



## **SIERRA COUNTY**

### **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)**

#### **JJCPA-YOBG ANNUAL PLAN**

#### **Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

This document is to serve as the updated Sierra County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) JJCPA-YOBG plan for the fiscal year noted above in compliance with Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institution Code Section 1961(b) which set forth a consolidation of the annual plans required for Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG).

The following plan is to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis through the JJCC. All changes to the JJCPA component are to be reported to the California State Board of State & Community Corrections (BSCC). The combined plan describes all programs, placements, strategies, services, and system enhancements that will be supported with JJCPA and/or YOBG funds in the upcoming fiscal year. County plans are due to the BSCC JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov by May 1 prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year and then posted on the BSCC's website as a public document. Plans do not need to be approved by the BSCC nor do subsequent annual plans need to be approved by the local county board of supervisors.

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## **Legislative Background**

The JJCPA was implemented via Assembly Bill (AB) 1913, The Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Action of 2000, and codified by Government Code §30061. The purpose of AB 1913 is to provide California counties with funding to implement programs for at-risk youth, youthful offenders, and their families with the goal of early intervention and to support the implementation of programs and approaches demonstrated to be effective in reducing youth crime.

The YOBG was enacted in 2007 by Senate Bill (SB) 81. The purpose of the YOBG is to realign the supervision of non-violent, non-sexual and non-serious justice-involved youth from the former State of California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to local governments. YOBG funding is to also provide local governments with funding support for the supervision of this population. The realignment of youth from state facilities to local supervision in their counties of residence allows their connection to community and family support systems to remain intact and undisturbed.

AB 1998 was enacted in September of 2016 to consolidate the JJCPA and YOBG submissions and streamline reporting requirements. AB 1998 dictates that the Juvenile Justice Combined Plan must be developed by the local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council in each county with the membership described in WIC §749.22.

## **Current JJCC Membership**

The Sierra County Multiagency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is currently composed of the following members (WIC 749.22):

- Charles Henson, Chief Probation Officer/Chairperson;
- Sandra Groven, District Attorney;
- J. Lon Cooper, Public Defender;
- Michael Fisher, Sheriff;
- Sharon Dryden, Supervisor District 5;
- Lori McGee, Director Public Health & Social Services
- Sheryll Prinz-McMillan, Director Behavioral Health;
- Derrick Koch, Community-based Drug and Alcohol program;
- N/A, City Police Department;
- James Berardi, County Superintendent, Office of Education;
- Scott McCallum, At-large Representative of Community;
- Vickie Clark, Representative of Community-based Organization providing services to minors-High Sierra's Family Services.

## **Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy**

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

### **A. Assessment of Existing Services**

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*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.*

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Law enforcement- Sierra County is served by a small (12 sworn with 10 active and one reserve, point in time) sheriff's office. The sheriff's office covers all aspects of law enforcement including the investigation of juvenile delinquency, crimes against children and participates in the county's SARB.

Probation- Sierra County is served by a probation department that currently consists of three (4) sworn staff which includes the chief probation officer and three (3) deputies. Both the chief and deputies respond to juvenile delinquency and truancy matters and do preventative work. There is always an on-call officer to respond during any non-business hours. Probation regularly attends county SARB meetings, the mental health advisory board and is involved in several interactive programs with the schools, the county JJC (currently defunct), and local community-based organization(s).

Education- Sierra County is served by an elementary school, a combined middle and high school and a combined K-12 school. There is an additional opportunity at the Sierra Pass Continuation School and adult education. Long Valley Charter Schools serves from neighboring Plumas County. Within the Loyalton High School there is a peer-to-peer peace mediation program, Peace ROARers, that utilizes the principles of restorative justice that is physically and financially supported by probation JJCPA funds.

Mental Health- Sierra County is served by a small rural mental health department of which juveniles and adults can access services both in and outside of the justice system. Services range from a wellness center, peer counseling (onsite service in schools), traditional counseling services, psychological services, and medication management. Services are provided through a partnership of providers and through MediCal MHSA funding.

Health/ Social Services- Sierra County is served by two (2) private health clinics and a county health department that offers medical and dental checkup services to youth.

Drug and Alcohol- Sierra County is served by a county SUD department which provides services to juveniles and adults with MediCal who are in and out of the justice system. There are no in county inpatient programs or private outpatient providers.

Other- Sierra County is served by a county AOD/ tobacco prevention program, Friday Night Live program, several private youth afterschool/recreational programs, and a family resource center. County behavioral health also has a wellness center that is available to youth and in school peer support. Crisis services are provided by the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center, in neighboring Plumas County.

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

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Sierra County is a small rural community where there is no issue in communication among departments and resources.

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

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

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Being a small rural community with several scattered populated areas there is no real "target" area that attracts a concentration of juvenile crime more than any other. The community of Loyalton and the surrounding areas typically see the brunt of juvenile delinquency and truancy due to the larger community being the bulk of the county youth population. Consequently, Loyalton Jr./Sr. High has been identified as a high service needs area for both delinquency and absenteeism. Loyalton Elementary School has been identified a high risk absenteeism area.

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

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*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.*

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Sierra County utilizes a strategy to address justice involved youth that focuses on preventing and deterring youth from needing to be placed in detention. Detention is only utilized when necessary and when other non-restrictive measures are not appropriate at the time. Sierra County focuses on providing and coordinating proper county and community-based resources to youth and families to better their prosocial interactions with one another and the community.

Consequently, there is a system of graduated responses that begin with the least restrictive measures, often when circumstances warrant intervention first, and increase when appropriate. If a youth has the necessity to begin in a more restrictive environment, resources are pooled to help assure that the youth can be supported in a transition to a less restrictive setting. Within the Sierra County

justice system there is a priority to transition youth out of the formal system as soon as stability has been restored for the youth and/or family and the youth has demonstrated the ability to remain free of significant violation of law and/or remain within the control of the guardian(s).

**D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions**

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*Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year.*

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In FY 21-22, per SB 823, the Sierra County JJCC Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) Subcommittee had developed an initial JJRBG plan, and an updated plan for FY 24-25 for the targeted population that will utilize local resources when they can be utilized and area resources. Although the JJRBG plan focuses on a different subset of offenders, the development of this plan has enabled Sierra County to identify and develop additional out of county resources and further the collaboration between counties to help provide a network of efficient and effective specialized services for youthful offenders.

Throughout the past fiscal year, the Sierra County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) had dissolved due to the lack of community interest and availability. The Probation Department was hopeful that the JJC would strengthen enough to be able to develop a new Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Commission (JDPC). Financial resources from JJCPA were allocated in the budget to that group for prevention and intervention services that year but the group was unable to form. Despite student interest at the schools, work continued to be done to establish some sort of youth peer-to-peer program. We were able to gain a footing with the Peace ROARiers, that utilizes the principles of restorative justice, mediation program and have dedicated JJCPA funding and personnel support to the program for training, education, and guidance. This year’s plan will continue to budget funding for these programs and probation will continue to collaborate for the sake of prevention.

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

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N/A

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

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))

**A. Information Sharing and Data**

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*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.*

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Sierra County does not have a dedicated shared information system. The sharing of data and other relevant information is done person to person and is effective.

**B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

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

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Yes

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*If no, please list the current vacancies that exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies occurred, and your plan for filling them.*

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N/A

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

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*Describe each program, strategy and/or system enhancement that will be supported with funding from JJCPA, identifying anything that is co-funded with Youthful Offender Block (YOBG) funding.*

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*Please see attachment "A"*

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

(Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))

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

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*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.*

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Sierra County does not have its own juvenile detention facility. Two (2) contracts are in place with Placer County and Butte County to house these juveniles. These facilities have been utilized when appropriate and will continue to be utilized for youth requiring detention. Sierra's overall strategy is to keep youth out of the juvenile hall unless necessary, utilizing the least restrictive placements and interventions. Sierra County also incorporates a plan to provide appropriate services to youth and to families to prevent detention and to better the ability of the family unit to maintain positive prosocial functionality amongst themselves and the community.

**B. Regional Agreements**

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

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N/A

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

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*Describe the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the YOBG program. Explain how they complement or coordinate with the programs, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the JJCPA program.*

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*Please see attachment "B"*

**Attachment "A"**

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*JJCPA Funded Program(s), Strategy and/or System Enhancement*

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Below are the JJCPA funded programs:

**Program Name: Incapacitation**

Evidence Upon Which It is Based: Incapacitation, when used appropriately is a proven tool to prevent and deter criminality. Description: Sierra County allocates \$4,500 (30 days) annually to fund juvenile hall detention.

**Program Name: Friday Night Live Program**

Evidence Upon Which It is Based: Friday Night Live (FNL) is a renowned national program that focuses on providing and teaching healthy prosocial lifestyles to prevent and to intervene in negative antisocial behaviors including truancy, substance abuse and delinquency.

Description: Sierra County typically allocates \$3,000 annually to enable the FNL program to serve youth with prevention and intervention services in the county. This year it has been determined that based off of the recent analytical Youth Survey Findings by HCS, that there is a greater need for the program and that it is of great proven value, therefore the amount will be increased to \$4,500.

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**Attachment "B"**

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*YOBG Funded Program(s), Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement*

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Below are the YOBG funded programs:

**Program Name: Deputy Probation Officer salary and benefits.**

Evidence Upon Which It is Based: This is a shared cost with JJCPA. Description: \$124,043 of YOBG funds are allocated annually to fund our only juvenile probation officer. Without these funds the department would likely not have a position to adequately address the needs of the juvenile population.

**Approval of Plan**

As evidenced above, the Sierra County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council will continue to allocate JJCPA and YOBG funding to provide and expand upon the essential programs and services to the targeted youth.

Adopted by The Sierra County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council by majority

vote on April 16, 2024.



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Charles Henson  
Chief Probation Officer/JJCC Chairperson

April 16, 2024  
Date