

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

YOUTH EDUCATION, PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT ACCOUNT – PROGRAMMATIC AND FISCAL OVERVIEW

2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Reporting Period July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024

Completed by DHCS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

CURRENT FISCAL STATUS 4

CURRENT PROGRAMMATIC STATUS..... 8

 California Department of Health Care Services..... 8

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT PROGRAMMATIC STATUS 15

 California Department of Social Services..... 15

 California Department of Public Health 17

 California Natural Resources Agency 19

CONCLUSION 20

APPENDIX A. 22

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adult Use of Marijuana Act, known as Proposition 64 (Prop 64), was passed by California voters in November 2016. It legalized the possession, cultivation, and adult use of cannabis for persons aged 21 and older in California. Prop 64 established two excise taxes for both adult use and medicinal cannabis: a cultivation excise tax and a retail excise tax, which contribute to the Cannabis Tax Fund (CTF). Per Revenue and Taxation Code (RTC) 34019(f)(1), 60 percent of the CTF revenue shall be deposited in the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account (YEPEITA).

Pursuant to RTC Section 34019(f)(1)(P), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) shall submit to the Legislature, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, a spending report of funds from the YEPEITA beginning with fiscal years (FYs) 2021–22 and 2022–23. On or before July 10, 2024, and annually thereafter, DHCS shall provide to the Legislature, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, a spending report of funds from the YEPEITA for the prior FY. This first legislative report contains an analysis of FY 2020-21 through FY 2023-24 allocation, expenditure, and programmatic data reported to DHCS by the specified entities.

The funds in the YEPEITA are administered by DHCS and are designated for programs aimed at educating youth about substance use, preventing substance use disorders, and mitigating the harm associated with substance use. The programs shall emphasize accurate education, effective prevention, early intervention, school retention, and timely treatment services for youth, their families, and caregivers.

To implement and administer these programs, DHCS entered into interagency agreements, as required by RTC Section 34019(f)(1), with three state agencies, and administers the state-directed local assistance funding through an administrative and technical assistance contract. The identified state agencies are 1) the California Department of Education (CDE) for childcare¹ voucher programs, 2) the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for public education and data surveillance, and 3) the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to implement the Youth Community Access Grant Program. Due to the transfer of YEPEITA-funded programs identified in Chapter 24, Statutes of 2020 (Senate Bill 98), the CDE childcare voucher programs transferred to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in FY 2021-22. DHCS administers the local assistance funding through the Sierra Health Foundation: Center

¹ CDSS uses the term “child care” in lieu of “childcare”.

for Health Program Management (The Center) to implement Elevate Youth California (EYC).

CURRENT FISCAL STATUS

In accordance with RTC Section 34019(f)(1), the State Controller allocates 60 percent of the annual tax revenue deposited in the CTF 3350 for the YEPEITA (Allocation 3).

YEPEITA funds were first appropriated in FY 2019-20. They are categorized into two types: 530 State Operations, and 630 Local Assistance.

In FY 2019-20, DHCS initiated the first interagency agreements (IAs) with three state agencies: CDE, CDPH, and CDE, as well as an administrative contract with The Center. The CDE contract was transferred to the CDSS in FY 2021-22. As of FY 2023-24, DHCS maintains IA contracts with CDPH, CDSS, and CNRA, alongside the administrative contract with The Center.

The annual YEPEITA allocation to DHCS includes funding for four positions within the Prop 64 Program Unit. These positions are responsible for administering and supporting YEPEITA-funded programs, managing logistics for the mandated IAs across three state agencies, overseeing the EYC program, and facilitating the Prop 64 Advisory Group (Prop 64 AG).

DHCS establishes YEPEITA allocations annually based on the amounts outlined in the January Governor's Proposed Budget and amends contracts based on the final amounts reported in the July Governor's Enacted Budget. In accordance with the Governor's Budget, and compliant with RTC Section 34019(f)(1), DHCS allocates \$12 million of the YEPEITA funds to CDPH annually. Of the remaining funds, DHCS allocated has 75 percent to CDE up to FY 2020-21 and to CDSS thereafter. DHCS, through its contract with The Center, administers local competitive grants with 20 percent of the total YEPEITA funds, and CNRA administers five percent through the Youth Community Access Grant Program. DHCS IA contractors and the administrative contractor, The Center, are required to report detailed expenditures for the annual spending reporting process.

YEPEITA funds are deposited throughout the year, resulting in amounts varying between the time of the Governor's Budget release in January to the time actual tax revenues are finalized. DHCS works collaboratively with the Department of Finance to ensure that these funds are tracked. The ongoing and varying deposit amounts necessitate contract amendments to reflect available funding. Consequently, the timeline may result in expenditures extending into the subsequent FY. While DHCS contracts will include the

full amounts deposited into the YEPEITA, the local assistance grantees have three years to spend their awarded amounts. Due to this fund being a continuous appropriation, unexpended funding can be carried over. Table 1 on the next page provides a comprehensive summary of YEPEITA allocations and actual expenditures for State Operations and Local Assistance across each state entity receiving YEPEITA funding for FYs 2021-22 through 2023-24.

Table 1. YEPEITA Expenditures FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24²

| Citation | Department/ Agency | Program | Subgrants | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | | | | 2021-22 | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|----------------------|------------------------|---|---|----------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
| | | | | Total Remaining Balance Available for Carryover | Amount Deposited | Actual Expenditures | Total Remaining Balance Available for Carryover A+B-C=D | Number of Child Care Slots Funded | Amount Deposited | Actual Expenditures | Total Remaining Balance Available for Carryover D+F-G=H | Number of Child Care Slots Funded |
| RTC 34019 (f)(1) & RTC 34019.01 (a)(1) | DHCS (State Operations) ³ | Other Care Services | Elevate Youth California | \$0 | \$168,198,000 | \$112,958,000 | \$55,240,000 ⁴ | - | \$326,130,000 | \$324,479,000 | \$56,891,000 | - |
| | DHCS (Local Assistance) ³ | Other Care Services | Elevate Youth California | \$0 | \$37,375,000 | \$37,375,000 | \$0 | - | \$77,496,000 | \$76,394,000 | \$1,102,000 | - |
| | DHCS Total | | | \$0 | \$205,573,000 | \$150,333,000 | \$55,240,000 | - | \$403,626,000 | \$400,873,000 | \$57,993,000 | - |
| | CDPH | Public and Environmental Health | - | \$0 | \$12,000,000 | \$12,000,000 | \$0 | - | \$12,000,000 | \$12,000,000 | \$0 | - |
| | CDSS ⁵ | Welfare Programs & Other Assistance Payments | - | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | - | \$293,730,000 | \$292,325,000 | \$1,405,000 | 175,352 |
| | CDE ⁶ | General Child Development & Alternative Payment | - | \$0 | \$143,016,000 | \$143,016,000 | \$0 | 2,979 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | - |
| | CNRA | Administration of Natural Resources Agency | - | \$1,000 | \$9,534,000 | \$9,534,000 | \$1,000 | - | \$19,582,000 | \$19,488,000 | \$95,000 | - |
| Other Youth Account Department/Agency Total | | | | \$1,000 | \$164,550,000 | \$164,550,000 | \$1,000 | 2,979 | \$325,312,000 | \$323,813,000 | \$1,500,000 | 175,352 |

² This table reflects the YEPEITA as of **October 2024**. Funding amounts and expenditures are subject to change pending accounting adjustments and tax revenue actuals.

³ Existing law requires all funding to be first allocated to the DHCS, and then DHCS is required to enter into interagency agreements with specified entities to implement and administer these programs. This chart reflects the amounts allocated to each department by DHCS. For 2019-20, pass through funds were reflected in local assistances items. Effective 2020-21 and ongoing, pass through funds are reflected under state operations.

⁴ CDE returned \$55,240,000 from FY 2020-21 to DHCS. This amount will be included in CDSS Contract 24-40020 and expended.

⁵ This funding is allocated to CAPP, CCTR, and The Bridge Program child care slots. "Actual Expenditures" reflects a point in time estimate. Expenditures are based on September 2024 data, and do not reflect final closeout. The CAPP contracts are available for two years, closeout is expected in a future fiscal year. "Number of Child Care Slots Funded" is an estimate; actual slots are not reported by funding source.

⁶ Per Chapter 24, Statutes of 2020 (SB 98), effective 2021-22, DHCS will provide funds to CDSS in lieu of CDE. CDE administered the CAPP and CCTR programs prior to July 1, 2021.

Table 1. YEPEITA Expenditures FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24 (continued)

| Citation | Department/ Agency | Program | Subgrants | 2022-23 | | | | 2023-24 | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|----------------------|------------------------|---|---|----------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R |
| | | | | Amount Deposited | Actual Expenditures | Total Remaining Balance Available for Carryover H+J-K=L | Number of Child Care Slots Funded | Amount Allocated | Year-to-Date Expenditures | Remaining Projected Expenditures | Estimated Year-end Expenditures | Total Remaining Balance Available for Carryover L+N-Q=R |
| RTC 34019 (f)(1) & RTC 34019.01 (a)(1) | DHCS (State Operations) | Other Care Services | Elevate Youth California | \$325,372,000 | \$324,906,000 | \$57,357,000 | - | \$299,646,000 | \$275,436,000 | \$1,314,000 | \$276,750,000 | \$80,253,000 |
| | DHCS (Local Assistance) | Other Care Services | Elevate Youth California | \$76,394,000 | \$76,394,000 | \$1,102,000 | - | \$70,122,000 | \$23,536,767 | \$40,264,083 | \$63,800,850 | \$7,423,150 |
| | DHCS Total | | | \$401,766,000 | \$401,300,000 | \$58,459,000 | - | \$369,768,000 | \$298,972,767 | \$41,578,083 | \$340,550,850 | \$87,676,150 |
| | CDPH | Public and Environmental Health | - | \$12,000,000 | \$12,000,000 | \$0 | - | \$12,000,000 | \$12,000,000 | \$0 | \$12,000,000 | \$0 |
| | CDSS | Welfare Programs & Other Assistance Payments | - | \$292,325,000 | \$292,325,000 | \$1,405,000 | 91,083 | \$268,326,472 | \$191,078,000 | \$55,241,000 | \$246,319,000 | \$23,412,472 |
| | CDE | General Child Development & Alternative Payment | - | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | - | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | CNRA | Administration of Natural Resources Agency | - | \$19,488,000 | \$19,488,000 | \$95,000 | - | \$17,888,431 | \$16,421,000 | \$0 | \$16,421,000 | \$1,562,431 |
| Other Youth Account Department/Agency Total | | | | \$323,813,000 | \$323,813,000 | \$1,500,000 | 91,083 | \$298,214,903 | \$219,499,000 | \$55,241,000 | \$274,740,000 | \$24,974,903 |

CURRENT PROGRAMMATIC STATUS

California Department of Health Care Services

The funds in the YEPEITA are administered by DHCS and are designated for programs aimed at educating youth about substance use, preventing substance use disorders, and mitigating the harm associated with substance use. The programs are required to emphasize accurate education, effective prevention, early intervention, school retention, and timely treatment services for youth, their families, and caregivers.

Proposition 64 Advisory Group

Pursuant to RTC 34019(f)(1)(O), DHCS established the Prop 64 Advisory Group (Prop 64 AG) in August 2019. The Prop 64 AG focuses on identifying emerging trends in youth substance use, offering recommendations to DHCS on best practices for youth substance use prevention, and providing feedback on the assessment, implementation, and evaluation of YEPEITA-funded programs. It is comprised of youth advocates, public health and behavioral health field experts, physicians, and other youth-serving entities.

Elevate Youth California

The EYC program was formed through a series of Prop 64 AG meetings and conceptual framework decisions. The priorities included youth and transition-aged youth, implementing three-year project cycles for grantees, and developing a long-term strategy that focuses on youth civic engagement, peer support, and mentoring approaches that address the social determinants of health and the root causes of substance use.

EYC is a statewide SUD prevention program investing in youth leadership and civic engagement for youth of color and 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (or Ally)) focusing on youth ages 12 to 26 living in communities disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs. The EYC program provides competitive grants to youth-serving, community-based, and Tribal organizations. DHCS contracts with The Center to implement the EYC Youth SUD Prevention Program. The Center also provides technical assistance and training to EYC program grantees.

The EYC program is grounded in social justice and broadening positive youth development by addressing social determinants of health, such as structural racism, neighborhood safety and health equity. The EYC program promotes civic engagement and leadership to combat structural inequities, including the criminalization of youth of

color, the school-to-prison pipeline, housing insecurity, inequitable education, and economic opportunities.

DHCS, through a contract with The Center, awarded \$257.6 million to 365 organizations from FY 2020-21 through FY 2023-24. Awarded organizations are required to host at least one youth listening session with their constituency for each year of project implementation to gather direct feedback from impacted youth on project implementation and outcomes.

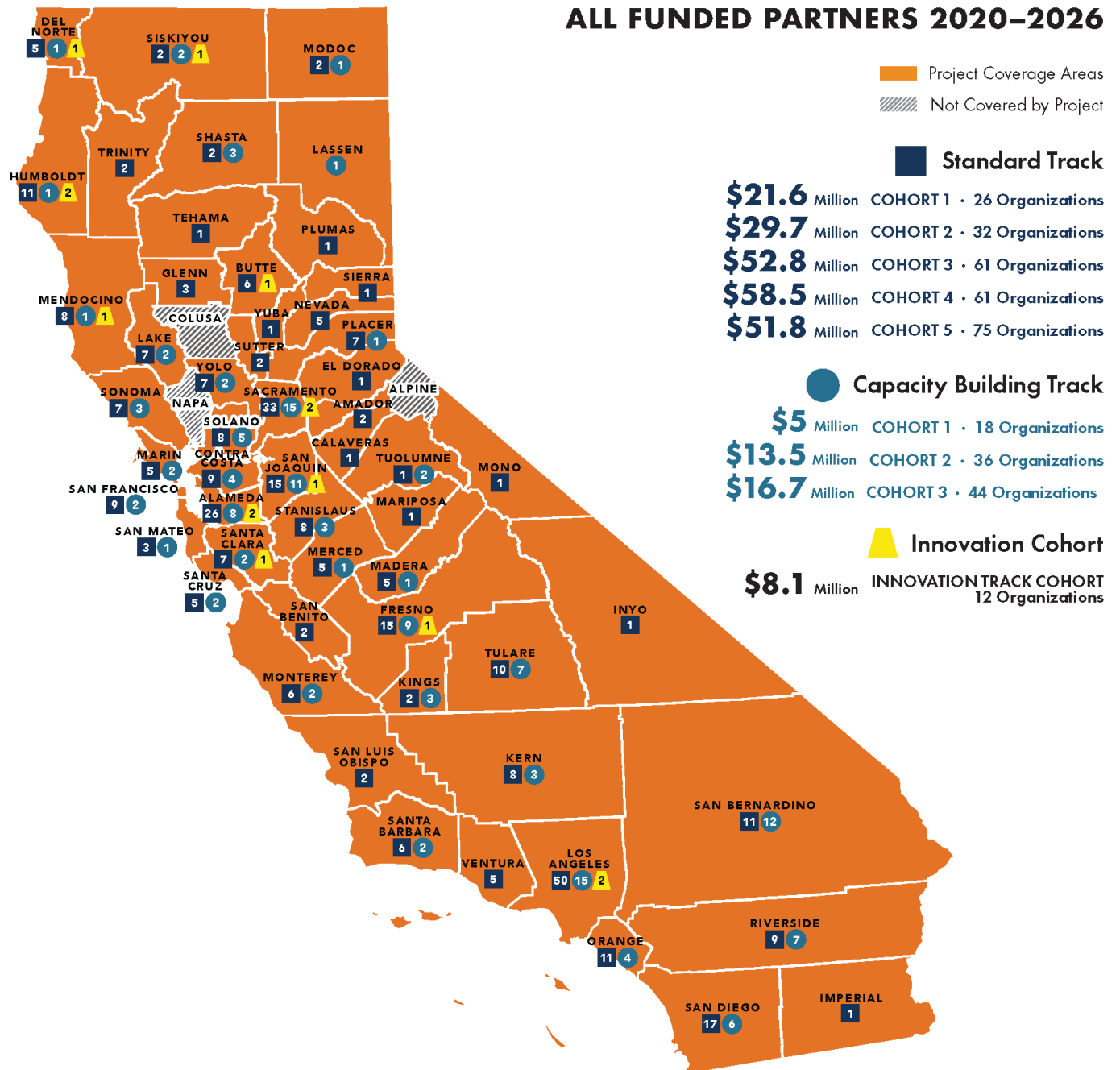
The EYC program began in 2019, and DHCS has since announced and awarded three types of funding rounds. Of those rounds, five cohorts were awarded through the standard-track program focusing on policy, system, and environmental change through youth civic engagement, mentorship, and peer-led support. Three cohorts were awarded through capacity-building grants, with a focus on strengthening the operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational structure of youth-serving community-based and Tribal small, grassroots organizations. One cohort was awarded the innovation track, with a focus on evaluating youth-serving entities with innovative approaches to policy, systems, and environmental change through appreciative inquiry analysis.

The graphic on the next page details the EYC program's wide geographic reach and the type of funding round awarded per county. Each grantee is awarded a three-year contract, with the current cohort ending in 2026.

Graphic 1. Map of All EYC Funded Partners FY 2020-2026



ALL FUNDED PARTNERS 2020-2026



The EYC program has marked measurable progress in supporting SUD prevention, education, and early intervention throughout California's urban and rural areas. As indicated in Table 2 on the next page, 91 percent of EYC youth participants self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Funded partners successfully advanced objectives in their organization-specific work plans among underserved communities. These efforts improved youth outcomes related to SUD prevention, youth leadership development, and peer mentoring.

Between May 2021⁷ and November 2023, EYC-funded partners engaged approximately 89,700 unique youth participants aged 12 to 26 in EYC programming, with a majority (62%) of youth self-identifying as being between the ages of 12 to 17. During this period, about 68,900 prevention program events were held, with a total attendance of approximately 608,200 participants. This figure includes individuals who attended multiple events, as well as other attendees such as parents and community members.

To prioritize health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EYC program transitioned to a remote model. This effort culminated in a statewide technical assistance plan and the distribution of approximately \$74,000 in COVID-19 mini-grants during Round 1, aimed at supporting technological solutions for enhancing youth and family engagement.

From October 2020⁸ to November 2023, approximately 21,300 youth participated in at least 1,000 listening sessions organized by funded community-based and Tribal organizations. Additionally, between October 2020 and November 2023, the Center provided EYC-funded partners with over 12,000 hours of capacity-building activities.

Furthermore, from May 2021 to November 2023, EYC-funded partners engaged about 8,300 new diverse stakeholders.

⁷ Round 1 Standard Track includes data beginning on July 1, 2021. Rounds 2-4 include data beginning on May 16, 2021.

⁸ Data from Annual Report 2021 spans October 2020 to November 2021.

Table 2. Demographics of all EYC participants engaged between May 2021 and November 2023.⁹⁻¹⁰

| Age | Count | Percentage of Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Ages 12-17 | 55,906 | 62% |
| Ages 18-20 | 8,389 | 9% |
| Ages 21-26 | 7,709 | 9% |
| Age unknown | 17,662 | 20% |
| Total | 89,727 | 100% |
| Race/ethnicity | Count | Percentage of Total |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 10,293 | 11.5% |
| Asian | 6,855 | 7.6% |
| Black or African American | 11,303 | 12.6% |
| Hispanic, Latino/a or Spanish Origin | 27,480 | 30.6% |
| Middle Eastern or North African | 544 | 0.6% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 856 | 1% |
| White | 6,006 | 6.7% |
| Multiracial | 4,086 | 5% |
| Another race/ethnicity not listed | 579 | 0.6% |
| Race/ethnicity unknown | 21,837 | 24.3% |
| Total | 89,839 | 100% |
| Gender Identity | Count | Percentage of Total |
| Females | 36,165 | 40% |
| Males | 28,606 | 32% |
| Non-Binary/Gender Non-conforming | 3,027 | 3% |
| Prefer to self-define | 638 | 1% |
| Prefer not to state | 510 | 1% |
| Gender unknown | 20,781 | 23% |
| Total | 89,727 | 100% |
| Other | Count | Percentage of Total |
| 2S/LGBTQ+ Identity ¹¹ | 10,469 | 11.7% |

⁹ Please see Footnote 7 on page 11.

¹⁰ Number of participant responses may vary due to self-reporting.

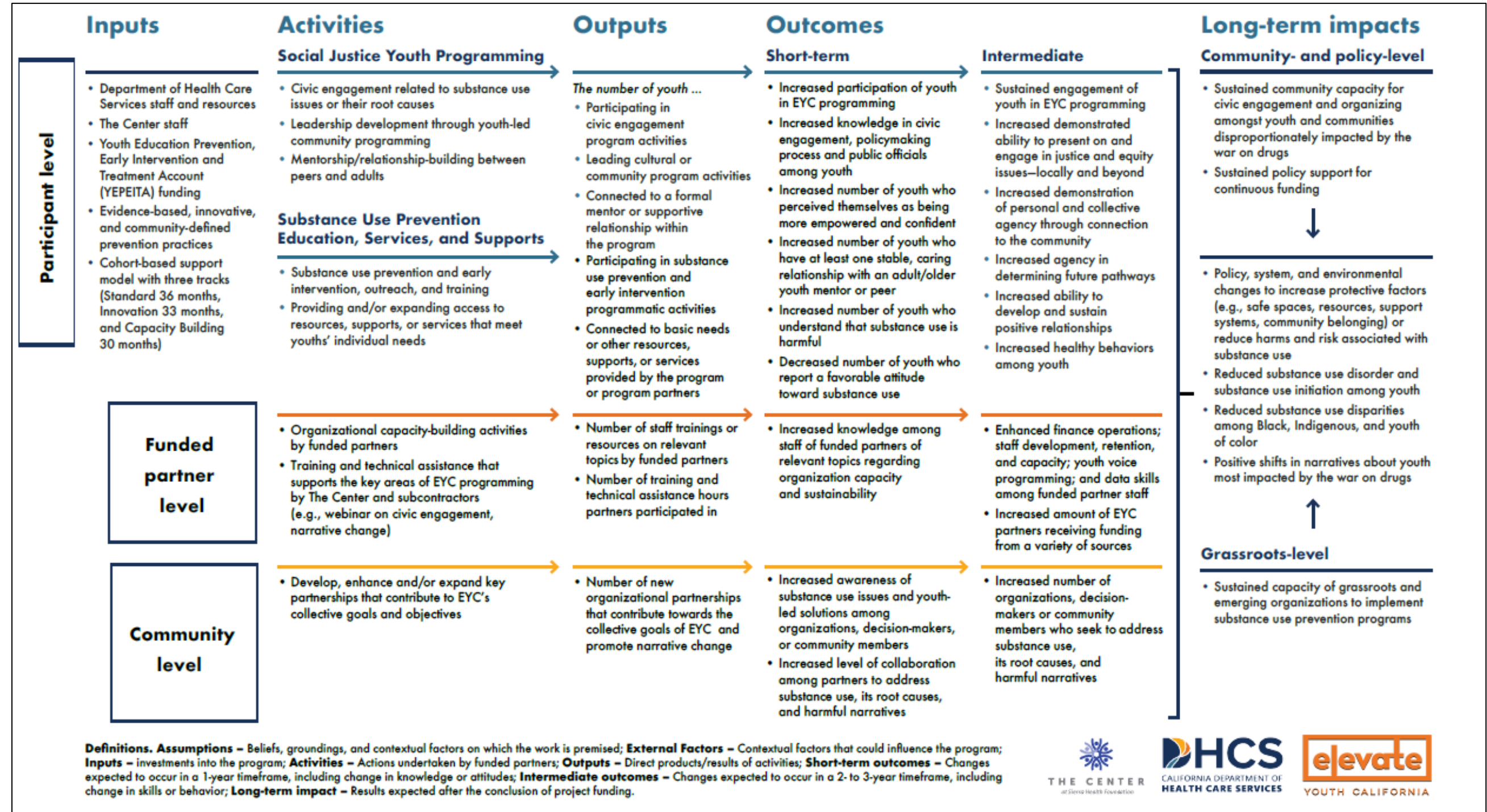
¹¹ Out of the 89,727 participants, 10,469 (or 11.7 percent) indicated that they identify as 2S/LGBTQ+, which includes two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, and additional identities used by community members.

A formal evaluation of the EYC program is currently underway. This evaluation has been developed in collaboration with DHCS, The Center, and the Proposition 64 Advisory Group. The final evaluation report will detail how funded partners are implementing EYC programming and the overall lessons learned, successes, and challenges faced. It will highlight the strategies used by funded partners to promote positive outcomes in youth substance use prevention and other areas related to policy, systems, and environmental changes. Additionally, the report will address the strategies used to build organizational capacity.

The final evaluation report will also reference the progress made in data monitoring and reporting by funded partners, present findings from all rounds of data collection involving both partners and youth, identify recurring themes from learning events, and explain how these lessons learned can support funded partners in the future.

The measures and theory of change for this evaluation were presented to the Prop 64 Advisory Group, and the logic model was finalized and presented to the EYC grantees at this year's regional technical assistance and training forums. See Graphic 2 on the next page for the sample logic model.

Graphic 2. EYC Logic Model



INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT PROGRAMMATIC STATUS

California Department of Social Services

Effective July 1, 2021, the two programs referenced below were transferred from the CDE to CDSS. As a result, in FY 2021-22, a new IA with CDSS was initiated. The YEPEITA-funded programs that were transferred from CDE to CDSS are the California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP) and the General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR). The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (The Bridge Program) has been housed within CDSS since its inception.

CDSS, through an IA with DHCS, receives YEPEITA funds to increase subsidized childcare and development vouchers to children, birth to age 13, pursuant to the Early Childhood Development Services Act of 2020 (commencing with Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 10203). CDSS is responsible for administering the CAPP, CCTR, and the Bridge Program and overseeing other functions including providing settings, opportunities, and guidance for family engagement, child health, prevention of substance use, and a framework for the expansion of childcare and development services for children birth to age thirteen.

Program Goals and Objectives

California Alternative Payment Program (Voucher-based)

The objective of the CAPP initiative is to broaden and improve its services throughout the state. Alternative payment programs use federal and state funding to provide vouchers for eligible low-income families. CAPP agencies help families enrolled in CalWORKs Child Care or CAPP to arrange childcare services and make payments for those services directly to the childcare provider selected by the family.

General Child Care and Development Programs (Direct Service)

The goal of the CCTR is to expand full-day, full-year CCTR services statewide. CCTR programs are state and federally funded programs that use centers and Family Child Care Home Education Networks operated or administered by either public, private, or local educational agencies. These contractors provide families with a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system of childcare and development services for children from infancy to 13 years of age, and older children with exceptional needs as well.

Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Voucher-based)

The goals of The Bridge Program are to increase the number of foster children successfully placed in home-based family care settings, increase placement stability, increase the capacity of childcare providers to meet the needs of foster children in their care, and maximize funding to support the childcare needs of eligible families.

Program Activities

CCTR

CDSS announced 113 awardees for a total of approximately \$115 million for the FY 2021-22 award cycle. CDSS released another CCTR RFA for FY 2022-23 and announced 107¹² awardees for a total of approximately \$115 million.

The Bridge Program and CAPP

The CDSS released an Allocation Letter for The Bridge Program and the CAPP in 2021-22. Support was offered to counties and contractors to assist families in enrolling during the 2020 public health emergency.

Collaborative Program Activities

CDSS conducted 4 contractor training webinars, 16 stakeholder presentations and released 7 Child Care Bulletins for contractors implementing programs. The Bridge Program transitioned 3,579 children to ongoing childcare programs, while the CAPP served 183,142 children in diverse settings, supported by increased slots and funding. CDSS has initiated site visits to licensed childcare centers and family childcare homes that provide YEPEITA-funded services.

Table 3. YEPEITA Child Care Program Funding by Program Type*

| Program Funding | FY 2021-22 | FY 2022-23 | FY 2023-24 |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Funding Total | \$292,325,000 | \$292,325,000 | \$246,319,000 |
| CAPP | \$173,835,000 | \$173,835,000 | \$173,835,000 |
| CCTR | \$114,740,000 | \$114,740,000 | \$68,734,000 |
| The Bridge Program | \$3,750,000 | \$3,750,000 | \$3,750,000 |

¹² Three agencies were awarded in a second iteration of the application process. A total of 104 agencies were awarded, and three of them were offered a second award.

Table 4. Number of YEPEITA Funded Vouchers by Program Type*

| Program Type | Vouchers Funded FY 2021-22 | Vouchers Funded FY 2022-23 | Vouchers Funded FY 2023-24 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CAPP | 151,784 | 67,362 | 183,142 |
| CCTR | 22,319 | 22,470 | 47,300 |
| The Bridge Program | 1,249 | 1,251 | 3,579 |

***Note:** CDSS did not retain any of the YEPEITA funds for overhead/administrative costs, CAPPs are allowed to retain 17.5 percent of the expenditures to cover the administrative and support costs related to the additional vouchers. The estimated number of vouchers paid was self-reported by CDSS and calculated based on the assumption that 82.5 percent of the total reported expenditures were used to increase early learning and care subsidies and divided by each CAPP's average cost of care. Therefore, the reported number of subsidized vouchers supported with YEPEITA funds is an estimate; there is no specific data captured for the individual number of slots associated with YEPEITA funds. Reported expenditures are point-in-time and subject to change as a result of the contract closeout process.

California Department of Public Health

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) protects the public's health in the State and helps shape positive health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. The CDPH, Substance, and Addiction Prevention Branch (SAPB) receives YEPEITA funds, through an IA with DHCS, to administer the California Youth Cannabis Prevention Initiative, which includes the following components:

- » California Cannabis Surveillance System (CCSS): A public health data collection and analysis system for youth and adult cannabis use; the legal, social, and environmental impacts; and health outcomes.
- » Cannabis Education and Youth Prevention Program (CEYPP): Provides health education and prevention to reduce the negative impacts and consequences of cannabis use through state and local partnerships, public awareness, and social marketing campaigns.

The CDPH commenced or completed the following project deliverables:

- » Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation: CDPH conducted research and evaluation for the planning, implementation, and tracking of health communication and social marketing activities. As a result of the California Youth Prevention

Initiative, the SAPB developed and published fact sheets, infographics, data dashboards, and a data brief related to the trends and impact of cannabis use among youth and adults, which can be found on the [CDPH California Cannabis Surveillance System public webpage](#).

- » Health Education and Promotion/Outreach: The SAPB has presented information about the California Youth Cannabis Initiative to county public health offices, community-based organizations, and statewide workgroups. The SAPB has created new cannabis pages on the CDPH website, which include data, public awareness resources, and cannabis education materials. The SAPB has also developed resource material for the "Let's Talk Cannabis" and "Mind Over Marijuana" campaigns. These campaigns have been shared through statewide webinars, podcasts, and social media engagement.
- » Media Health Communications and Social Marketing Campaign: In January 2023, CDPH released the Youth Cannabis Education and Prevention Media Campaign, featuring "Mind Over Marijuana" for youth ages 13 to 17 and "Let's Talk Cannabis" for parents and guardians. The campaign was paired with websites containing resources for youth, parents, guardians, and youth mentors. Resources include fact sheets and toolkits located on the [CDPH website](#) in English and Spanish. CDPH released a Request for Proposal in January 2025 to procure the next advertising and public relations contractor(s) for the statewide media campaign.
- » Training and Technical Assistance (TTA): CDPH provided training, consultation, and technical support to integrate health communication and social marketing best practices among public health professionals, healthcare providers, and community health workers/promoters. As part of the CEYPP Media Campaign's public relations efforts, media interviews were completed.
- » Community Engagement: CDPH, through the California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP) and SAPB, conducted youth cannabis use surveys; hosted Youth Summits in 2022 and 2023 to teach youth and adult allies about substance use prevention and address topics like vaping, community change, partnerships, diversity, gambling, mental health, self-care, LGBTQ+, and mentorships; launched the bilingual "We Got This" campaign; and held a Leadership Training Institute for its chapters in 2022, 2023, and 2024 focused on survey development, youth engagement, environmental prevention, and an overview of program development, implementation, and evaluation.

- » Additionally, in May 2023, SAPB funded five Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) to enhance youth cannabis education; prevention; and policy, system, and environmental strategies in their communities. Over the first grant year, LHJs enhanced community engagement, introduced cannabis education and alternatives to suspension programs in local schools, and advanced various policy projects. Several of the programs launched the Cannabis Smart Talk initiative. Recently, SAPB partnered with Stanford REACH Lab to provide tailored training on the SMART Talk: Cannabis Prevention & Awareness Curriculum, cannabis information, and youth engagement.

California Natural Resources Agency

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) oversees and supports more than 26 distinct departments, conservancies, and commissions. CNRA leads efforts to steward California's natural environment and advance the Governor's key priorities.

The CNRA, through an IA with DHCS, funds competitive Youth Community Access (YCA) Grants to give youth, ages birth to 26 years, access to natural or cultural resources with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities. This includes but is not limited to, community education and recreational amenities to support youth substance use prevention and early intervention. Five (5) percent of the YEPEITA fund is allocated to support the CNRA's YCA program.

Grant Amounts: The maximum award for an individual YCA project is \$300,000, and the minimum award is \$25,000.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include local, state, and federal agencies; nonprofit organizations; federally recognized Native American tribes; or non-federally recognized California Native American tribes listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

Grant Awards: For Round 1 of the YCA grant program, the CNRA awarded 65 grants, while 71 grants were awarded for Round 2. All awarded projects are located within and provide benefits to underserved and low-income communities. On August 14, 2024, the solicitation for Round 3 of the YCA grant program closed. In total, the CNRA received approximately 450 proposals requesting nearly \$140 million – a record response. Awards are anticipated to be announced in Fall 2025.

Program Achievements: The YCA program is a resource to address and repair the multi-generational community impacts of the war on drugs by providing youth with beneficial access to cultural and natural resources. Through the program, youth gain opportunities

to develop leadership skills, participate in career development and job training activities, and learn about history and culture. These positive learning experiences promote mental and physical well-being, self-confidence, and new skills among youth; and this knowledge encourages youth to make healthy choices during and beyond the program.

Some notable project outcomes achieved as of June 30, 2023, include:

- » Eight clean vehicles were acquired to provide youth access to cultural and natural resources.
- » Approximately 371 youth participants were provided a paid employment or internship opportunity.
- » Approximately 660 youth workshops, camps, mentorship programs, field trips, and similar activities were facilitated by YCA grantees statewide.
- » Approximately 8,273 total youth were provided access to cultural and natural resources.

CONCLUSION

Over the past three fiscal years (FYs), YEPEITA funds across DHCS, CDSS, CDPH, and CNRA supported culturally, and contextually relevant efforts focused on youth substance use education, prevention, and early intervention.

DHCS, through a contract with The Center, awarded \$257.6 million to community-based and Tribal organizations focused on youth substance use in underserved populations and foster youth civic engagement and mentoring opportunities. Led by DHCS, the Proposition 64 Advisory Group, composed of youth advocates and public health experts, provided guidance on emerging substance use trends and ensured YEPEITA-funded programs were responsive to the needs of California's youth.

CDSS expanded subsidized childcare and vouchers through the California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP), California Center-Based Program (CCTR), and the Bridge Program. These programs increased access to childcare for low-income families, foster children, and children with exceptional needs.

CDPH's California Youth Cannabis Prevention Initiative utilized a combination of surveillance, public awareness campaigns, and direct community engagement to address youth cannabis use. Through comprehensive health communication strategies, research, and collaboration with local health jurisdictions, CDPH advanced cannabis education while empowering communities to implement youth-centered initiatives and interventions.

CNRA's YCA Grants provided underserved and low-income youth with access to natural and cultural resources. By facilitating educational opportunities and leadership development, grantees addressed long-standing disparities while contributing to substance use prevention and overall youth well-being. The program created employment opportunities, mentorship, and access to resources.

Together, these programs highlight the importance of evidence-based, community-driven approaches in addressing youth substance use and promoting healthier outcomes for California's communities. The ongoing partnerships between state agencies, community-based organizations, and tribal entities have established a sustainable framework for fostering youth resilience, improving public health outcomes, and ensuring equitable access to critical prevention resources throughout California.

APPENDIX A. NUMBER OF FUNDED EYC PARTNERS IN EACH TRACK BY COUNTY FY 2020-2026

| County | Standard | Capacity Building | Innovation |
|--------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Alameda | 26 | 8 | 2 |
| Alpine | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Amador | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Butte | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| Calaveras | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Colusa | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Contra Costa | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| Del Norte | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| El Dorado | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fresno | 15 | 9 | 1 |
| Glenn | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Humboldt | 11 | 1 | 2 |
| Imperial | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Inyo | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kern | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| Kings | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Lake | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Lassen | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Los Angeles | 50 | 15 | 2 |
| Madera | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Marin | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Mariposa | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mendocino | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Merced | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Modoc | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Mono | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Monterey | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Napa | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nevada | 5 | 0 | 0 |

| County | Standard | Capacity Building | Innovation |
|-----------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Orange | 11 | 4 | 0 |
| Placer | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Plumas | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Riverside | 9 | 7 | 0 |
| Sacramento | 33 | 15 | 2 |
| San Benito | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| San Bernardino | 11 | 12 | 0 |
| San Diego | 17 | 6 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| San Joaquin | 15 | 11 | 1 |
| San Luis Obispo | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| San Mateo | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Santa Barbara | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Santa Clara | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| Santa Cruz | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| Shasta | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Sierra | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Siskiyou | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Solano | 8 | 5 | 0 |
| Sonoma | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| Stanislaus | 8 | 3 | 0 |
| Sutter | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tehama | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Trinity | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Tulare | 10 | 7 | 0 |
| Tuolumne | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Ventura | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Yolo | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Yuba | 1 | 0 | 0 |