County of Kern

Public Safety Realignment Act
FY 2025/26 Plan

(Approved by CCP – 6/11/2025)

(Approved by Kern County Board of Supervisors – 6/24/2025)

Community Corrections Partnership
Executive Committee

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AB 109 Background

Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109), the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011, was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on April 4, 2011. It became effective on October 1, 2011. This Act, along with numerous trailer bills, made major changes to the criminal justice system in California. With these changes has come a large shift of responsibilities passed from the State to the Counties.

Some of the most significant changes in the law that Realignment brought include the following:

- Certain felonies, often referred to as Non, Non, Non (non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex offenses), are no longer punishable by a state prison term. Instead, these felony charges are only eligible for county jail sentences.

- Certain offenders released from State prison are no longer released on State parole but instead are released on "Post Release Community Supervision" (PRCS). These offenders are supervised by the Probation Department.

- Most offenders on State parole and all offenders on PRCS will now serve time in county jail for violations instead of State prison.

- The Court and not the State Parole Board began hearing violations of PRCS offenders. On July 1, 2013, the Court also began hearing violations of offenders on State Parole.

- The law states that counties should focus on using alternative sanctions and evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism (PC 17.5) more effectively.

AB 109 also created the Executive Committee of the previously established Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). This committee is responsible for creating and presenting a plan to the County Board of Supervisors regarding allocation of funds and implementation of policies and procedures related to Realignment. The plan is deemed accepted unless the Board of Supervisors rejects the plan with a four-fifths vote against. In such a circumstance, the plan is returned to the CCP for further consideration.

Existing Implementation

Each fiscal year since October 1, 2011, the Kern County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved the Kern County Public Safety Realignment Act Plan as recommended by the Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) as mandated by Penal Code Section 1230.1. These plans have directed funding to numerous county agencies and community organizations to account for the additional public safety burden placed on the County. The plans included a mix of intense supervision, evidence-based assessments and treatment, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, a day reporting center, increased jail capacity, jail incarceration alternatives, employment services, community-based organizations, District Attorney and Public Defender staff, multiagency law enforcement operations, and veteran services.

The CCP understood from the beginning that the Realignment process would evolve and change as it moved forward. The CCP acknowledged the need to be flexible in its approach to address aspects of Realignment as the practical and logistical realities presented themselves. The keys to making Realignment successful include the collection of data, communication between community partners, and a willingness to find solutions which best benefit our community.

There have been both successes and struggles since the beginning of Realignment. Challenges include the sheer number of realigned offenders continues to be significantly higher than projected (Tables 1 and 2). These higher than anticipated numbers put a strain on all CCP partners in the form of higher supervision caseloads and increased need for a variety of community services. The limited amount of State dedicated funds for Kern County has also been a challenge. This puts Kern County at a disadvantage compared to other counties who have considerably more resources to devote to services. The CCP developed a strategic plan to address the performance elements which will impact the amount Kern receives in Growth funding (the strategic plan is discussed in greater detail below). While Kern County has taken many positive and innovative steps to address Realignment, additional steps are needed; however, limited funding may restrict implementation.

There have been many positive actions taken by the CCP in response to Realignment. All parties involved in implementation have been fully engaged and worked together to make this difficult transition as successful as possible. By incorporating AB 109 legislative intent and ideas, Kern County is currently doing the following:

- Implementing evidence-based programs that have more long-lasting positive results.
- Utilizing Sheriff’s Virtual Jail to allow and monitor conditional releases, which can save millions of dollars compared to incarceration.

- Improving interdepartmental cooperation in addressing specific issues and goals to improve communication, form partnerships, and expand services.
- Creating employment services and paid work-experience program
- Providing a Pre-Trial Release Program.
- Reorganizing department workloads and units for maximization of efficiency related to implementation of AB 109 programs.
- Operating the Day Reporting Center, which produces pivotal changes in anti-social behaviors of offenders.
- Expanding in-custody educational, vocational, and evidence-based programs to provide the necessary tools to reduce recidivism.
- Utilizing the community-based organizations (CBO) program, which provides a multitude of services to offenders.
- Applying information gained from the criminal justice system benefit-cost analysis developed through collaboration with the national Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative.
- Operating the Probation Department's Adult Programs Center, which has an emphasis on evidence-based programming focused on changing anti-social behavior.

The CCP is dedicated to ensuring Realignment will be as successful as possible. Reviewing and revising the plan each year provides the impetus for a strategic continuous improvement process.

Table 1 – PRCS and Mandatory Supervision Offenders (Sentenced under 1170-h)

Time Period	PRCS Packets Received	PRCS Population* (Snapshot as of April 29, 2025)	Offenders Sentenced to MS (As of April 29, 2025)	MS Population* (Snapshot as of April 29, 2025)
Oct 2011-April 29, 2025	13,130	2,252	4,754	687

*Includes those on warrant status

Table 2 – AB 109 Population Impacts to Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO)

Time Period	Parole Violators Received	Probation PRCS Violators PC 3455(A)	Probation Flash Violators PC 3454(C)	AB 109 NNN Population Received	Total AB 109 Population Impact to KCSO
Oct 2011-April 18, 2025	26,281	22,150	2,950	10,554	68,750

Strategic Plan for Factors Affecting Growth Funds

In October 2014, the CCP approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning committee to develop a strategic plan specifically to address the factors affecting AB 109 Growth funds which became performance-based beginning with the Growth funds received in the Fall of 2016. In December 2014, the CCP contracted with a consultant to assist in the development of the plan. From January to May 2015, over 250 various communities, agency and offender stakeholders were engaged through personal interviews and surveys. Many of them also participated in one of three stakeholder sessions which elicited their input regarding gaps, barriers, community resources, and innovative programming for the criminal justice community of Kern County. Their input was captured into five key focus areas. From the data collected, the Ad Hoc committee developed Mission, Vision, and Values statements (listed below) which were approved at the July 15, 2015, CCP meeting. The Strategic Plan will be an on-going document as the CCP proceeds with refining and further developing Strategic Plan initiatives.

The Strategic Plan was relied heavily upon when determining the focus areas for the Request for Applications (RFA) released in September 2015, and the Request for Proposals (RFP) released in following years. The CCP will continue to utilize the Strategic Plan when determining areas of need for the adult criminal justice population.

Mission:

The Community Corrections Partnership is committed to working together in order to promote a safer community through effective strategies.

Vision:

The Community Corrections Partnership provides leadership through the partnering agencies and partnerships with the community to encourage, support, and network effectively for a safer community by doing the following:

- **Decrease criminal recidivism through data-driven decision making which addresses substance abuse, criminogenic factors, and mental health issues**
- **Increase offenders' successful reintegration into the community using research-based strategies and interventions**

- **Encourage and support effective prevention strategies for members in the community**

- **Create opportunities for self-sufficiency among offenders**

Values:

Community Safety: The CCP is committed to decisions which prioritize a safe and secure community, which increases the quality of life for all people in Kern County.

Accountability: The CCP holds itself and its partners to all established standards, agreements and policies.

Fiscally Responsible: The CCP believes in being good fiscal stewards of the public funds entrusted to the Partnership.

Research Matters: The CCP recognizes the importance of outcome-driven decision making by implementing current research and evidence-based practices.

Transparency: The CCP meetings are open to the public, all reports and agendas are available for review, and public input is welcomed.

Change: The CCP acknowledges people can change when they are willing and provided the opportunity and resources to succeed.

Evidence-Based Programming

Realignment encourages counties to focus on community-based corrections programs and evidence-based practices. To this end, Kern County has focused on the use of proven assessment tools, evidence-based practices, and the addition of evidence-based programs specifically to reduce recidivism and ensure public safety.

The Kern County Probation Department and Sheriff's Office utilize the Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA). The SRNA can accurately predict the level of an offender's risk to recidivate which allows targeted supervision for those at higher risk to re-offend. These departments have also implemented the dynamic needs portion of the assessment tool, the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA). The ONA is a critical aspect of Programming and Supervision plans that focus on addressing the specific criminogenic needs of the offender.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' (KernBHRS) Substance Use Disorder Division bases screening and assessment on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria that covers six dimensions including withdrawal potential, biomedical conditions, psychiatric conditions, motivation for recovery, relapse or other problem potential and recovery environment. The Stressful Life Experiences Screening (SLES) is utilized in substance use disorder treatment programs in order to gauge trauma that individuals may have experienced and to address it in a trauma-informed environment. These tools are strength-based, multidimensional assessments that address the patient's needs, barriers, liabilities, and willingness to participate in treatment. The screening tools also incorporate clients' strengths, resources, and support structure within their environment. These assessments are utilized in the creation of treatment plans in order to accurately place individuals into programming. Departments are committed to continuing to implement the use of assessments as a valuable evidence-based tool to most effectively serve the AB 109 population.

In addition to utilizing these various assessment tools, Probation Officers, Sheriff's Deputies, and KernBHRS staff have been trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI). MI is a conversational method that assists staff with developing intrinsic motivation within clients in order to change their behavior. Once a Supervision, Programming, and/or Treatment plan is developed individuals are referred to various evidence-based programs.

Evidence-based programs are valuable assets due to their significant reduction of recidivism when completed with fidelity. The Probation Department's Adult Programs Center (APC) provides validated evidence-based programs to address specific criminogenic needs. APC offers Thinking for a Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) and utilizes Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) which is an evidence-based approach to case management.

The Sheriff's Office Programs Unit of the Compliance Section has partnered with the KernBHRS' Substance Use Disorder Division and Correctional Behavioral Health to provide evidence-based curriculum to individuals in custody. Inmates are offered ART, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Matrix Program, MRT, Seeking Safety, and T4C. The classes equip offenders with new ways of thinking, substance use disorder treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and coping skills. KernBHRS also provides these programs as out-patient services after release from custody.

Joint Evaluation Teams (JET) are AB 109 co-response teams uniquely qualified to assess the individual's crisis care service needs and simultaneously address public safety. Each co-response team is comprised of a staff member from KernBHRS and an officer from the Sheriff's Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) or Bakersfield Police Department (BPD). JET responds to crisis situations and visits a prioritized list of AB 109 individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorder issues. This collaborative approach places a law enforcement officer and member of KernBHRS in the same vehicle, increasing the level of collaborative crisis care services. This collaboration leads to better service for individuals in crisis and heightened public safety.

A key component to the success of evidence-based programming is attributed to the collaboration between CCP agencies. The Probation Department shares data such as SRNA scores with the Sheriff's Office which is used as an added element for release and programming decisions. There is also a high level of inter-departmental cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and KernBHRS.

Many evidence-based programs offered to clients are facilitated by CCP agencies. These collaborative efforts foster greater communication and help contribute to the success of programs. The increased use of evidence-based tools and inter-departmental cooperation is a positive by-product of Realignment.

Data Collection, Research, and Analysis

The passage of AB 109 compelled department heads to review the amount of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration that existed between county agencies. As a result, the department heads sought to gain an understanding of what impact AB 109 would have on individual departments and the county. Each department has assigned key knowledgeable staff to collaborate to formulate innovative ideas and solutions, to make well-informed data-driven decisions on a timely basis, and to produce results in accordance with these observations.

In October 2011, the Kern County Probation Department created the Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) unit to assist Probation and the CCP with data collection and reporting. In fulfillment of these goals, the RAD unit provides the following services:

- Review and analysis of vital program data and quarterly reporting of dashboard reports to the CCP and Board of Supervisors regarding realignment activity within Kern County.
- Incorporate evidence and research into program development and policymaking.
- The submission of annual data reports to the Chief Probation Officers Association of California (CPOC), which reports on data elements pertaining to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), Mandatory Supervision, felony probation and youth offenders.
- Prepares, conducts, and administers the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the Request for Application (RFA) competitive grant processes for AB 109 funds, which are distributed through the Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Program.
- Conducts program evaluations, such as the DRC evaluation.

The Sheriff's Office is also committed to data collection, research, and data analysis. The Sheriff's Office has partnered with California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) to examine the effects of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. In 2013, the Department received grant funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the RSAT program, an expansion of the Matrix Program. The RSAT program focuses on intensive, outpatient, substance abuse treatment which requires extensive data collection. Through the RSAT program, the Sheriff's Office provides Office Service Assistants to collect and monitor data elements such as drug tests, class participation, ONA scores, recidivism, and others.

Additionally, the Department staffs Sheriff Program Technicians (SPT) to collect and monitor data. SPT are designated to evidence-based programming and works closely with Sheriff Deputies in the Programs Unit to monitor out-of-custody case management, recidivism, and other factors and to the CBO Program, receiving daily census data from CBOs. They also track financial information, enrollment and waitlists, and successful completions or failures.

Kern BHRS has implemented several changes to collect and maintain accurate data. In FY 2014/15, the Substance Use Disorder Division implemented the use of Flow Data to manage the number of program participants, which is used to capture accurate AB 109 participant numbers and to run reports.

Correctional Mental Health uses the Electronic Health Record (EHR) to collect screening data and run reports, such as crisis calls and discharge plans. Correctional Mental Health has also created pre and post-tests that collect information for programs, such as Thinking for a Change (T4C). The pre and post-tests allow for an in-depth analysis of data to move programs forward and were implemented in FY 2017/18.

Since the implementation of AB 109, the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, and Kern BHRS have continued to participate in data sharing to effectively serve the population. The three departments collaborate and pool data to report CBO information (such as financial information, number of participants, services received, etc.) to the CCP, Board of Supervisors, and state agencies on an as-needed basis.

The Sheriff's Office participates in the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) pilot project by contributing to the state-wide research project to track and assess the reorganization of California's incarceration systems through data sharing.

In FY 2025/26, data collection, research, and reporting remain significant as decision making will be based upon data extracted and reported, correlations between variables, and statistical analysis. Plans include further development of data tracker definitions and working within the development of the new system(s) to expand and/or improve the capacity for data collection, measurement, and evaluation training. Additionally, direct collaboration with other counties will be implemented, when possible, to facilitate networking opportunities and the development of new ideas to best serve AB 109 clients. The current CBO contract period provides services for the period of calendar years 2023-2025 with a new competitive request for proposals process due to be completed for services starting January 1, 2026. An annual report template was added in the contracts to include consistent data elements such as demographics, drug screening, length of stay, program completion, supervision status, employment, programs and services.

County staff remain active on the State level to ensure Kern County is receiving all crucial and available resources, access to accurate and useful information, and recognized as an important and significant member of the Central Valley community. Each year, information will be provided to the CCP and the Board of Supervisors that provides a comprehensive assessment of all AB 109 implementation and Realignment activities.

FY 2025/26 Plan

Every year the CCP is tasked with developing a new plan which will address the pressing issues of Realignment in Kern County. The guiding principles remain public safety, reducing recidivism, and data-driven decision making. Each individual agency's specific plans are explained in the following pages.

Probation Department

AB 109 redefined the California criminal justice system resulting in significant changes to the Adult Divisions of the Probation Department. Since the inception of Realignment, approximately 3,000 additional felony offenders are now under the supervision of the Probation Department in an ongoing basis. However, there are many more significant changes beyond the sheer numbers. Real philosophical and pragmatic transformations have permeated the way Probation does business. Evidence-based practices and data collection are the cornerstones of our reducing recidivism strategy. Breaking the cycle of re-offending is essential to ensuring long-term safety in our County. The Probation Department is on the cutting edge in this arena using such tools as evidence-based assessments, individualized case plans, response matrix, and criminogenic needs targeted programming. The benefits of reducing recidivism are evidenced by the reduction in victimizations and significant systematic cost savings. A detailed explanation of Probation's plan follows below.

<u>Evidence-Based Assessment Tool</u>

The foundation of the Department's movement toward evidence-based practices is a proven assessment tool. The Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA) can predict with significant accuracy the level of an offender's risk to recidivate. This allows targeted supervision for those at higher risk to re-offend, thereby utilizing the Department's resources to greater capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness. Every offender under supervision is assessed with an SRA (Static Risk Assessment). This provides needed direction with caseload processing and prioritization. This tool also reveals the fundamental differences between the different supervision statuses (see Chart 1 and 1a).

Chart 1 - Static Risk Assessment (as of April 18, 2025)

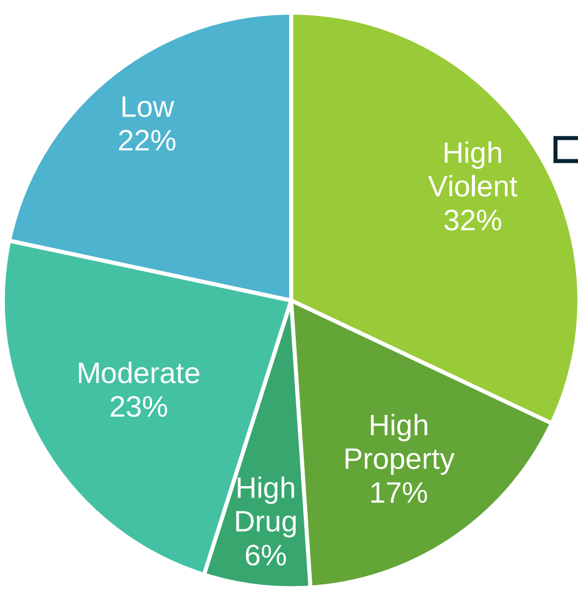
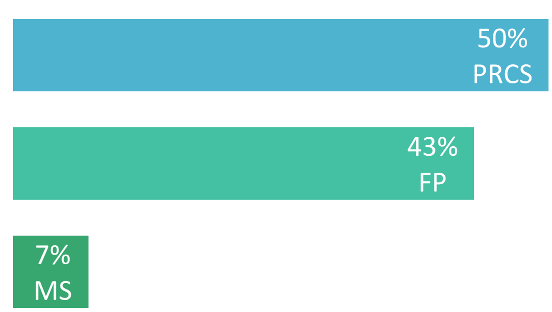


Chart 1a –
High Violent Distribution by Supervision Type



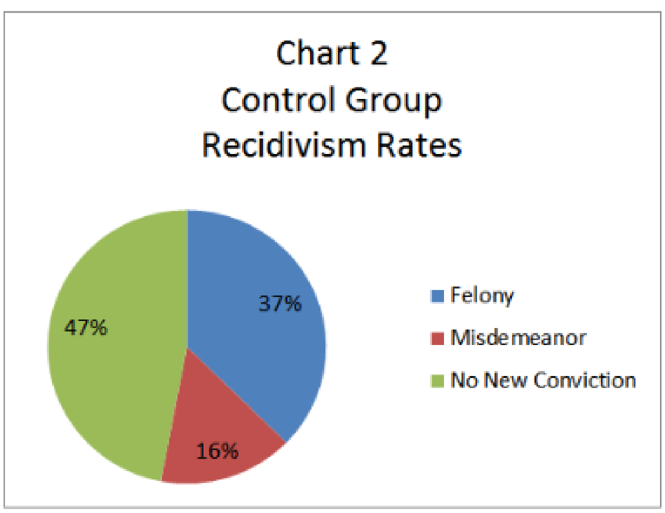
Based on recent Static Risk Assessment data, the group of offenders most likely to recidivate are those who are considered High Violent, followed by Moderate, Low, High Property, and High Drug. Further insight into this type of data helps the Probation Department make operational decisions regarding supervision assignments and targeting resources to better serve the public through reducing recidivism in this population.

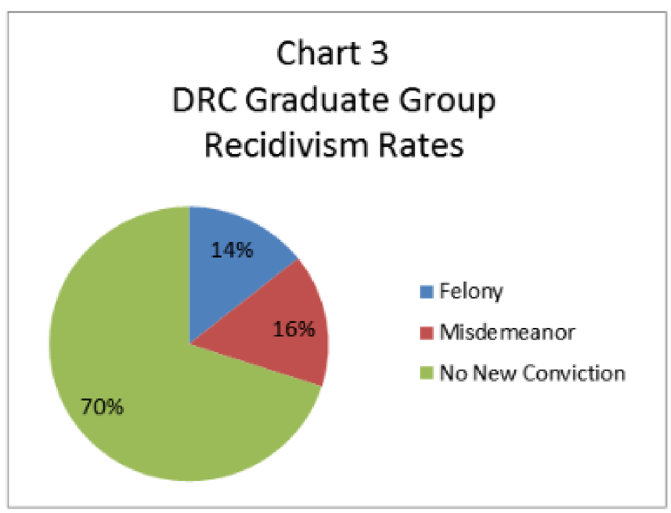
The Probation Department shares SRA scores with the Sheriff's Office. This information is used as another element in decision making for releases and programming. The increased use of evidence-based tools and inter-department cooperation is a positive by-product of Realignment. The Probation Department is committed to cooperating with all of our criminal justice system partners. We all benefit when we share information and business tools.

In addition to the SRA, the Department has implemented widespread use of the dynamic needs portion of the assessment tool, the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA). The ONA is a critical part of Probation's supervision plan post Realignment. The ONA identifies the offender's criminogenic needs and helps develop an individual case plan to address those needs. The Probation Department utilizes a holistic supervision paradigm. Holding offenders accountable is a priority; however, we must also attempt to place them in the best situation to succeed. This can be accomplished by matching their needs to the appropriate services. The Department is committed to conducting ONAs on all offenders on high-risk caseloads.

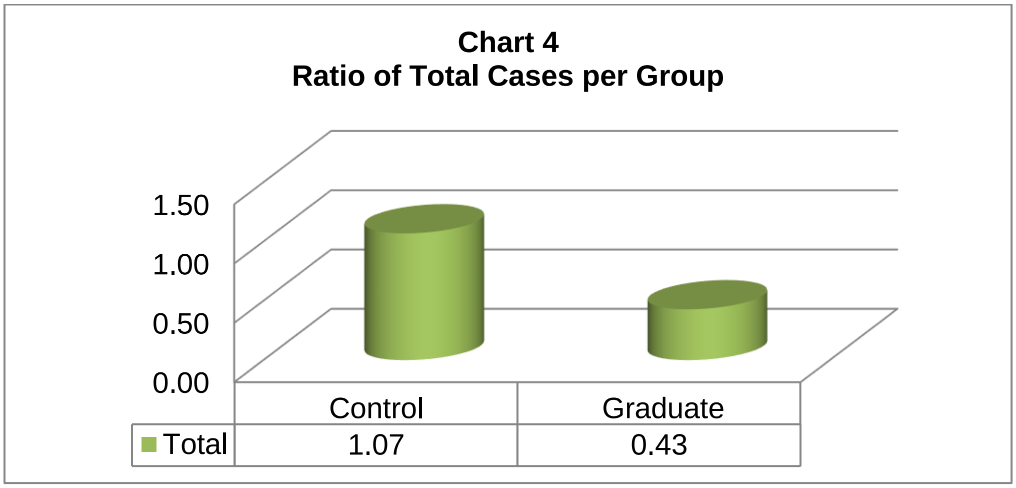
<u>Day Reporting Center</u>

One of the Probation Department's most innovative programs resulting from Realignment is the Day Reporting Center (DRC). The DRC has a capacity to serve 100 high risk offenders at a time. A previous internal study of the effectiveness of the DRC showed the positive impact the program has on participants by significantly reducing recidivism. Graduates recidivated only 30% of the time compared to the control group at 53%; felony recidivism was 14% compared to 37% (see Charts 2 and 3).





The impact was even more pronounced when the actual number of criminal cases was examined. The control group produced a ratio of 1.07 criminal cases to offender while the graduates only produced .43 cases to 1 offender (see Chart 4, below). The full study can be located at http://www.kernprobation.com/ab109ccp-realignment/plans-and-reports/.



In addition to our internal study, there are national studies which reflect the positive benefits of day reporting centers.

The DRC is contracted with GEO Reentry, a company that operates similar reporting centers throughout the nation. GEO Reentry has a long history of successfully reducing recidivism with their programs. They use the same assessment tool as the Probation Department, formalize specific case plans to address criminogenic needs, and provide a wide variety of evidence-based programs (EBP's) and other services onsite. Criminogenic needs related to employment, education, aggression, anti-social behavior, and substance abuse can all be addressed in one location. Key components of the DRC include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy including free domestic violence counseling, job readiness, substance abuse testing, daily reporting, sanctions, rewards, and supervision in conjunction with GEO Reentry and the assigned Deputy Probation Officers (DPO). Additionally, the DRC offers classes in Spanish to help encompass those who need court ordered counseling and reach as many clients as possible. The DRC can change the lives of offenders and break the cycle of criminal behavior, which is crucial to decreasing recidivism, reducing crime, ensuring public safety, and limiting societal and monetary costs. The Probation Department has witnessed the incredible and positive transformation of DRC graduates and believes this program is key to reducing recidivism and complying with the AB 109 legislative intent.

Adult Programs Center

The Adult Programs Center (APC) is a program within the Adult Programs and Supports Unit of the AB 109 Services Division which focuses on delivering evidence-based programs (EBP) to adult offenders on Felony Probation, Mandatory Supervision, and Post Release Community

Supervision. APC is unique in that the program is mostly delivered by non-sworn Probation Program Specialists. These Specialists are provided extensive training in numerous EBP modalities to address the specific criminogenic needs of the offender, such as employment, education, aggression, anti-social peers, anti-social behavior, and substance abuse. Currently, APC delivers the following EBP modalities: Thinking for a Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), Cognitive Behavioral Interventions Substance Abuse (CBI-SUA) and Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). The modalities involve both group and individual counseling sessions and have demonstrated the ability to reduce recidivism through empirical evidence.

The program consists of four phases and could be completed between 9-14 months. The first phase focuses on individual EPICS sessions which focus on goals, identifying roadblocks and collaboratively planning to remove the roadblocks. The second, third and fourth phases focuses on the completion of three out of four EPB modalities including the above classes of T4C, ART, MRT and/or CBI-SUA. The CBI-SUA class is a longer class, so it counts as two phases. Along with incentive-based programming, participants can purchase unique items with points earned through participation and program goal completions. APC provides day and evening classes giving participants flexibility in their schedules to work toward completion. The final aftercare phase allows our Specialists to continue to work individually with the participants to assist in job search, resources and build life skills. We provide a graduation ceremony once a year for our participants who complete the program to celebrate their achievements with family and loved ones.

Dedicated onsite Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) provide daily truancy and retention interventions for the APC. Should an offender not attend the program for an unexcused reason, the officers attempt to locate and return the participant to the program. This is essential to improving performance outcomes as participants stay in the program longer and are more likely to complete the program due to increased supervision and swift accountability. Additionally, the onsite DPOs assist with any behavioral problems and participant conflicts, thus providing the specialists and participants with added safety and security as well as convenient access to an officer. The APC is constantly adjusting and evolving to meet the needs of the offender and the community.

Supervision

As a result of Realignment, the Probation Department's supervision responsibilities now include Post Release Community Supervision, Mandatory Supervision and an increased number of Felony Probationers. Regardless of the supervision status, certain supervision principles are universal. This includes manageable caseload sizes with the goal of continuing to improve the officer to offender ratio. The smaller ratio provides officers with more time to dedicate to each interaction, which enhances the effectiveness of evidence-based practices.

A Response Matrix, including redirection, additional terms and conditions, treatment, electronic monitoring, flash incarcerations, the DRC and APC, community-based organizations, and formal violations resulting in custody time, is being used to address violation behaviors. A response commensurate with the nature of the violation, the number of prior violations and the offender's risk level will be imposed. Responses will be swift, certain, specific and graduated. As part of the Response Matrix, appropriate incentives will also be utilized to facilitate and reinforce the positive behaviors of offenders. Research shows that the incentive to sanction ratio should be 4:1 to be effective. The Response Matrix was designed to be clear and easy to follow which fosters consistency in officers' responses to offender behaviors. DPOs also utilize Motivational Interviewing, a technique which has been shown to develop an offender's intrinsic motivation to initiate a change in their own behavior.

Investigations

Since the advent of AB 109, Investigation staff have responded to the need for additional assessments, increased court reports and other needed services. These staff continue to provide the Court pre-sentence investigation reports in a timely manner and maintain current courtroom coverage. They also create a static risk assessment for every Felony Probation and Mandatory Supervision offender who is sentenced locally to ensure proper supervision levels. Investigation staff play an integral part in the criminal justice system by providing information to the court and other justice partners to help foster informed decision making. AB 109 funding help the unit compensate for the increased work because of Realignment.

Pre-Trial

On March 25, 2021, the Supreme Court of California decision In re Humphrey changed the bail system in California. At issue was the setting of monetary bail and the defendant's ability to pay said bail. The Supreme Court of California held bail must be set in an amount that is affordable to a defendant. Furthermore, the Court must find the defendant to be a danger to the community, a danger to a specific victim, or is not likely to make future court hearings to continue any pre-trial detention. Additionally, if the Court makes a clear and convincing finding as to one of those considerations, the Court must still consider less restrictive options if available which would mitigate those concerns to keep a defendant detained pending trial. A large percentage of these defendants may potentially be subject to punishment options brought about by AB 109.

To comply with the constitutional findings of Humphrey, the Probation Department created a Pre-trial Unit to assist the Court in making informed decisions regarding pre-trial release, which includes pre-release information and monitoring services. The assessment unit gathers and submits a summation of the defendant's criminal history at the time of arraignment and provides a Public Safety Assessment (PSA). The PSA is an empirically based instrument which identifies a defendant's likelihood to appear for hearings and commit new law violations while awaiting trial. The monitoring unit oversees many of the defendants who have been released from detention. The level of monitoring is determined, subject to overrides by the court, by using a release decision matrix which is part of the PSA assessment tool. Monitoring may include home calls, checks regarding compliance with court terms and conditions, GPS and alcohol use tracking, and court reminders by telephone and other electronic means.

Research, Analysis, and Data Unit

The Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) unit is responsible for data collection, state and local reporting, and program evaluations. The unit has also been involved in several large projects, including the Kern Targeted Outcomes Project (formerly the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative), the data collection effort lead by the Public Policy Institute of California, and several Request for Proposals/Applications. Within the RAD unit, three Departmental Analysts and an Office Services Specialist are funded with Realignment dollars. The Probation Department understands the importance of, and has committed to, research and data.

Information Technology

AB 109 has created numerous IT challenges for the Probation Department. The Department is the hub of Realignment data collection for the CCP and the County. Integration of information, data reports and complex recidivism formulas are all necessary and important components of the overall success of Realignment. Furthermore, the changes in the law have created the need for additional reports and case management system (CMS) capacities. There has also been an increased request for information from State agencies and organizations for numerous studies. The Probation Department must maintain a sufficient level of IT services to meet these challenges.

Support Staff

Office Service Technicians (OST's) are specifically assigned to the Adult Probation Services and AB 109 Services Divisions. These positions are needed to support the increased work associated with reception areas, reports, filing and miscellaneous paperwork. Additionally, Probation Technicians assigned to the Adult Probation Services and AB 109 Services Divisions assist DPOs directly with their case management duties. Support staff play a vital role in the Department's success in meeting mission critical goals and in the implementation of programs.

Collaboratives

The Probation Department has maintained and grown numerous collaboratives since the beginning of Realignment. It is clear that to accomplish the Department's goals of public safety and reducing recidivism, a county-wide team approach is needed. Some of these collaboratives include ETR, KernBHRS, CBOs, and other law enforcement agencies. ETR receives referrals from DPOs for AB 109 employment and work experience programs. These programs offer offenders a way to improve their job skills and readiness for employment. Officers work closely with both mental health professionals and substance abuse specialists from KernBHRS. Certain offenders must have their behavioral health and substance abuse issues addressed before they can move forward with their overall rehabilitation. The Probation Department directly refers offenders into a number of community-based organizations which address many different issues, including transitional housing. These additional services increase the likelihood of successful completion from supervision and are a welcome and needed resource for officers. Probation works closely with other law enforcement agencies on a regular basis and is an integral member of the Street Interdiction Team (SIT), a group that conducts collaborative operations throughout the County.

Operating Costs

To achieve the stated goals and objectives listed in this section, there are numerous associated operating costs. These costs include office and field equipment, licensing rights, vehicle maintenance and fuel, training, overtime, and more.

Probation Department's FY 2025/26 AB 109 Base Allocation

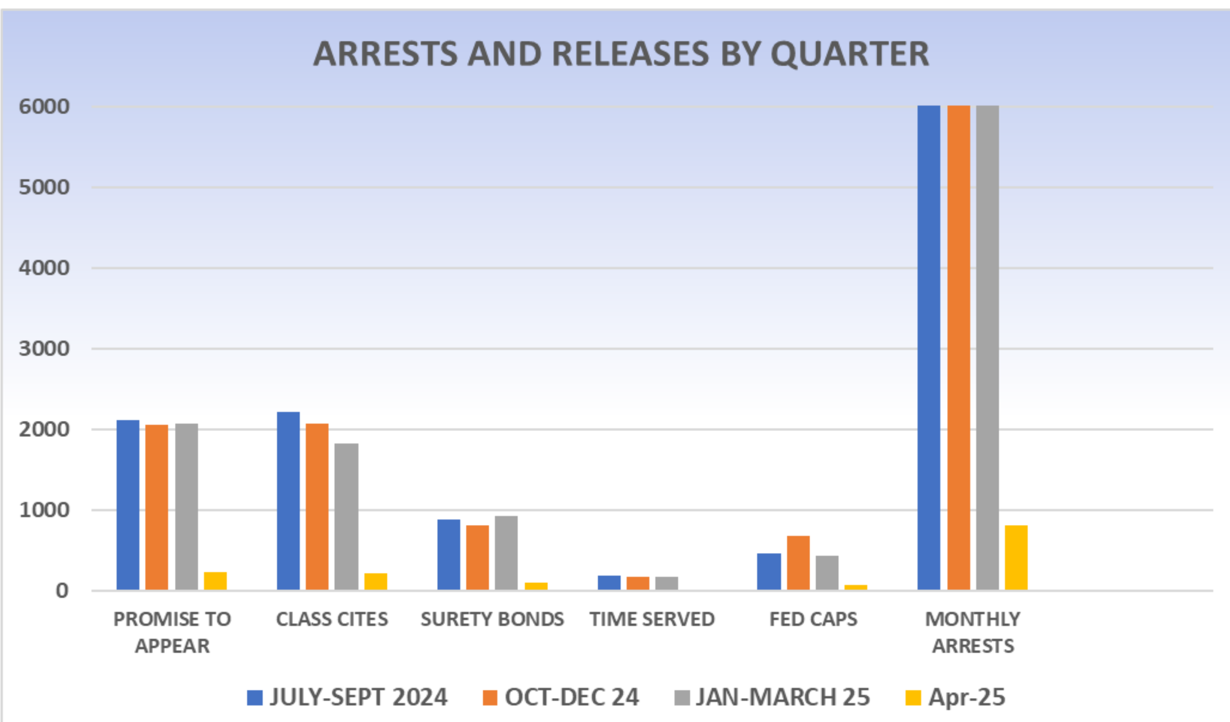
Position/Item	#	Cost per Unit	Cost for 1 Year
Probation Division Director	2	$301,753	$603,506
Probation Supervisor	5	$218,776	$1,093,880
Senior Deputy Probation Officer	16	$203,700	$3,259,200
Deputy Probation Officer	60	$174,325	$10,459,500
Probation Program Specialist	10	$115,803	$1,158,030
Probation Technician	12	$102,720	$1,232,640
Sr. Office Services Specialist	1	$114,486	$114,486
Office Services Specialist	2	$100,772	$201,544
Office Services Technician	3	$98,833	$296,499
Supervising Departmental Analyst	1	$137,619	$137,619
Departmental Analyst	2	$130,137	$260,274
Database Analyst	1	$164,277	$164,277
Programmer	1	$192,281	$192,281
Technical Support Specialist	1	$126,429	$126,429
Total Salaries & Benefits			**$19,300,165**
Day Reporting Center (DRC)			$1,223,246
Operating Expenses			$2,251,933
Total Services & Supplies			**$3,475,179**
Total	**117**		**$22,775,344**

Sheriff's Office

Since its implementation in 2011, AB 109 Realignment has redirected numerous offenders, who would have previously been sentenced to state prison, were sentenced to county jails for their sentences. This shift increased the jail population during the first three years of AB 109 Realignment, forcing the Sheriff's Office to early release approximately 9,500 inmates per year to keep the inmate population under the federally stipulated limits. In the wake of Proposition 47, which took effect in 2014, and converted many felony crimes into misdemeanors, the number of arrests and the need for early releases significantly declined. Despite ongoing challenges, the Sheriff's Office continues its AB 109 Realignment related efforts to reduce recidivism.

Early releases have again increased in recent years as portions of the Sheriff's Office jail capacity remain unoccupied due to staffing challenges. As of April 11, 2025, there have been 2,749 early releases (generally called "Fed Caps" and "Class Cites") in FY 2024/25 thus far. Fed caps and non-violent unsentenced felonies were cited to prevent the inmate population levels from exceeding the limitations imposed in the Anderson v. Kern case decision.

The chart below illustrates the number of arrests made each quarter of FY 2024/25, along with the types of releases during the same time period. The types of arrest and releases were consistent throughout each quarter. Please note, the fourth quarter data (represented by the gold bars) for each category indicate lower numbers because data for May and June of 2025 were not available at the time of this report.



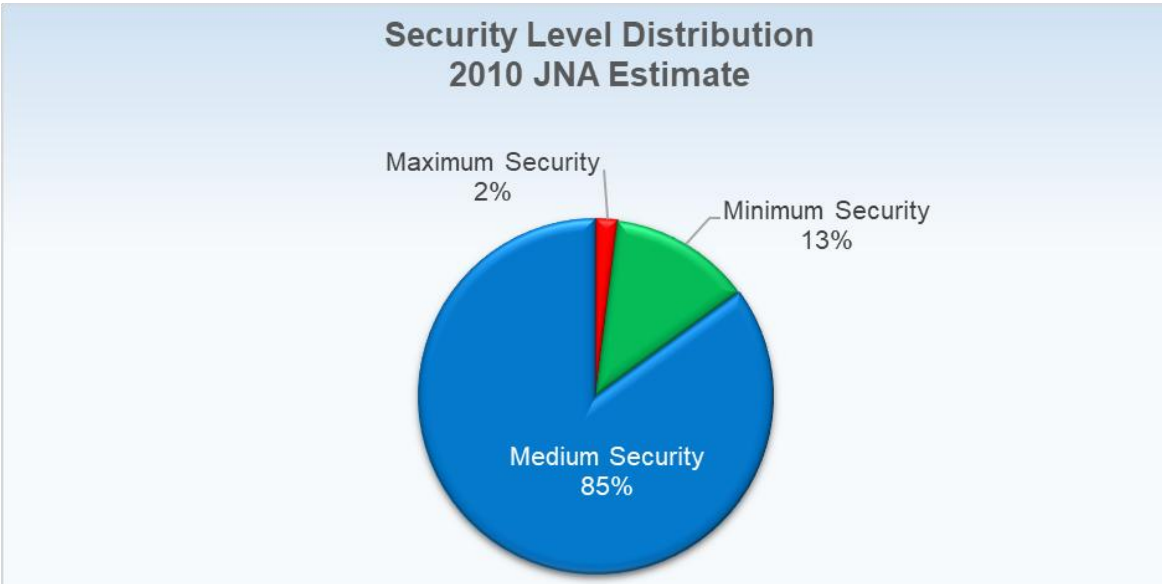
AB 109 Realignment also sentenced individuals to county jail for terms similar in length to what they would have served in state prison. Whereas the maximum pre-realignment jail sentence was generally one-year, post-AB 109 Realignment inmates are often sentenced to two years or longer. The longest sentence currently being served in the Sheriff's jail is four years.

The Challenges of the Post-AB 109 Incarcerated Population

Apart from the number of inmates and length of their sentences, the current incarcerated population is qualitatively different than that of the pre-realignment era. The more challenging nature of the post-Realignment jail population can be illustrated by comparing a snapshot of the current jail population with statistics presented in the *2011 Jail Needs Assessment*. Of the 1,838 individuals in custody on April 09, 2025:

- 0.54% were classified as high-risk/staff assaultive, as opposed to 0.5% in 2010.
- Approximately 15% were in custody for murder or attempted murder.
- 0.65% were administratively separated (housed by themselves), as compared to approximately 3% to 5% of inmates in 2010. In FY 2024/25 significant efforts were made to minimize administrative separation housing, aiming to provide incarcerated individuals with more out of cell time.
- 49% were gang affiliated, as opposed to 33% in 2010; Of the gang-affiliated inmates currently in custody, 39% were charged with violent crimes.
- 90% were felons, compared to 84% in 2010.
- Approximately 54% were receiving mental health services, as compared to the 2010 estimate of 15%.

The chart below illustrates the inmate security levels in 2010. In FY 2024/25, the maximum-security inmates were approximately 27% of the current jail population, as opposed to only 2% in 2010.



As a result of AB 109 Realignment, there is a large group of inmates serving longer sentences in the jails. Long-term inmates tend to present more challenging inmate management issues as they often require more services, which include medical and mental health care. Additionally, they tend to become familiar and comfortable in their surroundings, learning to manipulate procedures and circumvent security measures. As they become more skilled, they influence shorter term inmates to act in a similar fashion.

The above-mentioned increase in gang activity among inmates poses considerable security challenges. Serious gang rivalries and gang-politics are key drivers of violence among inmates, which has significantly increased since the inception of AB 109 Realignment. Coordinated criminal gang activities, such as the smuggling of narcotics, cell phones, and other contraband have also increased.

The increase in inmates needing special housing has also affected jail operations. Inmates who require special housing create a significant strain on jail resources in terms of available beds, the capacity of holding cells, and the time needed to manage and supervise these inmates.

These changes in the inmate population have posed significant security and operational challenges in the Sheriff's jails. AB 109 Realignment funding continues to play an important role in assisting the Sheriff's Office meet and address these challenges.

Meeting the Challenge

The Kern Justice Facility has mitigated some of the above-mentioned issues by providing more flexible housing which is better suited to the post-realignment jail population. That said, the Sheriff's Office has continued to improve the safety and security in other areas of our facilities. AB 109 Realignment funding has supported these efforts, by funding facility improvements such as purchasing enclosures to expand program offerings at the Pre-Trial Facility, as well as accommodating the relocation of the Inmate Reception Center (IRC). AB 109 Realignment also funds Bakersfield Adult School (BAS), which is crucial in providing educational and vocational services for the incarcerated population.

While these improvements can have a positive impact on the safety and security of the jail system, there is no substitute for dedicated and well-trained staff. Staffing continues to improve for the Sheriff's Office. While academies and other hiring efforts work to mitigate this issue, keeping up with the rate of attrition continues to be a priority. AB 109 Realignment funding continues to play an important role in staffing the facilities and operating various vocational and educational programs for the inmates in our custody.

Programs and Services

The Sheriff's Office continues to provide quality inmate programs grounded in evidence-based practices. Program staff facilitate empirically proven curriculum for inmates that focuses on cognitive behavioral therapy. Evidence-based practices strive to meet the specific needs of inmates by integrating clinical expertise, external scientific evidence, and client perspectives. The reduction of recidivism remains the core mission of the program.

Proper assessment is the key to ensuring inmates are provided treatment, services, and a level of supervision appropriate to their needs and risk of recidivating. Sheriff's program staff is trained in evidence-based assessment techniques that improve the selection of programs and services specific to an individual participant's criminogenic needs. These techniques also help to create a re-entry case plan and link participants to available resources upon release.

In FY 2024/25, 240 individuals attended evidence-based and rehabilitative classes while in custody. Some of the evidence-based classes being offered within the jail facilities include the following:

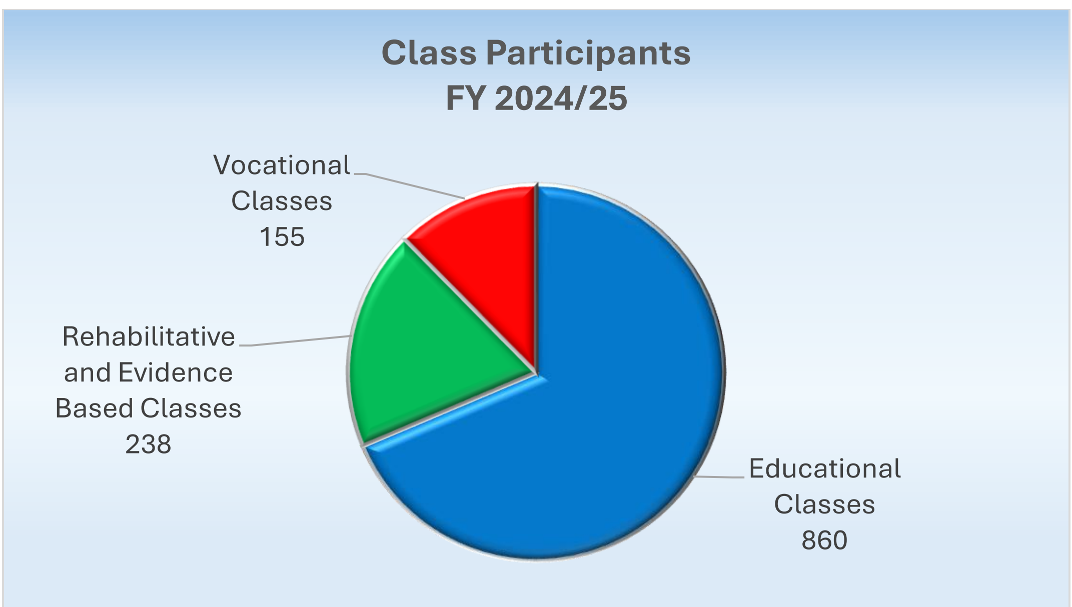
- The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program is a program in which participants are housed, to the degree feasible, separately from the general population. The treatment program includes a 100-day in-custody component followed by a four-to six-month-long aftercare (out-of-custody) component. RSAT includes several evidence-based curricula including the following, some of which are also provided outside of the RSAT program:

- The Matrix Model is an intensive drug treatment program that educates inmates about their addictions and helps them identify and examine ways to cope with high-risk situations that lead to relapse.

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART) utilizes multi-component, cognitive-behavioral treatment to promote pro-social behavior by addressing factors that contribute to aggression.

- Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) is a cognitive-behavioral treatment strategy designed specifically for offender populations. The purpose of MRT is to instill and develop higher levels of moral reasoning in inmates, which leads to moral thinking and behavior. It also helps inmates acknowledge how their behaviors affect others and helps them learn to change their behaviors to more positive social behaviors and beliefs.

- Educational and Vocational Services Bakersfield Adult School (BAS), a part of the Kern High School District, has worked in partnership with the Kern County Sheriff's Office for over three decades. BAS is one of the largest partner agencies currently working with the Sheriff's Office. Approximately 1,015 inmates attended education based and vocational courses during their incarceration in FY 2024/25. There continues to be strong relationship between educational programs and the reduction of recidivism.



Moving forward, RSAT has successfully created three cohorts and is in the process of an additional cohort for FY 2024/25. Additionally, RSAT has continued its modified curriculum to accommodate inmates who speak Spanish and has increased the minimum class size to eighteen enrolled participants per cohort, with a target of twenty. Furthermore, the Kern County Sheriff's Office applied for the RSAT grant this fiscal year and has been awarded the grant for an additional three years.

RSAT has successfully completed 3 cohorts during FY 2024/25. With the assistance of our specialized programs deputy, we continue to accommodate inmates who only speak Spanish to reach more inmates in our custody and reduce language barriers.

Bakersfield Adult School offers several courses such as Substance Abuse Prevention, Anger Management, Parenting, GED Preparation/Testing as needed, and Batterer Intervention. Many of the classes offered are approved by the courts, as well as the Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services, Probation, and State Parole.

The Lerdo staff dining facility is operated by in-custody program participants who are taught basic food service skills and industry standard equipment training. As of April 3rd, 2025, we have awarded 73 cafeteria certificates in partnership with the Bakersfield Adult School Program. Participants of this program can also earn a ServSafe certificate, which improves their employment marketability when applying for jobs after release. During FY 2024/25, 8 students obtained ServSafe certificates.

Partner Services

The Sheriff's Office collaborates with numerous governmental agencies and community-based organizations to improve the provision of services that assist in removing barriers for successful community re-entry for the inmate population. For example, the Sheriff's Office continues its established partnership with the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to assist inmates in resolving child support issues. In FY 2024/25, 330 inmates utilized this service as of April 3, 2025. The number of participants in FY 2024/25 doubled in comparison to the previous fiscal year.

The Sheriff's Office also maintains a strong working relationship with America's Job Center (AJC). AJC staff located at the Lerdo Facilities provides employment services to in-custody participants with additional referrals to AJC services after release. AJC continues to work with the Sheriff's Office to develop a "small bites" curriculum model to better serve participants with short jail stays, who can find it difficult to complete longer classes before their time in custody is over. The "small bites" model will allow for flexible participation in one or more short-term classes as an alternative to committing to a longer program.

Court Services Section

The Virtual Jail program, under the Court Services Section, allows the Sheriff's Office to maintain varying degrees of oversight and compliance monitoring for released participants. Many Virtual Jail inmates participate in mental health services and substance use treatment programs. Some continue to attend educational or vocational programs. There are two Virtual Jail programs: the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) and the Work Release Program. The overall goal of the Virtual Jail program is to reduce recidivism and assist participants in reconnecting with their families and become gainfully employed law-abiding citizens.

In FY 2024/25, as of April 16, 2025, EMP had a total of 440 participants. For this fiscal year thus far, 258 participants had successfully completed the EMP program. However, 90 participants violated the terms of the program and subsequently returned to custody. As of March 31, 2025, Work Release had a total of 1,360 participants for the fiscal year. Of those, 1,023 participants successfully completed the program while 175 participants were disqualified and were dropped from the program.

The Court Services Section staff has continued its emphasis on drug testing to ensure compliance among program participants. EMP staff conducted 67 drug tests with a 60% negative test rate. Responses to participants who tested positive included admonishment, discipline, arrest for violation of their terms of supervision, or a referral to the Probation Department's Day Reporting Center (DRC), the BHRS Gateway Team, or NA/AA meetings to help in rehabilitation.

More than 129 remote alcohol detection devices have been deployed among released inmates who had convictions for driving under the influence through April 16, 2025. The remote alcohol detection devices require participants to test randomly at least five times per day and use facial recognition software to confirm the identity of the users.

In FY 2024/25, these devices conducted a total of 53,616 breath tests on participants with the following results: 46,011 passed tests, 34 failed tests, and 7,571 missed or had incomplete tests. This amounts to an overall compliance rate of 86 percent. Participants who missed a scheduled test were contacted and required to test immediately. Those who tested positive were admonished, disciplined, and/or arrested for a violation of their terms of supervision.

Moving Forward

Proposed AB 109 Base Allocation Funding for FY 2025/26

The Sheriff's Office proposes allocation of its FY 2025/26 base funding in the amount of $25,151,512 in accordance with the established 39.27% of the overall base allocation. The funding will be allocated to the following:

- Help with the cost of electronic monitors.
- Purchase mattresses for incarcerated people.
- Training for our newly established ADA unit personnel.
- Patrol Vehicles for the transportation of incarcerated people.
- Increased Salary and Benefits Costs to cover increased personnel costs. These costs include recent salary increases, and escalating benefits costs (e.g., health care, retirement)

The chart below shows the recommended Sheriff's Office AB 109 Budget for FY 2025/26 including updated staffing costs.

Sheriff's Office Proposed FY 2025/26 AB 109 Allocation

POSITION / ITEM	QTY	COST PER UNIT	ANNUAL COST
Detention Deputy	42	194,396.04	$8,164,633.68
Deputy Sheriff II CA	19	216,353.68	$4,110,719.92
Deputy Sheriff II C	5	203,337.86	$1,016,689.30
Program Specialist	8	116,804.74	$934,437.92
Sheriff's Support Technician	7	91,269.23	$638,884.61
Detention Senior Deputy	2	216,144.76	$432,289.52
Senior Deputy Sheriff	2	246,388.76	$492,777.52
Sheriff's Lieutenant	1	339,920.40	$339,920.40
Detentions Lieutenant	1	288,925.31	$288,925.31
Sheriff Sergeant	1	277,268.50	$277,268.50
Program Technician	3	98,019.25	$294,057.75
Sheriff's Aide	4	109,208.22	$436,832.88
Detentions Sergeant	1	238,501.33	$238,501.33
Technical Support Specialist II	2	124,566.49	$249,132.98
Administrative Coordinator	2	122,411.67	$244,823.34
Senior Maintenance Worker	1	106,262.66	$106,262.66
Sheriff's Support Specialist	1	98,392.50	$98,392.50
Light Vehicle Driver	2	91,269.23	$182,538.46
Total Salaries & Benefits	**104**		**$18,547,089**
Uniform allowance for LE/Detentions/Sheriffs Aides	**78**		**$98,000**
Total Services and Supplies			**$6,506,423**
Total Proposed FY 2025/26 AB109 Allocation			**$25,151,512**

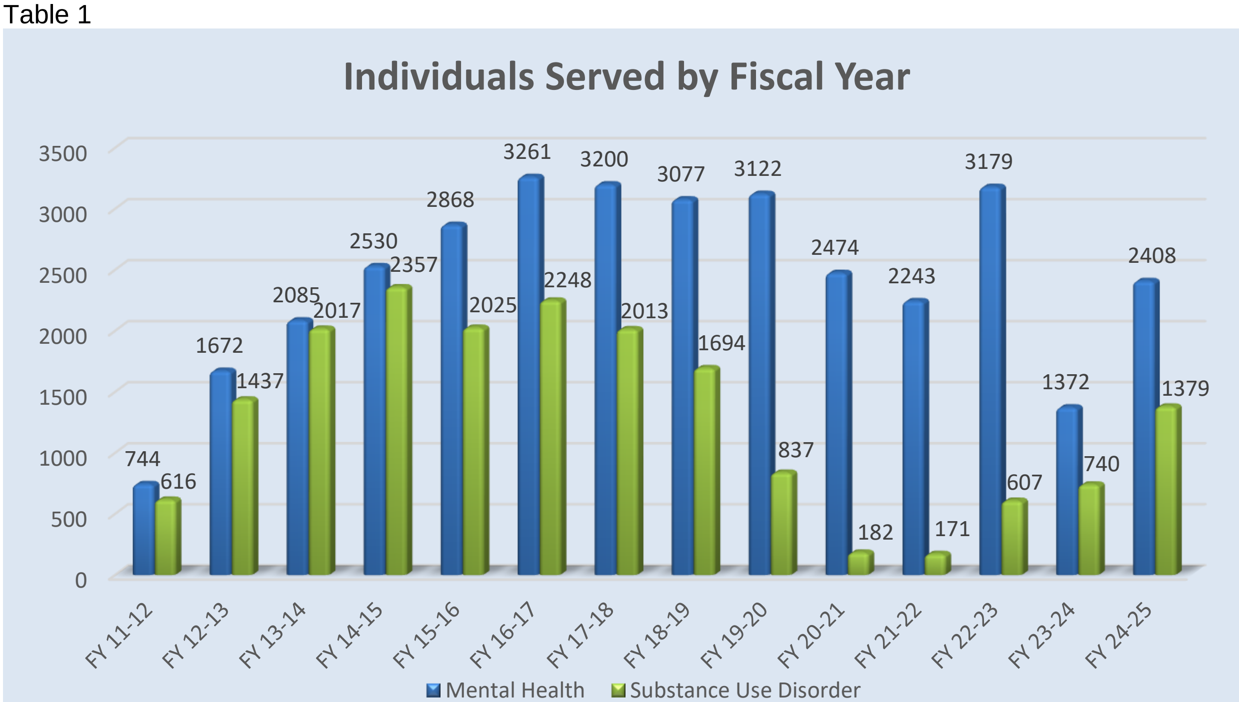
The Kern County Sheriff's Office is committed to work in partnership with our community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Kern County through professional public safety services.

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Department

Since the implementation of AB109 in October 2011, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) has significantly expanded its treatment programs to meet the needs of individuals involved in the judicial system in Kern County. Programming funded by AB109 Public Safety Realignment focuses on addressing the Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorders (SUD) of AB109-designated individuals. By prioritizing treatment for both, the department aims to reduce recidivism, prevent hospitalizations, lower incarceration rates, and decrease homelessness for this population.

KernBHRS continues to work closely with community agencies and contract providers to offer high-quality care, consistently addressing the criminogenic, MH, and SUD needs of individuals. Treatment strategies focus on life skills development, anger management, psychological trauma, and criminal thinking, using evidence-based and best practice approaches. Our network of care is designed to meet individuals where they are, accommodating diverse backgrounds and needs. Referrals from the community and law enforcement are critical for connecting AB109 individuals to services. This year, the department focused on services at the Lerdo facilities, addressing housing and MH, and collaborating with various agencies to develop strategies for justice-involved individuals. The goal is to connect individuals with supportive services before their release to ensure continuous treatment and recovery. Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025 (with data for April, May, and June prorated), KernBHRS served 3,787 individuals assigned to AB109, including 651 who received both MH and SUD services. The graph below (Table 1) shows the number of AB109 individuals who have received MH and/or SUD services since 2011.

Table 1



FY 2024/25 (April, May & June 2025 data are pro-rated) - July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

Programs and Services

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder In-Custody Services:

Within the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Lerdo Detention Facilities (Justice, and Pre-Trial), the KernBHRS Correctional Behavioral Health Team (CBH) operates entirely onsite to provide behavioral health and SUD services to the incarcerated population. CBH, in partnership with the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and Kern Medical, delivers integrated behavioral health and SUD services to incarcerated individuals, with a strong focus on stabilization, treatment, and continuity of care. The program addresses MH, SUD, and physical health needs during incarceration and supports successful reintegration into the community upon release.

The Inmate Stabilization and Assessment Team (ISAT) works closely with CBH to monitor high-risk individuals and ensure timely, coordinated treatment planning. Services include individual and group therapy, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and crisis response. Crisis response can include after-hours intervention and in-house 5150 evaluations to reduce unnecessary hospital transports. In addition to being an access point, CBH also functions as a primary treatment team while incarcerated or an adjunct team for incarcerated persons requiring linkage to community teams and resources, pending release. Discharge planning is a core component of this team, with CBH coordinating bridge medications, immediate follow-up appointments, and "warm handoffs" to KernBHRS outpatient teams and/or community-based organizations. This system reduces service gaps and supports continuity of care to lower recidivism rates.

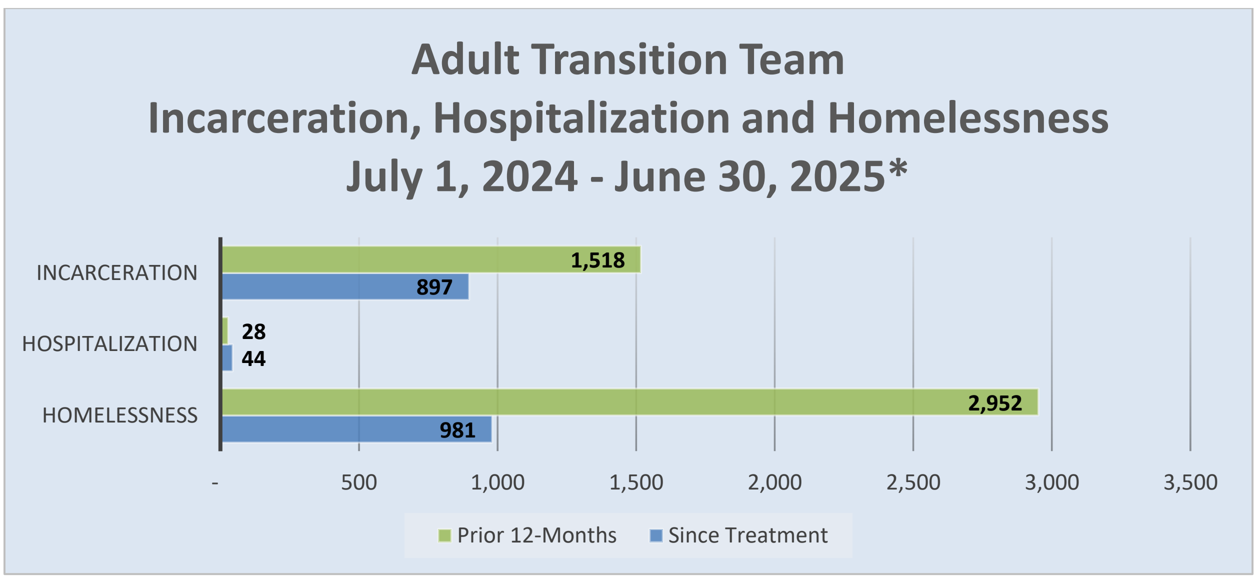
In FY2024/25, CBH provided 39,827 services to justice-involved individuals, including court-ordered treatment, psychiatric care, and SUD interventions. The in-custody SUD program, staffed by certified SUD specialists, promotes engagement both inside and outside the jail system. Through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program, 72 participants received services across three cohorts, with 27 graduates and 69 linked to ongoing outpatient care via the integrated SUD Access Line. RSAT graduates may qualify for early release and placement in Sober Living Environments or supportive housing. CBH's model demonstrates effective cross-agency collaboration, data-informed care transitions, and a commitment to reducing recidivism while improving individual recovery outcomes.

Adult Transition Team:

The Adult Transition Team (ATT) supports individuals with serious mental illness and extensive legal histories, including those returning from State Hospitals after competency restoration. Working closely with CBH, an ATT liaison conducts in-custody assessments to link eligible individuals to outpatient services prior to release. Referrals come from various sources, including detention staff, legal representatives, family, and probation or parole officers. One key benefit of the program is access to the Diversion Program, which supports individuals referred by the courts for an evaluation to determine if the individual suffers from serious mental illness by focusing on stabilization, housing, and recovery. For those with co-occurring SUD, ATT facilitates referrals to the SUD Access Line to begin the screening process and linkage to the appropriate level of care. This year, improved collaboration led to several participants achieving sobriety, stability, and having their charges dismissed. ATT provides case management, bilingual groups, and field-based supports to promote reintegration and recovery, with continued care available after hours and on weekends through partnerships with housing providers, the Conservator's Office, and justice agencies.

ATT measures AB109 recidivism outcomes by comparing the number of days individuals spend in-custody, in an inpatient psychiatric setting, or the days of homelessness they experienced during the 12 months prior to service initiation to the number of days in these categories while in treatment following release. The target goal is to reduce the number of days in these categories by 30%. From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 (April, May & June 2025 are pro-rated), ATT served 91 unduplicated individuals with severe mental illness, many of whom had a secondary diagnosis of an SUD and were homeless. In aggregate, the number of days incarcerated decreased by 41%, an increase in psychiatric inpatient setting by 57%, and a reduction in homeless days by 67% (Table 2). The increase in psychiatric hospitalization is largely due to one individual with ongoing SUD challenges and severe MH symptoms, including paranoia, that hinders medication adherence. ATT has coordinated an interdisciplinary team consisting of MH and SUD counselors as well as community resources to support the client's recovery. Note, the remaining AB109 clients have otherwise decreased their inpatient days by 39%.

Table 2



*FY 2024/25 (April, May & June 2025 data are pro-rated)

<u>Telecare Full-Service Partnership:</u>

Telecare Full-Service Partnership (FSP), contracted with KernBHRS, provides intensive outpatient treatment to AB109 individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who have not responded to traditional outpatient treatment. The program utilizes the Assertive Community Treatment model to support individuals experiencing significant functional impairments across multiple life domains, including criminal justice system involvement. As a new program implemented this year, Telecare FSP is continuously adapting its practices to better meet the needs of individuals to improve long-term outcomes.

Telecare staff help develop individualized goals and provide recovery-focused services, including self-empowerment, skills-building, and side-by-side support. In-office or field-based services are offered to meet clients where they are, mentally and physically. A key component of the program is linking individuals to vital community resources, such as social security benefits, to enhance financial stability, while reducing legal and housing crises. Staff also encourage and facilitate participation in psychoeducational groups to build better insight, improve coping skills, and foster social support networks. In addition, the team supports and educates on the importance of medication compliance as a critical element of relapse prevention by monitoring follow up and identifying barriers to compliance in an effort to reduce recidivism.

From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 (April, May & June 2025 data are pro-rated), the program served 47 AB109 individuals, delivering 77 individual therapy and rehabilitation sessions, 297 medication management visits, and 1,513 targeted case management services. During this period, there were 13 hospitalizations, 33 incarcerations, and 72 crisis contacts. Additionally, 11 clients experienced homelessness. A small subset of clients accounted for multiple readmissions (specifically, 2 clients with two or more hospitalizations). As this program was newly introduced this year, there were limitations to data collection that did not allow for the “prior 12 months” data to be captured upon admission. Telecare plans to collect this data moving forward and will be shown in subsequent reporting periods. Telecare will continue its partnership with Correctional Behavioral Health to assess and engage clients during incarceration and provide ongoing support upon their release, ensuring continuity of care and sustained progress in recovery.

Mobile Evaluation Services:

The Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) works in coordination with law enforcement to support community response and is typically dispatched through law enforcement channels. Since the launch of the AB109 Co-Response Team in June 2015, MET, working alongside KCSO and the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD), has adopted a more proactive approach to reducing crises and recidivism. Since April 2022 there is one Co-Response Team for KCSO, consisting of a law enforcement officer and a senior-level MET staff member. Individuals served are High Utilizers of law enforcement 911 services who, without early intervention, may become hospitalized or incarcerated. This joint response approach places the law enforcement officer and MET staff in the same vehicle, increasing the level of collaborative crisis care services.

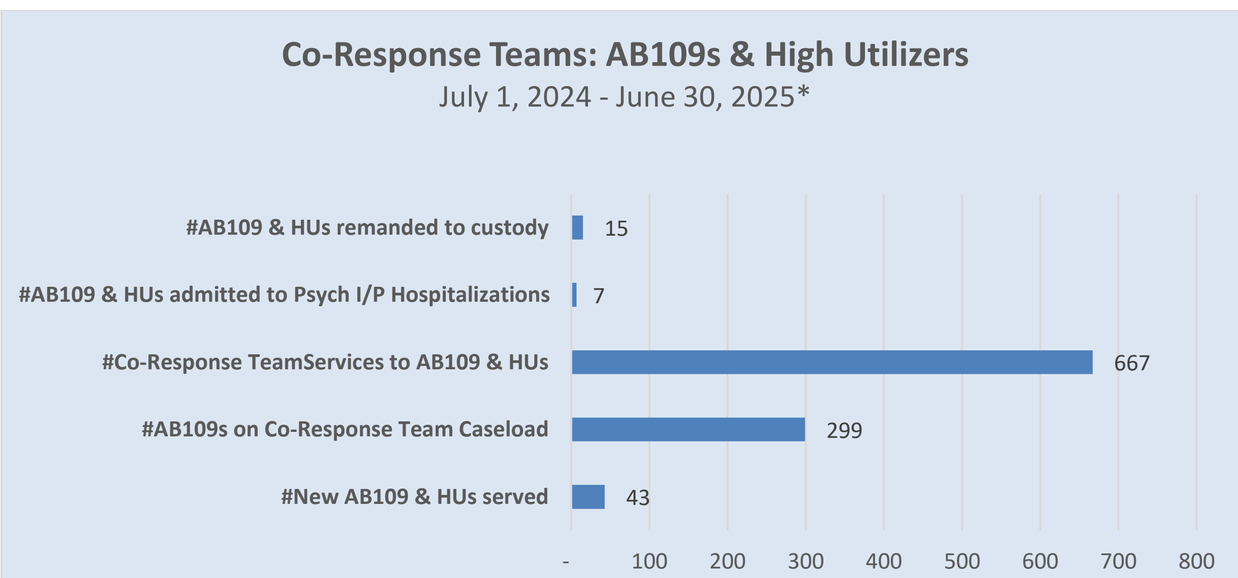
Between July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 (April, May & June 2025 are pro-rated), the Co-Response Team provided initial contact to 65 new AB109 and High Utilizer individuals. The Co-Response Team’s caseload included 53 AB109 and High Utilizer individuals. Overall, the team provided 606 services to AB109 and High Utilizers. Zero EMP individuals were admitted to inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations and 8 AB109 EMP individuals were remanded to custody during this period.

In addition to Co-Response Team services, traditional MET services were continuously provided at the request of law enforcement. Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025 (April, May & June 2025 data are pro-rated), MET and/or Virtual MET responded to 5,856 adults with local law enforcement and 69 Virtual MET Responses to Adults.

The Crisis Intervention Team:

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) goals are to improve safety for both officers and individuals during an MH crisis, and to divert individuals with mental illness from the Judicial System and into the MH System. This approach helps reduce recidivism among AB109 individuals with co-occurring MH and SUD. The CIT Electronic Monitoring Program Subcommittee is a collaboration between KCSO, BPD and KernBHRS to assist Co-Response Teams find solutions for participants who have behavioral health issues during their participation in the EMP program. The CIT 40-hour class, CIT Advanced Officer 8-hour class, CIT Steering Committee, CIT Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) Subcommittee, and CIT High Utilizer Subcommittee specifically focus on closing the gaps between law enforcement and behavioral health agencies who often encounter the same individuals in the community that need behavioral health services. Through the collaboration of the CITs' work, services are enhanced for the AB109 population. The CIT 40-hour class and CIT Advance Officer 8-hour class provide training to law enforcement on how to identify MH behaviors to assist officers in linking individuals to MH and SUD services. Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, three CIT 40-hour classes for the Kern County Sheriff's Office were completed (October 2024, November 2024 and February 2025), and three CIT 40-hour class for the Bakersfield Police Department (August 2024, October 2024 and March 2025).

Table 3



*FY 2024/25 (April, May & June 2025 data are pro-rated)

Telecare Recovery Station

The Recovery Station is a 24/7 center located in Bakersfield, offering immediate support for adults experiencing a SUD or alcohol-related crisis, often in combination with a co-occurring MH disorder. Services are voluntary and provided in a safe, sobering environment designed to help individuals reduce intoxication and stabilize before re-entering the community.

Individuals may be referred to or transported to the Recovery Station by law enforcement, designated community partners, or other agencies. The program places a strong emphasis on serving AB109 individuals, as well as many others who have a history of legal involvement with law enforcement. In collaboration with justice partners, the Recovery Station provides essential interventions, to support recovery and reduce recidivism. Staffed by licensed clinicians, SUD specialists, and peer support workers with lived experience, the Recovery Station offers screenings, brief interventions, referrals, and linkage to ongoing services within the community. The Recovery Station receives about 209 admissions each month. The typical length of stay is approximately four to ten hours, after which individuals are connected to the next level of care or supportive services that is most appropriate based on their needs. In FY 2024/25 (April, May & June data are pro-rated), the Recovery Station served 707 unique individuals, of which 119 were assigned AB109. Most of these individuals were determined to be in crisis at the time of visit, with 60% of them being linked back to their treatment team and others being discharged to their residence or a medical detoxification withdrawal management program to receive a higher level of care for continued recovery.

Housing Support Services and Contracted Facilities

The Kern Linkage Division (KLD) collaborates with a network of long-term care facilities and community-based housing providers to deliver comprehensive behavioral health services to individuals with complex needs. KLD maintains contracts with specialized long-term care facilities that focus on psychiatric and behavioral health services for clients requiring intensive support. Many of these individuals are under conservatorship and are referred to these facilities based on their assessed level of care. These placements offer structured, supervised environments that serve as both treatment settings and housing solutions, thereby reducing the risk of incarcerations, homelessness, and acute psychiatric hospitalizations among this vulnerable population. In addition, KLD's Long Term Care team supports the forensic population by linking individuals being released from jail with severe mental illness to contracted enhanced placements. These enhanced placements can accommodate intensive residential-based behavioral health treatment to prevent these individuals from returning to custody or homelessness.

Contracts with these locked and unlocked facilities are structured based on bed/day rates. In FY 2024/25, KLD facilitated placements for five individuals under AB109 supervision across five different long-term care facilities totaling 924 bed days. The associated costs for these placements amounted to approximately $217,000, reflecting the agreed-upon bed and service rates outlined in facility contracts. For clients who achieve stabilization through treatment, KLD facilitates transitions to community-based housing options, including sober living homes and residential treatment facilities. These contracted providers support ongoing recovery by offering services such as medication management, transportation, socialization opportunities, and programs that promote independence. This continuum of care ensures that clients receive appropriate support tailored to their recovery journey. Through these strategic partnerships, KLD enhances the quality and accessibility of behavioral health housing, promoting stability and improved outcomes for individuals with severe MH conditions.

Housing is often a significant barrier for individuals re-entering the community after incarceration. A welcoming, recovery-oriented home environment is important for successful reintegration back into the community. The KernBHRS Housing Services team provides housing subsidy assistance services and makes recommendations to teams by identifying emergency and temporary shelter placements. This assistance allows individuals to focus on participating in outpatient treatment to include the goal of planning for permanent housing. FY 2024/25 (April, May & June 2025 are pro-rated), KernBHRS secured a total of $65,000 for short-term and emergency housing targeting AB109 individuals released from jail and/or hospitalization who are at risk of homelessness upon release from custody. KernBHRS, along with partner agencies, meet with the AB109 housing providers monthly to discuss issues, concerns, and success stories. As part of these meetings, regular presentations are provided to educate providers about community programs that can be beneficial for their residents. As part of the Quality Standards Program, Housing Providers who receive individual referrals from KernBHRS Housing Services are required to participate in regular site visits that serve the purpose of supporting residents and providers while addressing areas of concern. These site visits have proven to reduce the number of complaints and foster positive relationships with housing providers.

Table 4

Specialty Transitional Housing	AB109 Totals		Housing Services Team-Short Term Funding	AB109 Totals	
Fiscal Year	**FY 2023/24**	**FY 2024/25**	**Fiscal Year**	**FY 2023/24**	**FY 2024/25**
Client Vouchers Processed	21	15	**Claims Processed**	11	11
Unique Client Count	7	7	**Unique Client Count**	11	8
Amount Spent	$13,963	$13,024	**Amount Spent**	$7,665	$7,547

Moving Forward

Moving forward, KernBHRS will continue to prioritize addressing MH and SUD through AB109 funding, aiming to reduce recidivism in hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness among this population. The department will maintain alignment with countywide initiatives, such as the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Strategic Plan, Kern County's Stepping Up Initiative, and the Bakersfield Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative's Kern County Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness. Additionally, KernBHRS is preparing for the implementation of CalAIM, a statewide effort to improve health outcomes for justice-involved individuals, particularly during the critical re-entry phase following incarceration.

In collaboration with the Kern County Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, Managed Care Providers, and other community organizations, KernBHRS is developing coordinated strategies to ensure seamless transitions from custody to community-based care. The department will continue to accommodate individuals from diverse backgrounds, meeting clients where they are in their recovery journey. Early referral and engagement through community or law enforcement partners will remain essential for successful outcomes.

Specialized efforts will remain focused at the Lerdo facility, where KernBHRS collaborates with multiple agencies to address MH and legal concerns, facilitating re-entry through program linkage, diversion, or conservatorship. The goal is to connect individuals with outpatient and supportive services before their release, preventing lapses in treatment and promoting continuous recovery. These integrated efforts aim to improve public safety, advance health equity, and support long-term independence for justice-involved individuals by addressing previously unaddressed physical, MH, and SUD conditions.

Fiscal Year 2025/26 Spending Plan

In FY 2025/26, KernBHRS has been designated to receive $8,684,861.00 in Public Safety Realignment funding to support MH and SUD programming and administration. Over the past year, the department has experienced changes in personnel and contracts, making it necessary for funding shifts to support costs associated with in-custody MH and crisis services. For the next year, KernBHRS proposes allocating costs as outlined in the chart below. KernBHRS will continue to identify ways to improve upon the programs established for the AB109 population. Additionally, KernBHRS will continue to develop, implement, and monitor data collection methodologies to maximize resources and funding available.

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
AB109 Budget Justifications / Spending Plan FY 2025/26

Salaries and Benefits			
Service	Position	FTE	Annual Cost
Correctional Behavioral Health-Jail Personnel	BH Recovery Specialist	12	$ 1,410,119.58
	BH Therapist	10	$ 1,500,564.60
	BH Health Unit Supervisor	1	$ 210,431.31
	Office Services Technician	3	$ 296,755.53
	Licensed Vocational Nurse	11	$ 1,530,269.70
	Subtotal		$ 4,948,140.72
	Physicians		$ 1,990,473.60
	Total Salaries & Benefits		$ 6,938,614.32
Contracted Services			
Adult SOC Contractors			$ 281,849.58
KLD SOC Contractors			$ 2,000,000.00
Pharmacy Contractors			$ 220,530.00
System of Care Oversight			$ 617,903.00
Total Contractor Cost			$ 3,120,282.58
Total Projected Expenditures for FY 2025/26			$ 10,058,896.90
CCP Base Allocations to KernBHRS for FY 2025/26			$ 8,684,861.00
Total Projected Expenditures Exceeding Allocation for FY 2025/26 (*KernBHRS to absorb this projected expenditure cost)			$ (1,374,035.90)

Employers' Training Resource

This fiscal year the AB 109 team implemented several key improvements to enhance our services to the Justice Involved, which has yielded positive results. While the referrals to our program were 22 percent less in comparison to last year, we will exceed our enrollment goal for the current year. In addition, the Positive Steps class has had a higher number of individuals graduate compared to last year (81 vs 78) and we continue to receive positive feedback from the RSAT classes taught at Lerdo. Year to date ETR has enrolled 101 participants, provided 17 clients with work experience and 4 clients with On-the-Job training, and assisted 38 to find unsubsidized employment. Some of the notable changes implemented include:

- Bilingual staff answer the main AB109 telephone line, promoting clear and effective communication to our diverse clientele.
- Encouraging clients to submit their letters of employment allowing staff to provide essential supportive items such as tools, footwear and clothing to assist them in becoming job ready.
- Developed a seamless transition from work experience to On-the-Job Training, affording the participants additional time to learn the skills needed to succeed at the job.

In addition, staff strengthened our partnership with the Probation Department by working directly with the designated liaison and this collaboration has significantly streamlined our processes and improved our overall working relationship.

Our plan for FY 2025/26 will be to continue the work initiated during Program Year 2024/25 and continue to work closely with our partner agencies to build upon their assessments to determine the timing, level and type of interventions needed by the individuals referred for services to reduce their barriers to employment. As many of the participants decline training or do not pass the minimum educational requirements for training, ETR will continue to focus on Paid Work Experience (PWEX) and On-the-Job Training (OJTs) contracts with local employers to improve the outcomes of our clientele.

The majority of the proposed Base Fund budget is allocated to staff costs and the attributed overhead costs, with the remaining balance being earmarked for PWEX, OJTs, and supportive services. However, the primary source of funding for PWEX will be the Contingency Funds our agency requested in December as well as any available Base Fund Carry-Forward. Our agency has already begun the Request for Proposal process to procure an organization who will be the Employer of Record as well as provide payroll and human resource services for the PWEX program as the current contract terminates June 30, 2025.

Proposed Budget for Employers' Training Resource

FY 2025/26 AB 109 Plan

PROGRAM STAFF POSITION	NUMBER	FTE	YEARLY COST
County Administrative Office Manager	1	0.01	$2,992
Workforce Development Program Manager	2	0.06	$9,894
Program Support Supervisor	1	0.60	$79,901
Program Specialist	5	2.23	$256,929
Job Developer	3	2.02	$226,553
Systems Analyst	1	0.01	$1,979
Senior Office Services Specialist	1	0.03	$2,373
Office Services Technician	3	0.13	$9,641
Total Program FTE		**5.09**	**$590,262**

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF POSITION	NUMBER	FTE	YEARLY COST
Chief Workforce Development Officer	1	0.01	$3,521
Assistant Workforce Development Officer	1	0.01	$3,099
Sr. Workforce Development Analyst	2	0.04	$6,267
Administrative Services Officer	1	0.01	$2,052
Departmental Analyst	1	0.90	$114,609
Senior Accountant	5	0.18	$25,956
Administrative Coordinator	1	0.01	$1,575
Contract Administrator	1	0.03	$2,992
Fiscal Support Specialist	4	0.04	$3,957
Fiscal Support Technician	1	0.01	$1,148
Office Services Technician	2	0.03	$2,185
Maintenance	1	0.03	$1,146
Marketing & Promotions Coordinator	1	0.05	$6,439
Marketing & Promotions Associate	1	0.01	$1,420
Total Administrative FTE		**1.36**	**$176,366**
TOTAL FTE		**6.45**	**$766,628**

Program Staff Salaries & Benefits	$590,262
Administrative Staff Salaries & Benefits	$176,366
Overhead	$33,815
Participant Training/OJTs/PWEX	$70,415
Supportive Services	$10,000
Supplies	$2,500
Travel	$500
TOTAL	**$883,858**

District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office has seen increased workload responsibilities that have added to the workload increases attributed to AB109 and Proposition 47. The increased responsibilities have been the result of advances made in the investigative process, new legislation that reopens cases for further litigation, and changes to parole and custody credit calculations that have resulted in more prison inmates being released and subsequently reoffending.

The advent and increasingly widespread use of police body-camera units has resulted in a large amount of evidence on even the simplest criminal offense that must be downloaded, reviewed, and transcribed in order to effectively analyze cases and prepare for trial. While such evidence is a welcome boost to transparency and public safety, it places additional workloads on attorneys on both sides of the criminal justice system. The increased workload required to prosecute cases applies not only to the most serious crimes, but also crimes that have been converted to local custody qualifying sentences or reduced to misdemeanors pursuant to realignment.

The proliferation of police body-camera evidence has resulted in a drastic increase in the creation, storage, editing, discovery, and retention of digital evidence on all trial types, including the varied crimes impacted by realignment. The District Attorney has utilized CCP funds to cover not only staffing needs to address the increased workload associated with the advent of digital evidence, but also to help obtain and maintain the equipment required to store, manage, and deliver large quantities of digital files across all case types.

State legislation continues to impact the District Attorney's Office, which, in combination with increased caseloads attributed to realignment, has resulted in additional need for qualified attorneys and staff to effectively represent the public safety interest involved in ensuring that validly obtained convictions are not dismissed or vacated without opposition when the facts warrant it. The passage of Proposition 36 in 2024 has also increased felony caseloads by making previously misdemeanor-only offenses eligible for felony prosecution in the case of repeat offenders. Proposition 36 has also resulted in additional needs to manage the mandatory treatment aspect of the new law.

The District Attorney has made adjustments to counterbalance increased workloads, including the introduction of diversionary opportunities for many first-time low level misdemeanor offenses, and worked in partnership with the Public Defender, the Superior Court, and Behavioral Health to open an avenue of mental health diversion and diversion opportunities for incompetent defendants or in circumstances where treatable mental health factors played a substantial role in criminality in appropriate cases. Additionally, the District Attorney continues to refine efforts to provide avenues for diversion for misdemeanor cases involving minimal charges against less-criminally justice involved defendants.

The total request from the Community Corrections Partnership for FY 2025/26 is $2,741,239. The District Attorney's proposal is to receive the same percentage of funding that was received in previous years. As staffing and costs have gone up faster than the available appropriations, the

District Attorney’s Office does request that when/if additional funds become available, they are considered for additional funding. This request represents the minimum amount necessary to maintain the existing level of service within the District Attorney's Office and the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory, in order to ensure the public safety needs of the citizens of Kern County are met.

Position/Item	#	Salary	Benefits	Total
Deputy District Attorney V	8	$200,821.55	$106,329.34	$2,457,207.12
Criminalist III	1	$123,285.52	$73,737.24	$197,022.76
Total Personnel	9			$2,654,229.88
Recurring costs, phones, computers, licensing, Internet access, cell phones, vehicles, office furniture, training, Bar dues, MCLE, office supplies, etc.				$87,009.12
Total				$2,741,239.00

Public Defender's Office

Realignment has Profoundly Impacted Public Defender Workload

The overwhelming majority of criminal defendants are indigent, and the Public Defender represents a significant portion of these persons. Our mandate is Constitutional and statutory. Under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, persons accused of committing crimes, who cannot afford to hire private counsel, are entitled to appointed counsel. Pursuant to California Government Code § 27706, the Public Defender is charged with representation of persons qualifying for appointed counsel.

The Public Defender's approved FY 2025/26 allocation equals $1,370,620.00 or 50% of the amount appropriated to the prosecution. This amount is intended to help our department keep a comparative pace with the tenacious, aggressive, determined and professional efforts of our counterparts in the criminal justice system, the District Attorney.

Guiding Principles of Fairness Support the Department's Allocation

Fairness and a "balanced allocation of resources" within the criminal justice system are recognized and operate as the controlling moral imperatives. Kern County Strategic Plan (2008), Section I, p. 5, Keeping Our Communities Safe; ABA Ten Principles of a Defense Delivery System (2002), p.3: "There should be parity of workload, salaries, and other resources (such as benefits, technology, facilities, legal research, support staff, paralegals, investigators, and access to forensic services and experts) between prosecution and public defense."

The Public Defender and the defense roles are reactive. Consequently, the impact of Realignment on the department reflects and is directly traceable to the District Attorney's work. Specifically, with the exception of dependency, mental health and conservatorship work, the Public Defender's workload is a function of law enforcement activity in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting suspected offenders. As noted, while the Public Defender does not defend all cases the District Attorney prosecutes,[1] the Public Defender represents the significant majority of alleged offenders.

Moreover, while the District Attorney's office performs certain functions with no analog to the defense (e.g., review and filing of complaints), so too the Public Defender performs work not visited on our prosecutorial counterparts. For example, lawyers with the Public Defender's office must investigate their own cases, while law enforcement often provides a completed investigation for the prosecutor. Separately, deputy public defenders are expected to and spend substantial time and energy interviewing and advising every client, including those housed at pretrial and correctional holding facilities.

[1] Some criminal defendants possess sufficient resources to hire their own counsel and, in other cases including co-defendant cases, the Public Defender has a conflict of interest which compels appointment of alternate counsel.

Implementation Plan

It is not possible to precisely align or attribute a particular defendant or crime to Realignment. Consequently, the department utilizes the AB 109 allocation to meet – as effectively as we can – the department's significant Realignment driven caseload. Graphical depiction of the approximate/equivalent funding capacity provided by the department's allocation is as follows:

Position Title	Number	Salary	Benefits	Total
Deputy Public Defender IV – Step 3	2	$317,324	$186,444	$503,768
Deputy Public Defender IV – Step 2	1.5	$233,327	$137,778	$371,105
Deputy Public Defender III – Step 1	1	$109,727	$69,356	$179,083
Sr. Investigator – Step 5	1.2	$106,194	$70,424	$176,618
Legal Secretary – Step 5	1	$47,441	$38,056	$85,497
Office expenses, experts, licensing, computers, vehicles, phones, copiers, paper, etc.				$54,549
Total				**$1,370,620**

Material Disclosures - Consistent with Prior Years

1) Use of Funds: Pen. Code §1230(b)(3) provides in relevant part that AB 109 funds shall be used to provide supervision and rehabilitative services for adult felony offenders. As in prior years, the department's intended use of the funds relies on the understanding that legal advocacy and representation of indigent individuals in criminal proceedings may be appropriately characterized as involving rehabilitative efforts and services.

2) Supplemental versus Supplanting: Pen. Code §1233.7 provides that AB 109 monies shall be used to supplement, not supplant, any other state or county appropriation. The department is informed and believes the CAO's recommended Net General Fund Contributions are calculated without regard to whether or not departments receive an AB 109 allocation. Consequently, the department's allocation request reflects supplemental rather than supplanting funding. (Compare to a situation where the recommended contribution was reduced dollar-for-dollar based on any subsequently obtained allocation).

3) Accounting of Funds: If approved, the department intends to again apply the AB 109 funds on a pro-rata (i.e., quarterly) basis. As noted, while the department recognizes a significant caseload is attributable to Realignment, it is impossible to identify all cases or alleged crimes caused by Realignment.

Street Interdiction Team

The Street Interdiction Team (SIT) is a multi-departmental law enforcement task force consisting of numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the County of Kern. SIT periodically plans and operates enforcement teams in different regional areas to address specific community needs. Even though SIT was previously functional through the advent of AB 109, it was reactivated to address street- level crime. Financial funds were made available on behalf of the CCP and have greatly influenced the process of current and future SIT operations.

SIT operates in Kern County cities such as Arvin, Bakersfield, Bear Valley Springs, California City, Delano, Inyokern, Lamont, McFarland, Mettler, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, and Wasco. In order to effectively address street- level crime, SIT proceeds with the following:

- Improves collaboration with law enforcement agencies throughout Kern County
- Establishes front-line operations in cities and towns throughout Kern County
- Meets monthly to discuss current AB 109 activities and impacts

In FY 2024/25, SIT completed a total of fourteen (14) operations with a timespan total of 26 days and 246 hours in Kern County as of April 30, 2025. The participating agencies consisted of Bakersfield Police Department, California City Police Department, Delano Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Kern County District Attorney's Office, Kern County Sheriff's Office, McFarland Police Department, Ridgecrest Police Department, Shafter Police Department, Stallion Springs Police Department, and Taft Police Department. All agencies worked with the Kern County Probation Department as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the County and were reimbursed for overtime in relation to AB 109 SIT operations.

Depending on criminal activity and need, SIT teams have conducted multiple operations in a specific area over a short period of time. This has demonstrated a successful showing of force and cooperation throughout Kern County. SIT operations draw an assembly of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies that provide a multitude of experience, information, and resources to ensure the most effective regional policing strategies are put into practice. SIT offers regional law enforcement agencies some relief in addressing AB 109 impacts by pooling resources for intelligence gathering, leveraging resources, and providing agency collaboration and cooperation in tracking offenders as they move throughout Kern County and the State. As a result, the decline of criminal activity has been noticeable following the application of these operations. Data below resulted from SIT operations as of April 30, 2025:

- 995 planned targets
- 176 total arrests
- 12 handguns/shotguns/rifles seized

- Currency: $7,927
- Confiscated items: stolen vehicle, digital scale, stun gun, ammunition, glass smoke pipes, knives
- Seized varying amounts of methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and cannabis, psilocybin mushrooms, and MDMA pills

The total request for FY 2025/26 is $435,524.

Community-Based Organizations Program

The CCP Public Safety Realignment Act Plan includes funds for organizations to provide services to AB 109 individuals, with the goals of decreasing recidivism, enabling persons to reconnect with their family members, and contribute to their communities. Recidivism, in this context, is defined as the tendency to relapse into a previous negative condition or mode of behavior resulting in conviction of a new criminal offense.

The Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Program provides flexibility to support the needs of the community and respond under the direction of the Executive Committee. The CBOs have assisted the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, and KernBHRS in creating and improving a continuum of care, allowing offenders to receive necessary services. Since the implementation of AB 109 in FY 2012/13 to date, the CCP has allocated $26,474,499 to the CBO Program through Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Applications (RFA) and Personal/ Professional Services Agreement (PPSA).

The CCP allocated a total of $7,993,642 through a competitive RFP process, issued in June 2022 for Calendar Years 2023 through 2025, to assist in the overall success of Realignment in Kern County. This process focuses on reentry services such as residential/transitional housing, employment and educational programs, case management services and other evidence-based programs, proven practices, and/or best practices aimed at reducing recidivism. Residential/transitional housing programs create a structured living environment for individuals reentering the community. Employment and educational programs provide individuals with valuable tools to succeed in the workplace. Case management services develop and maintain case plans for individuals.

With the CCP's recommendation, the County awarded contracts to the following organizations to provide community-based services for AB 109 male and female offenders reentering the community for a three-year period, January 1, 2023, to December 31,2025:

1) Bakersfield Recovery Services
2) Cottage of Hope and Gratitude
3) Freedom House Transitional Housing
4) Garden Pathways
5) Minnie Marvels Sober Living for Women and Children
6) New Life Recovery and Training Center
7) One Door
8) Third Tradition
9) STEPS
10) WestCare

The loss of a CBO owner in Spring 2024 required the CCP to terminate that CBO contract and enter into additional PPSAs with other CBOs to secure the lost bed capacity and continuity in services. Other providers were able to take on more participants to ensure that services were able to continue without a lapse. Despite these challenges, the CCP and our community partners remain committed to providing quality housing and services to AB 109 offenders.

To ensure the CBO's success in providing streamlined services, the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and KernBHRS continue collaborating by doing the following:

- Monthly collaborative meetings
- Bi-Annual individual CBO meetings
- Annual individual CBO meetings
- Monitoring data tracker elements and quarterly reporting
- CBO provider trainings
- Exchange of key information for improved offender services
- Tracking drug testing
- Encouraging CBO representatives to interview potential candidates at the Lerdo Detention Facility
- Fostering an open line of communication and addressing provider's questions, concerns, and requests as they arise
- Monthly and/or quarterly site visits to CBOs in order to monitor contracts

The CCP continues to focus on utilizing CBOs to help offenders gain access to the services and tools they need to become productive individuals of the community. The CCP is committed to the partnership with the CBOs and the collaborative work that makes Kern County a safer place to live. The request for FY 2025/26 is $1,748,501.

Veterans Service Department

The Kern County Veterans Service Department (KCVSD) has historically had a dedicated Veterans Service Representative (VSR) designated to provide benefit advocacy and case management to veterans (and their families) at any stage in the criminal justice system. The initiative provides access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, California Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, as well as referrals to other service providers in an effort to eliminate barriers to successful reintegration into the community and reduce the recidivism rate of veteran offenders. Since this employee was hired, she has learned to navigate and successfully negotiate any challenge(s) that have arisen while assisting this veteran population and is now responsible for departmental training of all new and current employees. In an effort to further reduce barriers to benefits, the department has implemented CCP specific training as part of its onboard training for all new employees.

Having VSR’s trained and experienced specifically in this area of advocacy has not only allowed for a smooth transition to benefits for the veteran once released from custody, but also increased accessibility to benefits for their dependents while the veteran is incarcerated. Moreover, having multiple points of contact for justice-involved veterans has allowed for a more robust relationship between our VSR’s and the other service providers in the veteran community.

The VSR’s work with VA medical staff to enroll veterans in VA healthcare and arranges transportation to the VA domiciliary on the VA Medical Center’s West Los Angeles campus, as well as connect veterans with the Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Justice Program operated out of the VA Bakersfield Outpatient Clinic in collaboration with the public defender’s office. Our VSR’s work closely with California Veterans Assistance Foundation to secure housing for those veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, our VSR works with spouses of veterans to request apportionments of the veteran’s monthly benefits to ensure those funds are distributed to the veteran’s family while the veteran is incarcerated.

Since the implementation of the program, we have assisted 345 local veterans and family members with 157 veterans assisted in FY 2024/25. Our SVSR assisted 30 veterans via virtual conferences while assisting with their VA compensation or pension benefits. Furthermore, our SVSR has received numerous correspondence and has replied with valuable information for veterans regarding potential benefits as they prepare for release.

The KCVSD is excited by our continued success and looks forward to continuing to assist veterans and their families as they navigate the criminal justice system and move forward on life’s journey. Based on our continued success and increased advocacy in the form of additional trained CCP staff, the total request from the Community Corrections Partnership for FY 2025/26 is $172,929, which will be used to provide funding for the multiple CCP qualified VSR’s, 1 Supervising Veterans Service representative, 2 tablets and updated mobile data devices, as well as video-conferencing licensing to work with justice-involved veterans and their families.

Position/Item	Total
Supervising Veterans Service Representative (FTE: 1.0)	$112,599
County Veterans Services Officer (FTE: 0.25)	$37,336
Business Manager (FTE 0.1)	$15,201
Equipment & Supplies	$7,793
Total	**$172,929**

Contingency Funds

The plan calls for the unallocated money, in the amount of $83,261, to be placed in the contingency fund for unexpected expenses and/or additional items the CCP chooses to fund.

Allocation of Realignment Funds

The CCP has spent numerous hours developing a plan that addresses the pressing issues of Realignment in Kern County. In order to achieve the goals, the allocation of AB 109 funds is based on the CCP's plan as described herein utilizing the FY 2025/26 allocation from the State of California.

The base allocation amounts for FY 2025/26 totals $64,047,649.

Department/Entity	Base Allocation%	FY 2025/26 Base Allocation
Sheriff's Office	39.27%	$ 25,151,512
Probation Department	35.56%	$ 22,775,344
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services	13.56%	$ 8,684,861
District Attorney's Office	4.28%	$ 2,741,239
CBO Program	2.73%	$ 1,748,501
Public Defender's Office	2.14%	$ 1,370,620
Employers' Training Resource	1.38%	$ 883,858
Street Interdiction Team	0.68%	$ 435,524
Veterans Service	0.27%	$ 172,929
Contingency	0.13%	$ 83,261
Total Base Allocation	**100%**	**$ 64,047,649**