



Office of Youth and  
Community Restoration

# OYCR & San Francisco: An Overview of Programs & Initiatives for the Juvenile Probation Commission

1.14.26

# Overview:



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**Youth Justice  
in California**



2.

**OYCR & SF: Grants  
& Initiatives**



3.

**Future  
Opportunities**

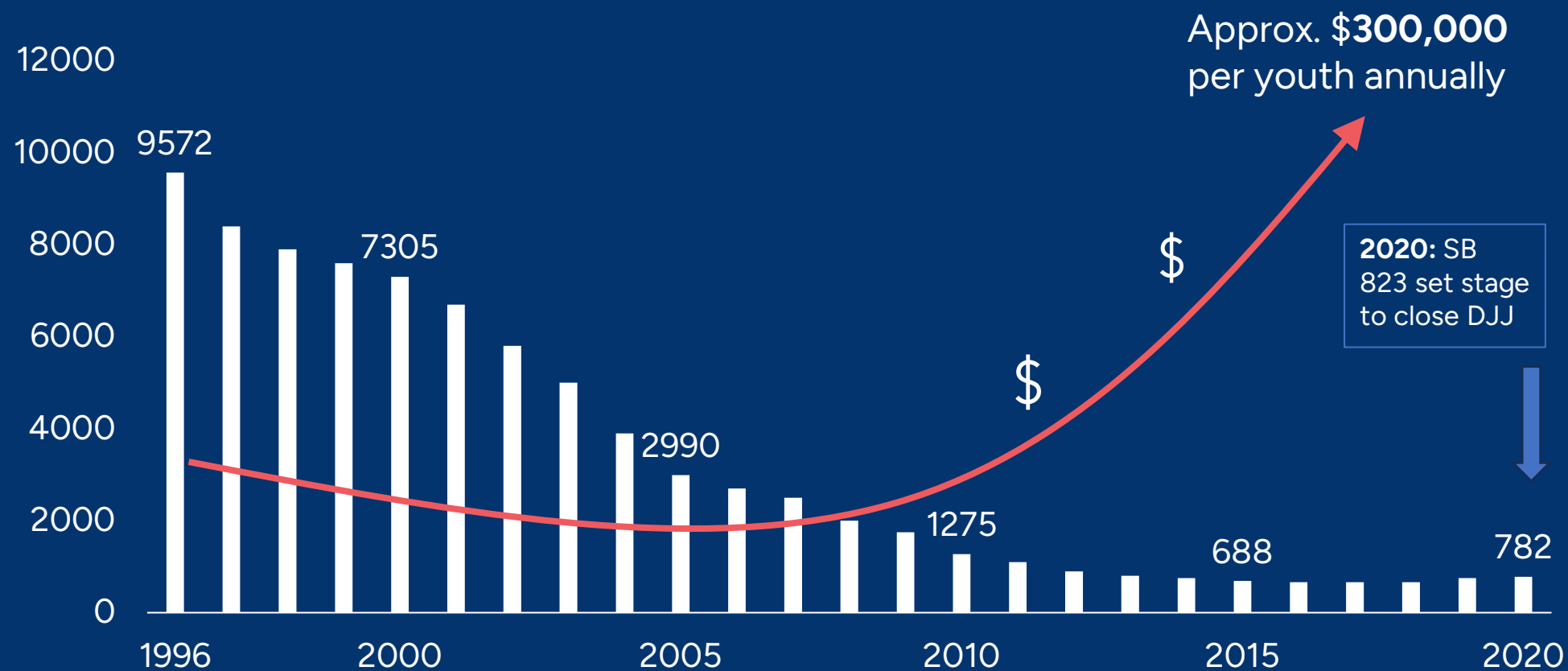


## **Legislative Analyst, Darius Parakh**

[darius.parakh@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:darius.parakh@chhs.ca.gov) – 916-224-2038

Darius Parakh is a youth justice advocate with a dedicated history of working in juvenile court systems. Driven by his passion to ensure that all youth are treated with dignity and respect, Mr. Parakh aims to develop policies supporting the development, education, and rehabilitation of youth involved in California's justice system. With nearly a decade of professional and academic experience in the juvenile justice field, he uses his expertise to work with legislators, justice partners, and community-based organizations to analyze and develop legislation on behalf of OYCR. Mr. Parakh received a B.A. with distinction from U.C. Berkeley, with minors in Public Policy and Human Rights.

# DJJ: Obsolete and Expensive





*Credit: Youth Alliance*

## Senate Bill 823: Reimagining Youth Justice in California

Passed in 2020, SB 823 (Chapter 327, Statutes of 2020):

- Began the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), realigning the care of high-needs youth back to California's 58 counties; and
- Formed the **Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)** to guide counties through realignment.



# About OYCR:

**OYCR** is the first state office to implement a **health-based, youth-centered approach** to youth justice.

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OYCR envisions a future in which youth are supported through programs that promote accountability, health, and healing during their transition into adulthood.

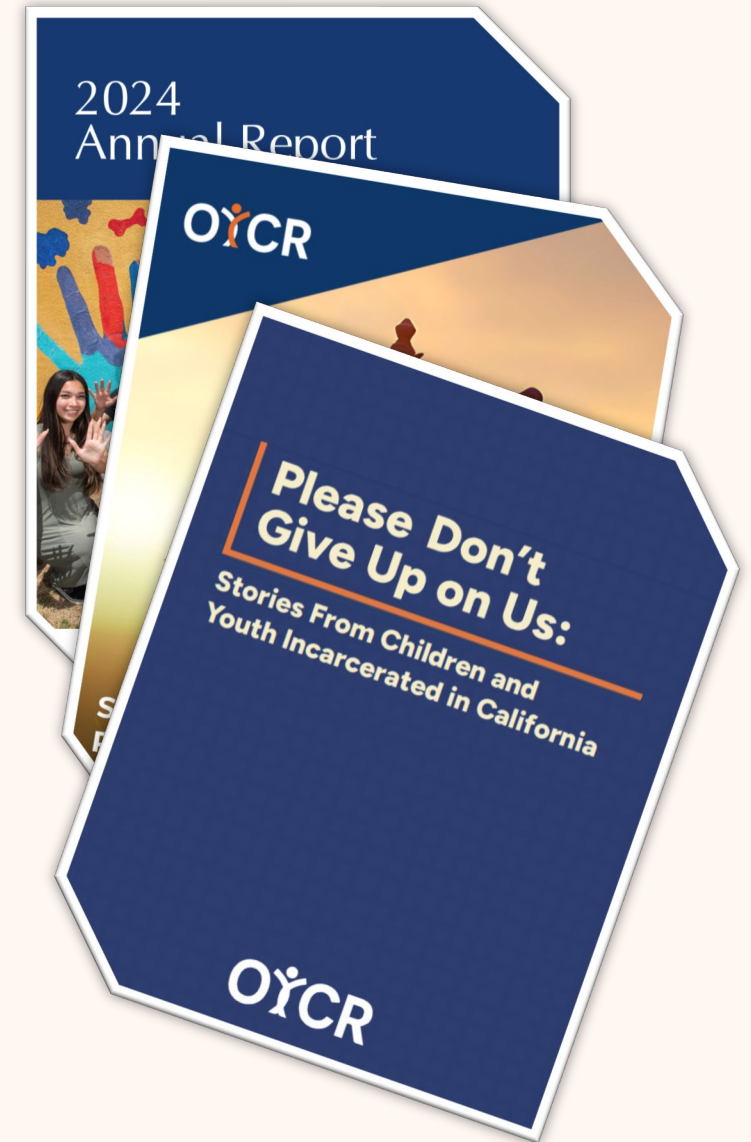
To make this vision a reality, OYCR guides California's transformation of its youth justice system through policymaking, grants, and technical assistance.



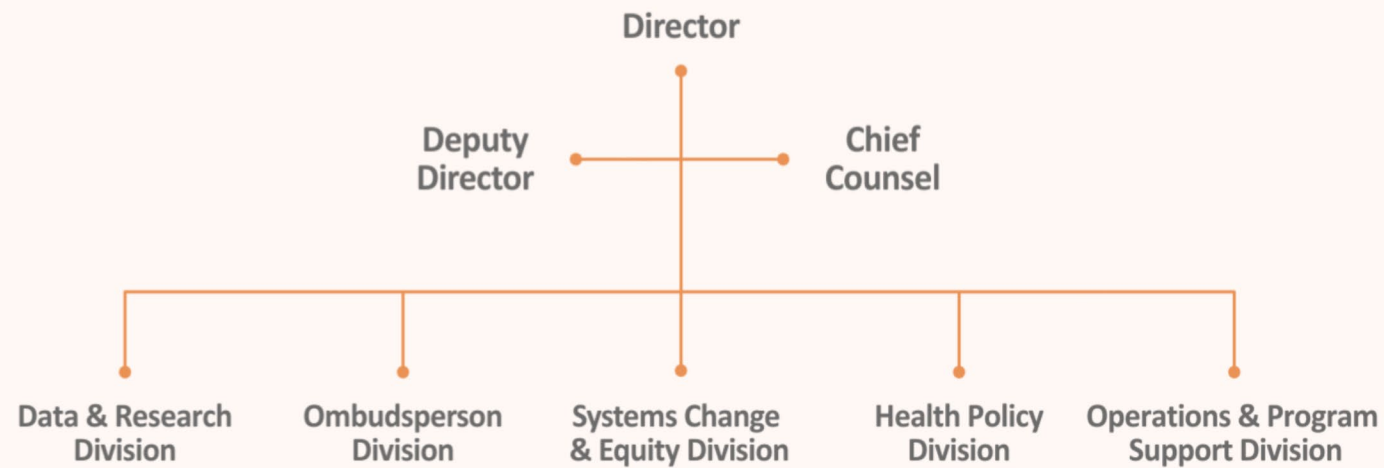
*Credit: Riverside Probation*

# OYCR Goals:

1. Develop policies that **reduce racial, cultural, and gender disparities** in the youth justice system.
2. Uplift practices that **reduce the transfer of youth** into the adult criminal justice system.
3. Promote **trauma-responsive, culturally-informed, gender-honoring, and developmentally appropriate** services.
5. Increase **community-based responses** and interventions through capacity-building measures.
6. Fulfill the statutory obligations of the **Office of the Ombudsperson**.



# Office Structure





# OYCR's Youth Advisory Board:

The **Youth Advisory Board (YAB)** works to **bridge gaps between counties, youth, and young adults** to transform systems of harm to networks of care and success.

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Composed of **currently and formerly incarcerated youth** from over **25 counties**, the YAB envisions a future in which California centers and amplifies youth voices to facilitate conversations that turn their experiences into expertise and their expertise into sustainable solutions for all.





# OYCR & San Francisco: Grants & Initiatives

Through grants and technical assistance, **OYCR** is supporting the **County of San Francisco** transition into California's newly reimagined youth justice system.

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In addition to the many statewide grants that OYCR administers, OYCR partners with the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, as well as local community-based organizations, to fund short-term grant programs.

Looking ahead, the OYCR will continue to work closely with community and system partners to address the complex challenges facing youth and young adults in the justice system — making sure reforms are equitable, community-driven, and responsive to those most impacted.





# Annual State Prevention, Re-Entry, & Realignment Grants:

Every year, the **State of California** distributes **hundreds of millions of dollars** in grants to support county probation departments in providing robust **diversion, prevention, behavioral health, education, workforce, and re-entry programming**. **OYCR** is charged with reviewing and supporting California's counties in their annual grant plan submissions.

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In 2025, San Francisco County received **\$13,679,000** through two statewide grants: the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) and Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act – Youth Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG).

## By grant, San Francisco received:

- **\$2,608,255** in JJRBG funds; and
- **\$11,070,745** in JJCPA-YOBG funds.





# The Less Restrictive Program Grant Initiative:

In 2024, **OYCR** committed to investing **\$2,000,000** to support community-based alternatives to incarceration in San Francisco through the less restrictive program (LRP) grant initiative.

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As part of OYCR's partnership with the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department, OYCR provides funding and technical assistance to support the Department in stepping youth down and into the community.

## **To date, the grant has funded:**

- Individualized transitional housing programs
- CBO re-entry coordinators and case managers
- Ongoing behavioral and mental health support services



*Credit: LA Room & Board*



# The CBO Capacity Building Initiative (CBO-CBI):

In partnership with the **Public Works Alliance (PWA)**, **National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)**, and **Sierra Health Foundation (SHF)**, **OYCR** funds the capacity development of 36 community-based organizations (CBOs) across California. To date, OYCR has invested **\$900,000 in San Francisco-based CBOs.**

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Through technical assistance and participating in a peer-to-peer community of practice, grantees will learn to prioritize their fund development and organizational sustainability, with a goal of improving their ability to deliver services to youth involved in California's justice system.

**The 2 San Francisco CBOs awarded a capacity building grant were:**

- The Sisters Warrior Freedom Coalition; and
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Youth Center & Clinic



*Credit: 3 Sisters Garden*



# Statewide Initiatives: Future Opportunities

**OYCR** guides the transformation of the state's youth justice system by offering technical assistance to California's many counties, including **San Francisco**.

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By developing policy, providing grant funding, and facilitating inter-and-intra county partnerships, OYCR uplifts practices that support positive youth development. As a non-regulatory body, OYCR relies on its subject matter expertise to assist county partners in building out their programs.

Across all initiatives, OYCR seeks to elevate the voices of youth and community members to ensure that all stakeholders receive services that are trauma-responsive, culturally-informed, gender-honoring, and developmentally appropriate.



*Credit: Youth Alliance*



*Credit: Youth Alliance*

# Ending Girls Incarceration:

In partnership with the **Vera Institute of Justice (Vera)** and **SHF**, OYCR is supporting **four counties reduce their population of incarcerated girls to 0.**

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Through a historic **\$5,500,000** investment, OYCR is seeking to significantly reduce the number of low and medium risk girls and gender-expansive youth in facilities that do not fit the need to be incarcerated based on public safety concerns.

Interested counties can contact Lindsay Rosenthal, OYCR's Special Consultant at [Lindsay.Rosenthal@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Rosenthal@chhs.ca.gov).



# Credible Messenger Capacity Building:

In partnership with the **Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement (CM3)**, OYCR is **available to provide technical assistance** to credible messengers across California.

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To date, OYCR has invested **\$1,000,000** to expand the capacity of formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted mentors.

Under the guidance of CM3, credible messengers can learn how to develop sustainable funding streams, strengthen their relationship with systems stakeholders, and expand their provision of services.

For counties seeking to implement or expand their credible messenger programs, contact Cecilia Simmons, OYCR's Systems Change & Equity Analyst: [cecilia.simmons@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:cecilia.simmons@chhs.ca.gov)



# Culturally-Relevant Service Development:

The **National Compadres Network (NCN)** supports **OYCR** in providing TA to organizations and counties seeking to implement **culturally-relevant** and **gender-honoring** youth development services.

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As part of NCN's partnership with OYCR, they will provide direct technical assistance to our county partners, as well as host a series of convenings across the state to provide Girasol and Joven Noble rite of passage trainings. For more information, contact Cecilia Simmons, OYCR's Systems Change & Equity Analyst: [cecilia.simmons@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:cecilia.simmons@chhs.ca.gov)

## NCN also offers:

- Familial Community Healing Services
- Fatherhood and Family Initiative Courses





# California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal:

In 2023, California became the first state in the nation approved to **reimburse new provider types, community supports, and enhanced care management services** offered by organizations serving youth involved in the justice system. These reform efforts are collectively known as the **California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Initiative (CalAIM-JI)**.

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Through technical assistance and trainings, OYCR's Health Policy Division is supporting counties in developing sustainable funding streams for their CBOs.

For more information, contact Lisa Tadlock, OYCR's Health Policy Specialist:  
[lisa.tadlock@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.tadlock@chhs.ca.gov)

# About OYCR's Office of the Ombudsperson:

## What is the OYCR Ombudsperson?

The **Ombudsperson** has jurisdiction to investigate complaints relating to youth detained in or committed to juvenile facilities. Any party can make a complaint, including youth, families, staff, or community members.

### The Ombudsperson will:

- Keep matters confidential
- Help try to solve the problem
- Help you understand your rights
- Answer your questions

### The Ombudsperson cannot:

- Give legal advice or change court orders
- Investigate complaints about attorneys or judges





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# Questions?



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**Thank you**