

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY 2026 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant  
Application

DATE OF MEETING: July 22, 2025

Work  
Session/Regular  
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$50,000.00 - All expenditures are paid by Lowndes  
County and reimbursed 100% by the CJCC through the grant.

FUNDING SOURCE:

- ☒ (X) CJCC Funding - \$50,000.00
- ☐ ( ) Capital
- ☐ ( ) N/A
- ☐ ( ) SPLOST
- ☐ ( ) TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval to submit application for FY26 Juvenile Justice  
Delinquency Prevention Grant funding

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HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

In April 2022, Lowndes County was awarded funding through the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant program to implement evidence-based programs and prevention strategies targeting youth who are first-time offenders, diverted from the juvenile justice system, or charged with status offenses and identified as at risk. This initial funding was used to launch the Strengthening Families Program (SFP).

Since that time, Lowndes County has received continuation funding each subsequent grant year and has successfully expanded the program's reach. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) recently announced the availability of an additional round of continuation funding for jurisdictions previously funded under this program.

Lowndes County is eligible to apply for up to \$50,000.00 in continuation funding and intends to request the full amount. This funding will support the implementation of two (2) full SFP cohorts, an increase from the single cohort funded through the initial grant award. Each cohort serves a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of twelve (12) youth and their families.

Since the inception of the program, Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services has served as the contracted service provider. They have successfully completed the first cohort for the current grant cycle, and the second cohort is currently underway. Peaceway has expressed interest in continuing to serve in this role for the upcoming grant cycle.

The Strengthening Families Program is a nationally and internationally recognized, evidence-based family skills training program for both high-risk and general population families. The program includes weekly sessions where parents and youth attend separate skills training during the first hour—focusing on parenting, youth life skills, and refusal skills—followed by a joint family practice session during the second hour. The SFP