

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY 2021 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Application

Regular Session

DATE OF MEETING: May 12, 2020

BUDGET IMPACT: \$330,854 - CJCC Funding

FUNDING SOURCE:

- () Annual
- () Capital
- (X) CJCC Funding - \$330,854
- () SPLOST
- () TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Request approval for the Chairman to sign all grant application documents and allow staff to submit the executed grant application to the CJCC for consideration.

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: In 2011, the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform was formed to study Georgia's criminal justice system and was charged by Governor Nathan Deal with recommending policy changes. In keeping with Governor Deal's goal of increasing public safety through a more effective juvenile system, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and the Juvenile Justice Incentive Funding Committee has issued requests for proposals seeking local juvenile justice projects that aim to reduce the number of youth served out of home. This goal can be realized by using available grant funds to develop programs that address the needs of youth who are typically committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Since July 2013, Lowndes County has been awarded funding to implement evidence based diversion programs through the Juvenile Court System which provide the Judge alternatives to confinement for offending youth which appear before the court. Since their implementation beginning in October 2013, the Juvenile Court has utilized these programs to refer hundreds of offending youth to either family therapy or group counseling programs as opposed to sending them off to a youth detention center. This has resulted in a costs savings to taxpayers but more importantly has hopefully been beneficial to the youths and their families by providing them with the guidance and direction they need to steer them back on a positive track and keep them from a lifetime in and out of the judicial system.

The CJCC has recently announced the availability of funding for the Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Cycle. The current funding opportunity allows applicants that were previously awarded funding to submit a proposal for continuation of their current programs. Based on projected numbers, derived by assessing data from previous years, Lowndes County is proposing to serve 64 youth through these grant funded programs during FY2021. Included as part of the application is an updated Memorandum of Understanding with Evidence Based Associates as the service provider for implementation of services and reporting requirements.

There will be no direct budget impact to Lowndes County as the grant covers 100% of the costs for program implementation up to the maximum grant award amount. However, the grant is a reimbursement grant which means that all costs associated with program implementation will be paid by Lowndes County and will be reimbursed upon the submission of appropriate documentation to the CJCC.