



MADERA COUNTY GRAND JURY

P.O. Box 534, Madera, CA 93639



Change Is In Their Hands

Release Date: May 18, 2026

Final Report 2526-04

Prepared by the

2025-2026 Madera County Grand Jury



Hand-painted mural located at MCJDF

SUMMARY

The Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility (MCJDF) is a state and federally funded rehabilitation facility charged with housing juvenile detainees 12-25 years of age. It is located at 28219 Ave 14, Madera, CA 93638. Detainment of juveniles at the detention facility occurs through criminal arrests, adjudication hearings, and Child Protective Services or other informal dispositions. Although crimes of juvenile detainees vary in degree, juvenile offenders are detained at MCJDF under Proposition 57 (Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016). The MCJDF is premised on a rehabilitative versus punishment-based criminal justice system. Participation in rehabilitation programs offered through MCJDF may result in 15% or more sentencing reductions. Restorative justice programs between the victim and offender are currently not incorporated into MCJDF's rehabilitation system.

The Madera County Grand Jury (MCGJ) found that the MCJDF education programs

were well organized. The MCJDF has advanced its programs to include online studies at Madera Community College and Fresno State University.

The MCGJ also found that the rehabilitation welding tradesmen courses have not been implemented, and the woodshop and on-grounds horticulture program was at limited functionality.

Overall, the collaborative effort to operate and oversee the juvenile facility creates a clear and reasonable expectation within the community that public safety will be upheld at every stage of detention, rehabilitation, and release.

GLOSSARY

BSCC - Board of State and Community Corrections

JDPS - Juvenile Detention Profile Survey

MCGJ - Madera County Grand Jury

MCJDF - Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility

PROP 57 - Proposition 57 (Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016)

YCO - Youth Correctional Officer

BACKGROUND

Each year, pursuant to California Penal Code §919 (a)(b), the California Grand Juries are mandated to inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons, jails, and juvenile detention facilities within the county and to report on their findings.

The 2025-2026 MCGJ conducted the annually mandated inspection of the MCJDF on December 9, 2025. This report focuses on the management, overall funding, and rehabilitation function of the MCJDF.

The original facility in the 1940's was on Lewis Street. It was completed in 1962 for \$323,151. The original design of the facility was to house up to 21 juvenile detainees.

The MCJDF is managed and operated by the Madera County Probation Department. Juvenile sentencing and rehabilitation recommendations, as well as motions to transfer cases to adult court, are also managed and processed through the probation department. For more information concerning management of the MCJDF, please visit: [JSD](#).

The MCJDF operates independently and in conjunction with other entities within Madera County, including the Correctional Academy Program and Secure Track. The Madera Superior Court Juvenile Division is also part of Madera County's juvenile justice system, responsible for overseeing delinquency and dependency case proceedings.

Although this report does not focus on specifics of sentencing and detainment of juveniles, a general overview is necessary in order to place into context the MCJDF rehabilitation function as it correlates to their funding sources, budget, facility agendas, and more to their rehabilitative partnerships. Some of the legislative elements include:

PROP 57 was a ballot initiative passed in support of criminal justice reform. Summarily, PROP 57 offered two distinct legislative provisions, as follows:

- allows defendants to be tried in juvenile court rather than adult court.
- allows juveniles 15% or more credit sentence reduction by way of participation in rehabilitation programs and opportunities.

Specific information on PROP 57 may be located at:

<https://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2016/general/en/pdf/text-proposed-laws.pdf#prop57>

DISCUSSION

MCGJ were welcomed by the facility's Lieutenant and Commander and were accommodated with a full-access inspection of the detention facility. On-site areas toured by the MCGJ included: the detained youth-family visiting center (including the additional attorney-client chambers), sallyport and exterior prison transport area, intake scanning, search and dress area, the medical clinic, riot gear room, canteen, video surveillance and monitoring room, behavioral health clinician's office, exercise room, two of the five housing units, classrooms and laundromat. The inspection also included two concrete recreation areas, the outdoor garden, and the workshop. The MCGJ interviewed the Lieutenant and Corporal, as well as two of the on-site educators.

Jurors also had the opportunity to meet with the MCJDF nurse practitioner and behavioral health clinician, as well as some of the detained juveniles. Upon arrival, jurors received for review a copy of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Comprehensive Inspection report dated August 1, 2025. Also received were written responses to commonly asked questions submitted on behalf of the MCGJ. At the end of the inspection, jurors had an additional question and answer segment with the Lieutenant.

The MCGJ finds that from 2023-2025, the MCJDF added three new employment positions while simultaneously eliminating or reducing funding for contracted services, re-entry services, infrastructure improvement and equipment, and operating expenses.

METHODOLOGY

- On-Site inspection of the MCJDF
- Review of the MCGJ report dated April 9, 2025

- Reviewed MCJDF written personnel responses
- Review of BSCC Comprehensive Inspection report dated August 1, 2025
- Review of the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016
- PROP 57 Official Voter Information Guide from the California Secretary of State
- Review of PROP 57 Analysis by the Legislative Analyst
- Review of the 2023-2025 Madera County Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan
- Review of California Rules of Court Rule 5.806
- Review of the relevant Welfare and Institutions Code
- PROP 57 Sentencing Matrix 707(b)

MCJDF offers an extensive variety of educational endeavours with four full-time on-site teachers as well as teacher's assistants. They offer an individually customized curriculum to suit each juvenile's learning needs. There is also one special needs educator who offers educational instruction to juveniles with Individualized Education Program and 405 education plans. Educational instruction is offered year-round for juveniles 12-25 years of age. MCJDF works closely with the Madera Workforce Development Center to provide training and job readiness. The Leaders are Readers rehabilitation program also helps to encourage juveniles in practicing their journaling and improving their reading and writing skills.

Individualized support for vocational skills and counseling services is also offered through MCJDF. Educational opportunities at the juvenile facility now include online classes at Madera Community College and Fresno State University.

MCJDF employs approximately 40 personnel, including 28 line staff, six Corporals, four Sergeants, one Lieutenant, and one Commander. Staffing also includes one full-time nurse practitioner, behavioral health and mental health employees, five educators, as

well as teacher's assistants. There is one Youth Correctional Officer (YCO) assigned for every ten juvenile detainees during the day and one YCO assigned for every 30 juvenile detainees during the night. The MCJDF works in conjunction with one delegated juvenile court judge and one juvenile court parole officer.

Employees at MCJDF are required to complete 24 hours of training each year, including trauma-informed care, suicide prevention and mental health awareness, Prison Rape Elimination Act, arrest and control, range firearms and baton training for Transport Officers, as well as basic training for the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. The MCJDF offers competitive pay and benefit incentives and is home to third-generation career employees. MCJDF experiences very little employment turnover.

The MCJDF functions on a \$9,644,500 yearly operating budget, including a \$1,000,000 federally approved spending grant. The MCGJ finds that from 2023-2025, the MCJDF added three new employment positions, including one Lieutenant and two YCOs. The MCJDF reduced funding for contracting services and eliminated funding for infrastructure, equipment, and operating expenses. For more information on the funding and rehabilitation function of MCJDF, please visit:

https://www.ocrcr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/34https6/2024/05/Madera-2023-JJRBG-County-Plan_Redacted.pdf

Budget Variations

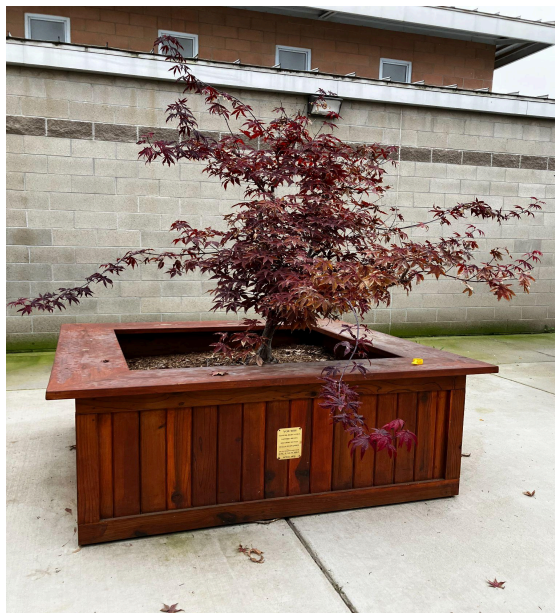
2023-2024 vs. 2024-2025

Category	2023–2024	2024–2025	\$ Change	% Change
YCO II	\$121,388	\$372,000	+\$250,612	+206.4%
Lieutenant	—	\$162,000	+\$162,000	—
Probation Program Specialist	\$92,341	\$100,000	+\$7,659	+8.3%
Contracted Services	\$75,553	\$73,000	–\$2,553	–3.4%
Re-Entry Services	\$50,553	\$0	–\$50,553	–100%
Infrastructure & Equipment	\$10,165	—	–\$10,165	—
Operating Expenses	\$180,755	—	–\$180,755	—

The MCJDF has a maximum capacity of 70 juvenile detainees. During the MCGJ tour, there were 37 juvenile detainees, with the youngest detainee being 14 years of age. The MCGJ inspected two of the five housing quarters and found they were combined with both male and female juvenile detainees. Integrated housing units share a common communal social space and classroom, with personal cells. Units were tidy and organized. Hygiene items, upgraded shower shoes, and clothing items were available to juvenile detainees through the canteen. The most severe offenders were housed in a

separate housing unit. Juvenile detainees displayed polite etiquette and were focused on their coursework, reading, and poetry. There were no reported incidents during the MCGJ inspection. Listed below are the variations of juvenile detainment the MCGJ observed:

- Detainment of disabled youth
- Detainment of juvenile(s) at risk for human trafficking
- Co-ed juvenile detainment



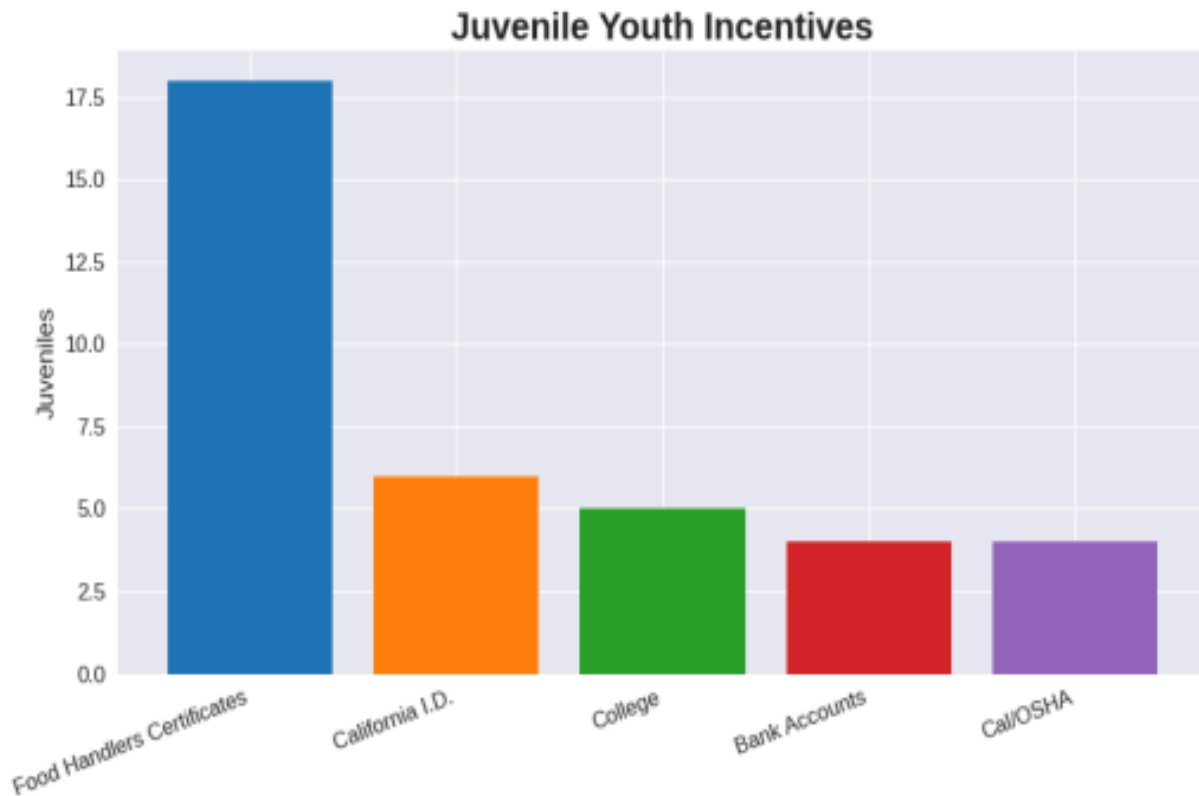
Rehabilitation project crafted by juvenile detainees

The MCJDF offers a variety of other evidence-based rehabilitation treatment programs for juveniles. Juvenile rehabilitation is closely monitored through the Secure Track System. Juveniles participate in religious programs, Madera County Workforce Development Center, and advanced educational programs. Participation in rehabilitation programs allow juveniles to earn credit sentence reductions. Rehabilitation programs consist of Master Gardeners where juvenile detainees learn horticulture processes through Madera Community College and Three Sisters Gardens. The MCGJ found

there were raised garden beds as part of MCJDF’s horticultural program.

The MCGJ also visited the woodworking shop. It was well organized and the quality woodwork, such as a handcrafted Star of David wood sculpture, demonstrated great craftsmanship potential. The MCGJ found that plans to incorporate welding trade courses have not yet been implemented, and the woodworking shop appears not to be in regular or ongoing trade use.

Other rehabilitative programs available to juvenile detainees include access to the Leaders Program, Edovo tablets, meet and greets, and youth of the month rehabilitative programs. Juvenile detainees are offered opportunities for California Occupational Safety and Health Administration training, food handlers safety certificates, college education, and California drivers licenses. Juvenile detainees are also granted access to privately held bank accounts.



FINDINGS

F1. The MCGJ finds that the MCJDF education programs were well organized.

F2. MCGJ finds that plans to incorporate welding tradesmen courses have not been implemented, and only a fraction of the detention facilities' yard space was being utilized for agricultural or other vocational functions. The MCGJ also finds the woodworking shop was not in ongoing trade use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. MCGJ recommends that MCJDF continue with their educational programs with local colleges.

R2. MCGJ recommends improved utilization of the agricultural, welding, and woodworking rehabilitation functions.

REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

The following response is required pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05 within 90 days from the following:

Board of Supervisors
200 West Fourth Street
Madera, CA 93637

INVITED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Madera County Grand Jury requests responses as follows within 60 days:

Madera County Chief Probation Officer
300 South G Street, Suite 100
Madera, CA 93637

Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Madera County Juvenile Justice Commission
300 South G Street, Suite 100
Madera, CA 93637

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Civil Grand Jury. The California State Legislature has stated that it intends the provisions of Penal Code Section 939 prohibiting disclosure of witness identities to encourage full candor in testimony in Grand Jury investigations by protecting the privacy and confidentiality of those who participate in any Civil Grand Jury investigation.