

Needs Statement

LCJAC serves justice-involved youth (ages 13-17) in Lowndes County. During Jan 1-Jun 30, 2026, the program expects ~10 youth active at any given time (total served 15-20 due to entries/exits). Two local operational gaps limit LCJAC's ability to meet supervision and monitoring expectations: (1) insufficient case-management capacity and (2) inadequate, dedicated drug-testing resources.

Case Management Services (gap)

From July-December 2025, LCJAC used \$2,100 in local match at \$15/hour (\approx 140 hours) to purchase limited case-management coverage. Those funds will be fully expended by Dec 31, 2025, shifting coordination tasks (school/treatment contacts, parent engagement, reminders, transportation/problem-solving, and court preparation) back to the single coordinator. With ~10 active youth, the absence of dedicated hours reduces timely follow-up on violations, slows referrals, and increases the risk that minor issues escalate between hearings. To close this gap, LCJAC seeks \$3,600 to secure ~40 hours per month of case management through June 30, 2026 (\approx 240 hours total) to maintain weekly touchpoints, support drug screening logistics, and enable rapid responses to school/treatment concerns.

2) Drug Testing Supplies (gap)

LCJAC is sharing testing supplies with other programs in the circuit and must secure dedicated onsite supplies. The FY26 operating grant includes no funding for drug-testing supplies. Program standards require two tests per week for approximately 10 active participants, totaling 520 tests over the 26-week period. Contracted lab services requested with this grant will provide one test per participant per week (260 tests total), leaving 260 tests to be completed onsite. Planned LCJAC purchases-250 sixteen-panel urine cups (\$1,312.50) and 200 twelve-panel oral-fluid screens (\$1,110.00), with shipping covered by match-will provide 450 onsite tests, fully covering the onsite requirement and creating a buffer of ~190 onsite tests. This ensures capacity for invalid/adulterated collections, rescheduled windows, and mid-period admissions without interruptions.

3) Laboratory Services (need and rationale)

In addition to onsite supplies, laboratory testing services are necessary to reliably maintain twice-weekly screening. Lab capacity addresses common juvenile barriers-parent/guardian availability, transportation, and scheduling constraints-that can otherwise prevent timely onsite collections. Lab testing also provides confirmations when results are disputed or observed