

IMPERIAL COUNTY JUVENILE COORDINATING COUNCIL (JJCC)

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PLAN 2023/2024



JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME
PREVENTION ACT (JJCPA) /
YOUTHFUL OFFENDER BLOCK
GRANT (YOBG)



This report is also available for viewing on:

Probation.imperialcounty.org

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Introduction – Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was passed in 2000 and allowed California to take significant steps towards sweeping reform of juvenile justice practices across the state. In 2007, the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) restricted State level commitment to youth who committed the most serious offenses, commonly referred to as “707(b)” offenses after the Welfare and Institutions Code section.

As a result, non-707(b) offenders who might have been committed to a State facility in previous years are to be served at the local level using community resources and programs with the belief that remaining closer to their families and communities would support positive outcomes. The YOBG authorized State funding to counties to offset the cost of providing these resources and programs to youth, consistent with an annual plan submitted by counties to the State.

The JJCPA is a collaboration between the State, local agencies and stakeholders. Local officials and stakeholders determine where to direct resources through an interagency planning process. The State Controller’s Office distributes the appropriated JJCPA funds to counties based on population. Local agencies and community-based organizations deliver the services.

Through these reform efforts, local jurisdictions have been provided funding to support initiatives and strategies that target juvenile crime and delinquency, juvenile offenders and at-risk youth. Over the past decade, juvenile justice has continued to evolve and has experienced numerous improvements. The field has embraced evidence-based practices and focuses on the delivery of treatment and other services to improve youth and system outcomes. Accurate and timely data have become a priority and are required to ensure interventions and operations reflect evidence-based practices and are aligned with rehabilitative goals.

Imperial County has a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code 749.22. The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is an established, multiagency committee that develops and implements a continuum of county-based responses to juvenile crime.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Members

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council includes the following members:



DAN PRINCE
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER
(CHAIR)



FRED MIRAMONTES
SHERIFF



GEORGE MARQUEZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



BEN SALORIO
PUBLIC DEFENDER



PAULA LLANAS
DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF
SOCIAL SERVICES



ANTHONY MARA
CITY OF CALIPATRIA
CHIEF OF POLICE



MICHAEL KELLEY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
DISTRICT 3



LETICIA PLANCARTE-GARCIA
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH SERVICES



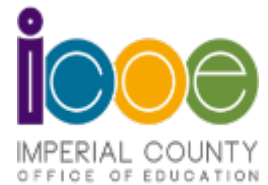
CHERYL VIEGAS-WALKER
SUPERVISOR, PARKS AND
RECREATION DEPT.



PATRICIA URENA
SUPERVISOR, PARKS AND
RECREATION DEPT.



TODD FINNEL
SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS



MONALISA VITELA
SENIOR DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Overview

In an effort to encourage coordination and collaboration among the various local agencies serving at-risk youth and young offenders, the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) advises county Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCC) to update and refine the county's juvenile justice plan each year. This document will provide an overview of JJCPA and YOBG, goals and objectives for the coming year, and strategies that will be deployed.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1998 Consolidation

AB 1998 combined reporting requirements for the JJCPA and the YOBG programs. As of January 1, 2018, counties may submit a consolidated annual plan describing the programs, placements, strategies, services, and system enhancements supported by either JJCPA or YOBG funding.

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

In order to implement evidence-based practices, the Imperial County Probation Department recognized this effort would encompass new and innovative practices. Through this funding, the Probation Department continues to collaborate with Rite Track Youth Services for juveniles at risk of being removed from their homes and sent to placement and for juveniles returning from placement and reintegrating into the community. An allocation of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funds helps to support probation supervision of juvenile probationers with the intent of reducing recidivism and ensuring that evidence-based probation supervision practices will improve public safety outcomes among our juvenile probationers.

Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

Through this funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections of California, the Imperial County Probation Department is able to provide necessary and effective services to youth by keeping juvenile offenders close to their families and communities and to enhance public safety. Additionally, contracts have been implemented with Behavioral Health Services to provide psychiatric assessments and counseling of minors in Juvenile Hall. This funding has allowed for the development of an evidence based risk assessment program for all juveniles and supports diversion programs such as the Community Work Service (CWS) Program, the Police Athletic League/Sheriff's Athletic League, the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Juvenile Hall Garden of Dreams, the Imperial County Youth Summit, Keeping Youth on Track Education Safety (KYOTES), and Project ASPIRE.

Imperial County – JJCPA/YOGB

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to utilize JJCPA/YOGB funding to invest in programs and services that target at-risk youth within our community. This continued investment has shown significant progress towards reducing juvenile involvement with the justice system, as juvenile arrests have had a continued decrease in comparison to previous years' reported figures.

Programs such as the SAL and PAL recreational athletic leagues, the KYOTES motorbike program, and our Youth Summit are engaging community youth in a manner that keeps them informed, active, and healthy, both physically and mentally. These programs reduce risk factors that could lead them to become directly involved with our juvenile justice system. The Department also continues to invest in justice involved youth through Rite Track's Evening Learning Center (ELC) and Mentoring & Tracking Programs, which work diligently to ensure that referred youth can find success in obtaining higher education, employment, and develop skills that they can use throughout their lives. The Probation Department is further able to reduce the chance of youth recidivating by providing additional programs such as W.I.S.E and Proud Parenting, as well as additional community work service opportunities. For youth within the Juvenile Hall, the Probation Department uses JJCPA/YOGB funds to ensure that they are engaged in a meaningful ways through programs such as the Garden of Dreams and the Desert Valley Museum. These programs help youth develop skills and relationships that they can build on upon their exit of Juvenile Hall.

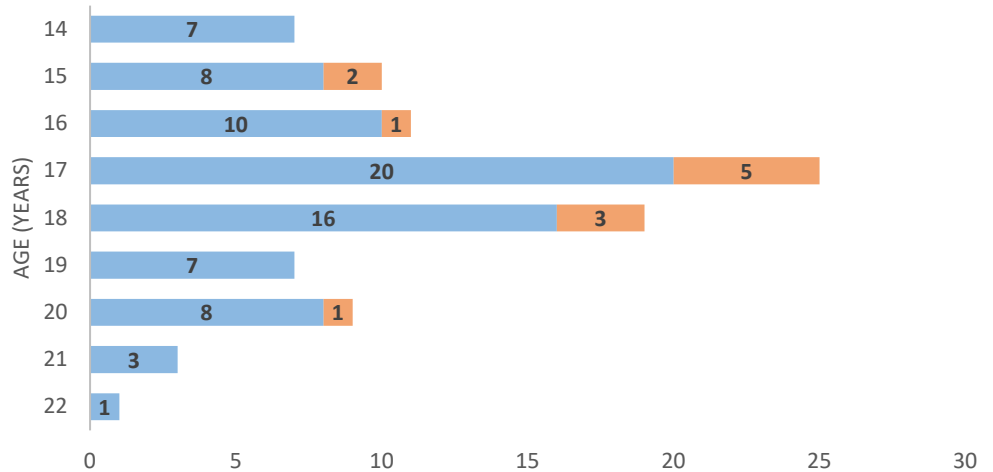
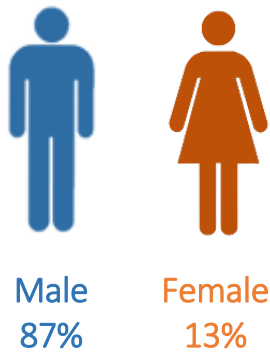
The Probation Department continued to be active and involved with our local community through its participation and support of events such as Career Fairs, the annual Children's Fair, and Shop with a Cop. In addition, the Department fully implemented Project ASPIRE, an afterschool program for underserved youth, which strives to keep youth ages 9-13 in our community engaged in positive prosocial activities. The Probation Department will continue to utilize these events and services to keep our community safe, informed, and engaged in supportive and impactful ways.

Imperial County – Juvenile Supervision Population

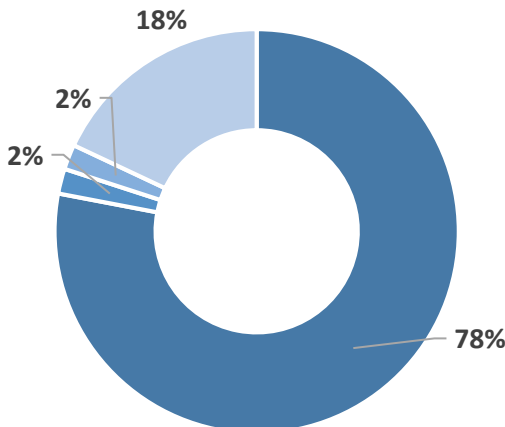
The Imperial County Probation Department’s Juvenile Supervision Unit provides a wide range of services to juvenile offenders that include Intake Services, Investigation Services, Community Supervision Services, and Placement Services. The Probation Department’s use of effective strategies and programs continues to have a positive impact on the juvenile supervision population. At the end of the previous fiscal year, the Probation Department reported 92 Juveniles under supervision and as of April 1, 2023, the majority of juveniles under supervision at the Imperial County Probation Department are between the ages of 17 and 20, Male, and Hispanic.

Below are juvenile supervision population breakdowns as of April 1st 2023:*

Imperial County Probation Department – Age / Sex Breakdown of Current Juvenile Population:

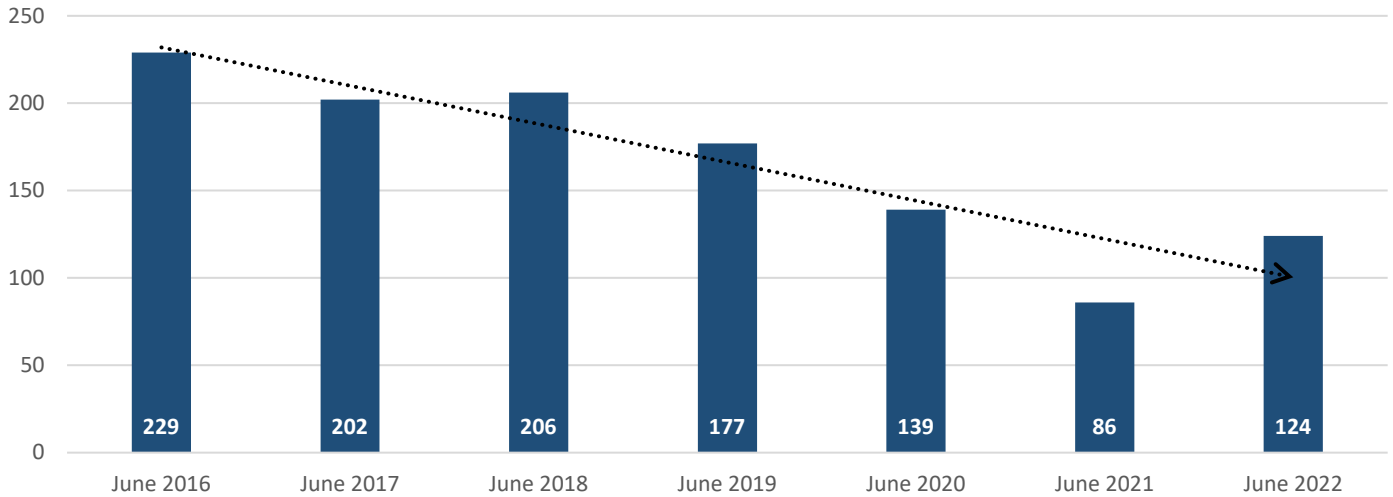


Imperial County Probation Department – Race Breakdown of Current Juvenile Population:

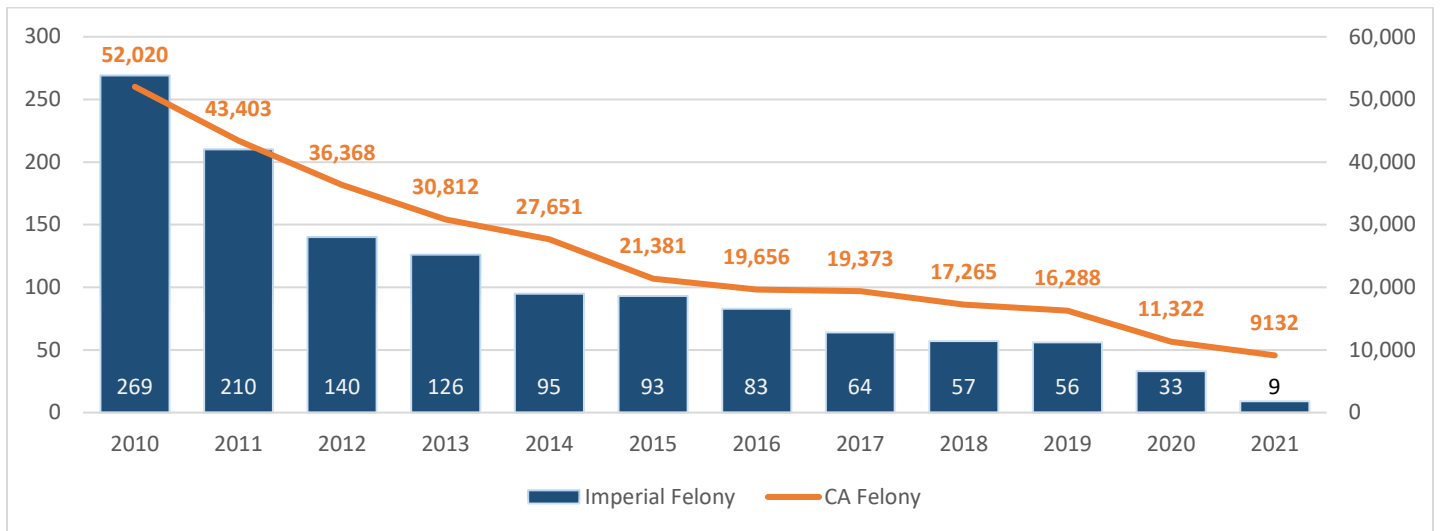


Hispanic / Mexican American	78%
African American	2%
Caucasian	2%
Other / Non-Identified	18%

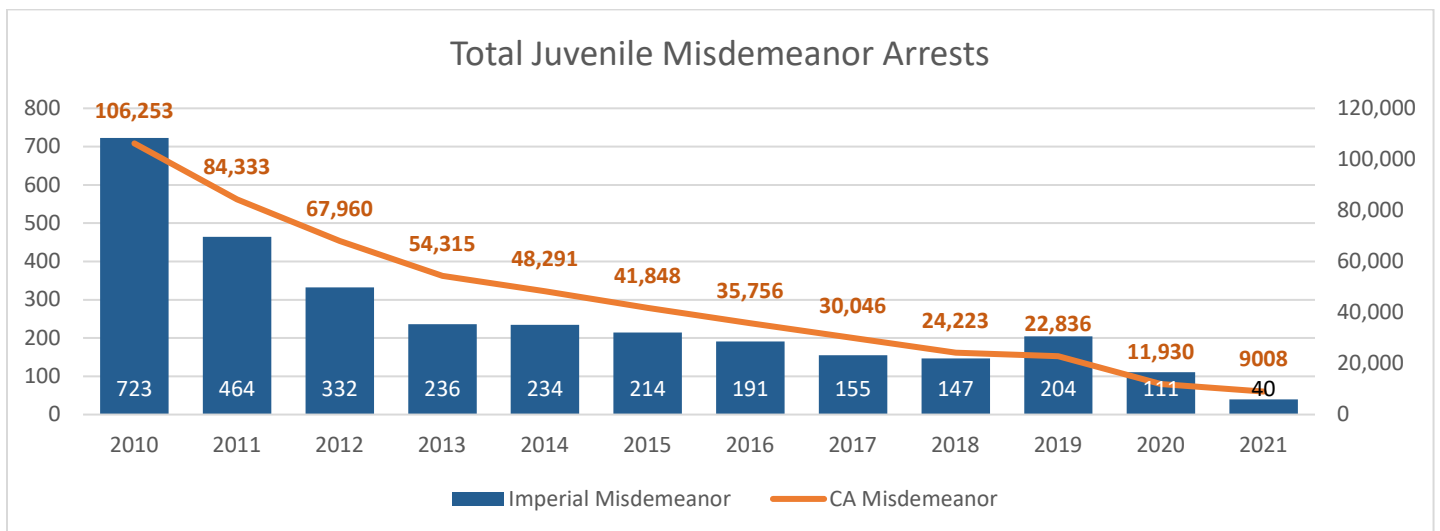
Imperial County Probation Department – Juvenile Supervision Population 2016 - 2022



Juvenile Felony Arrests: California vs Imperial County (2010-2021)*



Juvenile Misdemeanor Arrests: California vs Imperial County (2010-2021)*



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

A. Assessment of Existing Services

Rite Track Youth Services

Rite Track Youth Services is a community-based organization that provides a wide array of effective services for teens that are supported by research and evidence-based practices. Rite Track works with agencies on the County and State level, as well as directly with youth and families, with the goal of building a successful future for youths participating in their programs. Rite Track's mission is to teach youth the skills they need to succeed and to guide them in a positive direction by providing a continuum of services that include the **Evening Learning Center (ELC)** and the **Mentoring and Tracking Program**, which have been in operation for over a decade since the programs first began operating in 2009.



The ELC is a joint effort between Rite Track Youth Services and the Imperial County Probation Department, as well as the Juvenile Court of Imperial County. There are a total of 60 students enrolled in the programs at any given point, which includes up to 26 students in the Evening Learning Center program and approximately 34 students enrolled in the Mentoring and Tracking Program. Through a collaboration with Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers and Schools (ATCS) and the Imperial County Probation Department, Rite Track also operates the **Proud Parenting Program**. This program is designed to teach pro-social parenting skills and anger management skills to 50 at-risk teen parents using a validated parenting curriculum.

In 2022, Rite Track received over **223** referrals and welcomed **173** youth and young adults who enrolled into one of the Rite Track programs. Since the program's inception, Rite Track has been providing services to over 170 Imperial County Youth annually through a variety of diversion, individual and family services including the Evening Learning Center, Mentoring and Tracking Program, Proud Parenting Program and the Workforce Inspired Student Edification program (W.I.S.E).

Rite Track – Evening Learning Center (ELC)

The Evening Learning Center (ELC) is an after school program designed to meet the needs of “at-risk” teenagers between the ages of 13 and 18 by providing these students with the opportunity to engage in a number of pro-social and therapeutic interventions during peak times for high-risk teen behavior. Through these practices, Rite Track works to lower the recidivism risk of these young men and women and prevent their further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Rite Track staff pick students up at their various schools at 2:30 PM to bring them to the Evening Learning Center and returns them to their homes by 8:00 PM.

The Evening Learning Center has 26 slots available for Imperial County youth referred to the program through the Imperial County Probation Department, where accepted youth are expected to complete six months of the program, consisting of three phases. The initial phase’s length is eight weeks and requires youth to attend the program every weekday. The second phase of the program is ten weeks in length and requires the youth to attend the program on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The last phase of the program is six weeks and requires youth to attend the program on Tuesdays and Thursdays and gives youth the option to attend on Fridays. If the participants struggle to meet certain program milestones, the six month time frame may also be extended. In addition to this, the Evening Learning Center offers an aftercare program for youth who are integrating back into the community following their return from out-of-home placement. This program is designed to last three months and mirrors the Evening Learning Center’s six-month program. In 2022, **28** youth were referred to the Evening Learning Center by Imperial County Probation, and **25** of those referred were enrolled into the Evening Learning Center Program.

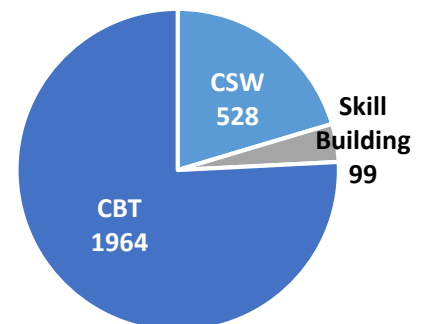
Throughout 2022, the Evening Learning Center provided services to **33 students** with 5 of those students being carry over from 2021. Additionally, in 2022, the Evening Learning Center had **18** total program exits; with **12** participants successfully complete the program, **5** neutrally exiting the program, and **1** youth exit due to higher level of care needs.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Groups

Rite Track operates utilizing best practices and evidence-based programming; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is the therapeutic milieu utilized by the Evening Learning Center. In 2021, Rite Track students completed **1,964 total hours** of cognitive based interventions with an average of **5** students in daily treatment groups. Rite Track utilizes the following treatment groups:

- ❖ Thinking for a Change (English & Spanish)
- ❖ Aggression Replacement Training
- ❖ Seeking Safety
- ❖ CBT for Substance Abuse
- ❖ Positive Skill Development
- ❖ Life Skills

ELC Service Hours 2022



Career Series

The ELC introduced a Career Series as part of its focus on promoting prosocial, personal, and professional development activities, which taught students being about various types of career paths requiring a college education or vocational training. Students were given an opportunity to create a list of careers they wanted to learn about and every Thursday, a guest speaker talked to students about how they prepared for their profession, what a usual day looks like, and average yearly compensation.

Community Service

Rite Track Youth Services currently utilizes a “Restorative Solutions” model, which emphasizes repairing the harm students have caused by giving back to the community, with hours varying between 25 -100 hours, depending on the students’ disposition or school requirements. Students are provided a resource list of agencies within the community where they can complete hours, and one partnership, with the First Baptist Church of El Centro, gave students the opportunity to beautify the church and participate in community events. For 2022, Mentoring and Tracking students completed a total of **528** hours of community service.

Parenting Classes

Rite Track introduced a new parenting curriculum called **Active Parenting of Teens**, parenting classes are offered to students’ parents and guardians to help strengthen and enhance their

parenting skills. The curriculum was taught by a Rite Track staff member who works directly with the participants' children. Having parents and students taught by the same staff member helps them practice their skills and concepts at home.

Secure Track Youth Partnership

In 2022, the ELC's Service Coordinator Supervisor facilitated Aggression Replacement Training sessions for Imperial County's Secure Track youth in Juvenile Hall. The sessions were conducted twice a week and taught participants how to deal with others, how to take control of their personal power through Anger Control Training, and how to make responsible, morally mature decisions while taking others into consideration.

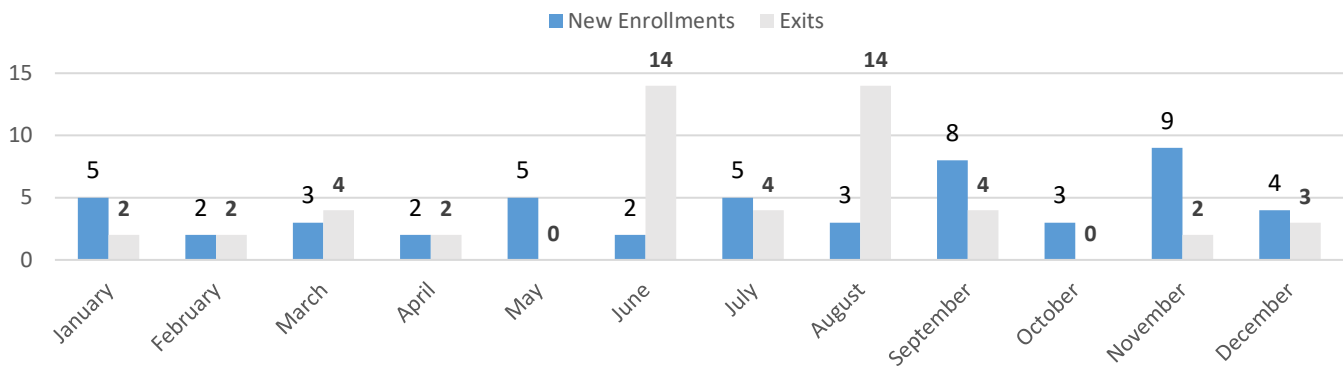
Rite Track – Mentoring and Tracking Program

Rite Track's Mentoring and Tracking Program is designed to assist students that require additional community-based services in order to fulfill the terms of their probation or that need assistance in accessing community-based services. Each student assigned to the program is matched with an age-appropriate role model who mentors them through their program, interacts with the student in multiple ways in the community, and is available to them twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week.

The Mentoring and Tracking services include crisis intervention, job readiness, educational assistance, court attendance, monthly reports to probation, daily phone "check-ins", in-person contacts, and family re-unification services. Over the course of the previous year, Mentoring and Tracking made over **2,414** telephone calls, **1,047** field/home visits, attended over **42** academic meetings, attended **27** court hearings and administered **113** urine analysis.

In 2022, the MT program received **55** referrals for new students, with **29** referrals submitted by the Imperial County Probation Department, **10** referrals were submitted by other Rite Track Programs and **16** referrals were submitted from local high schools, elementary schools, and continuation schools. Mentoring and Tracking welcomed **51** new students and had an average of **36** students enrolled throughout the year. Additionally, the Mentoring and Tracking program worked with **85** students during the 2022 year, and had **43** successful exits, **6** neutral exits, and **2** exits due to need of higher care.

M&T Enrollments & Exits 2022



Mentee and Mentor Activities

During the summer, Mentoring and Tracking mentors focused on building strong rapport with students and hosted a mentor and mentee summer workshop. Students were provided with a safe space to interact with other mentoring students in a pro-social environment and participated in games such as musical chairs, board games and basketball. Food was provided and cooked by staff and over \$200 dollars in raffles were awarded to participants. A summer trip was also organized where ten Mentoring & Tracking students participated in the Speed Circuit trip in Chula Vista. Students had the opportunity to drive go-karts, and enjoy the thrill park, which included trampolines, a rope course, and various arcade games.

In 2022, the program continued to celebrate students’ birthdays with gift cards and personalized cakes and during holidays such as Easter, Valentine’s Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas, students receive holiday grams and gifts. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, several families were selected and were provided a full meal basket in hopes to inspire them to make memorable memories during the holidays with their families by enjoying a warm meal.

Department of Rehabilitation Services

Mentoring and Tracking staff always strive to develop new partnerships with community members and in hopes to open windows of opportunities for the students they serve. In 2022, a strong partnership among the Department of Rehabilitation was established. Through this partnership, students receive assistance with job exploration, post-secondary counseling, workplace readiness training, self-advocacy training and work base learning opportunities. The objective of the DOR is to identify and assist students with disabilities and prepare them to become successful in the workforce and help aim them towards their career goals. In 2022, twelve students were successfully accepted to the program and seven participated in the work experience program.

Rite Track – Proud Parenting Program

The Proud Parenting program strives to provide parenting education and workforce services to young parents between 14-24 years of age. This program operates out of the Rite Track facility and provides opportunities for at-risk teen parents to participate in evidence-based, cognitive, therapeutic parenting classes. All Proud Parenting participants complete a pre and post evaluation test to measure their gained knowledge and overall program experience. In addition, upon completion of the program, all participants receive a certificate of completion and gift card.

The program is designed to increase participants' parenting success, while decreasing the risk of further involvement with the Juvenile Justice or Child Protective Services systems, with an overall goal of providing this service to 50 Imperial County young parents and their children annually.

In 2022, Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers and Schools (ROPATCS) received the Proud Parenting grant funded by the Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC) and new staff were brought on board to begin work on the program's intake forms, pre and post evaluations, data collection, marketing material, and program outreach.

Through a collaborative networking relationship with the Department of Social Services, Imperial Behavioral Health Services, local high schools, the Probation Department and other community partners, Proud Parenting received **28** referrals and welcomed **24** young parents who were interested in enhancing their parenting skills into the program.

Program Activities

Through an array of supportive services and activities, Proud Parenting looks for opportunities to create memorable experiences for the young parents and children they service. Proud Parenting developed a partnership with ICOE to provide participants a safe space within schools where parents could share questions and concerns through the **Parent Café** program and obtain access to childcare while the participants pursued their high school diplomas.

A visitation collaboration with Imperial County Juvenile Hall was also developed to help incarcerated youth/parents with curriculum facilitation and family visitation. Proud Parenting provided services to one young parent while they were incarcerated and worked with the mother of his child to give them both access to our parenting curriculums and develop a strong co-parenting relationship. In addition to facilitating accommodations, Proud Parenting was able to arrange a family visitation, where this young, incarcerated father was able to hold his daughter for the first time.

RISE UP

In 2022, Proud Parenting introduced a training and credentialing program that provides foundational employability skills to help individuals land jobs and be promoted. The RISE Up accreditation is administered by the National Retail Federation and students who successfully pass the training course receive certification and linkage to employment. Young parents receive assistance with job searching, job applications, job linkage, resume and cover letter building, interview preparation and transportation to and from interviews. The goal of these services is to help promote healthy families by stabilizing the parents' financial statuses and end system support in order to decrease Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and long-term effects of living in poverty.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

To support young parents and enhance their parenting, anger reduction and workforce skills, Proud Parenting utilized the following evidence-based programming:

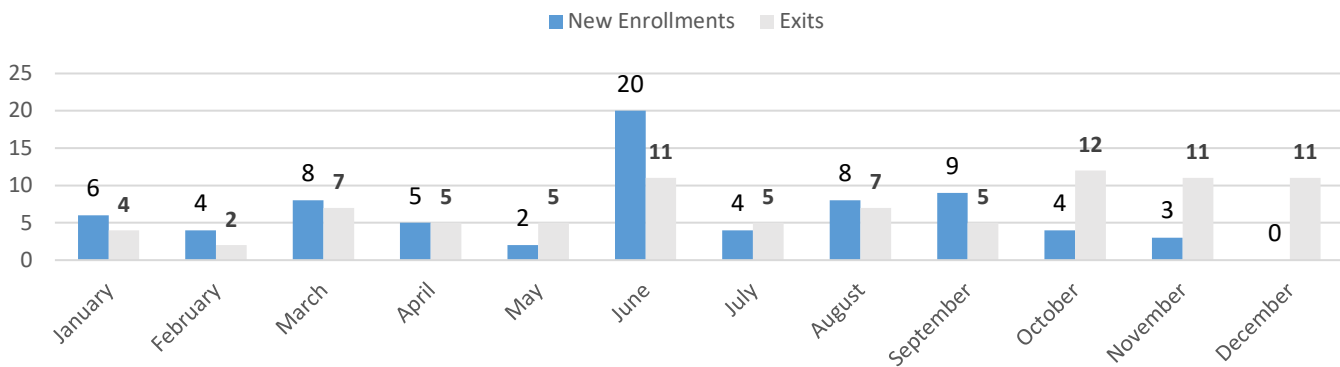
- ❖ ***Making Parenting A Pleasure*** – An evidence-based curriculum designed to assist highly stressed parents and greatly reduce the risk of neglect and child abuse in young and expectant parents of children ages 0-8 years old. Sessions educate participants regarding multiple facets of parenting and empower participants to discuss barriers, values, and objectives central to their parenting.
- ❖ **Anger Replacement Training (ART)** – A research-based approach to improve social skills, moral reasoning, anger management, and reduce aggressive behavior.
- ❖ **Active Parenting: First Five Years** – Addresses basic skills for new parents and caregivers and provides early childhood training. Sessions focus on building parenting skills, practicing nonviolent discipline, childhood mental development, the power of encouragement, engagement, and preparation for school.

Workforce Inspired Student Edification (W.I.S.E) Program

The W.I.S.E program operates out of the Rite Track center alongside the Mentoring and Tracking program and is currently in its last year of operation. This program provides diversion and skill-based services to vulnerable youth who were at risk of entering the juvenile justice system or further penetrating the justice system.

At the start of the programming year, W.I.S.E. had **20** youth already enrolled from the previous year, and local agencies referred **107** new candidates throughout 2022. The program accepted **73** of those referrals, resulting in a total enrollment of **93** youth for the 2022 year. Over the course of the year, W.I.S.E exited **85** students with **67** successfully completing the program and **18** exiting voluntarily, no students were unsuccessfully discharged due to non-compliance, and the remaining youth continued services into 2023.

W.I.S.E Enrollments & Exits 2022



Mentoring Services

Students participating in the W.I.S.E program are linked with an age-appropriate mentor who assists and interacts with the students in multiple settings. Services include crisis intervention, job readiness, educational assistance, court support, weekly “check-ins”, in-person contacts, peer-to-peer counseling, supportive services, transportation to and from workshops and linkage to community services.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Thinking for a Change (T4C)

An evidence-based, cognitive behavioral curriculum from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). T4C helps youth improve their social skills, learn cognitive self-change and problem-solving skills in order to establish healthy, productive daily norms and set foundations for a successful future. The W.I.S.E program conducts in person and Zoom workshops for students. W.I.S.E has conducted over

23 hours of T4C Therapy via online and in person sessions. In addition, **2** students successfully completed the Thinking for a Change program.

Work Experience

The W.I.S.E. program helps students take their first steps towards a promising career in the retail industry. The program offers students the opportunity to gain hands-on work experience and learn the fundamentals in customer service and retail. Students can be placed to work for an internship where they will put the skills they learned to use.

RISE UP

RISE UP is a training and credentialing program that provides foundational employability skills to help individuals secure jobs and receive promotions in retail businesses. The curriculum is industry-recognized and was developed in collaboration with more than twenty retailers including Walmart, Macy's, The Home Depot, Burlington Stores, and Nordstrom. Students who successfully pass the training will receive certification and linkage to employment. The RISE UP accreditation is administered by the National Retail Federation. This year the W.I.S.E program has conducted over **117** workshops and completed over **1012** hours of curriculum. In addition, **57** students successfully complete the RISE Up curriculum and received their three-year accreditation.

80 Hour Internship

W.I.S.E allows **25** students that successfully obtain their three-year accreditation to become eligible to participate in an 80-hour internship at a retail, customer service, or sales field where they will have the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on work experience. This year W.I.S.E placed **51** students in jobs and had **36** of those students successfully complete their 80-hour contracts, with **7** students being offered part time positions.

The W.I.S.E program has been successful in inviting business hosts to participate in the program. Some of the local business hosts include *Metro Pcs*, *Cuchis Raspados*, *3.16 Coffee*, *La Fresa Raspados*, and *Kotori*. In 2021, W.I.S.E. added Tropicana Juice & Fruit Bar, Raspalandia, the Donut Shops in Calexico, El Centro, Holtville, Brawley and Imperial, as well as *Los Cerritos* Mexican Food Restaurant in Holtville as new business hosts.

Rite Track – Moving into 2023

In 2023, Rite Track looks forward to offering individual, family and substance abuse therapy through the opening of an outpatient clinic and awarding the first academic scholarship to a Rite Track student through the Juan Ulloa Scholarship fund.

Imperial County Behavioral Health– Youth and Young Adult Services (YAYA)



The Imperial County Behavioral Health Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Services Program focuses on the individual's strengths and needs in an effort to promote mental health recovery and stability. The YAYA Program consists of the Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHL), the Alcohol & Drug Adolescent Outpatient Drug Free (ODF) Program, Full Service Partnership Program, Anxiety and Depression Clinics, Juvenile Hall Services, and

Adolescent Alcohol/Drug Prevention Program. These services are designed to meet the needs of Imperial County youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 25 years old. All services provided through the YAYA program are integrated, individualized, and developed to promote individual and family centered recovery, resiliency, and wellness. The program focuses on the individual's strengths and needs in an effort to promote mental health recovery and stability.

YAYA – Anxiety and Depression Clinic

Imperial County Behavioral Health Service's YAYA Anxiety and Depression Clinic provides a comprehensive set of services that serve individuals diagnosed with depression and anxiety disorders. The focus of treatment is therapy and, when needed, medication support.

Services available to youth and young adults include the following:

- ❖ Individual/Group Counseling
- ❖ Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Medication Support
- ❖ Mental Health Services / Therapy
- ❖ Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- ❖ Targeted Case Management
- ❖ Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)
- ❖ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ❖ Rehabilitation Technician
- ❖ Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS)

Full Service Partnership Program

This program consists of a full range of integrated community services and support structures for youth and young adults, ages 12 to 25, which include direct delivery and use of available community resources. The services provided include individual case management, rehabilitative services, “wrap-like” services, integration of community mental health and substance abuse treatment, crisis response, alternative to juvenile hall, home and community re-entry from juvenile hall, youth and parent mentoring, supported employment or education, transportation, housing assistance, benefit acquisition, and respite care.

In addition to traditional mental health services, individuals are provided with supportive services or linkage to agencies in order to meet their individual needs. These services include:

- ❖ Linkage to Education
- ❖ Employment & Vocational Training
- ❖ Financial Aid Services
- ❖ Socialization Activities
- ❖ Housing & Independent Living Assistance
- ❖ Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- ❖ Physical Health Services
- ❖ Fitness Program
- ❖ Peer Support
- ❖ Family Education Support Groups

It should be noted that Mental Health Services provided at the Anxiety & Depression Clinics, as well as at the Full Service Partnership Programs, include the implementation of Evidence Based Practices by therapists and mental health rehabilitation technicians. These research-based practices have been proven effective in targeting specific mental health disorders and promoting recovery. The models used in Youth and Young Adult Services include:

- ❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ Cognitive Processing Therapy
- ❖ Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ Parent Research Achieve & Excel through Empowerment Strategies (PRAXES)
- ❖ Motivational Interviewing

Young Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHLP)

The Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program provides a combination of mental health and educational services to adolescents enrolled in junior high or high school whose emotional/behavioral disturbances prevent them from learning and functioning in a regular classroom setting. The program is designed for youth who have symptoms of anger, distress, depression or anxiety that severely impair their daily functioning and need higher levels of outpatient care that may also require prescribing and frequent monitoring of psychotropic medication and consist of the following goals:

- ❖ To treat and stabilize acute, brief emotional and behavioral disorders, which may otherwise require inpatient care.
- ❖ To alleviate serious behavioral excesses or deficits which interfere with personal, family, and social functioning.
- ❖ To provide a structure and supportive environment that serves as transition between the school and outpatient services.
- ❖ To provide comprehensive, multi-disciplinary assessment as a basis for creating psychosocial and behavioral treatment plans.
- ❖ To treat and stabilize acute, brief emotional and behavioral disorders, which may otherwise require inpatient care.

Behavioral Health Services in Juvenile Hall

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) provides specialty mental health services to high-risk youth who are detained at the Juvenile Hall facility and that meet medical necessity. All incarcerated youth are screened for mental health services by Juvenile Hall staff at the point of admission using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2). If a need for mental health services is identified, Juvenile Hall staff completes a referral to Imperial County Behavioral Health Services. All youth referred to Imperial County Behavioral Health Services receive a comprehensive intake assessment by a clinician who recommends mental health services at the point of intake. Referrals to ICBHS can also be initiated by juvenile hall staff, Probation Officers, or nursing staff at any time during a youth's stay at Juvenile Hall if mental health needs are identified after the youth's admission or if a youth requests services. During 2022, ICBHS Juvenile Hall Services received **96 referrals** and provided the following services:

- ❖ Mental Health Services
- ❖ Individual Therapy
- ❖ Medication Support
- ❖ Targeted Case Management
- ❖ Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment

Part-time psychiatrists provide psychiatric services, medication, and support services to youth at Juvenile Hall. Services include psychiatric evaluations and medication management. ICBHS clinicians are also on-call afterhours, on weekends and holidays to conduct crisis interventions for those youth who present risk of harm to self or others. The role of the on-call clinician is to conduct a risk assessment and provide interventions geared towards reducing the potential to harm. The clinician works closely with Juvenile Hall staff to determine the appropriate supervision level for the youth and coordinate further mental health treatment when necessary.

In efforts to maintain the youths' participation in mental health treatment after their release from Juvenile Hall, ICBHS has assigned community service and mental health workers to participate in scheduled visitations at Juvenile Hall to educate youth in custody and their families regarding the availability of mental health services. These services assist in engaging youth and families in reducing stigma associated with accessing mental health services and through these efforts, parents will have a better understanding of the importance of supporting their youth's mental health needs.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services for Adolescents

Imperial County Behavioral Health Adolescent Substance Use Disorder (SUD) program provides professional services to youth suffering from substance use. Substance abuse counselors, mental health counselors and psychiatric social workers provide youth ages 12 to 18 with substance use

disorder treatment. Youth are serviced through the SUD program at their local high school, the Behavioral Health adolescent SUD clinic, and at Imperial County Juvenile Hall.

Outpatient Services consist of a maximum of 6 hours per week of any of the following:

- ❖ Intake/Assessment
- ❖ Individual Counseling
- ❖ Group Counseling
- ❖ Family Therapy
- ❖ Case Management
- ❖ Collateral Services
- ❖ Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Treatment Planning
- ❖ Discharge Planning & Coordination
- ❖ Collateral Services

Intensive Outpatient Services consist of a minimum of 6 hours with a maximum of 19 hours per week of any of the following:

- ❖ Intake/Assessment
- ❖ Individual Counseling
- ❖ Group Counseling
- ❖ Family Therapy
- ❖ Case Management
- ❖ Collateral Services
- ❖ Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Treatment Planning
- ❖ Discharge Planning & Coordination
- ❖ Collateral Services

Recovery Services consist of support to manage the client's health and health care, use effective self-management support strategies, and use community resources to provide ongoing support; recovery services may be provided face-to-face, by telephone, or elsewhere in the community.

- ❖ Outpatient Counseling Recovery
- ❖ Monitoring/Coaching
- ❖ Substance Abuse Assistance
- ❖ Education and Job Skills
- ❖ Family Support
- ❖ Ancillary Services
- ❖ Relapse Prevention
- ❖ Outpatient Counseling Recovery

Case management services support beneficiaries as they move through the DMC-ODS continuum of care from initial engagement through treatment and recovery supports. This includes:

- ❖ Comprehensive assessment, periodic reassessment
- ❖ Transition to a higher or lower level of SUD care
- ❖ Development and periodic revision of a client plan
- ❖ Communication, coordination, referral and related activities
- ❖ Monitoring service delivery
- ❖ Monitoring the beneficiary's progress
- ❖ Patient advocacy and linkages – medical, educational, social, vocational, rehabilitative, or other community service

Residential Treatment Services is a 24-hour, short-term service that provides residential rehabilitation services to youth. This includes:

- ❖ Assessment
- ❖ Treatment Planning
- ❖ Individual and Group Counseling
- ❖ Treatment Planning

- ❖ Client Education
- ❖ Family Therapy
- ❖ Collateral Services
- ❖ Transportation to medically necessary treatment
- ❖ Discharge planning and coordination
- ❖ Crisis Intervention

Positive Engagement Team (PET) Program

Imperial County Behavioral Health Positive Engagement Team (PET) is a Stigma Reduction program, utilizing trained dogs to reduce negative feelings, attitudes, beliefs, stereotypes, perception and/or discrimination related to being diagnosed with a mental illness, having a mental illness, or seeking mental health services. The goal of the program is to provide mental health services to unserved and underserved individuals in our community by increasing acceptance, dignity and equity for individuals with mental illness, and members of their families. PET is intended for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults, from cultural diverse groups to create a positive association with mental health services.

Imperial County Department of Social Services (DSS)

The Department of Social Services (DSS) continues to work collaboratively with the Probation Department in providing services to youth in foster care through the Independent Living Program, Transitional Housing, Wraparound Services, and the Assembly Bill 12 (AB12) Program.

The Department of Social Services also coordinates with the Probation Department for the funds it receives for financial reimbursements of programs and services that benefit delinquent youth.



Wraparound Program



Wraparound was implemented in 1997 pursuant to Senate Bill (SB 163). This legislation allowed California counties to pilot the Wraparound process using non-federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care dollars to provide children and families with family-based service alternatives to group home care.

As a result of SB 163, the Department of Social Services in partnership with the Probation Department, Behavioral Health, and the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) met for the purpose of planning and implementing a Wraparound Program. In 2011, the Imperial County Wraparound Plan was approved by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and the California Department of Social Services and Imperial County began serving dependents and wards.

The program is intended to allow children to live and grow up in a safe, stable, permanent family environment. For children and families in the foster care system, the Wraparound works to:

- ❖ Enhance strengths by creating a strength-based intervention plan with a child and family team;
- ❖ Promote youth and parent involvement with family voice, choice, and preference;
- ❖ Use community-based services;
- ❖ Create independence and stability;
- ❖ Provide services that fit a child and family's identified needs, culture, and preferences;
- ❖ Create one plan to coordinate responses in all life domains; and
- ❖ Focus on achieving positive goals.

Wraparound is a strengths-based planning process that occurs in a team setting to engage with children, youth, and their families. Wraparound allows the Probation Department to provide a variety of services to eligible children at risk of being removed from their home and placed in congregate care. Wraparound is also a team-driven process with a focus on building individual and family strengths to help families achieve positive goals and improve well-being. A Child and Family Team (CFT) is formed and works directly with the youth's family to help identify their needs and strengths. The Team develops an individualized service plan that describes specific strategies for meeting the needs identified by the family and reflects the child and family's culture and preferences.

Prior to a youth entering the Wraparound Program, their case is brought before the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) and Interagency Placement Committee (IPC). During this meeting, the MDST/IPC members discuss the youth's needs and services, which would best benefit the youth and their family. The MDST/IPC must vote to approve a youth into the Wraparound program and once approved, the youth's case is transferred to a WRAP officer. While in WRAP, the youth and their family participate in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. CFT meetings are generally scheduled on a quarterly basis, but may occur as often as needed. The Wraparound Officer maintains constant communication with the client and their family in an effort to stabilize the youth's living environment. Wraparound officers work closely with the family to ensure their participation in rehabilitative programs, to ensure that the youth remain in compliance with their terms and conditions of probation, and to provide additional supports to strengthen the family. In addition, Wraparound officers have the unique ability to utilize the foster care maintenance payment to assist the youth and their family with additional services and/or needs.

Wraparound currently provides intensive community-based services to **21** youth and their families and the utilization of Wraparound services has been an effective tool in preserving these families and through the following services:

- ❖ Multi-Disciplinary Services Team (MDST) Meetings
- ❖ Child Family Team Meetings (CFT)
- ❖ Individualized/Family Case Management
- ❖ Provides intensive, individualized treatment planning to youth and their families
- ❖ Family Centered / Family Voice and Choice / Needs Driven
- ❖ Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Transportation to and from services, school, appointments
- ❖ Provide recreational opportunities
- ❖ Assist with Employment linkage and resume building
- ❖ Attendance at Individualized Educational Plan meeting
- ❖ Strengths-Based Level of Care
- ❖ 24/7 Availability of Probation Officer
- ❖ Rent / Utility assistance
- ❖ Intensive supervision and family contact
- ❖ Collaborative Team approach
- ❖ Case Planning
- ❖ Mentoring
- ❖ Grocery / Clothes / Furniture Assistance
- ❖ Act as liaison between families and other agencies
- ❖ Attendance at Student Study Team meetings

Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE)

Imperial County Office of Education maintains three academies and one Court School, Del Rio Academy, Valley Academy, Calexico Academy, and Esther Huff that specifically target at-risk youth who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Esther Huff School is located at Juvenile Hall and provides educational services to detained offenders and tailors



courses specific to the needs of each student. A Probation Officer works in collaboration with the three academy schools and is present at the schools throughout the week to assist with in reducing school truancy and delinquency. Probation Officers provide intensive supervision to youth on their caseload whose lack of attendance may lead to a School Attendance Review Board Hearing.

The schools provides pre and post assessments that are completed upon enrollment and discharge to measure academic progress, maintain, and develop individual education plans as necessary. ICOE also maintains a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), which provides services for truants and high-risk students

Approach to Facilitate Collaboration

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to facilitate collaboration between Imperial County agencies by providing referrals to programs and services to ensure at-risk youth are being given the opportunity to receive rehabilitative services. In addition, Probation Officers remain in constant contact with the programs and services staff, the participating clients, and the client's families to track clients' progress and make modifications to the clients' rehabilitation plan as necessary. Probation Officers also provide transportation for clients to participate in programs if

needed that follow Covid safety precautions. Additionally, the Imperial County Probation Department continues to utilize the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) meetings, Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) meetings, and Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings when necessary to ensure all involved agencies meet at the same time to work in collaboration to assist the youth in meeting his/her rehabilitative goals.

B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council remains committed to promoting public safety and improving the quality of life for the youth and families that come in contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

The JJCC has three upcoming projects that focus on these goals:

Project A.S.P.I.R.E (After School Programming Integrating Recreation and Education)

The Probation Department, in partnership with County Parks and Recreation developed an after-school and Saturday programming for youth in outlying areas of Imperial County. The Imperial County Probation Department utilizes Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds to provide youth within underserved areas of our community with opportunities for structured, supervised, and pro-social activities after school and on the weekends.

In February 2022, Project ASPIRE opened its first program site in the City of Westmorland, CA, which, to date, services 12 youth between the ages of 9 and 13. In addition to Westmorland, Project ASPIRE launched its second site in Heber, CA in May 2022. Similar to Westmorland, Project ASPIRE's Heber site services youth between the ages of 9 and 13, with a current enrollment of 12. Project ASPIRE operates three times per week, at their respective sites, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Youth participants have been recruited through city events and community outreach

Project ASPIRE has worked in collaboration with community agencies, such as the Imperial County Sheriff's Office and Imperial County Behavioral Health, to provide presentations to youth regarding the dangers of drugs and alcohol, identifying and reporting bullying and cyberbullying, and self-wellness. In addition, both the Heber and Westmorland program sites received an hour of cultural enrichment programming every week from the Imperial Valley Desert Museum's "History on the Go!" Program where youth learned about our desert region, vegetation and indigenous populations while engaging in hands-on activities related to the lesson. During the 2022 summer, youth at Project

ASPIRE's Westmorland site began alongside a master gardener to plant and maintain a garden, as well as learn horticulture skills and practices.

Youth also participated in field trips to Sea World San Diego, Padres baseball game at Petco Park, the San Diego Wild Animal Park, and various Imperial County community fairs, parades and events. One of the more notable trips for youth was the Raintree Ranch Horse Camp, which was an overnight experience that focused on horseback riding, caring for horses, and traditional camp fun.

Project ASPIRE Youth Service Specialists also worked with youth housed at the Imperial County Juvenile Hall and the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home five days per week for approximately three hours per day. The staff provide services similar to those offered at their afterschool sites and strive to serve these youth in a supportive role while providing educational and recreational activities, arts and crafts, and cultural enrichment activities.

Creating additional prevention-related programs under Probation's umbrella is a critical aspect in reinforcing the JJCC's role in delivering children's services countywide, and preserving the flow of state funds to Imperial County for these purposes. Identifying new partners and enhancing existing relationships in both the public and private sector to promote evidence-based approaches and facilitate positive youth development is a key component of this project.

SB 823

On September 30 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 823 to downsize California's State Operated network of juvenile justice facilities. SB823 closes down the State Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and realigns youth from state-run correctional facilities to local control beginning July 1, 2021. Counties will then assume full responsibility for juveniles at all offense levels.

SB 823 also establishes a Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program to fund county-based custody, care, and supervision of youth who would have otherwise been eligible for commitment to state facilities. In the previous year, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council appointed a SB 823 Subcommittee that identified critical elements for Imperial County's SB 823 Plan.

In March 2022, Imperial County Juvenile Hall received its first commitment under SB 823 and currently, the Imperial County Juvenile Hall houses four (4) youth who have been committed through the program. Secure Track Youth are currently being provided with the following services:

- ❖ High school courses through Esther Huff School, as well as higher education courses through Imperial Valley College.

- ❖ Building Healthy Relationships and Self-Empowerment classes provided by the SDSU Prison Education Project
- ❖ Mental health and substance use disorder services through Imperial County Behavioral Health.
- ❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy provided by Imperial County Probation Officers
- ❖ Anger Replacement Therapy (ART) and Parenting classes through Rite Track Youth Services
- ❖ Life coaching services that support them in meeting their education, career pathway, and life goals through the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP)

Additionally, youth participate in programming provided by the Imperial Valley Desert Museum, the Juvenile Hall's Garden of Dreams program, Imperial Valley Public Arts mural project, and Positive Engagement Team (PET) program. The Probation Department is also researching workforce development programming that can be implemented for youth approaching their re-entry phase.

Juvenile Hall – Capital Improvement Projects

The Imperial County Probation Department has identified areas of the Juvenile Hall where improvements to the facility can be implemented so that youth staying at the Hall will have space for additional recreational activities. Juvenile detention centers can be a challenging environment for youth, and spending time outdoors can help alleviate stress and anxiety they may be experiencing. Additionally, outdoor activities can provide an opportunity for physical exercise, which can be crucial for their health and development. These improvements will be essential in promoting the physical and mental well-being of young people housed in the facility. Currently planned improvements currently include:

- ❖ Creating and installing a new fitness park within the facility that will be covered by a canopy
- ❖ Improving the outdoor recreation area to support additional activities
- ❖ Upgrading existing CCTV systems to provide better security to youth housed at the facility

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

The Imperial County Probation Department implements a number of different strategies in response to juvenile crime and delinquency as a means to decrease crime within our community and model graduated responses for at-risk juvenile offenders.

At-risk youth, who are not under juvenile delinquency jurisdiction and who meet the program's criteria, can participate in the **Community Work Service (CWS) Program**. These youth are screened by a Probation Officer and recommended for the Community Work Service Program. Youth accepted into the program must complete community work service hours in lieu of fines or as an alternative to the filing of a petition with the juvenile court. Additionally, at the completion of their Community Work Service Program commitment, youth are required to submit an essay that details the experiences gained through the program. The Probation Department identifies the work sites and provides direct supervision to the offenders participating in the program. The Community Work Service Program is utilized to offer young people an opportunity to perform public service projects, which benefit communities, neighborhoods, charitable organizations, local schools, and other agencies throughout the Imperial Valley.

Another strategy offered by Imperial County Probation Department is **Project S.T.A.R**, which funds a Probation Officer assigned to the three different alternative schools maintained by the Imperial County Office of Education. The Probation Officer, along with school personnel, identifies students who are chronic truants and makes referrals to the S.T.A.R Program. The Probation Officer participates in the initial screening of each case and makes appropriate referrals for drug counseling, anger management or behavioral health services. In addition, the Probation Officer attends school related meetings, such as Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Student Support Team (SST), and School Attendance Review Board (SARB), on behalf of the Probation Department. Since the return of in person classes, the Probation Officer has returned to the associated schools and has been providing in-person services.

For juveniles that have been placed on probation, there are evidence-based strategies Probation Officers utilize, including Motivational Interviewing (MI), a person-centered strategy used to elicit patient motivation to change a specific negative behavior. This technique engages the youth and elicits change-talk, which evokes motivation to make positive changes. An additional evidence-based strategy Probation Officers utilize is an assessment tool to determine the youth's criminogenic needs and risk to re-offend. Probation Officers interview the youth and their family and input information into the assessment tool, which will provide the Probation Officer with risk factors and protective factors. The Probation Officer, in collaboration with the youth and their family, will develop a case plan to best map the youth's rehabilitation process. The case plan is then updated every six months, or as the minor's goals and needs change.

Additionally, juveniles already placed on probation may be referred to Rite Track's Evening Learning Center or Mentoring and Tracking Program based on the assessed level of needs of the client. The Probation Department assigns a Probation Officer to assist youth referred to the Evening Learning Center and to ensure that the Probation Department and Rite Track staff work collaboratively to properly service the needs of all youth within the program. The youth referred to the program have varying criminogenic risk factors and, through the Noble Risk Assessment and the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment, Rite Track is able to determine the specific needs of each youth, which results in an individualized case plan. Additionally, the Evening Learning Center provides the following Cognitive-Based Groups: Aggression Replacement Therapy, Thinking for a Change, Cultural Enrichment, Healthy Relationships, Seeking Safety, and Social Awareness. The Mentoring and Tracking Program attempts to reduce the risk of re-entry into the juvenile justice system by partnering the participants of the program with mentors who work closely with the youth and their families during their time in the program. Rite Track also offers monthly "Mentoring Mixers," where participants gather once a month and work on their social skills through a series of self-development workshops and peer-to-peer counseling.

Another prevention approach for probation youth is utilizing Electronic Monitoring to combat juvenile crime and delinquency. Electronic Monitoring is used as a means of intervention to mitigate recidivism and violations of probation. The minor is supervised in the community with electronic monitoring to ensure he or she fulfills the requirements of release from detention including curfew and, in certain circumstances, staying away from a victim's places of residence. The minor may also be subjected to inclusion and exclusion zones.

High-risk youth, including those in need of Wraparound Services or those at risk of being placed in out of county residential treatment facilities, are referred to the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) and Interagency Placement Committee (IPC). The meetings with the Multi-Disciplinary Service Team and Interagency Placement Committee are intended to ensure that the circumstances impacting the child and family, especially those related to the potential strengths and needs, are fully identified and considered in formulating recommendations related to the youth's case. The Multi-Disciplinary Service Team and Interagency Placement Committee meetings consist of representatives from the Imperial County Probation Department, Imperial County Department of Social Services, Imperial County Behavioral Health Services, Imperial County Office of Education, and Rite Track Youth Services. Additionally, the children, parents, and other community organizations, such as CASA and the Regional Center, participate in these meetings on an as-

needed basis. The Multi-Disciplinary Service Team and Interagency Placement Committee Meetings are held weekly, or as needed, to review high-risk cases and determine the best rehabilitative and/or placement option for the client; agencies are able to begin the referral process for a client once meetings are completed.

Juvenile offenders may also be placed in the Wraparound Program, a program that was created collaboratively by the Imperial County Probation Department, Imperial County Behavioral Health and Imperial County Department of Social Services. Wraparound has been proven to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement and lower the rate of recidivism by bringing individuals, agencies and the community together as the decision making team with the central focus being to meet the needs of the child and family. Wraparound Officers provide intensive, individualized treatment planning and supervision to youth and their families. Further, Wraparound officers coordinate all initial and follow-up Child and Family Team meetings for their clients, which serve as a critical point of communication for all individuals and agencies involved in the youth's life.

If youth on probation do not follow their probation terms and conditions, and pose a danger to themselves and/or the community, they may be detained at Juvenile Hall. The youth's Probation Officer will meet with them while in custody to review and update their case plan, discuss the reason they are in custody, and make additional referrals to services to ensure the length of time in custody is minimized. Should a client on probation exhaust all aforementioned services and are unable to maintain themselves within their home and community in a safe manner, the Probation Department will recommend that the client continue with rehabilitative services in an out-of-home placement.

Additionally, if a youth commits a 707(b) offense and the Court determines a less restrictive disposition is unsuitable, that youth will be committed to Imperial County Juvenile Hall Secure Track. With the implementation of SB 823, the Imperial County Probation Department has developed a rehabilitative treatment program to serve this population at Imperial County Juvenile Hall.

Imperial County is also utilizing Project ASPIRE to engage children, ages 9 – 13, in underserved areas of our community with supervised, pro-social activities, educational services, cultural services, recreational activities and field trips. Project ASPIRE aims to provide participants with knowledge, experiences and skills to aid in the success of their future endeavors.

In the coming year, the Probation Department and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council will continue to explore and develop new programs and services that can better service the youth of Imperial County.

D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has made updates and revisions to its Delinquency Prevention Plan for 2023/2024 consisting of:

❖ **Updates to statistics for Imperial County Probation Department Juvenile Supervision:**

- Current Population Statistics
- Population Trend Statistics
- Felony / Misdemeanor Arrest Statistics
- Probation Referrals Statistics
- Referral Disposition Statistics

❖ **Updates to existing services:**

- Rite Track Youth Services
- Imperial County Behavioral Health Services for Juveniles
- Wraparound Program
- Police & Sheriff Athletic Leagues
- KYOTES Program
- Youth Summit
- Imperial Valley Desert Museum Projects
- Community Work Service Program

❖ **Updating focus areas and goals for the Juvenile Justice Commission**

❖ **Revisions and updates to the Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council remains committed to providing annual updates to the Board of State and Community Corrections for California in order to demonstrate the successes and accomplishments of its funded programming and practices throughout the Imperial County.

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

A. Information Sharing and Data Collection

The Imperial County Probation Department utilizes information systems to facilitate data sharing across agencies within the county to promote successful juvenile justice programs and strategies. The Multi-Disciplinary Service Team (MDST) and Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) Meetings allow county agencies to work together to share information and data on cases to ensure that all circumstances impacting the youth and family, especially those related to the potential strengths and needs, are fully identified and considered in formulating recommendations related to the youth's case. Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CMS/CWS) is software utilized by the Probation Department, the Department of Social Services, and Public Health to input information for youth serviced by the local agencies. The information inputted into the CWS/CMS database consists of the child's referral history, demographics, as well as past and current placement history to ensure that all agencies have access to vital information to make better-informed decisions. Information within the CWS/CMS database is submitted to the State of California and it is utilized to determine the amount of funding provided to agencies that service foster youth within the Imperial County. Rite Track also provides in-depth activity reports regarding their clients to Probation Officers, so that they can determine how youths are progressing through the program. The Probation Department also works in collaboration with all school districts in Imperial County to obtain grades, disciplinary records, and attendance information for minors who are on probation.

Through the utilization of these records, the Probation Department is able to ensure the client's educational needs are being met. In addition, with appropriate releases of information, Imperial County Behavioral Health is able to share information related to a client's diagnosis, treatment plans, and medication support, which is essential for the Probation Department to ensure the client's mental health needs are being properly treated and addressed.

B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

The Imperial County has a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code 749.22. The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is an established, multiagency committee that funds a continuum of county-based responses to juvenile crime. The Coordinating Council includes the Imperial County Chief Probation Officer, as Chair of the

Council, the Imperial County District Attorney, the Imperial County Public Defender, the Imperial County Sheriff, a member of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, the Director of Imperial County Department of Social Services, the Director of Imperial County Behavioral Health Services, the City of El Centro Police Department Chief, the Senior Director of the Imperial County Office of Education, and a City of El Centro Council Member. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council also includes representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations that provide services to youth in the community.

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

Evening Learning Center (ELC) & Mentoring and Tracking Programs

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to contract with Rite Track LLC for operation of the Evening Learning Center (ELC) After School Program as well as the Mentoring and Tracking Program, which operate during the high crime periods. Rite Track continues to participate in monthly interagency meetings consisting of Imperial County Schools, the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP), the Imperial County Probation Department, and Rite Track staff. Through these monthly interagency meetings, Rite Track staff are able to assess students' progress, performance, and current setbacks in order to develop and deploy individualized service plans tailored to the student's needs.

The Evening Learning Center also continues to provide recreational activities to students, which helps them develop self-esteem, personal awareness, and learn to better manage their behaviors and feelings while at the same time reducing their levels of stress. The Evening Learning Center has expanded upon recreational activities by offering an additional day at a local gym, where students can continue to work on improving their physical health and endurance.

Evening Learning Center / Mentoring and Tracking Probation Officer

The Imperial County Probation Department through JJCPA continues to fund one Probation Officer who is assigned to the Evening Learning Center in an effort to decrease truancy, arrest rates, and admittances to Juvenile Hall for participants of the program, as well as to ensure that participants successfully complete their terms and conditions of probation. The Probation Officer assigned to the Evening Learning Center supports and reinforces program staff in their efforts to guide and instruct youth in pro-social after school activities.

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

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

The Imperial County Probation Department's overall strategy for working with non-707(b) offenders is to provide the necessary amount of intervention to each client through evidence-based practices. At-risk youth, who are not under juvenile court jurisdiction participate in the Community Work Service (CWS) Program where they are given the opportunity to avoid formal court proceedings and perform public service projects.

During initial stages of the youth being adjudicated and placed on probation, Probation Officers will utilize Motivational Interviewing when they meet with an at-risk youth as well as throughout the youth's term of probation. Motivational Interviewing will assist the officers when conducting assessments to determine the client's criminogenic needs. Once the youth's risk level is assessed and/or reassessed through the evidence-based assessment, an appropriate supervision level for the youth will be assigned based on the youth's risk level. This risk level will assist the Probation Officer in determining the appropriate amount of supervision and type of services that should be offered to the youth. After the youth's risk level is assessed, the Probation Officer, youth, and guardians jointly develop a case plan to best determine the client's needs and to set goals during their term of probation.

During the youth's term of probation, the Probation Officer works collaboratively with the youth, their family, and service providers to assist the youth in reaching their case plan goals. Should the youth violate their terms and conditions of probation, Probation Officers utilize graduated interventions to attempt to assist the youth with compliance. Graduated interventions may include counseling, additional referrals to service providers, intensified supervision, electronic monitoring, transitioning the youth to Wraparound and court reviews.

Probation officers may also recommend at-risk youth to continue rehabilitative services in out of home placement through an MDST/IPC process and court hearing should the above-mentioned strategies be unsuccessful. Youth can either terminate their probation while in out of home placement or prior to their probation expiration by successfully completing rehabilitative goals as indicated in their case plans and court orders. Additionally, if a youth returns from placement and remains on probation, the youth will participate in Rite Track's three-month aftercare program at the Evening Learning Center.

Through the three-month aftercare program, and in collaboration with the Probation Department, the Evening Learning Center is able to provide returning youth an additional 30 dosage hours of evidence based practices, substance abuse support, employment linkage and preparation, educational/vocational support and individual and family-based therapy.

Additionally, at-risk and youth on probation may participate in the annual Youth Summit hosted by the Probation Department. This event's intended outcomes are to develop problem-solving skills among youth and parents, build awareness of community resources, and educate participants on the importance of education, life skills, and healthy lifestyles. As the Youth Summit has developed, it has been expanded to include foster care youth in both the delinquency and dependency arena, as well as non-probation youth. The Imperial County Probation Department plans to bring back the Youth Summit in 2023, and is looking forward to engaging youth in Imperial County through this event.

B. Regional Agreements

Currently, Imperial County does not have any regional agreements or arrangements that are supported through YOBG funds.

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

Imperial County Probation Department Staffing Enhancements

Four (4) Deputy Probation Officers – Moderate to High Caseload

The Imperial County Probation Department utilizes four Probation Officers who are assigned to high-risk caseloads of no more than 30 minors per officer, funded through the Youthful Offender Block Grant. These Probation Officers are able to identify and target criminogenic needs for the assessed youth and translate those risk factors into treatment objectives through an evidence-based risk assessment tool. In addition, these officers utilize evidenced-based tools and practices that lead to relevant interventions and supervision practices in order to reduce recidivism. Case plans are developed with each minor to ensure they have clear objectives and goals.

Four (4) Youth Service Specialists – Project ASPIRE

In addition, with the implementation of Project ASPIRE, the Probation Department has established new positions in the Department to provide services to youth participants of the program. The Youth Service Specialists will plan, organize and supervise after-school activities for pre-teens in Project Aspire locations throughout the county.

One (1) Probation Assistant

The Probation Assistant will provide support to staff assigned to the Juvenile Division within the Imperial County Probation Department, which will allow Deputy Probation Officers more time to focus on providing supervision and supportive services to youth on probation.

One (1) Supervisory Probation Officer

The Supervisory Probation Officer will supervise and manage Probation Staff assigned to Project Aspire and ensure that the program is implemented correctly. The Supervisory Probation Officer will also collaborate with the Imperial County Department of Parks and Recreation and the County Library to expand program activities.

Community Work Service (CWS) Program

The Community Work Service Program is offered to select juvenile offenders that meet program criteria to complete community work service hours in lieu of fines as an alternative to the filing of a petition with the juvenile court. The Probation Department organizes the work sites and manages the offenders subject to community work service ordered by the court. The Community Work Service Program offers offenders an opportunity to perform public service projects that benefit local communities, neighborhoods, charitable organizations, schools and other agencies throughout the Imperial Valley.

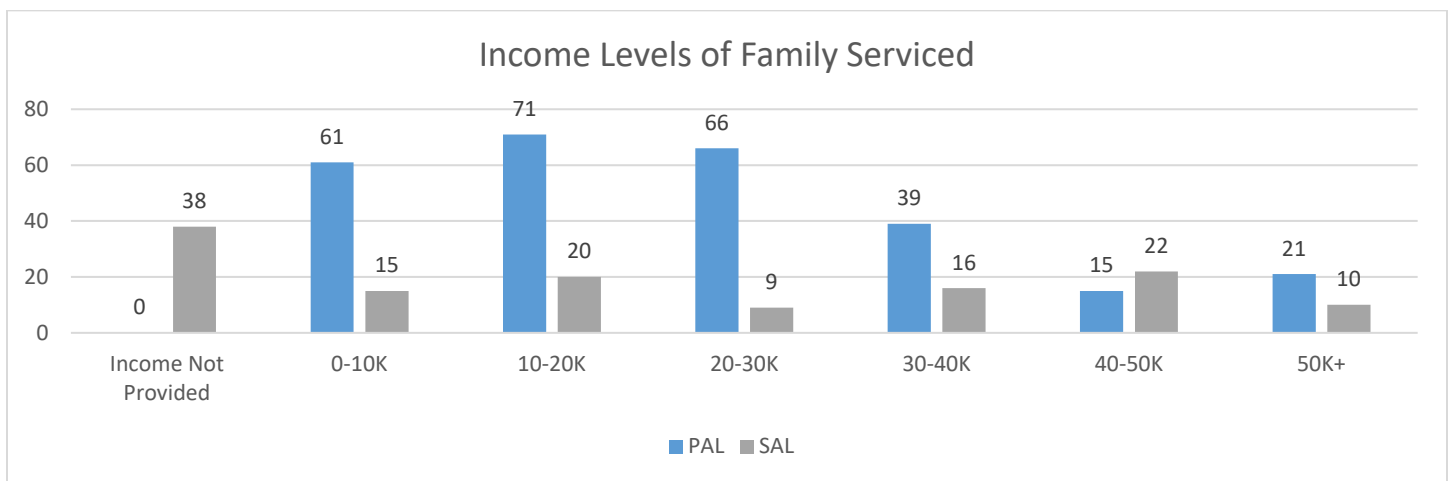
The Community Work Service Program is designed to give youth an opportunity to fulfill the court's mandates as well as reinforce a restorative approach to juvenile justice. This program serves as a consequence to the behavior leading to the arrest and to avoid conviction and juvenile record, as well as to build focus around positive and meaningful service to the community. Youth involved with this program have performed graffiti abatement, event staffing and clean up, museum curation, and other meaningful activities.

The Probation Department has received many acknowledgments from other agencies, cities and non-profits for the work performed by the Community Work Service crew. Community Work Service barriers include weather extremes within our county, however, the program has been able to find alternative indoor locations that will accommodate the extreme weather conditions thus allowing the program to continue to operate twelve months a year.

Police Athletic & Sheriff Activities Leagues (PAL/SAL)



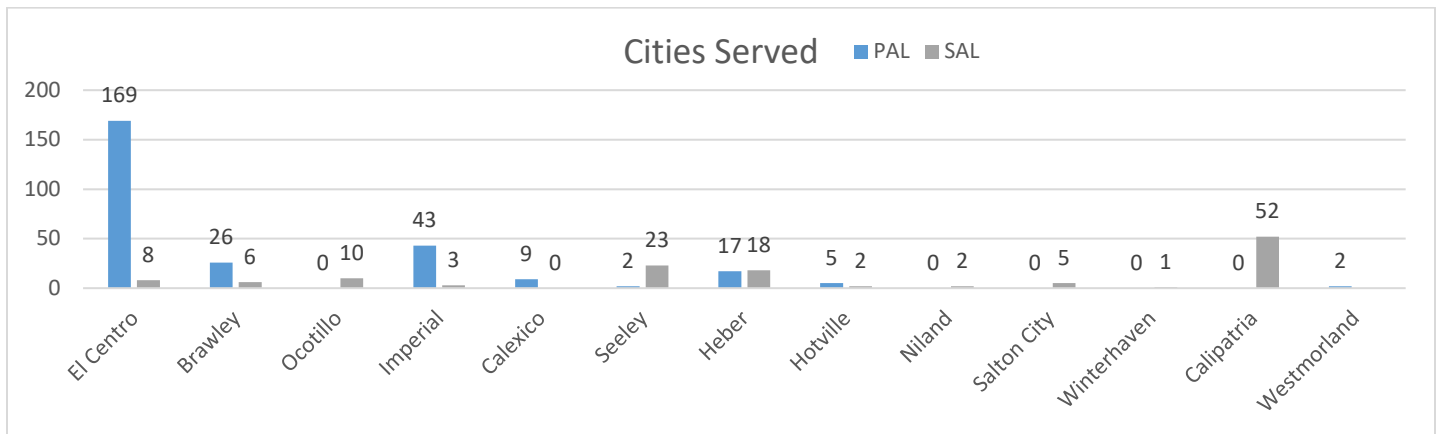
The PAL and SAL Programs provide at-risk youth in the community an opportunity for positive, participatory sport experiences with law enforcement officers who serve as both coaches and role models. The El Centro Police Activities League (PAL) fosters positive police and community relationships with youth in the City of El Centro and across Imperial County and strives to lead in the engagement of Imperial County youth, police officers, and the community. The Sheriff’s Activities League (SAL) provides quality activities for the youth in Imperial County, with the goal to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency. The program’s activities are designed to pair law enforcement officers with young people to develop discipline, mutual trust, and respect. Outdoor activities provide youth with important life skills and experiences such as, relationship building, leading, following, providing support, planning and accepting responsibility for their own actions. These activities and skills increase the likelihood of successful reintegration into the community and reducing recidivism. These programs strive to increase the physical activity among youth and decrease their risk-taking behaviors by providing opportunities for youth to play on well-equipped, organized sports leagues. In addition to providing sports and recreation programs, PAL hosts tournaments and encourages external independent teams to register and participate.



The Imperial County Sheriff Activities League (SAL) provides activities that included flag football, boxing, soccer, summer programs, mentoring, Polynesian and ballet dance programs, judo and karate. In 2020, the program allocated funds for a Back to School Shopping Spree where low-income youth received a backpack and school supplies and established a Foster Care Partnership with the

Imperial Valley Children’s Coalition, which were continued in 2022. In addition, SAL provided programs and services to 130 youth and their families in Imperial County.

The PAL program provides services to local families of low to extremely low incomes, and offers quality afterschool programs and activities for their children that they could not otherwise afford. The PAL program continues to be an important pillar in providing activities such as soccer, boxing, martial arts, golf, a mentoring program, a youth leadership program, an afterschool tutoring & study lab, a summer camp, a “National Night Out” event, and an Explorers Program provided in partnership with the El Centro Police Department. In 2022, PAL provided programs and services to 273 youth and their families. These types of activities and services remain a key component in ensuring that youth within our community do not become involved with justice system as they build on numerous skills that can lead to a successful life.



Imperial Valley Desert Museum

The Probation Department continues their partnership with the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. The partnership continues to allow youth within juvenile hall to receive educational instruction by the Imperial Valley Desert Museum where they learn about traditional culture and participate in art projects throughout the year.

The Desert Museum offered weekly fine arts and culture projects to youth in Juvenile Hall through their “History on the Go” program. The weekly classes included lessons on traditional Kumeyaay culture, science and technology, and earth science activities.

In addition to The Desert Museum’s programming at juvenile hall; youth from Project ASPIRE benefit from receiving educational services through their “History on the Go” program. Similar to youth at juvenile hall, the Desert Museum visits youth at both of Project ASPIRE’s program sites once per week where they partake in an educational lesson and a “hands on” project.

Juvenile Hall – Garden of Dreams

The Garden of Dreams was initially presented in 2015 with the goal of offering youth the opportunity to learn about the delicate balance between living and surviving through a hands-on application. The Garden of Dreams continues to strive through the collaboration between the Imperial County Probation Department, the Master Gardener, and the Esther Huff School teachers where participating youth can experience the importance of working cooperatively with one another, develop leadership skills, and learn responsibility.

The Garden of Dreams facilitates lessons that include creating positive relationships with the environment, creating an understanding of complex and diverse biological ecosystems, creating an understanding of where food comes from, developing experiences through hands-on work, and developing skills that are necessary to tend a garden from seed to harvest.

The Master Gardener provides instruction during the many phases of the growth cycle, which include cultivation of the ground, adding compost to enrich the soil, building and installing an irrigation system and trellises, seeding, watering, harvesting, and transplantation of vegetables. The Esther Huff teacher incorporates lessons in the classroom that include relationships between water, soil, sun, photosynthesis, phototropism, earthworms, and the role of nutrients in soils. The Garden of Dreams has given youth at Juvenile Hall an opportunity to learn a vocational trade, receive education in nutrition, discover the differences between organic and non-organic, and develop a connection to nature. Working in the garden helps youth create lifelong, positive relationships with the environment that foster environmental stewardship and provides a natural opportunity for youth to work across disciplines and across divisions, and acts as a catalyst for building self-esteem within the participating youth. The circular process from planning and planting to tending and harvesting teaches the participating youth in a practical and visible way and instills in them the values of responsibility, caretaking, patience, and hard work. Funding through YOBG has allowed for the purchase of compost, seed, drip irrigation supplies, and safety apparel for youth working in the garden.

Youth Summit

The intended outcomes of the Youth Summit are to help participating youth and families develop problem-solving skills, build awareness of community resources, and help them gain knowledge on the importance of healthy lifestyles, life skills, and higher learning. Initially, the targeted population for the Youth Summit was high-risk youth under probation supervision, however, the Youth Summit's audience has gradually expanded to include youth on probation who pose a lower risk, foster care youth in both the delinquency and dependency arena, as well as local middle and high school

students who are not under any type of court jurisdiction. Youthful Offender Block Grant funding supports a keynote speaker, as well as the motivational workshops offered to youth at the Summit and the Probation Department currently plans to host its next Youth Summit in May 2023.

Keeping Youth on Track Education Safety (KYOTES)

Previously known as the NYPUM Program, the Imperial County Probation Department partners with the City of El Centro Parks and Recreation Department to coordinate the Keeping Youth on Track Education Safety (KYOTES) program, an off-road highway program for boys and girls ages 10 through 18. The program tackles the problems of gangs, school truancy, and school behavior that youth in Imperial Valley can often face and offers youth the opportunity to develop self-esteem, create values for daily living, and find a sense of belonging and companionship through minibike related activities. The KYOTES program is able to use minibikes to attract youth to outdoor activities and provides incentives to improve their lifestyle through the excitement of riding. Youth learn teamwork, fair play, trust, respect for property, discipline and other skills through trail riding.

Activities for the KYOTES program include events such as riding in the desert, camping, fishing, special trainings, desert survival techniques, fundraisers, and field trips. In addition, youth participants will have ownership of the program through year round activities that include assisting with the cleanup of the Imperial Dunes, Heber Dunes, and other State OHV trails.

KYOTES Goals:

- ❖ Develop safe riding skills through 21 lessons
- ❖ Provide outdoor environment awareness
- ❖ Educate youth on proper use of desert survival and safety skills
- ❖ Encourage school attendance and good grades
- ❖ Provide mechanical training
- ❖ Develop responsible citizenship
- ❖ Foster community collaboration
- ❖ Provide Health Education and Nutrition
- ❖ Provide camping and survival skills
- ❖ Provide outdoor cooking lessons
- ❖ Provide information on career opportunities in the outdoors
- ❖ Provide CPR and AED certification

Project A.S.P.I.R.E

Project ASPIRE is an after school program designed to afford children in underserved communities supervised, pro-social activities between the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The four Youth Service Specialists (YSS), a new classification of employee within the Probation Department, provide educational, recreational and cultural opportunities to the youth they serve. Youth Service Specialists are currently providing programming to Westmorland, Heber, Imperial County Juvenile Hall and the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home. The Probation Department is currently working towards establishing a third site in the near future and is currently utilizing two vehicles purchased through YOBG funds to transport youth throughout the county to various activities and sites.

Boys and Girls Club of Imperial Valley

For 53 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Imperial Valley has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances. The programs positively affect the quality of life in Imperial Valley for many residents and enhances the partnership with the City of Brawley at the Brawley Teen Center and at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Holtville. BGCIV affects youth positively in three priority areas: Academic Success, Good Character & Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. The program focuses on five key elements for youth development:

1. **Safe and positive environment** – connected to feelings of emotional and physical safety
2. **Fun and a sense of belonging** – giving youth a of community they can be a part of
3. **Supportive relationships** – including positive adult connections
4. **Opportunities and expectations** – including staff expectations of youth
5. **Recognition** – monthly award ceremonies and incentives

Closing

The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is committed to promoting public safety and improving the quality of life for youth and families in our community. Through evidence-based interventions and diversionary strategies, Imperial County is better able to guide many youth towards brighter futures and keep them out of the juvenile justice system.

The continued successes and achievements detailed in this report demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs and our unwavering commitment to our mission. By providing support and resources to justice-involved families, we are helping to break the cycle of recidivism and improve outcomes for youth in our community. Additionally, our efforts to implement and deploy risk needs-responsivity approaches to community supervision have helped to promote accountability and rehabilitation among justice-involved youth.

As the JJCC continues to face the challenges of the juvenile justice field, we are committed to identifying and implementing changes and strategies needed to meet these challenges. We will continue to work tirelessly to strengthen justice-involved families, protect our community, and invest in the future of Imperial County's youth.

The programs and services provided by partner agencies are vital to the well-being of our community and its youth. We urge continued support and funding for these programs so that we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. With your help, we can further strengthen our programs, protect our community, and promote a brighter future for all.

We hope that this report provides a clear and informative overview of our work and achievements. We are grateful for the support and partnership of our community and stakeholders as we work towards our mission of promoting public safety and improving the lives of youth and families in Imperial County

Appendix - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 JJCPA Spending Plan

Estimated FY 2023/24 Allocation: \$ 504,835
Growth 23/24 Allocation: \$ 379,748
Total Available: \$ 884,583

Fiscal Year 23-24 JJCPA Spending Plan

Department / Program	Funding Amount	Percentage of Total
Probation Department:		
Salary – One (1) Deputy Probation Officer II*	\$ 64,736	7.32 %
Overtime	\$ 10,000	1.13 %
Bilingual	\$ 520	0.06 %
Medicare*	\$ 939	0.11 %
Retirement*	\$ 25,349	2.87 %
Group Insurance	\$ 7,547	0.85 %
Dental/Vision	\$ -	0.00 %
Redemption of Benefits	\$ 1,489	0.17 %
Worker Comp Insurance*	\$ 1,403	0.16 %
Unemployment Insurance*	\$ 214	0.02 %
Liability Insurance*	\$ 1,034	0.12 %
Overhead Reimbursement*	\$ 1,356	0.15 %
Evening Learning Center (YOBG, WRAP)	\$ 669,365	75.67 %
Office Expense	\$ 2,000	0.23 %
Special Department Expense	\$ 2,500	0.28 %
Transfer Out-Probation (Mileage, Cell Phone)	\$ 10,000	1.13 %
* Overhead	\$ 1,492	
Total	\$ 799,944	90.26 %
Surplus Available	\$ 84.639	

Included in the FY 23-24 Spending Plan is the allocation of one (1) Deputy Probation Officer II's supervising of high/medium risk minors at the Evening Learning Center. The cost includes COB services for the Evening Learning Center and Mentor & Tracking Program.

**Salary, Benefits, Worker Comp, Unemployment, Liability and Overhead costs are estimated at this time.*

Appendix - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 YOBG Spending Plan

Estimated FY 2023/24 Allocation: \$ 2,281,002
Growth 23/24 Allocation: \$ 170,628
Total Available: \$ 2,451,630

Fiscal Year 23-24 YOBG Spending Plan

Department / Program	Funding Amount	Percentage of Total
Probation Department:		
Salary — One (1) Supervisor Probation Officer, Four (4) Youth Service Specialists, One (1) Probation Assistant, Four (4) Deputy Probation Officer II*	\$ 542,455	22.13 %
Overtime (CWS)	\$ 40,000	1.63 %
Bilingual	\$ 1,040	0.04 %
Medicare*	\$ 7,866	0.32 %
Retirement*	\$ 183,632	7.49 %
Group Insurance	\$ 93,700	3.82 %
Dental/Vision	\$ 4,008	0.16 %
Redemption of Benefits	\$ 6,177	0.25 %
Garden of Dreams	\$ 8,000	0.33 %
Youth Summit	\$ 10,000	0.41 %
AB12 Recognition	\$ 5,000	0.20 %
Community Work Service Program	\$ 56,986	2.32 %
SAL/PAL	\$ 13,517	0.55 %
KYOTES	\$ 15,000	0.61 %
Boys & Girls Club of Imperial Valley Teen Center	\$ 20,000	0.82 %
Imperial Valley Desert Museum	\$ 15,000	0.61 %
Office Expenses	\$ 15,000	0.61 %
Vehicle Maintenance Fees	\$ 19,080	0.78 %
Transfer Out - Probation (Mileage, CWS OT)	\$ 30,000	1.22 %
Project ASPIRE Operating Costs	\$ 75,000	3.06 %
Case Management System	\$ 69,450	2.83 %
Capital Improvement Projects – Juvenile Hall	\$ 600,000	24.47 %
Total	\$ 1,830,910	74.68 %

*Salary, Benefits, Worker Comp, Unemployment, Liability and Overhead costs are estimated at this time. Included in the FY 23-24 Spending Plan is funding services provided to Youth within the Community. This includes funding for one (1) Supervisory Probation Officer, four (4) Deputy Probation Officers, four (4) Youth Service Specialists, and one (1) Probation Assistant to provide services.

Capital Improvement Projects for Juvenile Hall includes sunshade, fitness park, and outdoor recreation area as well as upgrading the existing CCTV system.

Appendix - Imperial County Juvenile Referral Data

Below is information submitted for the 2022 JJCPA-YOBG Data Expenditure Report:

Referrals of Juveniles to Probation Department for Delinquent Acts - 2021

Referral Type	
New	285
Subsequent	6
Total	291

Gender	
Male	229
Female	62
Total	291

Referral Source	
Law Enforcement	290
Other	1
Total	291

Detention	
Not Detained	209
Detained – Nonsecure Facility	0
Detained – Secure Facility	82
Unknown	0
Total	291

Prosecutor Actions	
No Petition Filed	222
Petition Accepted	61
Petition Not Accepted	8
Total	291

Probation Dept. Disposition	
Closed	230
Petition Filed	61
Total	291

Referral Offenses	
Felony Total	138
Misdemeanor Total	353
Status Offenses Total	0
Total	491

Petitioned Offenses	
Felony Total	66
Misdemeanor Total	53
Status Offenses Total	0
Total	119

Juvenile Court Dispositions From Petitions for Delinquent Acts - 2021

Wardship Placements	
Own / Relative's Home	24
Secure County Facility	1
Other Private Facility	1
Total	26

Termination Actions	
Terminated	24
Transferred	0
Total	24