



**PeaceWay Counseling & Mediation Services, Inc.**  
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### III. Project goals:

A. **Goals of the proposed project:** The goals of this program are to enhance the capacity of Lowndes County Juvenile Court systems ability to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors for at-risk youth through the implementation of Strengthening Families Program. Further, the County's goal is to ensure that SFP will be implemented and delivered in full fidelity of the SFP model. These goals will be obtained through the following specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time specified objectives:

1. Lowndes County Juvenile Court will provide SFP programming in collaboration with PeaceWay Counseling and Mediation Services, Inc. (SFP service provider), for the duration of the grant.
2. Lowndes County, and PeaceWay Counseling & Mediation Services, Inc. will have a minimum of a 75% completion rate for all youth and families enrolled in the SFP program.

In regards to specific SFP outcomes and SFP's ability to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors, a multi-method and multi-informant assessment strategy will be used for the process and outcome evaluation and includes three primary interview instrument batteries measuring: 1) parent, 2) child, 3) therapist/trainer report to improve outcome validity. The process evaluation includes at least two forms: the Family Attendance Form, including the attendance, participation, and homework completion for each session for each participant, and 2) a Group Leader (trainer or therapist) Session Rating for each session that documents any changes that the leaders made in the sessions, their satisfaction with the session, how well the families understood the material, and any suggestions for improvement. Parents and children attend a Pre-Program Enrollment and Pre-test Session, prior to beginning Session #1. This session begins with an introduction to the program, description of contents of program, incentives to be provided, benefits and risks of enrollment to parents and children, and Informed Consent Forms for the parents to sign. Once the consent to participate in the evaluation are completed, the parents and children are separated and either interviewed individually or in groups by having the trainers, site coordinator, and evaluation staff read the questions while the clients confidentially mark their answers. The answers can be marked directly on the questionnaires or on optical scan answer sheets. After the ending of the program, the families are post-tested. The same instruments are used for the pre-test and post-test.

Parents and the group trainers will complete data on only one target child (the one in the age group with the most problems), but all children complete the Children's Interview Questionnaire. The child is not told that they are the "target child" for the purposes of the evaluation. This cuts the testing burden as it could be difficult for tests to be collected from parents on all their children. If both parents or caretakers come, they can rate two children if they have two children. Most of the time, they rate the one "target child". All children in the family are allowed to take the pre-and post-tests (and older siblings) even though the data will not be used in the data analysis for children younger than 9 years of age, because

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