

1. Program

- a. State the selected evidence-based program.

In its commitment to delivering the most effective and appropriate evidence-based interventions, Lowndes County will implement Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to serve eligible youth and families during the FY2027 grant period. The Lowndes County Juvenile Court will partner with Evidence Based Associates (EBA) to provide FFT as a well-supported, evidence-based diversion program for medium- to high-risk youth who are at risk of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

FFT was selected based on its strong alignment with the needs of Lowndes County's justice-involved youth population and its demonstrated effectiveness in reducing delinquency, recidivism, and reliance on out-of-home placement. As a family-focused, community-based intervention, FFT addresses the underlying drivers of delinquent behavior by improving family functioning, strengthening communication, and increasing youth accountability.

The model's flexible service delivery, including in-home sessions and scheduling that accommodates family needs, has consistently resulted in high engagement and completion rates. By implementing FFT with fidelity, Lowndes County will provide a cost-effective alternative to secure detention and commitment, improving outcomes for youth while enhancing public safety.

2. Statement of Need/Summary

- a. Provide a clear and concise statement of need, including the following:
- i. At-risk population = **26,602**
 - ii. New instances of secure detention (RYDC) = **94**
 - iii. Cases resulting in commitment to DJJ = **13**
 - iv. New instances of confinement in secure juvenile correctional facilities (YDC) = **1**
 - v. Adjudicated Offenses = **111**
 - vi. PDRA Scores = **106**
- b. Brief description of the activities requiring CJCC funds.

Lowndes County continues to experience a steady volume of justice-involved youth, many of whom present moderate to high criminogenic risk factors that, without intervention, increase the likelihood of deeper system involvement, including secure detention and commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). During the most recent reporting period, the County recorded 94 instances of secure detention (RYDC), 13 commitments to DJJ, and 111 adjudicated offenses, reflecting a sustained demand for effective, community-based interventions. Additionally, 106 youth were assessed using the Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment (PDRA), further demonstrating the prevalence of youth requiring structured supervision and targeted services.