

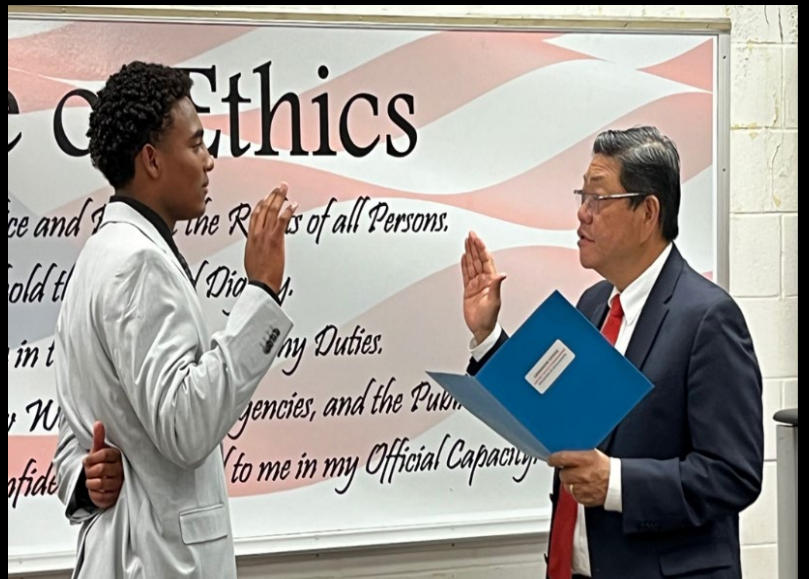


JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

2025 / 2026

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PLAN

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





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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



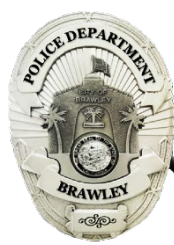
GEORGE MARQUEZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



BEN SALORIO
PUBLIC DEFENDER



PAULA LLANAS
DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF
SOCIAL SERVICES



JIMMY DURAN
CITY OF BRAWLEY, CHIEF
OF POLICE



JOHN HAWK
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
DISTRICT 5



IMPERIAL COUNTY
Behavioral Health Services
MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY
Hope, Wellness and Recovery

LETICIA PLANCARTE-GARCIA
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH SERVICES



CHERYL VIEGAS-WALKER
CITY OF EL CENTRO,
MAYOR (RETIRED).



PATRICIA URENA
JUVENILE JUSTICE
COMMISSION CHAIR.



TODD FINNELL
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 the 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 young people at risk of being removed from their homes and sent to placement and for those individuals 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 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 Sheriff's Office and El Centro Police Department's recreational athletic leagues, the KYOTES motorbike program, and our Youth Summit are continuing to engage 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.

For youth within the Juvenile Hall, the Probation Department uses JJCPA/YOGB funds to ensure that they are engaged in a meaningful way through programs such as the Garden of Dreams and the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. Additionally, if a youth is committed to the Imperial County Juvenile Hall Secure Track program, the Department has developed a rehabilitative treatment program to service this population. These programs help youth develop skills and relationships that they can build upon as they transition from the Juvenile Hall back to the community.

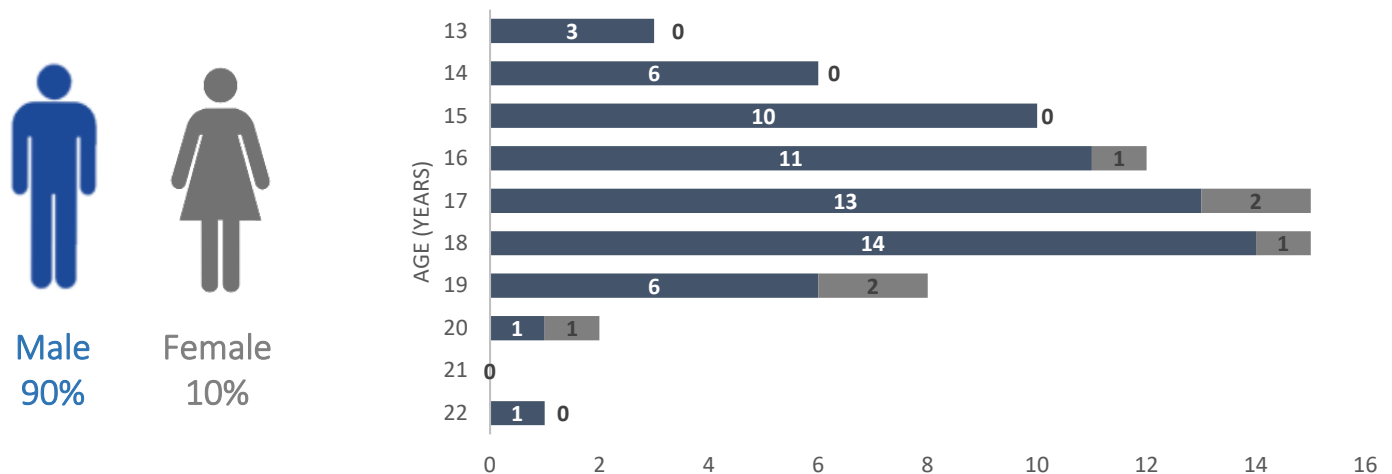
The Probation Department continued to be active and involved with our local community through its participation and support of events such as Career Fairs, the annual Children's Fair, and Shop with a Cop. In addition, the Department expanded Project ASPIRE to additional sites within the county and continued 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

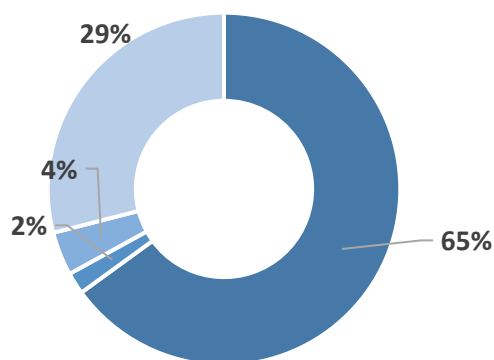
The Imperial County Probation Department's Juvenile Supervision Unit provides a wide range of services to juvenile offenders that include Intake Services, Investigation Services, Community Supervision Services, and Placement Services. The Probation Department's use of effective strategies and programs continues to have a positive impact on the juvenile supervision population. At the end of FY 2023-24, the Probation Department reported 80 Juveniles under supervision and as of April 1, 2025, the Probation Department is supervising 72 individuals, including eight Secure Track youth housed in the Juvenile Hall.

Below are juvenile supervision population breakdowns as of April 1st 2024:*

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

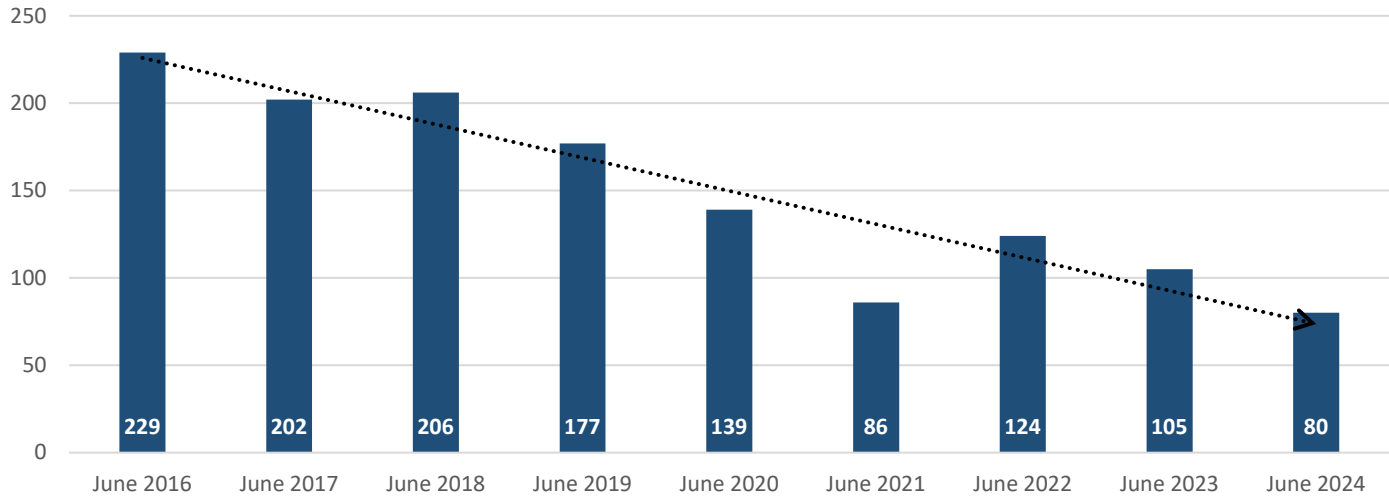


Imperial County Probation Department – Race Breakdown of Current Juvenile Population:

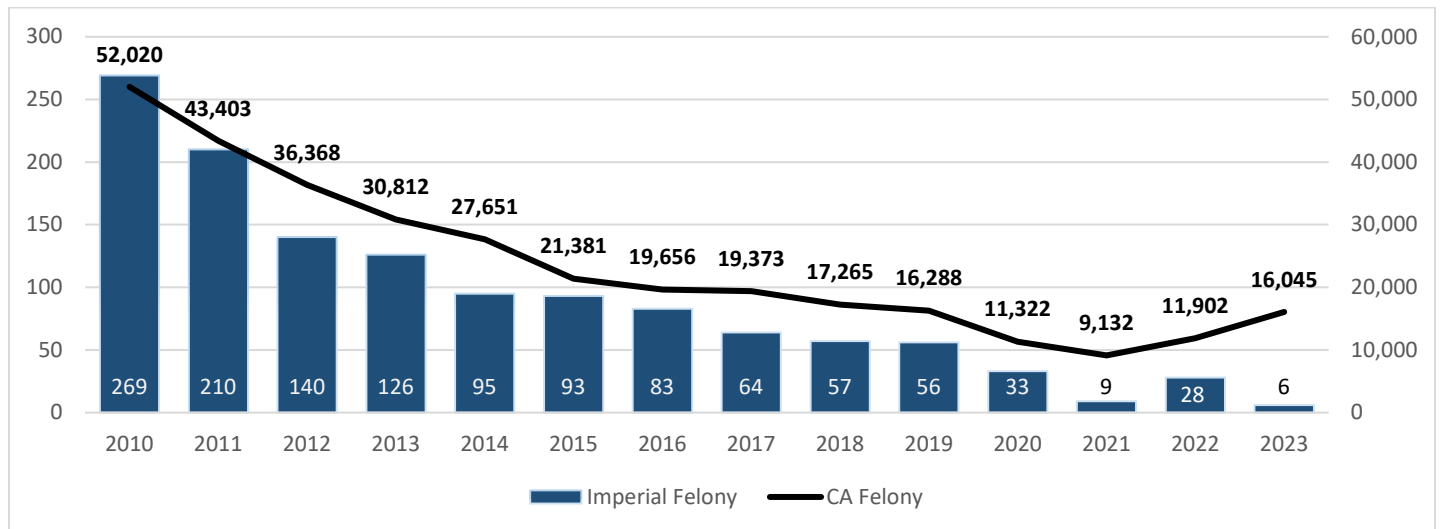


Hispanic/Mexican American	87%
African American	3%
Caucasian	5%
Other / Non-Identified	5%

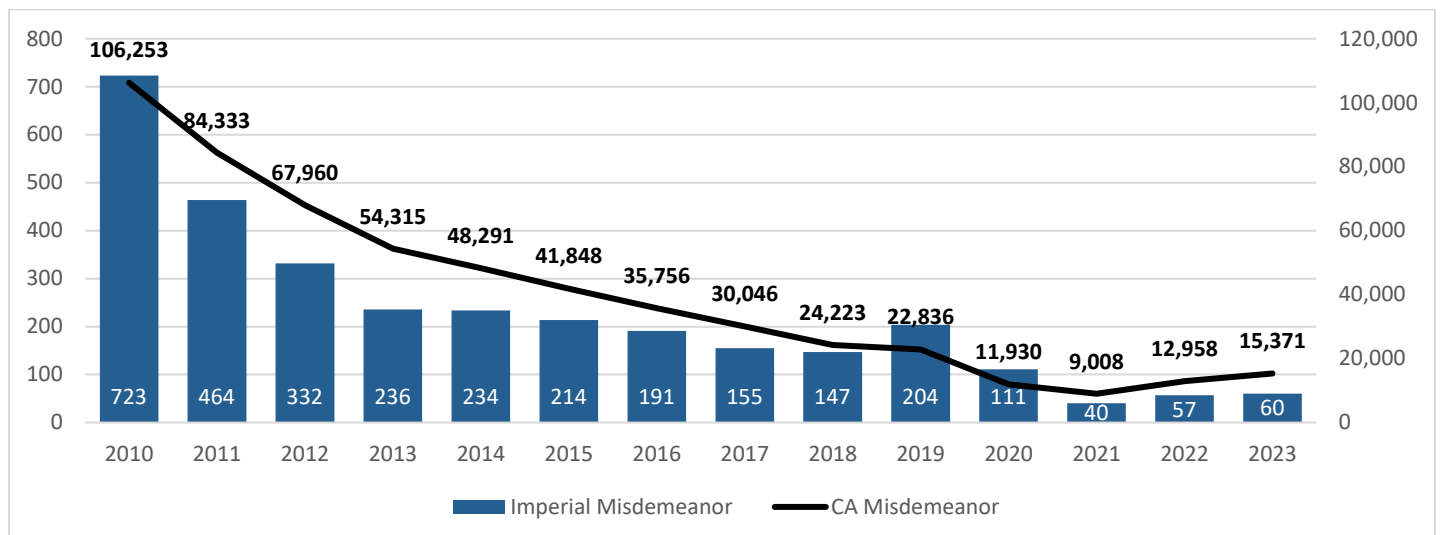
Imperial County Probation Department – Juvenile Supervision Population 2016 - 2024



Juvenile Felony Arrests: California vs Imperial County (2010-2023)*



Juvenile Misdemeanor Arrests: California vs Imperial County (2010-2023)*



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'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. 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 2024, in support of the Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan, Rite Track Youth Services expanded their services to include females and gender expansive youth ages 13-17, who had contact with law enforcement or were at risk of being incarcerated. Through an alliance with the *Vera Institute*, these services act as a less restrictive alternative to incarceration or juvenile sentencing and allowed youths to be referred to Rite Track for diversion, mentoring and social-emotional stabilization services.

In addition, in support of the Imperial County Department of Social Services response to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) plan, Rite Track Services designed a prevention program aimed to assist youth ages 11-17 and their families who are at risk of entering the Child Welfare System. This program aims to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing family wraparound services and family strengthening activities



In 2024, Rite Track received 162 referrals from various community partners and welcomed 125 new youth into their programming, *52 more than the previous year*. Of these, 21 youth were enrolled into the Evening Learning Center (ELC), 37 youth enrolled into the Mentoring & Tracking Program (MT), 4 youth enrolled into the Secure Track Program (ST), 16 youth enrolled into the ELLAS program, 9 youth enrolled into the UNIDOS program, and 38 young parents enrolled into the Proud Parenting Program. In addition to the new enrollments, Rite Track continued to provide services to 106 youth carried over from the previous year. Overall Rite Track provided services to **231** youths in 2024.

The Juan Ulloa Evening Learning Center (ELC)

The Juan Ulloa Evening Learning Center is a diversion and conflict resolution focused program designed to support youth between the ages of 11 to 18 who have or had contact with the juvenile justice system.

In 2024, 22 youths were referred to the Evening Learning Center by the Imperial County Probation Department, with 88% resulting in enrollment into the program. Throughout 2024, the Evening Learning Center provided services to 30 youth overall and welcomed 21 new youths into the program, with 15 placed into the six-month program, 2 placed into the modified program, and 4 were placed into the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Focused program. Additionally, in 2024, the Evening Learning Center had 19 total program exits, with ten participants successfully completing the program, eight neutrally exiting the program, and one youth exiting due to higher level of care needs.

Program Models

Built as a trauma focused and responsive approach, the ELC provides three program models to meet the diverse needs of the youth. Through the initial referral, youth are assessed and assigned to a program that the Rite Track Student Support Team (SST) believes the youth will benefit from with multiple factors such as age, risk-level, home setting, academics and acute behavioral issues taken into consideration to determine which program youth are placed in.

❖ Six-Month Program

The six-month program is Rite Track's most comprehensive program as it allows Rite Track staff and youth to work on their individual goals for an extended period. Youth enrolled into this model usually present high acute behavioral issues, have committed a serious offense or are repeat offenders, are placed on formal probation, and/or benefit from active daily supervision.

❖ Three-Month Program

The three-month program is similar to the six-month program, with an exception for the length of stay and youth enrolled into this program are expected to meet the same requirements youth in the six-month program would complete. Youth can be offered this alternative program to help reduce age-mixing of youth that are approaching their 18th birthday or to provide an alternative for youth that have been unsuccessful in completing the six-month program model.

❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Focused Program

The CBT focused program is a three-month program that focuses on providing youth access to CBT groups, which are offered Monday through Wednesday. Youth who are enrolled in this program are considered low risk youth that do not display high acute behavioral issues.

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 and in 2024, Rite Track students completed 1,751 dosage hours of cognitive based interventions. Rite Track utilizes the following treatment groups:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| ❖ Thinking for a Change (English & Spanish) | ❖ Coping with Stress |
| ❖ Aggression Replacement Training | ❖ Positive Skill Development |
| ❖ Seeking Safety | ❖ Life Skills |

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. For 2024, ELC youth completed a total of 410 hours of community service by assisting with events such as the 2024 Youth Summit, downtown clean up, park beautification, and window art.

Learning through the Arts

Through a robust mix of art styles and activities, Rite Track provides youth with the opportunity to explore their emotions, understand conflicts or feelings that are causing them distress, and use art to help find solutions to those issues.

The goal of art therapy is to improve and restore the youth’s functioning to gain a sense of personal wellbeing while providing them with an additional and safe outlet for self-expression. In 2024, Rite Track encouraged youth to participate in art projects that focused on diversity, national holidays, and traditions through a quarterly art competition. Some of the art activities the youth participated in this year included

fidgiting tools, homemade ice cream, molding clay, reverse tie dye, figures of speech art and flowerpot painting

Celebrations and Outings

Rite Track recognizes that celebrations and outings are an important means to motivate students and provide them with opportunities they may otherwise not experience. In 2024, youth participated in field trips to Seaworld, the local community pool, local movie theaters, and the Imperial Irrigation District's Light Show. In addition, Rite Track continues to acknowledge and recognize students as they excel through the program through Student of the Month, Most Improved, and Perfect Attendance awards.

Parenting Supports

In 2024, Rite Track continued to provide parents of teens with support through parenting workshops, which include six evidence-based sessions of the *Active Parenting of Teens* curriculum, where Rite Track parents and guardians strengthen and enhance their parenting skills and are given the opportunity to build spaces where they feel supported and validated by other parents who may be undergoing similar challenges.

Rite Track Recognition Ceremony - Juan Ulloa Scholarship

This year Rite Track awarded three *Juan Ulloa Scholarship* to three youths that had successfully completed the ELC program. Present, past, and future Rite Track students who apply for this scholarship can earn between \$500 to \$1000 towards their vocational, college or university tuition if they meet the minimum requirements and are chosen to receive the scholarship.



Case Management Services

The ELC strives to provide strong support systems for students by tailoring services to meet their specific needs using the 30-day Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment. Service Coordinators can assess the youths' barriers or setbacks that may be currently affecting them and focus on obstacles that are important to the youth that require immediate attention. The youth work alongside the Rite Track team to develop an individualized service plan where the youth identify short- and long-term goals they wish to accomplish while enrolled in the ELC. Their goals are measured and monitored by their assigned case manager on a weekly basis and all accomplishments and progress made are rewarded through a rewards system that includes snacks and treats from local businesses, gift cards, and Rite Track clothing. In 2024, the ELC provided 168 incentives for youth reaching their short-term goals and awarded 101 gift cards for youth reaching their long-term goals.

Urinalysis Test (UAs)

To support the youth's sobriety, all ELC youth are required to submit a weekly urinalysis test which are administered by ELC staff who screens for abnormalities and chemicals such as Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), Methamphetamines (M-AMP), Benzodiazepines (BZO), Cocaine (COC), and Opiates (OPI). Results are reported to the youth's Probation Officer and when a youth tests positive, additional sanctions and/or referral for Substance Abuse Treatment is made to a community partner. In 2024, ELC staff administered 462 drug screens.

Positive Engagement Team (PET) Program

Rite Track continues to support and work alongside Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) to strengthen the youth's treatment participation and in 2024, Rite Track welcomed the PET program. The Positive Engagement Team (PET) program provides innovative ways to heal, reduce anxiety and develop empathy. The PETs visited bi-weekly and youth had the opportunity to meet multiple therapy pets.



Rite Track – Mentoring and Tracking Program



Rite Track's Mentoring and Tracking (MT) Program is a diversion and mentoring focused program designed to support youth between the ages of 11 to 21 who have or had contact with the juvenile justice system or are presenting negative behaviors that could lead to justice involvement. Through MT services, youth have access to individualized risk assessments, case management services, individualized service plans, pro-social activities, life skills workshops, academic support and advocacy, court support and advocacy,

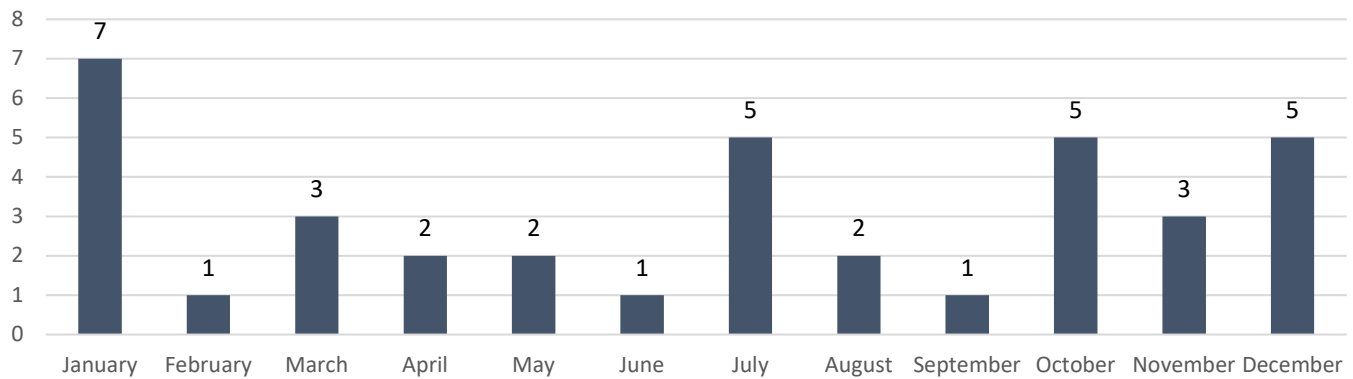
and access to community service and individual therapy sessions with an on-site clinician. Mentors interact with youth through various methods and youth may meet with their mentor at their homes, school sites, public settings and within the Rite Track office.

MT Services include crisis interventions, job readiness, educational assistance, court support, service tracking, phone "check-ins," in-person contacts and family reunification services. In addition to mentoring services, youth have access to supportive services which include obtaining their California ID, driving permit, drivers' licenses, assistance with academic enrollment, post-secondary education exploration, FAFSA support, pro-social outings, and life skills workshops.

In 2024, the MT program welcomed 37 new youths and along with the 20 students from the previous year, provided services to a total of 57 students throughout the year. Additionally, the Mentoring and Tracking program continued to welcome non-adjudicated youth and had 9 non-adjudicated youth enrolled into the program.

Over the course of 2024, Mentoring and Tracking made over 2,215 telephone calls, 924 field/home visits, contacted Probation Officers 256 times, attended over 17 academic meetings, attended 47 court hearings, provided 5 family interventions, and administered 100 urine analysis. In 2024, the MT program had 31 youth exit the program consisting of 19 successful exits, 12 neutral exits, and 0 exits due to the need of higher care.

M&T Enrollments 2024



Supportive Services

To help promote positive youth outcomes, the MT program provides opportunities, fosters positive relationships and gives youth the additional support that is needed to help prevent “risk-like” behaviors. Through supportive services, MT youth have access to immediate support such as work permits, transportation services, assistance with school supplies, clothing, vocational clothing, post-secondary education support, copies of birth certificates and assistance in obtaining their driver's license. In 2024, the MT program provided over 515 supportive services, 34% were due to transportation services, 30% were behavior modification incentives and 36% additional natural support such tutoring services, work permits, food assistance, referrals to outside agencies, computer use and SUD counseling sessions.

Community Service

Community engagement is a fundamental component of the MT program and through community service, MT youth can give back and contribute to their community. Most of the youth enrolled in the MT program are required to complete between 25-100 hours of community service.

In 2024, the MT program continued to have a partnership with the First Baptist Church and developed new partnerships with the Southern Counties Cat Rescue, Christ Community Church, Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Council, and Feed the Need Organization. Throughout 2024, MT youth completed over 240 hours of community service.

Mentee and Mentor Activities



A main driver for the MT program's success is due to the development of strong and supportive relationships built between the mentor and mentee. Mentors are equipped with trauma informed and response tools to provide constructive feedback and provide youth with advocacy and the skills necessary to thrive. In addition, mentors develop opportunities for youth to connect with other youth through

program outings and activities.

In 2024, the MT program organized a robust mix of workshops and outings, which included field trips to Seaworld, Summer pool day, tour of the Job Corps campus in Imperial Beach and participated in the annual Rite Track Turkey bowl and joined the ELC youth in a kick ball scrimmage against the Probation Officers.

Celebrating Culture Diversity

Giving youth the ability to celebrate their diverse cultural backgrounds gives them the space to use their social-emotional learning skills and develop skills to empower themselves and have a better understanding of equity and inclusion. This year MT youth participated in several art projects in celebration of Black History Month, Women Appreciation Month, and Hispanic Heritage-Loteria Art Project.



Holidays & Celebrations

Celebrating students and keeping up with traditions is a core value of Mentoring and Tracking. In 2024, MT continued to celebrate youths' birthdays with gift cards and personalized cakes. During holidays like Easter, Valentines, Thanksgiving and Christmas, students receive holiday grams and gifts. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, several families were provided a full meal basket to inspire Positive Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACES). Additionally, Rite Track hosted a Recognition Ceremony in honor of youth who successfully completed the program and met significant milestones.

Rite Track – Proud Parenting Program



In collaboration with Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers and Schools (ROPATCS), Rite Track continues to serve young parents between 14 to 24 years of age through Proud Parenting (PP). The Proud Parenting program operates out of the Rite Track facility and is designed to increase participants' parenting success, while decreasing the risk of further or future involvement with the Juvenile Justice and/or Child Protective Services systems. In addition to helping young parents enhance their parenting skills, PP offers a workforce component where parents can enhance their workforce skills

and increase their opportunities for employment.

In 2024, Proud Parenting received 48 referrals resulting in 38 young parents between the ages 14-24 welcomed into the program and with the 14 from the previous year still participating, had a total of 52 young parents enrolled throughout the year. In addition, over 2024, 48 participants exited the program successfully as they completed their individual service plans.

Evidence Based Services

To support young parents and enhance their parenting, anger reduction and workforce skills, Proud Parenting operates utilizing the following best practices and evidence-based programming.

Making Parenting A Pleasure

This is an evidence-based program 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. Twelve discussion-based 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)

ART is a research-based approach to improve social skill competence, moral reasoning, better manage anger and reduce aggressive behavior. The curriculum includes skill-streaming, which is designed to teach a broad curriculum of prosocial behavior, anger control training, and moral reasoning training, to help motivate youth to employ newly learned pro-social skills.



Active Parenting: First Five Years

This program addresses basic skills for new parents and caregivers as well as early childhood training. The flexible program design allows for delivery of 1, 3, or 4 sessions. Sessions focus on parenting skills, nonviolent discipline, childhood mental development, the power of encouragement, engagement, and preparation for school. In 2024, Proud Parenting conducted over 402 sessions of Making Parenting A Pleasure, which resulted in 48 young parents receiving their certificates of completion.

Workforce Services

Parents have access to the **RISEUP** training and credentialing program and through this service, parents learn the fundamentals of the customer services and sales industry. This 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 with accreditation administered by the National Retail Federation. Parents who successfully pass the training receive certification and linkage to employment.

In addition to the accreditation support, young parents will be able to receive assistance with job applications, job linkage, resume and cover letter building, interview preparation and transportation support to and from interviews and job searching. The goal of these services is to help promote healthy families by stabilizing parents' financial statuses and end system support. In 2024, PP provided 92 hours of work readiness to include job searching and resume building.

Program Activities

Through an array of supportive services and activities, PP provides a place where children and parents can increase their child-parent bonds. This year, PP held workshops and site activities that included a family trip to SeaWorld, Mother's Day brunch, Father's Day luncheon, self-care workshops, Back to School bash, and the Christmas Adopt a Family event.

Parent Support Groups



This year, PP noticed a great need for additional support systems with many parents reported to have experienced mental health issues related to depression, anxiety, and feelings of loneliness. As additional support, PP formed parent support groups where parents had the opportunity to share their experiences with other parents and develop

friendships. Through these groups, parents expressed they improved their mental health, learned to lean on one another for support and improved their social skills.

Supportive Services

Proud Parenting looks for unique ways to provide participants with additional supportive services to help mitigate some of the obstacles that youth may face. In 2024, PP provided over 284 supportive services. Some of the additional supportive services provided included diapers, formula, clothing, shoes, supplies for school, interview clothing, car seats, attaining childcare services and transportation to the DMV and doctor appointments.

Proud Parenting – End of Services

Initially started as the “Young Men as Fathers Program,” in 1997 under the California Youth Authority, the Proud Parenting Program has undergone many changes. However, in 2024, the Board of State Community Corrections announced their decision to discontinue funding of Proud Parenting programs in California, resulting in the closure of these services on December 31, 2024. Rite Track has had the pleasure of serving Imperial County young parents for over twelve years and is honored to have been trusted among many Community Based Organizations. Although saddened to close Proud Parenting, Rite Track will continue to serve youth and young parents through their diverse range of services.

Secure Track Youth Program



In support of the Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment plan and implementation of Senate Bill 823 DJJ Realignment Implementation, Rite Track established a Secure Track (ST) program aimed to serve males and females between 14 and 25 years old, who have been committed to Imperial County Juvenile Hall (ICJH) for longer-term correctional care and services. Secure Track's services align with youths individualized case plans that include intervention programming, family-centered diversion services, cognitive behavioral therapy, mentoring services, workforce training, linkage to employment and transitioning services.

The Secure Track's program services operate utilizing best practices and evidence-based trauma informed practices. Through support, structure and supervision of youth, Rite Track worked with the Probation Department and partnering agencies to help reduce risk behaviors, prepare the youth for reunification with family members, transitioning back to their community and prepare for the workforce.

Case Management and Mentoring Services

Utilizing the Rite Track case management model, youth enrolled in Secure Track have access to unique mentoring services and community resources/knowledge. Secure Track youth are linked with a RT mentor who provides them with individual case management services and provides court support, participates in Multi-Disciplinary Student Team (MDST), Child and Family Team (CFTs) meetings and prepares the youth for their release from ICJH. In 2024, Rite Track provided services to 9 Secure Track Youth.

Workforce Services

To assist ST youth in establishing financial stability through employment, Secure Track youth will have access to the RISEUP program, a customer service and sales curriculum, as they prepare for their release from ICJH. RISEUP is designed to help youth take their first steps toward promising careers and advancement in the retail industry regardless of their educational backgrounds or economic means. RISEUP provides youth with a three year accreditation that covers retail basic knowledge to advanced selling skills and helps job seekers get the skills they need to secure jobs in retail.

In 2024, three ST youth earned the opportunity to leave ICJH and job search within their community and all three youth received their RISEUP 3-year certification in Customers Service and Sales. Through this hands-on approach youth were provided the proper work force attire and taken to multiple job sites to apply for employment.

Group Based Workshops

Through group-based learning experiences, Secure Track youth build self-confidence and strong relationships among their fellow peers and mentor. Some of the group-based activities offered to ST youth this year included holiday art projects, art collage projects, and tie dye activities. In addition to the activities, ST youth and RT staff made sure to celebrate important milestones such as ST youth birthdays and traditional holiday meals.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)

Through CBT treatment groups, offered at ICJH twice a week, Secure Track youth gain valuable skills to help improve their quality of life and have access to over 90 sessions of CBT through the following curriculums:

- ❖ Anger Replacement Training (ART)
- ❖ Thinking for a Change (T4C)
- ❖ Seeking Safety
- ❖ Safe Dates

In 2024, 257 hours of CBT were rendered to ST youth while detained at the Imperial County Juvenile Hall where nine youth participated and completed a total of five cohorts and 16 certificates of completion were awarded for successfully completing one of the following CBT: Thinking for A Change, Anger Replacement Training, Safe Dates, Seeking Safety, and RISEup Workforce Training.

Transitioning/Post-Release Services

Youth who are released from ICJH receive up to six-months of post release follow up. During these follow ups, ST youth received bi-weekly home visits and weekly phone calls from their mentor.

Supportive Services

To help promote positive youth outcomes and encourage ST youth to participate in program activities, the ST program provides behavior modification incentives and supportive services. Through supportive services, ST youth have access to immediate support such as but not limited to; transportation services, assistance with school supplies, clothing, vocational clothing, post-secondary education support, copies of birth certificates and assistance in obtaining their driver's license. In 2024, a total of 249 supportive services were rendered to ST youth within the ICJH setting. The top three supportive services provided included transportation support, behavior modification incentives, and meal services.

ELLAS Program



Aligned with the efforts of the Vera Institute of Justice, California's Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) and the End Girl's Incarceration (EGI) initiatives, Rite Track Youth Services in partnership with the Imperial County Probation Department launched the first female and gender expansive youth program aimed to keep girls' incarceration to zero.

The program is designed to be a community- based diversion program for girls and gender- expansive youth ages 13-17 within the Imperial County. Services are designed to provide less restrictive alternatives to incarcerations and/or juvenile sentencing to 15 girls. Youth are referred to the program through a "warm hand" off approach and are identified by a county representative who then contacts Rite Track to submit a referral. The ELLAS program is designed to be an alternative to entering into custody at Juvenile Hall, therefore intakes are quickly arranged.

This year, the ELLAS program welcomed 16 girls and gender expansive youth. Upon enrollment, one youth self-reported to have had no law enforcement history, one youth self-reported to have contact but was not arrested, thirteen youth self-reported that they were arrested and taken to juvenile hall and one youth self-reported they were on probation.

The average length of stay for this program is 6-8 months depending on the needs and compliance of youth. This year, despite the short launch of services eight girls exited the program. Five exited successfully, one exited the program due to moving out of county, one was moved to Mentoring & Tracking, and one was placed in a higher level of care. Two of the youth had all charges dropped due to their compliance with the program.

Case Management and Mentoring Services

Through ELLAS, youth are linked with an age-appropriate mentor who has lived experience and helps develop an individual case plan that is tailored to meet the youths' individual needs. Utilizing the Rite Track case management model, the youth enrolled in ELLAS also have access to programmed/unique mentoring services and community resources/knowledge. The mentor serves as an additional supporting adult in the youths' lives and provides weekly in-person visits, provides court support, organizes gender specific workshops and pro-social activities. The youth are visited at home, in school, within the community and/or brought into the Rite Track center.

Gender Specific Workshops & Activities



Through gender specific activities, ELLAS helps build environments where youth can feel understood, supported, and empowered. These activities allow the youth to voice and share their suggestions regarding topics and skills that not only interest them but benefit them directly. By providing safe spaces to share, the youths'

voices are heard, their ideas are considered and put into practice when arranging guest presentations, outings, and soft skill workshops.

This year, ELLAS hosted 20 workshops and social outings that included trips to Seaworld, tea parties, etiquette workshops, self-care workshops, trips to the nail salon and art sessions.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) & Evidence Based Practices (EBP)

Using best practices, trauma informed care and responses, ELLAS uses Evidence Based curriculums and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to support youth in the program. Through trauma informed practices and responses, ELLAS youth are able to identify the presence of trauma through its symptoms, responses and acknowledge the role trauma plays in their lives. Through ELLAS, youth have access to two skill building evidence-based practices: *Voices and Safe Dates*.

- ❖ **Voices** - Based on the realities of girls' lives and the principles of gender responsiveness; it has grounded in theory, research, and a clinical background. The Voices curriculum advocates a strength-based approach and uses a variety of therapeutic approaches, including psychoeducational, cognitive-behavioral, mindfulness, body-oriented and expressive art.

❖ **Safe Dates** - is an evidence-based curriculum to help teens recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, manipulative, or abusive relationships. It is during the critical preteen and teen years that young people begin to learn the skill needed to create and foster positive relationships.

In 2024, ELLAS hosted 41 Voices sessions and completed 82 hours of treatment, in addition ELLAS hosted 9 Safe Dates sessions and completed 14 hours of instruction, resulting in 4 youth receiving their certificates of completion for both curriculums.

UNIDOS (UNITED) Program



Aligned with the Imperial County Department of Social Services (ICDSS) initiative to develop integrated systems and programs that support children and families, Rite Track launched the UNIDOS (United) Mentoring Program. The program is aimed towards strengthening communities and improving child welfare through evidence-based, person-centered interventions tailored to each youth and family's unique strengths and needs. Rite Track is focused on strengthening the social emotional development of at-risk youth ages 11-17 and their families and providing additional support to serve as a primary prevention program to reduce the risk of crisis intervention and to prevent maltreatment among families.

During 2024, UNIDOS received 26 referrals, in which 35% of the referrals were enrolled into the program. 35% declined services and 30% did not respond and contact is still being attempted. Overall, UNIDOS welcomed 9 youth to the program.

Case Management & Mentoring Services

Through UNIDOS, youth are linked with an age-appropriate mentor who acts as a youth and family liaison and helps develop an individual case plan that is tailored to meet youths' individual needs with insight and support from parents. Utilizing the Rite Track case management model, the youth and families enrolled in UNIDOS also have access to the program's unique mentoring services and community resources/knowledge.

The mentor serves as an additional supporting member in the family lives and provides weekly in-person visits, court visits, organizes cognitive behavior and parenting workshops, and pro-social activities focused on building positive childhood experiences. The average length of stay for this program is 6-8 months depending on the needs and compliance of the families.

Behavioral & Emotional Needs

UNIDOS focuses on strengthening the families Behavioral and Emotional needs through psychoeducation and evidence-based curriculums for both the youth and families. Using a family wrap approach, both the youth and their parents/guardians have access to skill building curriculums focused on social-emotional stabilization and communication strengthening skills. Some of the behaviors/emotional needs that are being monitored include psychosis, impulsivity/hyperactivity, depression, anxiety, oppositional behavior, conduct, substance use, anger control, and adjustment to trauma.

Active Parenting of Teens (APOT)

The APOT program is a basic skill curriculum for parents, caregivers, and educators. This curriculum offers an in- dept exploration of parent concepts that includes parenting styles, stages of development, prevention problems, encouraging positive behavior, discussing hard topics, deficiency and preparing for academic success.

Program Incentives

To promote and acknowledge the families' achievements, positive behaviors, and significant milestones, UNIDOS positive reinforcement through a robust mix of incentives. Incentives can include gift cards, meals at their favorite restaurants, visits to ice cream parlors and special family sponsored outings/activities.

Supportive Services

In addition to positive reinforcements UNIDOS aids with the coordination/linkage of services and supports that support the family's well-being and helps families reach their full potential, depression, anxiety, oppositional behavior, conduct, substance use, anger control, and adjustment to trauma. service can include advocacy, harm handoffs to local supporting agencies, referrals for health/mental health supports, job searching assistance, educational services, assistance with utilities, food, and clothing. This quarter, UNIDOS has provided 34 supportive services to youth and families.

Family Focused Outings

To help build on the family's resiliency, UNIDOS focuses on Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) through family focused outings and activities. PCEs are events or activities that foster a sense of love, support, and belonging. UNIDOS hosts quarterly events where the family unit is invited to participate in a family bonding activity. This quarter, UNIDOS hosted a family bowling night, where families had to work together, solve problems and strategize to accumulate the most points.

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS)



Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) continues to partner with the Probation Department to provide behavioral health services to meet the needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Both agencies recognize the importance of addressing the mental health and substance use challenges that many young individuals face while navigating the justice system.

Through a variety of services and supports offered by the Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Services unit and the Adolescent Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program, these young individuals receive comprehensive services and support which aim to improve their overall well-being and outcomes.

Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Services

The Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Services division is designed to meet the needs of Imperial County youth and young adults between the ages of 12 and 25 years old. All services provided through YAYA services are integrated, individualized, and developed to promote individual and family centered recovery, resiliency, and wellness. YAYA services consist of Anxiety and Depression clinics, Full-Service Partnership (FSP) programs, the Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHLP), Juvenile Hall Services, and the Holistic Outreach Prevention and Engagement (HOPE) Program. The YAYA outpatient clinics and programs provide a wide array of Specialty Mental Health Services that include the following:

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

YAYA programs focus on the implementation of evidence-based practices by therapists and mental health rehabilitation technicians. These practices have been proven effective in targeting specific mental health disorders and promoting recovery. The models used in YAYA services include:

- ❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ Cognitive Processing Therapy
- ❖ Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- ❖ Parent Research Achieve & Excel through Empowerment Strategies (PRAXES)
- ❖ Motivational Interviewing
- ❖ Dialectical Behavior Therapy
- ❖ Interpersonal Psychotherapy
- ❖ Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

Anxiety and Depression Clinics

The Anxiety and Depression clinics serve individuals 14 to 25 years old who are exhibiting signs of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder and who may also have a co-occurring substance use disorder. The focus of treatment is therapy and when needed, medication support and/or mental health rehabilitation technician services.

Full-Service Partnership Program

This program serves individuals 12 to 25 years old who are exhibiting symptoms of a psychotic disorder, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, major depression with suicidal thoughts/actions and/or oppositional defiant disorder. Services include a full range of integrated community services and support, which include direct delivery and use of available community resources. Services include individual case management, rehabilitative services, “wrap-like” services, crisis response, 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 linkage to the following ancillary supports and services in order to meet their individual needs:

- ❖ 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

Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHLP)

The Adolescent Habilitative Learning Program (AHLP) is a collaborative program between ICBHS, Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA), and Imperial County high school districts. This program

provides a combination of mental health and educational services to adolescents enrolled in high school whose emotional/behavioral disturbances prevent them from learning and functioning in a regular classroom setting. AHLP is designed to provide group interventions to youth who have symptoms of anger, distress, depression and/or anxiety and with severe impairment in their life functioning. Youth in the AHLP program may also require medication treatment and frequent monitoring to address their behavioral health symptoms and assist with their desired recovery. The goals of the AHLP program consist of the following:

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

Services at Juvenile Hall

YAYA 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 by Juvenile Hall staff for mental health services 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 ICBHS receive a comprehensive initial assessment by a therapist who makes treatment recommendations.

Referrals to ICBHS can also be initiated by Juvenile Hall staff, Probation Officers, or NaphCare 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 2024, ICBHS received 88 referrals from Juvenile Hall staff and provided the following services:

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ❖ Mental Health Services | ❖ Targeted Case Management |
| ❖ Individual Therapy | ❖ Medication Support |

ICBHS staff provide supportive services to youth at Juvenile Hall. Psychiatrists provide psychiatric services that include psychiatric evaluations and medication management. ICBHS Therapists provide individual therapy and are also on-call after hours, 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 therapist is to conduct risk assessments and provide interventions to stabilize and reduce the potential to harm.

Therapists work closely with Juvenile Hall staff to determine the appropriate supervision level for the youth and coordinate further mental health treatment when necessary. Mental Health Rehabilitation Technicians supplement the youth's treatment by assisting with skill building techniques, case coordination, and linkage to appropriate services upon youth's discharge from Juvenile Hall.

Holistic Outreach Prevention and Engagement (HOPE) Project

The Holistic Outreach Prevention & Engagement (HOPE) Program provides a holistic approach to outreach activities and treatment services. Two key elements of the HOPE Program are the integration of peer support specialists and the inclusion of wellness activities in treatment. Individuals ages 13-25 are referred to the HOPE Program after experiencing a psychiatric emergency. Staff assigned to the HOPE program provide outreach and engagement, mental health services, and linkage to wellness activities. The wellness activities are tailored to the participants' needs and interests, resulting in enhanced quality of care and thereby motivating participants to access services and remain in treatment.

Adolescent Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program

The Adolescent SUD Treatment Program provides professional services to youth ages 12 to 21 who are diagnosed with a wide range of SUD conditions or who present a risk of developing a SUD. Adolescent SUD Treatment Program provides a full continuum of care modeled by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

All youth referred to the SUD treatment program receive an assessment utilizing the ASAM criteria to determine the appropriate level of care. Based on individual needs and ongoing assessment, youth in care can transition to higher or lower levels of care throughout the course of treatment. Outpatient and intensive outpatient services are provided at the outpatient SUD clinics located in the cities of El Centro and Calexico, at 10 local high schools, and at Juvenile Hall for youth who are detained. Residential treatment services are provided at the out-of-county contracted facility.

The SUD Adolescent Treatment programs focus on utilizing the following evidence-based practices:

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| ❖ Cognitive Behavioral Therapy | ❖ Moral Reconation Therapy |
| ❖ MATRIX Model | ❖ Dialectical Behavioral Therapy |
| ❖ Seeking Safety | ❖ Motivational Interviewing |
| ❖ Cognitive Processing Therapy | ❖ Contingency Management |

ICBHS provides the following SUD treatment modalities to youth in treatment:

Outpatient Services and Intensive Outpatient Services:

Youth may receive a maximum of 6 hours per week for outpatient services and maximum 19 hours per week of any of the following treatment components:

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| ❖ Assessment | ❖ Patient Education |
| ❖ Care Coordination | ❖ Recovery Services |
| ❖ Individual and Group Counseling | ❖ Treatment and Discharge Planning |
| ❖ Family Therapy | ❖ Crisis Intervention Services |
| ❖ Medication Services | ❖ Clinician Consultation |

Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT):

This service consists of psychiatrists prescribing, administering, dispensing, ordering, monitoring, and/or managing all FDA approved medications used for MAT to treat opioid, alcohol and other substance use disorders. MAT may be provided in clinical or non-clinical settings and can be delivered as a standalone service or as a service delivered as part of a level of care.

Residential Treatment Services:

Upon meeting criteria for higher level of care, youth and young adults with an SUD diagnosis are referred to Residential Treatment Services, which are 24/7 non-medical, short-term residential programs that provides rehabilitation services. These services are provided by contracted out-of-county providers to youths when medically necessary in a corresponding to at least one of the following levels:

- ❖ ASAM Level 3.1 – Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Services
- ❖ ASAM Levels 3.5 – Clinically Managed High Intensity Residential Services

Alcohol and Drug Prevention Services

SUD Adolescent Treatment programs provide prevention and outreach services to youth, families and community members across Imperial County. The goal of the Alcohol and Drug Prevention program is to provide education and resources for the prevention of substance use in the adolescent population. Outreach activities focus on identifying individuals in need of substance use treatment and linking them to services. Priority is placed on at-risk environments and priority populations that include youth in the foster care and juvenile justice system, Native American communities, LGBTQ2+ population, youth living with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, youth experiencing truancy and other behavioral health issues.

The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Services include the following components:

- ❖ Information Dissemination: This strategy is geared toward bringing awareness and knowledge of the nature and extent of alcohol, and drug use, abuse and the effects on individuals, families, and communities. It also provides knowledge and awareness of available prevention programs and services. ICBHS actively participates in community events throughout Imperial County where resources can be disseminated to assist individuals, families, and the community in accessing services.
- ❖ Education: Activities under this strategy aim to affect critical life and social skills, including decision-making, refusal skills, critical analysis, and systematic judgment abilities. Education strategy is provided in school settings utilizing the evidence-based model that addresses the areas of need identified in the development of the Strategic Prevention Plan. ICBHS utilizes the *Too Good for Drugs* mode, which has been well accepted throughout Imperial County school districts.
- ❖ Community Based Services: This strategy aims to enhance the ability of the community to effectively provide prevention services for alcohol and drug use. Activities in this strategy include organizing, planning, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of services implementation, inter-agency collaboration, coalition building and networking. ICBHS hosts quarterly coalition meetings where members of the community attend. Additionally, school meetings are held to collaborate and establish partnerships as well as interagency collaboration to assess community needs.

SUD Services - Juvenile Hall

The Adolescent SUD Treatment program provides services that include individual and group counseling to youth detained at the juvenile hall facility. Services are provided by a SUD counselor or therapist who conducts a thorough screening and assessment to determine the youth's treatment needs. Services at juvenile hall include counseling, care coordination, and prevention services. Furthermore, MAT and medication services are provided by psychiatrists specializing in addiction medicine for youth with opioid use disorder and other SUDs. Upon the youth's release from juvenile hall, they are linked to the outpatient SUD Treatment programs, in which they will be assessed to determine the appropriate level of care for ongoing treatment.

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; however, they may also occur as often as needed. The Wraparound Officer maintains continual communication with the client and their family 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 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 14 youth and their families. The utilization of Wraparound services has been an effective tool in preserving families through the following services:

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

Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE)

The 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 provide 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. 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 encounter the Juvenile Justice System.

The JJCC and Imperial County Probation Department are continuing to focus on these projects:

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 the community with opportunities for structured, supervised, and pro-social activities after school and on the weekends.

In February 2022, ASPIRE opened its first program site in the City of Westmorland, CA, which, to date, services up to 13 youths between the ages of 9 and 13. Since its launch, ASPIRE has launched two additional sites located in the City of Heber and Niland. Similar to the Westmorland site, ASPIRE's Heber and Niland sites service youth between the ages of 9 and 13, with a current enrollment of 14 youth in Heber and 9 youth in Niland. ASPIRE operates three times per week, at their respective sites, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Youth participants have been recruited through city events and community outreach. ASPIRE has also included a transitional period of one year for the youth who have aged out of the program. These youth are known as Youth Leaders, currently there are 2 Youth Leaders at the Niland site. Their duties are to assist Youth Services Specialist with minor assignments such as coming up with trending ideas for the youth as they are closer in age, and to serve as a positive role model for younger youth.

Project ASPIRE has worked in collaboration with community agencies to provide presentations to youth regarding the dangers of drugs and alcohol, identifying and reporting bullying and cyberbullying, building healthy habits and self-wellness. In addition, all three sites receive 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.

Most recently, Project ASPIRE has partnered with California State Parks to provide ongoing programming to youth at all three program sites. Not only will youth learn about geology, ecology, history, safety, plants, and wildlife, these lessons will enable youth to meet the necessary requirements to become a Junior Ranger.

Additionally, ASPIRE has partnered with Farm Smart through UC ANR Desert Research & Extension Center. All sites have been provided programming at Farm SMART during Saturday's programming and school breaks. This partnership has developed a special curriculum for the youth offering, engaging team building activities, opportunities that promote collaboration, personal growth, and positive social interactions. Farm Smart Coordinator and Interns have helped teach the youth how to revive the ASPIRE Garden and maintain it, for the of Summer 2025. In addition, the youth are learning about all aspects of agriculture including healthy living, produce, commodities, machinery, & livestock.

ASPIRE has had collaborations with Customs & Border Protection, Imperial County Sheriff's Office, & Imperial County Library. ASPIRE receives programming from these three agencies at least once a month. Being a border town, CBP educates the youth on how to handle situations when crossing the U.S. Border. Imperial County Sheriff's Office has also provided several presentations on crime prevention. Both agencies have expressed their youth programs for when the youth age out of ASPIRE, Cadet & Explores program. The Imperial County Library has a literacy program, the youth partake in these events as it enhances and expands their reading and writing abilities.

As in years past, youth from all program sites are offered the opportunity to participate in overnight summer camp through a partnership with the YMCA of San Diego. During the summer, Project ASPIRE youth and staff attend a week-long camping experience filled with adventure, fun, and friendships with activities that include horsemanship, archery, swimming, climbing, crafts, canoeing, among other activities which allow the youth to experience laughter, leadership, and build lifelong memories.

ASPIRE youth also participated in field trips to Legoland, Knott's Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Sea World, Major League Baseball games, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, Palm Springs Ariel Tramway, San Diego Zoo & Safari and various Imperial County community fairs, parades and events. ASPIRE is also in communication with Imperial Valley College, San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Campus, & San Diego State University-San Diego Campus for future campus tours.



Project ASPIRE Youth Service Specialists continue to work 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. 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 – Project Phoenix



On September 30, 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 823 to eventually eliminate California's state operated network of juvenile justice facilities. The last remaining facilities were closed in June of 2023, realigning these services to the counties.

SB 823 also established 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.

Pursuant to the legislation, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has appointed a SB 823 Subcommittee that identified critical elements for Imperial County's SB 823 Plan.

Currently, the Imperial County Juvenile Hall houses eight youth who have been committed to the Secure Track Program named Project Phoenix. 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

continues to research additional workforce development programming that can be implemented for youth approaching their re-entry phase. In addition, these individuals 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 youth in meeting their education, career pathway, and life goals through the Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP)
- ❖ Mentorship, Re-entry Services and Post Release Services through Rite Track Youth services
- ❖ Tutoring and Mentorship services delivered by a State of California-credentialed teacher.
- ❖ Work Experience through Imperial County Sheriff's Office Print Shop
- ❖ Work Experience through Imperial County Sheriff's Office Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team (OHVEST)

2024-2025 Updates

Probation's goal is to expand current programming by strengthening relationships with local service providers, while establishing new partnerships with agencies that are in support of our youth's rehabilitative journey. In collaboration with the Imperial County Office of Education, the Probation Department has incorporated a barber program specifically for youth in the Secure Track Program. Youth will receive instruction five days a week for a total of 1,500 hours of training before they can qualify for barbering license issued by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

Project Phoenix Recognition

Imperial County is proud to recognize a Project Phoenix youth who fulfilled their commitment to the Secure Track Program and is currently released on community supervision. This youth was able to attend in-person community college courses during their time within Juvenile Hall and achieved a 3.83 GPA that resulted in their graduation from Imperial Valley College with an associate's degree in psychology with honors and distinction in the major. The youth has started employment at Imperial Valley College through their MESA program as a tutor in mathematics and ultimately wishes to transfer to a four-year university.

ELLAS Program

The Imperial County Probation Department, in collaboration with Rite Track Youth Services, the Vera Institute of Justice, and the California Office of Youth and Community Restoration, has worked to create a program aimed to provide community-based diversion programming for girls and gender-expansive youth ages 13-18 in Imperial County. Services are designed to provide less restrictive alternatives to incarcerations and/or juvenile sentencing. Services currently include:

- ❖ Mentor Support
- ❖ Case Management Services
- ❖ Goal Planning and Support
- ❖ Linkage to Community Support Services
- ❖ Court Support
- ❖ Gender Specific Group Activities
- ❖ Evidence-Based Curriculum
- ❖ Individual and Group Based Workshops
- ❖ Workforce Training

Juvenile Hall – Capital Improvement Projects

The Imperial County Probation Department continues to monitor areas of the Juvenile Hall where improvements to the facility can be implemented so that youth housed in custody 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. Recently Dormitory 5 has been repurposed and remodeled to serve as the living unit for youth who have successfully transitioned into phase III of the positive change program in the Secure Track Program.

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

The Imperial County Probation Department implements several 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.

Youth referred for first-time minor offenses who meet the program's criteria may participate in the Community Work Service (CWS) Program. These youth are screened by a Probation Officer and recommended for inclusion and 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 the 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 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 sooner, should 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.

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.

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 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.

D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has made updates and revisions to its Delinquency Prevention Plan for 2025/2026 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 for SB 823 Youth, Ellas Program, & UNIDOS program
- Imperial County Behavioral Health Services for Juveniles & SB 823 Youth
- Project Phoenix / SB823
- Police & Sheriff Athletic Leagues
- Youth Summit 2025
- KYOTES Program
- Boys and Girls Club Imperial Valley

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

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

❖ **Updates regarding JJCPA and YOBG budgets for the upcoming fiscal 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. The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council remains committed to providing annual updates to the Board of State and Community Corrections for California 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 in foster care placement. 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 can ensure the client's educational needs are being met. In addition, with appropriate releases of information, Imperial County Behavioral Health can 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 Brawley 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 can 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 a Probation Officer who is assigned to the Evening Learning Center 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 the 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 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 can 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 youth on probation, foster care youth in both the delinquency and dependency arena, as well as non-probation youth.

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.

Six (6) 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 underserved communities 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 department staff assigned to Project Aspire and ensure that the program is focused on providing at-risk children in underserved areas of the county opportunities to gain confidence and engage in pro-social activities. The Supervisory Probation Officer will also collaborate with the Imperial County Department of Parks and Recreation and the County Library to maintain and 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 the 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.

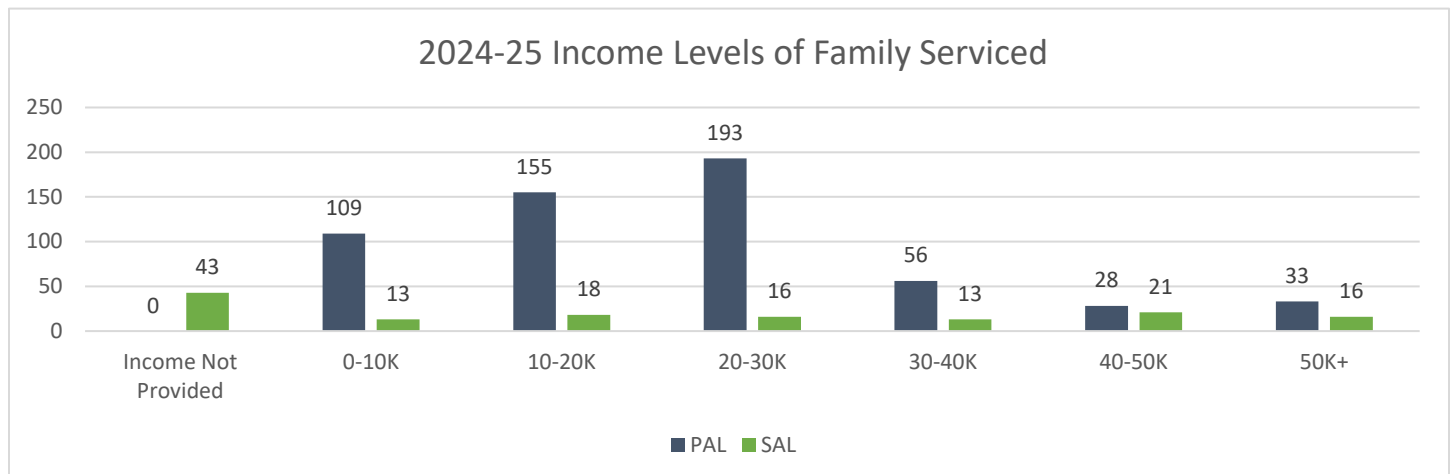
Police Athletic & Sheriff Activities Leagues (PAL/SAL)



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. These programs strive to increase physical activity among youth and decrease their risk-taking behaviors by providing opportunities for youth to play on well-equipped, organized sports leagues.

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. In addition to providing sports and recreation programs, PAL hosts tournaments and encourages external independent teams to register and participate.

The Sheriff's Activities League (SAL) provides quality activities for the youth in Imperial County, with the goal of reducing 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 reduce recidivism. The Imperial County Sheriff Activities League (SAL) provides activities that include flag football, boxing, soccer, summer programs, mentoring, Polynesian and ballet dance programs, judo and karate.





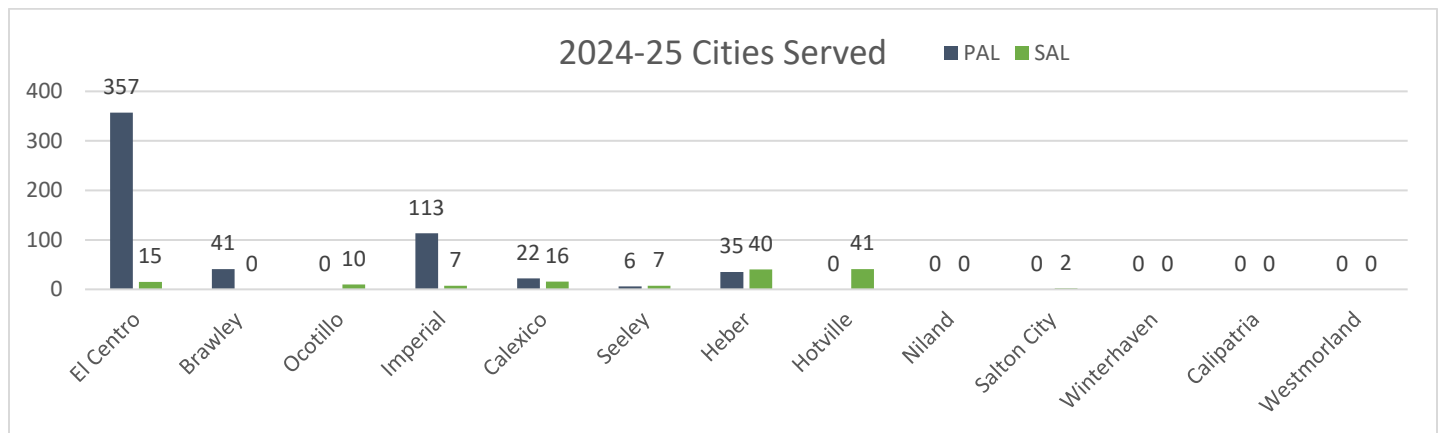
In 2024, SAL took students on a *Life After High School* event, where SAL participants received information regarding applying for FAFSA (federal student aid), obtaining scholarships, what to expect in college, as well as reviewing information for trade schools. Throughout 2024, SAL provided programs and services to 140 youth and their families in Imperial County.

In 2024, PAL provided programs and services to 574 youth and their families. The PAL program provides services to local families of low to extremely low incomes and offers quality after-school 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, a mentoring program, a youth leadership program, a bicycle repair course, golfing, a "National Night Out" event, and an Explorers Program provided in partnership with the El Centro Police Department.

These types of activities and services remain a key component in ensuring that youth within the community do not become involved with the 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 the 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 Gardner 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 fosters 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.

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 can 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.

In 2024, the KYOTES program successfully served youth ages 10–18 through a combination of off-highway vehicle safety training and outdoor education. Participants completed the 21-lesson riding curriculum during the summer, applying their skills during guided riding sessions and trail activities at Heber Dunes. The program provided a structured, supportive environment for youth to build confidence, strengthen leadership skills, and make healthy, positive choices.

2024 Summer Activities:

- ❖ OHV safety instruction and trail riding
- ❖ Camping set-up sessions
- ❖ CPR and AED awareness class
- ❖ Basic mechanical repair and maintenance lessons
- ❖ Environmental clean-up projects at Heber Dunes
- ❖ Team-building games and leadership challenges
- ❖ Career exploration with guest speakers from outdoor and public safety fields



These experiences helped participants improve their communication, teamwork, and sense of responsibility while encouraging academic engagement and community involvement.

Goals Achieved in 2024:

- ❖ Taught safe riding techniques through a structured 21-lesson curriculum
- ❖ Promoted environmental awareness and stewardship
- ❖ Introduced survival skills and safety practices for desert environments
- ❖ Encouraged school attendance and academic improvement
- ❖ Provided hands-on mechanical training
- ❖ Fostered civic engagement through service and clean-up projects
- ❖ Promoted physical wellness through outdoor activity
- ❖ Offered camping and outdoor living skill development
- ❖ Introduced career paths in outdoor recreation and public service
- ❖ Delivered CPR and AED awareness education

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 six Youth Service Specialists (YSS) provide educational, recreational and cultural opportunities to the youth they serve. Youth Service Specialists are currently providing programming to Westmorland, Heber, Niland, Imperial County Juvenile Hall and the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home. The Probation

Department is currently utilizing two vehicles purchased through YOBG funds to transport youth throughout the county to various activities and sites.

Youth from all program sites are offered the opportunity to participate in field trips to Legoland, Knott's Berry Farm, Universal Studios, Sea World, Major League Baseball games, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, Palm Springs Ariel Tramway, San Diego Zoo & Safari and various Imperial County community fairs, parades and events. ASPIRE is also in communication with Imperial Valley College, San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Campus, & San Diego State University-San Diego Campus for future campus tours.

Youth Summit 2025

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.

The most recent Youth Summit, held in April 2025, hosted Arthur "Artie" Gonzalez as a speaker of the event. Mr. Gonzalez served 21 years of a life sentence and was eventually released as model prisoner

in 2015, and who later graduated from a Hollywood-oriented workforce development program, *ManifestWorks*, where he rose through the ranks from production assistant to writer, producer, and author of “The Unseen Shackles.”

Boys and Girls Club of Imperial Valley – Brawley Teen Center



For 57 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Imperial Valley (BGCIV) has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social, and family circumstances. The BGCIV provides services at the two sites located within the City of Brawley and Holtville and works to impact youth positively in three priority areas: Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Teen Center Club located in Brawley is a safe place for teens age 13-18, where they can drop in after school and be themselves without feeling the pressure of being judged. The program serves approximately 15-20 teens daily with services provided from Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3-6pm and Friday 12:30-6pm with activities varying from sporting activities, arts activities, volunteerism, and academic pursuits. The Teen Club offers teens resources and programs to create meaningful experiences as they prepare a plan for their future.

Programming

- ❖ **E-Sports Competition** - A new favorite among members, the BGCIV e-sports program fosters teamwork, communication, and strategic thinking. Weekly tournaments and league-style play offer a fun and inclusive environment where teens not only compete but also learn about digital careers and gaming industry pathways.
- ❖ **Culinary Experience Program** – Teens get hands-on experience in the kitchen with the new BGCIV Culinary Experience program, which allows them to learn knife skills, basic nutrition, and how to prepare full meals. This program seeks to build life skills and sparks interest in culinary careers. Participants also get to share their creations with the club community, adding an extra layer of pride and purpose.
- ❖ **Workforce Readiness** – Preparing teens for the future is a top priority. Our workforce readiness series includes workshops on resume building, interview practice, financial literacy, and workplace etiquette. Local professionals have also volunteered to mentor and share real-world insights, helping teens explore potential career paths and build confidence in their abilities.

Conclusion

The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is dedicated to enhancing public safety and enhancing the well-being of youth and families within our community. By implementing evidence-based interventions and diversionary tactics, Imperial County endeavors to steer numerous youths towards more promising paths while preventing their involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The ongoing accomplishments highlighted in this report underscore the efficacy of our initiatives and underscore our steadfast dedication to our overarching mission. Through extending support and resources to families engaged with the justice system, we actively contribute to breaking the cycle of reoffending and fostering better outcomes for youth in our community. Furthermore, our endeavors to adopt risk needs-responsivity models in community supervision facilitate accountability and rehabilitation among justice-involved youth.

Even as the JJCC confronts the persistent challenges of the juvenile justice landscape, we remain resolute in our commitment to identifying and implementing necessary changes and strategies. Our unwavering focus is on fortifying justice-involved families, safeguarding our community, and investing in the future of Imperial County's youth. At the heart of our success lies the invaluable collaboration of our partner agencies. Together, the Imperial County JJCC forms an intricate ecosystem of support, with each entity playing a vital role in the collective pursuit of our community's well-being. It is incumbent upon us to ensure the sustainability of these partnerships, advocating for the continued support and funding necessary to uphold our shared mission.

It is our hope that this report serves as a comprehensive and enlightening overview of our endeavors and achievements. We extend our gratitude for the ongoing support and collaboration of our community and stakeholders as we collectively strive towards our mission of fostering public safety and enriching the lives of youth and families in Imperial County.

Appendix - Fiscal Year 2025-2026 JJCPA Spending Plan

Estimated FY 2025/26 Allocation:	\$	500,574
Growth 25/26 Allocation:	\$	487,291
Total Available:	\$	987,865

Department / Program	Funding Amount	Percentage of Total
<u>Probation Department:</u>		
Salary – One (1) Deputy Probation Officer II*	\$ 70,484.85	7.14 %
Overtime	\$ 10,000.00	1.01 %
Bilingual	\$ 520.00	0.05 %
Medicare*	\$ 1,022.03	0.10 %
Retirement*	\$ 29,716.42	3.01 %
Group Insurance	\$ 11,252.02	1.14 %
Dental/Vision	\$ -	0.00 %
Redemption of Benefits	\$ 1,489.00	0.15 %
Worker Comp Insurance*	\$ 1,127.00	0.11 %
Unemployment Insurance*	\$ 98.00	0.01 %
Liability Insurance*	\$ 1,834.00	0.19 %
Overhead Reimbursement*	\$ 2,787.00	0.28 %
Evening Learning Center (YOBG, WRAP)	\$ 700,000.00	70.86 %
Office Expense	\$ 1,000.00	0.10 %
Special Department Expense	\$ 2,500.00	0.25 %
Transfer Out-Probation (Mileage, Cell Phone)	\$ 10,000.00	1.01 %
* Overhead	\$ 1,682.00	0.17 %
Total	\$ 845,512	85.59 %
Surplus Available	\$ 142,353	

Included in the FY 25/26 Spending Plan is the allocation of one Deputy Probation Officer II is supervising high/medium risk minors at the Evening Learning Center. The cost includes COB services for the Evening Learning Center and Mentor/Tracking.

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

Appendix - Fiscal Year 2025-2026 YOBG Spending Plan

Estimated FY 2025/26 Allocation:	\$	1,317,346
Growth 25/26 Allocation:	\$	33,834
Total Available:	\$	1,351,180

Department / Program	Funding Amount	Percentage of Total
<u>Probation Department:</u>		
Salary — One (1) Supervisor Probation Officer, Six (6) Youth Service Specialists, One (1) Probation Assistant, Four (4) Deputy Probation Officer II*	\$ 733,977	54.32 %
Overtime (CWS)	\$ 40,000	2.96 %
Bilingual	\$ 1,040	0.08 %
Medicare*	\$ 10,643	0.79 %
Retirement*	\$ 255,109	18.88 %
Group Insurance	\$ 135,024	9.99 %
Dental/Vision	\$ 4,756	0.35 %
Redemption of Benefits	\$ 6,177	0.46 %
Garden of Dreams	\$ 6,720	0.50 %
Youth Summit	\$ 12,000	0.89 %
AB12 Recognition	\$ 6,000	0.44 %
Community Work Service Program	\$ 50,000	3.70 %
SAL/PAL	\$ 20,000	1.48 %
KYOTES	\$ 20,000	1.48 %
Boys & Girls Club of Imperial Valley Teen Center	\$ 20,000	1.48 %
Imperial Valley Desert Museum	\$ 12,000	0.89 %
Office Expenses	\$ 15,000	1.11 %
Vehicle Maintenance Fees	\$ 19,080	1.41 %
Transfer Out - Probation (Mileage, CWS OT)	\$ 30,000	2.22 %
Project ASPIRE Operating Costs	\$ 65,000	4.81 %
Case Management System	\$ 70,000	5.18 %
Capital Improvement Projects – Juvenile Hall	\$ 600,000	44.41 %
Total	\$ 2,132,527	157.83 %
YOBG Reserves (\$3.36M)	\$ (781,347)	

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

Included in the FY 24-25 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, six (6) 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 2024 JJCPA-YOBG Data Expenditure Report:

Referrals of Juveniles to Probation Department for Delinquent Acts

Referral Type	
New	236
Subsequent	76
Total	312

Gender	
Male	239
Female	73
Total	312

Referral Source	
Law Enforcement	311
Transfer – Other County/State	1
-	-
Total	312

Detention	
Not Detained	188
Detained – Nonsecure Facility	0
Detained – Secure Facility	119
Unknown	5
Total	312

Prosecutor Actions	
No Petition Filed	179
Petition Accepted	108
Petition Not Accepted	25
Total	312

Probation Dept. Disposition	
Closed	196
Petition Filed	112
Total	312

Referral Offenses	
Felony Total	83
Misdemeanor Total	187
Status Offenses Total	2
Total	272

Petitioned Offenses	
Felony Total	56
Misdemeanor Total	45
Status Offenses Total	0
Total	101

Juvenile Court Dispositions From Petitions for Delinquent Acts

Wardship Placements	
Own / Relative's Home	43
County Facility	6
Other Placements	5
Total	54

Termination Actions	
Terminated	73
Transferred	1
Total	74