

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY2027 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Application

DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$374,205.14 - All expenses will be fully reimbursed through the grant

FUNDING SOURCE:

- CJCC Funding
- \$374,205.14
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Authorization to submit FY 2027 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Application

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

Since 2014, Lowndes County has received annual funding through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to support the Juvenile Court in implementing community-based services designed to divert youth offenders from secure detention and commitment. Functional Family Therapy (FFT) has been the primary evidence-based program delivered under this initiative and has consistently demonstrated strong outcomes, including high program completion rates and reductions in recidivism.

For FY 2027, the Lowndes County Juvenile Court proposes to continue this successful intervention by applying for additional CJCC funding through the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program. If awarded, Evidence Based Associates (EBA) will continue to serve as the managing entity, overseeing program implementation, performance monitoring, and compliance with all state reporting requirements, in partnership with Grace Harbour, Inc. as the service provider.

County staff and program stakeholders recently reviewed historical performance data, current referral trends, and caseload projections to assess ongoing service needs. Based on this analysis, maintaining FFT at a similar service level remains the most effective and appropriate strategy for serving Lowndes County's medium-to-high-risk youth population.

Accordingly, staff recommends submission of a grant application requesting \$374,205.14 through the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program to serve 59 youth and their families during FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). This is a fully reimbursable grant that requires Lowndes County to initially cover program costs and receive 100% reimbursement for all eligible expenditures.

OPTIONS: 1. Authorize the Chairman to sign application documents, including a Memorandum of Understanding with Evidence-Based Associates, and for staff to submit the completed application