



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Probation
Department No.: 022
Agenda Date: September 23, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer
Contact: Damon Fletcher, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act - Youthful Offender Block Grant 2024-2025
Expenditure and Data Report

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the Department's Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) – Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) 2024-2025 Expenditure and Data Report for subsequent submission to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) as mandated by statute.
- b) Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities or funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to receive the JJCPA and YOBG Expenditure and Data Report for fiscal year 2024-2025. Assembly Bill (AB) 1998, passed by the California state legislature in 2017, combined annual JJCPA and YOBG reports into the Expenditure and Data Report (Attachment A), a one fiscal year-end report due to the OYCR on October 1st of each year. The report provides expenditure details for both JJCPA and YOBG, as well as specified county-wide data for justice-involved youth, taken from

existing statewide juvenile justice data systems or networks. AB 1998 further requires that each county receiving an allocation of funds submit its report concurrently to the county Board of Supervisors.

Discussion:

This year's combined Expenditure and Data Report reflects that expenditures are within expectations. Between 2023 and 2024, the total number of juvenile arrests in Santa Barbara County decreased by 3.9%. Within that total, misdemeanor arrests increased slightly by 2.2% (from 462 in 2023 to 472 in 2024), while felony arrests declined by 14.6% (from 267 in 2023 to 228 in 2024). In 2024, Santa Barbara County recorded 1,064 juvenile misdemeanor or felony arrests per 100,000 youth ages 10-19, compared to 636 per 100,000 statewide. Neighboring counties recorded arrest rates of 1,455 per 100,000 in Ventura and 473 per 100,000 in San Luis Obispo. Since 2021, juvenile arrest rates have trended upward both locally and statewide; however, both remain below pre-pandemic levels (1,763 locally and 773 statewide per 100,000 in 2019). The decline in juvenile arrest rates between 2019 and 2024 has been more substantial locally, with a 39.6% reduction within Santa Barbara County compared to a 17.7% decrease statewide. By arrest type, both misdemeanors and felonies remain below pre-pandemic levels, with overall juvenile arrests down 37.7% since 2019. Specifically, felony arrests are 23.4% lower, and misdemeanor arrests are 42.8% lower. While annual fluctuations are expected, juvenile arrests continue to reflect historically low levels.

Information from the Probation Department's (Probation) case management system also indicates Probation has experienced a 21% increase in the number of supervised youth to 348 youth in a one-day fiscal year-end snapshot from Fiscal Year 2024-25, as compared to 287 youth in the previous fiscal year. At the same time, Probation continues to foster the use of diversionary supervision. Of the total 348 youth supervised on June 30, 2025, 21% were supervised on a diversionary option, a decrease from 29% the year prior. Probation uses the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), an evidence-based risk and needs assessment tool, to identify the youth's risk to reoffend, their criminogenic needs, and strengths to build upon. From this assessment, Probation endeavors to supervise the highest risk youth, diverting others whenever possible, whether to non-ward supervision grants, or to one of several diversion programs funded by YOBG. Those options include the Youth Empowerment Services program facilitated through the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, two restorative justice programs offered through Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley in mid- and north county, and the Teen Legal Clinic in the south. JJCPA and YOBG funding is also used to provide programming to address identified criminogenic needs. Probation staff funded through these grants work with youth and families to create case plans with meaningful goals to address identified needs through interventions in the community, at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), and in the transition from the JJC back to the community.

Background:

In 2000, California state legislature passed AB 1913, which created the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act, subsequently renamed the JJCPA, which provides State funds to support local programs and services that address crime and delinquency among at-risk and justice involved youth. To obtain funds, the JJCPA requires the County to establish and maintain a multi-agency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) for the purpose of developing, reviewing, and updating a Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) that describes the local juvenile justice

system and its efforts to address delinquency. Annually, the CMJJP is reviewed and revised as needed prior to being submitted to the OYCR.

In 2007, Senate Bill (SB) 81 was enacted which created the YOBG, and along with subsequent clean-up legislation under AB 191 in 2011, limited commitments to the California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to youth with dispositions for the most serious offenses enumerated in section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) and certain sex offenses. The YOBG prohibited state-level commitment of youth adjudicated for all other offenses after September 1, 2007. The legislation included funding to offset the cost of providing services to non-707(b) WIC adjudicated youth returning to the county, and to increase officer capacity to supervise them. YOBG funds are allocated based on a county's population of persons aged 10-17, and the number of juvenile felony dispositions. In 2020, SB 823 was enacted which precluded the commitment of any youth to a DJJ facility beginning July 1, 2021, and permanently closing all DJJ facilities on June 30, 2023. As a result, youth who in the past may have been committed to a DJJ facility for serious offenses are now housed locally, including unprecedented long-term commitments at the JJC. To meet the needs of this population, local jurisdictions can obtain funding by submitting a detailed plan of programs and services in the County's Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Plan (locally referred to as the JJRP), which is submitted annually to OYCR.

Locally, the JJCC formed the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Workgroup (JJCCW), whose membership includes county and community partner agencies. The JJCCW analyzes gaps, trends and service delivery, discusses data and resources, and reviews issues of interest in order to present recommendations to the JJCC. The JJCCW has sought input and perspective from a range of stakeholders, including monthly presentations from a variety of local services providers, with a primary focus on the development and refinement of the CMJJP to meet contemporary needs. The CMJJP has the overarching goals of maintaining public safety by reducing recidivism, enhancing the use of diversion for appropriate youth, coordinating efforts and improving system collaboration to support connection of youth and families in the community, and supporting a systematic approach to studying and addressing disparities in the juvenile justice system, including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. This year's CMJJP plan was again combined with the JJRP to illustrate the continuum of the juvenile justice system, from community prevention efforts, to programming, and re-entry efforts for youth detained in the juvenile facilities (Attachment B). On April 4, 2025, the JJCC approved the CMJJP, and the JJRP was approved by the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS).

Historically, JJCPA funding has been used for the assessment, supervision, treatment of, and aftercare services for justice involved youth. In addition to JJCPA, Probation uses a variety of other funding sources to provide services to at-risk juveniles, justice involved youth, and their families. These sources include Federal Title IV-E funds, Juvenile Camp and Probation Funding (JCPF), YOBG funds, and County General Fund. In recent years, in the wake of the closure of DJJ, Probation has also used funding provided through Senate Bill 823, Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant funding. This funding supports youth committed to Probation's Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) program, which houses youth who would have previously been committed to the DJJ, as well as programming for youth's reentry into the community from these commitments.

Prior to 2017, counties submitted separate year-end or annual reports for JJCPA and YOBG. With the creation of a combined plan, counties now report once yearly on both programs in a format specified

by the OYCR. The attached report includes required program descriptions, expenditures, and juvenile justice data as reported through the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System. The reporting for that system relies on specified definitions that may not directly match local data definitions.

Performance Measure:

The Combined CMJJP/JJRP (Attachment B) elaborates on goals and objectives collectively devised through the JJCC and the JJRS, as well as reports on progress made toward goals annually. These goals are related to the officers and programs funded through JJCPA and YOBG monies and can be found on pages 68-74 of the Combined CMJJP/JJRP. In addition, each program listed in the attached report and in the Combined CMJJP/JJRP has an associated contract with outlined performance measures which are monitored and reviewed throughout the fiscal year. These performance measures are also re-evaluated prior to the execution of subsequent contracts.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

The attached report recaps FY 2024-2025 statistical and budget information for the JJCPA and YOBG programs. The budget for JJCPA funded programs and officers was \$2,209,800, and the budget for YOBG funded programs and officers was \$2,735,143. Currently, the JJCPA fund balance is \$4,369,617 and the YOBG fund balance is \$7,080,839. Receiving and filing the attached report has no fiscal impact.

Program	FY 2024–25 Budget	Fund Balance as of 6/30/25
JJCPA Programs	\$2,209,800	\$4,369,617
YOBG Programs	\$2,735,143	\$7,080,839

Attachments:

Attachment A – Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act/Youthful Offender Block Grant 2024-2025 Expenditure and Data Report

Attachment B – Santa Barbara County 2024-2025 Consolidated Annual Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan

Contact Information:

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