

Needs Statement

The ability of the Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court (LCJAC) to fund field supervision through the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office is critical to program effectiveness and directly supports the Court's capacity to provide supervision and services at the level indicated by the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model. By aligning supervision intensity with assessed risk, targeting criminogenic needs, and tailoring oversight to individual circumstances, the Court promotes accountability and rehabilitation for youth participants.

In FY26, the Court received \$2,700 through the Operating Grant Award to provide field supervision. However, LCJAC typically expends approximately \$1,500 per quarter on these services, creating a funding gap that threatens the Court's ability to sustain consistent supervision at current levels. With supplemental funding requested through the Law Enforcement Officer Grant, LCJAC will be able to continue providing supervision at the rate of 1-2 field contacts per participant per month.

At present, LCJAC supervises 11 youth participants adjudicated delinquent and assessed at moderate to high risk of re-offending. These youth often present with:

Substance use challenges

Unstable family structures

Poor academic performance

Association with antisocial peers

To address these risks, LCJAC relies on field supervision conducted by the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. Field supervision provides:

Accountability outside of the courtroom

Documentation of curfew and program noncompliance

Reinforcement of school attendance and treatment participation

Increased substance use screening

Positive, structured contact between youth and law enforcement

FY25 program data demonstrate the effectiveness of these services: participants averaged 1 field contact per month, ensuring ongoing compliance monitoring. Violations such as curfew breaches and substance use were detected that would