements specific to specialized subsets of the population (such as JSO population)
- Staff and volunteer training
- Natural supports established for post-release sustainability
- Caregiver or young person support and resources upon release
- Transition safety plan factors and timelines
- Provider engagement and perceptions
- Other program performance indicators as identified