



JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: March 18, 2025

County Name: Sierra

Contact Name: Charles W. Henson

Telephone Number: 530.289.3277

E-mail Address: chenson@sierracounty.ca.gov

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. Section 1995 was amended by Assembly Bill 505 (Ting, Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023.) This template has been updated to reflect those amendments which will be in effect on January 1, 2024. All citations are to the law as amended. The statutory language can be found [here](#).

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(a).)

County plans are to be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, oyrcounties@chhs.ca.gov, in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995. OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required planning process prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

There are nine sections to the plan:

- Part 1: Subcommittee Composition
- Part 2: Target Population
- Part 3: Programs and Services
- Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds
- Part 5: Facility Plan

- Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System
- Part 7: Regional Efforts
- Part 8: Data
- Part 9: Other Updates

PART 1: SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS (WELF. & INST. CODE §§ 1995 (B) AND (C))

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

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Charles Henson, Chief Probation Officer	chenson@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.289.3277
Co-Chair <i>(If Applicable)</i>	None		
District Attorney's Office Representative	Sandra Groven, District Attorney	sgroven@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.289.3269
Public Defender's Office Representative	J. Lon Cooper, Public Defender	jloncooper@gmail.com	530.265.4565
Department of Social Services Representative	Lori McGee, Director Social Services	lmcgee@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.993.6720
Department of Mental Health	Sheryll Prinz- McMillian, Director Behavioral Health, Health and Human Services	sprinzmcmillian@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.993.6748
Office of Education Representative	James Berardi, County Superintendent	jberardi@spjUSD.org	530.993.1660
Court Representative	Kimberly Flener, Court Executive Officer	kflener@sierracourt.org	530.289.3698
Three Community Members <i>(defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system" (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b).))</i>	Derrick Koch	dkoch@sierracounty.ca.gov	530.993.6720
	Stacy Wilson	shood@spjUSD.org	530.993.4454
	L.B., a juvenile	rbboatn@gmail.com	530.289.3277

Additional Subcommittee Participants			

Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):

During the plan revision process in March and April 2024, all members were advised of the statutory changes involving the co-chair. There was no interest expressed in changing from a sole chair, or having that role filled by any other member than the Chief Probation Officer. There was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to not have a co-chair and to continue the Chief as the chair. This matter was revisited on March 18, 2025, with the same decision.

Provide the dates of the last two meetings that the subcommittee convened to discuss your county’s JJRBG plan.

Meeting Date 1: Meeting Date 2:

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable:

N/A

Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote.

April 15, 2025

Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b):

After thorough collaboration with the subcommittee makeup at the time, the initial plan was unanimously approved in May of 2021. Since then, the plan has been reviewed, analyzed with annual data, discussed and unanimously approved by the subcommittee on an annual basis within a public meeting.

PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(1))

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

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

Sierra County will serve the targeted youth and young adults with adjudications for offenses outlined in 707(b) W&I or 290.008 PC where the Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

Sierra County does not have an in-county juvenile hall or other less restrictive facility such as a camp or ranch. The county contracts with other counties in the region for these services. The county does not currently have any in county programs or resources to serve youth requiring specialized therapeutic needs, such as sexual offenders, arson offenders, offenders with significant mental health issues, and pregnant or recent mother offenders. For these youth, we intend to seek a partnership with other agencies in or out of our region that address these specialized treatment needs through a contract process once needs are identified.

It is not expected that all the future eligible youth will need “DJJ like” replacement programming in a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) custodial setting for an extended period. Extended period will be defined as secure facility incapacitation for over one (1) year. Secure Track commitment and length of commitment will be dependent on the individual circumstances and the gravity of the qualifying offense(s) in conjunction with the assessed criminogenic risk and needs of the youth. If existing contracted facilities become operational as a SYTF, and they are configured and programmed to serve these youth to the suitable standards of Sierra County, those facilities may be utilized. If not, a contract will be sought with a willing facility nearer to the offender’s support network or a facility that is able to appropriately address the offender’s specific needs. Demographics of identified target population, including anticipated numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including age, gender, race or ethnicity, offense, and offense history.

Describe the target population disaggregated by programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.

Sierra County does not have any descriptions of the targeted population by program, placement, and/or facility as the county has not had any eligible youth.

PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(D)(2) and (d)(8)):

Sierra County currently has contracts with two (2) out of county juvenile detention centers located in Butte and Placer Counties. It is anticipated that these facilities will be utilized to house the targeted population pre-disposition and as a possible alternative to Secure Track detention centers for lower risk youth who do not have specific treatment or other special needs that would require placement in another location.

Programs, placements, services, and service providers, if out of the scope of local resources, will be contracted out through current contracts or through new contracts depending on the most appropriate setting for the youth and proximity to supportive family. Supervision outside of a facility will be carried out by existing Sierra County Probation staff.

Sierra County has a relatively low wardship rate as there is a focus on serving our youth at the lowest level of intervention as appropriate. When appropriate, local resources are utilized. Those services have consisted of probation mentoring, self-reflection exercises such as interactive journaling, community service, facilitating meaningful family/peer conflict resolution circles, restorative justice, tobacco, drug and alcohol services, mental health, peer support, family wrap services, wellness, electronic monitoring, and school attendance assistance.

Contracted out of county services for sexual offender counseling have also been utilized. Funding will directly support our youth in providing these specialized services and potentially enhancing services within the county when the need arises.

Sierra County Probation enjoys a strong partnership with Sierra County Behavioral Health (SCBH), the only provider of Mental Health and Substance Use Services available in the county. SCBH utilizes an MCP partnership to provide counseling in county or through Telehealth for any low to moderate behavioral health service through a network of providers. If a youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system at the local level has low to moderate Mental Health and/or Substance Use Services need, those needs can be met with MHSA funding. Sierra County's currently allows for Medi Cal SUD billing, and it is hopeful that the MHSA plan will be approved by end of June 2025 for mental health. Mental Health and/or Substance Use Services uses a variety of programs that are accessed through the following specialized programming:

- Access to Youth Services Treatment program- Available through the Mental Health Services Act, these programs and services include Therapeutic Behavioral Services Behavior Intervention Specialist services, Mental Health counseling, Family Therapy, medication management, case management and rehabilitative services.
- Student/ Parent Navigation program- Program provides outreach, linkage, and access to supports and services to families of youth who are experiencing challenges with school attendance and behavior problems in the school setting.

Sierra Wellness Advocacy for Youth (SWAY) program- SCBH partners with Sierra Plumas Joint Unified School District to provide education and in-services to the staff and student body related to social-emotional development and well-being. Services have been extended for youth-based wellness activities within the care continuum at the SCBH drop-in Wellness Center.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make "progress" in building or developing facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, and/or supervision for the targeted population.

PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(3))

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8)).

Sierra County plans to assess eligible youth using evidence based Noble assessments for risk and needs. A specialized sex offender assessment will be conducted using the JSORAT assessment. Due to the historically small size of the county's targeted population, unpredictable nature of juvenile crime and dynamic needs of the target population in Sierra County, it would be costly and inefficient to create robust programming for each specialized treatment need area. To be cost effective, JJRBG funding will be used to benefit these youth by enabling the county to enhance local services when appropriate and to obtain out of county services that are proven in quality for specialized offenders when needed. It is anticipated that services for offenders who are experiencing significant mental health needs, severe alcohol and drug issues, sexual offender treatment needs, and/or other significant related behavioral or trauma-based needs will be contracted out to out of county

specialized services to effectively serve the youth. Eligible youth who are not placed in Secure Track will also be eligible to receive programming and services through these funds as well to work to ensure that they do not violate and be at further risk of Secure Track placement.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8)).

Sierra County lacks the presence of community-based organizations (CBOs) or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that specialize in providing services for justice involved youth. This plan intends to reserve some funding for the development/ assistance of groups that may come forward in the community. Absent any CBOs or NGOs, probation will continue to utilize the strength we have as a small, intertwined community, to assist youth in obtaining out of home, nonauthoritarian prosocial relationships to provide an outlet and guidance. Funding may be used for prosocial activities and programs to help foster healthy development.

Sierra County does have a valued nonprofit partner in the county, the High Sierras Family Resource Center (FRC). The FRC serves as the Sierra County Child Abuse Council and the Sierra County Child Care Council. Their space can be utilized for some family visitation in a safe and homy environment. Although it does not specialize in justice involved youth, it does offer primary prevention children and family services which include, parenting education, food bank & pantry, winter heating application assistance, a self-help workstation with internet, printing and telephone, emergency clothing and toiletries, case management and resource and referral on site. They travel around the county to provide social emotional learning programs to children 2-12 years old. The Family Resource Center sponsors community events that are aimed at bringing families together to enjoy activities promoting health and well-being.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8)).

Sierra County plans to support family engagement for the target population through a variety of services and programming. Child and Family Teaming, in collaboration with the Department of Social Services, will be used to engage in Family Finding for youth in need of permanent connections and the utilization of a variety of options for parenting education and support. Mental health, drug and alcohol, and wellness services will also be used to support family engagement by providing capacity for regular family counseling for all Secure Track youth.

Wraparound Services is another key program for promoting family engagement. Target population youth re-entering the community from a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) will have the opportunity to participate in Wraparound Services if they are under the age of 18. The Subcommittee recognized that the target population is more likely to be over the age of 18 at re-entry compared to other youth on probation; therefore, many will not be eligible for Wraparound Services. Some of these youth will be able to access similar services

such as Full-Service Partnership (FSP), SWAY, and Youth Access to Treatment. Where no existing services can meet the need, grant funds are intended to be applied towards replacement services.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address programs or services to address family engagement in programs for the target population.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8)).

Sierra County plans to address the following needs for the targeted population by focusing on:

- Specialized Services – Reserving some grant funds for specialized purpose needs as they arise, will allow for some specialized services, such as “Wraparound” management services, to aid with reentry for those target population youth who are not eligible for existing services based on age, insurance or other factors. This funding could also be accessed for youth specific needs such as post-secondary course enrollment for Secure Track youth.
- Supportive Housing - The Subcommittee recognized that some Secure Track youth will not have family homes to return to upon release. Those under 18 will have options for foster care placement settings. Those over 18 may not qualify for Extended Foster Care (EFC) services and therefore need additional support. County stakeholders have agreed to provide “special consideration” for the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+) Program for Secure Track youth. Even so, some will not meet suitability criteria or otherwise be able to access this limited resource. Probation will work with these youth to explore all other housing options; however, some may still need additional resources to exit custody to stable housing.
- Specialized Foster Home for High Needs Probation Youth – Sierra County has a FFA provider, Environmental Alternatives that can be utilized as well as a mechanism to utilize a RFA provider. Sierra County does have a need for a higher level “therapeutic” Resource Family Home. The subcommittee has expressed an interest in exploring this program through assistance of the JJRBG within Sierra County or likely in partnership with other small rural neighboring counties.
- Specialized Placements - Every effort will be made to serve the target population locally in order to keep them connected to their families and community; however, Sierra County has very limited local resources for placements in general therefore, this plan intends to reserve some realignment funds for Specialized Placement each year to access Secure Youth Treatment Facilities in other counties as they are needed.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8)).

As most of the specialized programs and services to serve the targeted Secure Track youth will be contracted out to out-of-country providers, Sierra County plans to only utilize services for our youth that are well suited and experienced in evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices. Sierra County Probation and the JJCC will endeavor to assess all programs and services prior to placement and to evaluate utilized programs at least annually.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by non-governmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8)).

Sierra County does not have a CBO or NGO presence that focusses their services on justice involved youth. Sierra County is open to partnering with reputable CBOs or NGOs that may want to establish in Sierra County.

As previously mentioned, Sierra County does have a valued nonprofit, the High Sierras Family Resource Center with a Loyalton field office, the Empowerment Center. Sierra County does plan on building upon the partnership it has with the Family Resource Center and reserving an allocation of funding for this program and its broad range of services when the need arises.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers.

PART 5: FACILITY PLAN (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(4))

Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used 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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8)).

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(d)(4)).

If currently contracted facilities cannot be utilized as the most appropriate facility for the targeted youth, it is anticipated that other specialized facilities will be used through existing or new contracts. New SYTF contracts would likely include existing Shasta and/or Tehama County facilities to keep youth within the general area and with a similar population. Sierra County does not have oversight or control of how contracted facilities are designed or operated. However, Sierra County will be diligent in monitoring contracted facilities for the safety and protection of all potential local youth. Youth will be withdrawn from and/or contracts will not be renewed to facilities that do not ensure these standards.

Decision on whether target population youth would be best served in an existing contracted juvenile hall or in a consortium based SYTF will be based upon the least restrictive option that provides care, treatment and guidance that is consistent with the best interests of the youth and the public as required by Section 202(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC).

Considerations of the safety and protection of all youth in the facilities will take on additional importance given the probability of older (up to and including age 24) and more sophisticated target population youth now remaining in local commitment for extended periods. Youth will continue to be classified for specific housing based on requirements contained in Title 15 and the policies and procedures of the hosting county facility. These requirements are intended to provide for the safety of youth, facility staff and the public by placing youth in the least restrictive housing and program settings that can meet their needs. Classification factors include but are not limited to the following:

- Age and maturity of the youth
- Sophistication
- Emotional stability
- Court status and present offense
- Criminal offense history
- Prior behavior while in the facility or other institutions
- Gang affiliation
- Conflicts with other youth
- Court-ordered restrictions as to the association with other youth
- Medical/mental health considerations
- Gender and gender identity
- Developmental and cognitive processing disabilities
- Program needs
- Legal process status

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address this area.

PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(5))

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8)).

The Sierra County justice partners are cognizant of the need to keep youth out of the adult court system. This system will be the last resort reserved for consideration in only the most serious and violent of offenses. Funding specialized services that meet an individual’s needs will incentivize keeping the youth within the juvenile court system.

It is important to note that SB 823 changed the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction for some target population youth. Previously, only youth who were committed to the DJJ had their maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction extended to age 23 or 25. Changes enacted with SB 823 extend the age of jurisdiction for the

entire target population, regardless of whether they become Secure Track youth, to the ages of 23 or 25, depending on the nature of their adjudicated charges. By adding a new Section 208.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), SB 823 also provided additional restrictions on housing wards of the juvenile court in adult facilities, regardless of age. Wards 19 years of age or older cannot be detained in an adult facility without hearing. The presumption at that hearing is that the ward will be retained in a juvenile facility. Wards serving a commitment in a juvenile facility cannot have that commitment transferred to an adult facility, regardless of age. For the purposes of this plan, that means there is the potential for more youth between the ages of 21-25 requiring services in the local juvenile justice continuum, up to and including juvenile detention services.

All requests for transfer of a juvenile to an adult court will be reviewed by the Chief Probation Officer using a multi-agency process and creating a comprehensive continuum of services for the individual.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address this area.

PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORT (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(6))

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County’s block grant allocation. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8)).

Sierra County plans to use JJRBG funding to house eligible offenders in existing contracted facilities or new contracted facilities if needed. No regional agreements or arrangements have been supported by the funding to date. It is planned that the funds will serve as a “insurance” type policy to keep available and to utilize for appropriate secure placement, special individualized programming and services, and reentry programming and services when the need arises.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address regional efforts.

PART 8: DATA (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(7))

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response:

Absent a significant anomaly, the amount of eligible youth the Sierra County justice system will become involved with will be low enough that existing staff will be able to record data through existing case management systems. The demographics of the youth served will address age, gender, ethnicity, neighborhood, family status, and offense details.

Data other than demographics that will be collected will consist of:

- Assessment information- risk/ need
- Custody time – days spent in custody at juvenile detention facilities
- New law violations - subsequent adjudications and/or convictions for misdemeanor or felony offenses after becoming a target population youth
- Treatment programming - programs referred to and completion status

- High school and secondary education status
- Employment and/or employment skills training participation
- Housing status

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address data collection.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response:

The completion rate of eligible youth will be measured as well as the completion rates for programs utilized. Youth, families, and other partners will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on programs and the methods used to manage this population. Recidivism will also be monitored.

Since May 1, 2024, Sierra County has not had any eligible youth and therefore no funding has been spent to enhance or otherwise make “progress” in building or developing means to address data collection.

PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2024: (WELF. & INST. CODE (D)(8))

Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.

None