

**U.S. Department of Justice Solicitation
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
FY 2024 Local Solicitation-- CFDA #16.738
DeKalb County, Georgia**

Program Narrative



With a population of 764,205, according to most recent Census data, DeKalb County (DeKalb) is the fourth most populated county in the State of Georgia. The population was 691,893 in 2010 indicating a substantial increase in a brief time. As Atlanta and its suburbs increase in population, DeKalb County has become

more urban. DeKalb County is designated as a Metropolitan area and is also included in the Georgia Metropolitan Statistical Area (Atlanta, Sandy Springs, and Marietta). DeKalb County's population resides within a total area of 268.3 square miles. The census data shows an estimated 70% of the population as being minority. Data shows 14% of the overall population living below the federal poverty level and 5.1% unemployment rate in DeKalb County, both significantly higher than the state average in the United States.

Preceded by Fulton and Gwinnett, DeKalb County is the third largest county (square miles) in Georgia, constituting 7.5% of the state's population. It consists of 10% of the city of Atlanta (the East Atlanta portion is in DeKalb County), Decatur (County Seat), Avondale Estates, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Clarkston, Doraville, Lithonia, Pine Lake, Dunwoody, and Stone Mountain. Other census-designated neighborhoods include Belvedere Park, Candler-McAfee, Druid Hills, North Atlanta, North Decatur, North Druid Hills, Panthersville, Redan, Scottdale, and Tucker. Additionally, within DeKalb County and its relative proximity are two (2) airports, several major water work systems, and numerous major highway systems.

The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) established the local JAG Committee made up of government agencies whose primary role was law enforcement and criminal justice. The

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authority of the JAG Committee is to determine law enforcement needs on behalf of the BOC, as the experts in field of criminal justice, and ensuring compliance with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) parameters. As such, the DeKalb County's FY 2024 JAG allocation of \$323,013 will support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on DeKalb County's needs and conditions. The JAG funds will support all components of the criminal justice system, including prevention, community engagement and education, policing, indigent defense, alternatives to prosecution, and courts. JAG funded projects address crime through the provision of services directly to individuals and/or communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, processes, and procedures. The 2024 JAG funds will be used for local initiatives, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, and contractual support for criminal justice activities that will improve or enhance the purposes areas as stated in the solicitation. The funds will be distributed as follows:

Agency	Purpose Area	JAG allocation	Project Title
District Attorney	Prevention, Community Engagement, Prosecution, Investigations, Training	\$35,890	Prosecution Enhancements and Community Engagement
Juvenile Court	Prevention, Education	\$35,890	Juvenile Court Crime Reduction Program
Marshal's Office	Leadership, Officer Safety, Training, Law Enforcement	\$35,890	Marshal's Executive Training and Leadership Program
Police	Officer Safety and Effectiveness, Community Safety, Training	\$35,890	Law Enforcement Activities Enhancement
Drug Court	Diversion Programming, Alternatives to Sentencing	\$35,890	Drug Court
Public Defender	Indigent Defense and Training, Criminal Justice Reform	\$35,890	Indigent Defense Enhancement

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School System	Prevention, Education, Substance Abuse Prevention, Conflict Resolution Training	\$35,890	Expanded Day Programs
Sheriff's Office	Law Enforcement and Inmate Safety, Less than Lethal	\$35,890	Officer Safety and Recruitment Program
Solicitor-General	Prevention, Counseling, Officer Safety, Diversion Programming, Criminal Justice Reform	\$35,890	Diversion Programming
		\$323,013	

BJA Areas of Emphasis

Election Safety (Police Department only), Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, Violent Crime Reduction, and Enhancing Justice System Reform Strategies,

Project Descriptions and Data Collection Plans

District Attorney's Office

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to enhance special investigations and prosecution units and expand community engagement activities.

Funding will be used to provide training and supplies for D.A.'s special prosecution units, the Victim Assistance Program, Crime Strategies and Community Partnership Unit, special investigations, and alternatives to prosecution programs. Additionally, funds will be utilized for materials for community education and engagement forums and the STRIDE alternative to prosecution program. Goals of the project are to allow for increased contacts with members of the community through crime prevention activities and community education, greater effectiveness of deferred prosecution programs, and increased training and resources for specialized program staff.

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Need

The District Attorney's Office has no additional budgetary options to absorb these non-personnel items.

Goals

- To protect and educate the community
- To enhance training received by specialized units.
- To allow the District Attorney's Office to conduct effective community education, engagement, and crime prevention activities.

Activities

Funding will be used for supplies for community events and special prosecution and victim assistance. Funds will be used for specialized training for these units.

Metrics

Outcome measures will be number of community contacts, number and type of community events, numbers of trainings and staff satisfaction with the trainings, and clients served by the special units who receive enhanced supplies.

Target

Articulate benefit and knowledge gained by all staff attending training. Greater number of both community contacts and community events over prior year. High satisfaction surveys of special unit staff utilizing enhanced supplies.

Prevention and Core Competencies

The District Attorney's is consistently recognized locally and nationally as conducting best practices on criminal justice reform, community engagement, and alternatives to incarceration. The programs to be touched by this funding will further enhance the office's prevention endeavors.

Juvenile Court

Project Description

DeKalb County Juvenile Court is taking a three-pronged approach to reducing violent crime in DeKalb County. The first centers around the "Show Us Your Guns" initiative, which encourages youth to exchange firearms for positive opportunities, helping to remove weapons from the streets. This effort will be supported by a robust mentoring program, where youth are paired

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with trained mentors who provide guidance and foster personal growth. Finally, providing staff with training in crisis intervention techniques will address immediate threats or emotional distress, and provide youth with the tools and support needed to de-escalate potentially violent situations and promote healthier decision-making.

Need

In DeKalb County, GA, violent crime involving youth has been a growing concern. Recent reports indicate that youth violence, including shootings and assaults, has increased. In 2023, multiple incidents of young people being involved in violent crimes, particularly shootings, have been documented (WSB-TV Channel 2- Atlanta). Juvenile offenders who commit violent crimes often come from environments with limited access to positive social support, access to mental health care, and educational opportunities. Without early intervention, these youth risk entering a cycle of criminal behavior that can persist into adulthood.

Goals

Enroll Youth into "Show Us Your Guns"

Goal: Engage 35 at-risk youth in the initiative to turn in firearms in exchange for positive alternatives, helping to reduce the number of guns in the community.

Projected Outcome: An 80% decrease in the number of firearms held by the 35 at-risk youth, leading to a reduction in violent incidents and increased participation in constructive activities.

Implement Mentorship Program

Goal: Establish a peer mentorship program with The Exposure Foundation to promote education, prevention, self-discovery, self-awareness, and personal growth.

Projected Outcome: 85% of youth will have improved behavior, increased engagement in school and community programs due to the influence of positive peer mentorship. This goal will be measured by self-reporting, reports from caregivers, school counselors, and mentors.

Train Probation Officers on Crisis Intervention

Goal: Equip 4 Probation Supervisors will receive training through the Crisis Interventional Team International to effectively de-escalate potentially violent situations and provide immediate support to youth in distress.

Projected Outcome: 100% of Probation Officers will report having the ability to prevent violence, increased youth compliance, and reduced occurrences of violent behavior through timely and skilled intervention.

Activities

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Enroll Youth into the "Show Us Your Guns" Program

- **Hire Facilitators:** The court will recruit and hire two qualified contracted facilitators to teach the "Show Us Your Guns" curriculum. These facilitators will conduct outreach to engage youth, educate them about the dangers of gun violence, and offer incentives for turning in firearms.
- **Program Outreach and Recruitment:** Collaborate with schools, community centers, and local organizations to identify at-risk youth and encourage their participation in the program.
- **Curriculum Delivery:** Facilitators will run workshops, presentations, and one-on-one sessions with participants, providing education on gun safety, violence prevention, and alternative pathways to success.

Implement Mentorship Program

- **Create Mentor Match Form:** Develop a detailed mentor matching form to pair youth with appropriate mentors based on their needs, interests, and backgrounds. This form will assess compatibility, ensuring mentors can offer relevant guidance.
- **Recruit and Train Mentors:** Training will focus on communication skills, youth engagement, and conflict resolution.
- **Mentor-Mentee Sessions:** Once matched, mentors and mentees will engage in regular meetings, participating in structured activities, discussions, and skill-building exercises.

Train Probation Officers in Crisis Intervention

- **Register Officers for Training:** Probation Supervisors will be registered for certified crisis intervention training, with sessions focused on de-escalation techniques, youth psychology, and conflict management.
- **Implement Crisis Response Protocol:** Following training, probation officers will adopt a crisis response protocol, allowing them to apply intervention techniques during volatile situations, preventing escalation and supporting youth in distress.
- **Ongoing Support and Supervision:** Officers will receive continued support and feedback on their crisis intervention skills through periodic check-ins and additional workshops to ensure their effectiveness in preventing violence.

Metrics

Enrollment and Participation in the "Show Us Your Guns" Program

- **Number of youth enrolled:** Track the total number of participants in the program over a specified period.

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- Number of firearms turned in: Monitor the number of firearms collected through the program.
- Program completion rates: Record how many participants successfully complete the full curriculum and any follow-up engagement activities.

Mentorship Program Impact

- Mentor-mentee matches: Track the number of mentor-mentee pairs created and monitor the frequency of their interactions.
- Participant progress: Assess improvements in behavior, school attendance, and overall engagement through mentor feedback and youth reports.

Crisis Intervention Training for Probation Officers

- Number of officers trained: Record the total number of probation officers who complete crisis intervention training.
- Incidents of crisis intervention: Track the number of times trained officers apply crisis intervention techniques and the outcomes of these situations (e.g., de-escalation success rates, reduction in violent incidents).
- Youth compliance rates: Measure changes in compliance and reduced violent behavior among youth who interact with trained probation officers.

Participant feedback: Gather feedback from youth, families, and mentors through surveys or interviews to assess the perceived effectiveness of the program.

Targets

Reduction in Youth Violent Crime: An 80% reduction in violent crime rates among program participants compared to historical data and non-participating youth. This will show if interventions like "Show Us Your Guns," mentorship, and crisis intervention are reducing violent behaviors.

Firearm Turn-In Rates: The number of firearms voluntarily surrendered by youth through the "Show Us Your Guns" initiative. A high turnout would indicate successful engagement and community impact.

Mentorship Outcomes: An 80% success rate can be assessed through increased positive behavioral changes, school attendance, and lower recidivism rates among youth who participate in the mentorship program compared to those who do not. Additionally, long-term engagement between mentors and mentees would indicate strong program effectiveness.

Crisis Intervention Success: The court can evaluate how well crisis intervention training has empowered probation officers by tracking the number of incidents successfully de-escalated and reductions in violent confrontations involving youth under their supervision.

Participant and Stakeholder Satisfaction: Feedback from youth, mentors, probation officers,

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and families on the effectiveness of the programs and services will provide qualitative insights into the project's success.

High satisfaction levels would signal strong program delivery and impact.

Prevention

Show Us Your Guns Initiative: Encourages youth to voluntarily surrender firearms in exchange for positive alternatives, reducing access to weapons and preventing potential violent incidents.

Mentorship Program: Provides at-risk youth with positive role models who guide them in making better decisions, offering support and encouragement to prevent future involvement in crime or violence.

Crisis Intervention Training for Probation Officers: Equips probation officers with skills to de-escalate potentially violent situations, preventing incidents before they escalate into violence.

Marshal's Office

Project Description

Funding is requested for the DeKalb County Marshal's Project of Executive Training and Conferences. The participants will be sworn deputies, line level supervisors, and upper-level staff members. There will be a combination of leadership training, specialized field training, and departmental training.

Need

The specialized leadership training and updated technology is needed to enhance our agency's command staff with the skills to manage personnel, increase departmental capabilities, ensure compliance with our assigned duties, promote officer safety and to recognize and/or prevent departmental liability situations.

Goals

DeKalb County Marshal's mission is to enforce all orders and directives of the DeKalb County State and Magistrate Courts. To meet our goal of this we will provide the command staff with continuous leadership training to enhance the ability of the staff to give oversight to the agency. This will also provide sworn staff and line level supervisors specialized training to enhance their

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job performance and to stay up to date with new procedures and updated state and federal policies.

Activities

Identify training gaps and leadership development needs through staff assessments and performance reviews. Plan and attend specialized training programs such as GALEFI, GTOA, and leadership conferences for law enforcement and executive staff such as GACP, LEEDS, FBI LEEDA, NCMA.

Metrics

Evaluate the effectiveness of training programs through post-training evaluation and applied learning as it relates to the agency, tracking improvements in leadership performance, and gathering feedback from participants.

Targets

Success will be measured by improvements in leadership effectiveness through pre and post training assessments. Staff should demonstrate enhanced decision making, and command abilities. A decrease in leadership related incidents or conflicts within the department will indicate better command and communication skills among staff, as well as a decrease in public complaints and faster incident response times will be a clear indicator of the project's success.

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Prevention

This project will aid and assist the Marshal's Office in its effectiveness by gaining additional training on leadership competencies that will allow the command staff to employ supervisory measures that will evoke teamwork and productivity. This will give the agency tools and measures that will reduce overall agency liability and increase public safety.

Police Department

Project Description

Funds will be used to purchase supplies to support the uniform and special operations divisions. The funds will be used to purchase the Guardian Angel Elite Safety Light. This advanced safety tool enhances officer visibility and safety in the line of duty, especially during low-light or high-traffic scenarios. The Guardian Angel Elite features high-intensity LEDs that provide 360-degree illumination. These features significantly increase officer visibility to motorists and the public during night operations, traffic stops, and other high-risk situations. With increased visibility, officers are less likely to be involved in accidents, thereby reducing the risk of injury or fatality. Visibility is particularly crucial during traffic incidents or when officers are on foot. Visible officers using high-tech safety gear can enhance the community's perception of police presence and commitment to safety, which fosters a positive relationship between the police and the community.

Need

JAG funding will assist the DeKalb County Police Department in enhancing officer safety. Enhancing officer safety will improve operational efficiency and increase public safety and awareness. The purchase of the Guardian Angel Elite Safety Light will ensure that police officers are visible in low-light conditions, during traffic stops, while providing election security, and in any tactical operations to reduce the risk of accidents or injuries. Providing officers with the Guardian Angel Safety Light will allow officers to remain hands-free, allowing for better communication and coordination between officers using the various functions and signaling.

Goals

To enhance officer safety by increasing officer visibility and safety in the line of duty. The goals of this project will improve operational efficiency and increase public safety awareness.

Activities

The actions toward reaching the goal are to create standard operating procedures for using the Guardian Safety Light, conduct training sessions on how to effectively use the equipment and then distribute to all patrol and special operations officers.

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Metrics

We will measure officer feedback and performance by using monthly surveys to evaluate the effectiveness and to determine if additional equipment is needed while in the line of duty.

Target

The department will measure success from a pre-determined score on the data collected in the monthly surveys.

Public Defender's Office

Project Description

Our project is focused on transforming the criminal justice system by building a movement of public defenders dedicated to providing equal justice for marginalized communities. This initiative involves a three-year annual training partnership with Gideon's Promise.

Need

This project addresses the critical need to reduce disparities in legal defense and uphold constitutional rights, ensuring fair and equitable treatment for all individuals within the criminal justice system.

Goals

The goal of our project is to continue delivering exceptional legal representation to our clients while upholding the principles of equal justice, fairness, and respect for all individuals involved in the judicial system.

Activities

Our action plan includes encouraging attorney participation in the Gideon's Promise program with a three-year commitment. This participation will enhance their skills in client-centered representation, staying current with legal developments and honing their advocacy skills to better serve our clients and uphold justice for all.

Metrics

To measure progress toward our goal of improving client outcomes and promoting equal justice, we will track key data points, including case dispositions, trial outcomes, plea agreements, and dismissal rates.

Target

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Success will be measured by an increase in favorable case dispositions, such as reduced charges, dismissals, or acquittals, as well as a decrease in unnecessary pretrial detentions.

Prevention

Client-Centered representation includes assisting clients with enmeshed penalties. Enmeshed penalties often contribute to our clients' failure to successfully complete sentences and increase the likelihood of cycling back through the system. By assisting with these concerns, we help reduce recidivism.

School System

Project Description

The Expanded Day programs, including GRIP (Growing Responsibly and Increasing Possibilities) and SAFE (Student and Family Engagement) Centers focuses on increasing nonviolent conflict resolutions skills, improving communication, decreasing office referrals, and providing programming that creates a safe environment for school-age youth. Students who have disciplinary infractions can be referred to the GRIP program and SAFE Center as an alternative to suspension, which keeps the youth engaged in school. Participation in the GRIP requires that both the youth and parent attend a Saturday program to learn about conflict resolution, the importance of interpersonal skills, alternatives to violence, and substance abuse prevention. SAFE Center programming may utilize vendors to facilitate these programs as well.

Need

Minority students are more likely to be impacted by poverty and are disproportionately suspended from school, which leads to a high dropout rate. Students who drop out of school are more likely to have lower-paying jobs and become involved with the legal system. The GRIP program was developed to serve as a preventative safety net for all students who are exhibiting concerns related to violence or substance use and equip students and families with alternative skills to address and resolve conflict.

I. Introduction

A. Overview of Expanded Day Programs

1. Description of GRIP (Growing Responsibly and Increasing Possibilities)

2. Description of SAFE (Student and Family Engagement) Centers

B. Importance of supplies in achieving program goals

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II. Role of Supplies in GRIP Program

A. Supporting Conflict Resolution

1. Workbooks and materials for learning
2. Interactive activities to engage students

B. Enhancing Learning Outcomes

1. Visual aids for better understanding
2. Empowering students to manage conflicts constructively

III. Role of Supplies in SAFE Centers

A. Fostering Engagement

1. Collaboration with vendors for diverse programming
2. Tailoring supplies to meet participants' needs

B. Encouraging Family Involvement

1. Materials for family-oriented sessions
2. Promoting shared learning experiences

IV. Importance of Safety

A. Maintaining a Safe Environment

1. Materials for workshops and activities
2. Informational pamphlets on substance abuse prevention

B. Ensuring a Comprehensive Support System

1. Resources for communication skills development
2. Structured environment for learning and growth

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V. Conclusion

Finally, the GRIP program was developed to serve as a preventative safety net for students who are exhibiting concerns related to violence or substance use and equip students and families with alternative skills to address and resolve conflict. Furthermore, these programs will have an overall impact on youth development.

Goals

The goal of the program is to decrease suspension and alternative school placement, maintain student engagement in a traditional school setting, improve communication and interpersonal skills while decreasing the occurrence of violence. The budget will be utilized to pay facilitators to implement the GRIP and SAFE Center Programs with students and families, provide ongoing training to facilitators and create identified spaces within the local school to serve as a de-escalation room.

Activities

Facilitator Compensation-A. Personnel

- Salaries or stipends for program facilitators
- Payment for guest speakers or expert trainers

Training and Development-C. Travel

- Workshops and professional development sessions for facilitators
- Training materials and resources

SAFE Space Room Setup-E. Supplies

- Furnishings (chairs, tables, calming items)
- Decor and supplies to create a welcoming environment (art supplies, games)
- Sensory tools (stress balls, fidget items)

Program Materials- E. Supplies

- Conflict resolution workbooks and guides
- Communication skills training resources
- Educational materials for workshops with students and families

Evaluation and Assessment Tools-E. Supplies

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- Surveys and feedback forms to measure program effectiveness. Tools for tracking student engagement and behavioral outcomes

Miscellaneous Supplies-E. Supplies

- Office supplies (paper, pens, folders)
- Refreshments for training sessions and family workshops
- Promotional materials to inform students and families about the program
- Communication tools (newsletters, flyers)

Transportation Costs-C. Travel

- Transportation for field trips related to the program
- Travel expenses for facilitators attending external training

Office Equipment

- Printers and supplies (ink, paper) for program materials
- Copiers for duplicating resources and handouts

Metrics

To effectively achieve our goal of decreasing out-of-school suspensions, the GRIP (Growing Responsibly and Increasing Possibilities) program must not only provide valuable training but also ensure that it is marketed effectively to school leaders who can refer students. The success of our initiative hinges on a robust data collection strategy that informs our practices and demonstrates our impact.

First, we will gather referral data to understand the pathways through which students are entering the program. By tracking the referrals from school leaders, we can identify which schools are most engaged with our initiative and tailor our outreach efforts accordingly. This data will provide insights into the effectiveness of our marketing strategies and help us strengthen relationships with school administrators.

Next, to evaluate the effectiveness of the training provided, we will implement pre and post assessments. These assessments will include surveys designed to measure participants' knowledge of the topics and communication skills before and after the six-hour training sessions led by certified social workers and counselors. This will help us gauge the immediate impact of the training and provide feedback for continuous improvement.

Behavioral data will be crucial in determining the program's overall success. We will track or complete record reviews and out-of-school suspensions before and after program participation, comparing the incidence of disciplinary infractions among GRIP

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participants. This will allow us to assess whether our program effectively reduces behavioral issues and keeps students engaged in school.

Target

To measure the success of the GRIP (Growing Responsibly and Increasing Possibilities) program in achieving its goals, we have established key indicators that will provide insight into our impact on student behavior and engagement.

First, the complete development of a safe space for students is a foundational indicator. This space will serve as a designated area for students to de-escalate, reflect, and engage in constructive activities. The effectiveness of this safe space will be assessed through student feedback and observation, ensuring it meets the needs of those it is designed to support.

Next, we will evaluate the utilization of the GRIP program itself. This includes tracking the number of students referred to the program and the extent of their participation. High utilization rates will indicate that school leaders recognize the program's value as an alternative to traditional disciplinary measures. Additionally, we will monitor training session attendance, ensuring students and their parents are actively engaged in the learning process.

Another crucial indicator is the number of students participating in the program and remaining enrolled in a traditional school setting. By comparing enrollment rates of GRIP participants to those placed in alternative programs, we can assess the program's effectiveness in maintaining student engagement within their original educational environment. A higher retention rate among program participants would suggest that GRIP is successfully providing the support needed to keep students in school.

Prevention

Prevention Components of the GRIP Program and SAFE Centers

1. Violence Prevention Education

- Curriculum focused on understanding the causes and consequences of violence.
- Interactive workshops to teach students strategies for managing anger and resolving conflicts peacefully.

2. Conflict Resolution Skills

- Training sessions that equip students with techniques to navigate disputes without resorting to aggression.
- Role-playing and scenario-based learning to practice conflict resolution in real-life situations.

3. Substance Abuse Awareness

- Educational programs highlighting the risks associated with drug and alcohol use.

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- Interactive discussions to build awareness of the impact of substance abuse on health and relationships.
- 4. Peer Mediation Programs**
 - Initiatives that train students to act as mediators in conflicts among their peers.
 - Empowerment of students to take an active role in fostering a peaceful school environment.
- 5. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)**
 - Programming that focuses on developing emotional intelligence, empathy, and resilience.
 - Activities designed to enhance self-awareness, self-regulation, and interpersonal skills.
- 6. Family Engagement Initiatives**
 - Workshops for parents on effective communication and conflict resolution at home.
 - Resources and support for families to foster a positive home environment.
- 7. Community Partnerships**
 - Collaboration with local organizations to provide additional resources and support.
 - Access to workshops and programs that address broader community issues related to violence and substance abuse.
- 8. Awareness Campaigns**
 - School-wide campaigns to raise awareness about violence prevention and substance abuse.
 - Use of posters, assemblies, and social media to disseminate information and promote healthy behaviors.
- 9. Mentorship Programs**
 - Pairing students with mentors who can provide guidance and support.
 - Focus on building positive relationships and promoting responsible decision-making.
- 10. Crisis Intervention Strategies**
 - Protocols for identifying and responding to students in crisis.
 - Access to trained professionals for immediate support and intervention.

These prevention components work together to create a proactive approach that not only addresses immediate concerns but also fosters a culture of safety, respect, and support within the school community.

Sheriff's Office

Project Description

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The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office has proposed a project to utilize JAG funding to purchase a Multi-Purpose Enforcement Vehicle (MPEV). This vehicle will support the agency's Training, Background, and Recruitment Division, assisting in law enforcement duties such as patrol, arrest and prisoner transport, training, and recruitment activities. The vehicle will enhance the efficiency of recruitment and retention efforts, which are crucial for maintaining a well-trained workforce to meet the significant personnel demands of managing one of the largest jail facilities in the state. The JAG grant award of \$35,890 is expected to cover the full cost of the vehicle, helping to ensure a highly capable law enforcement presence, and effectively meeting the community's safety needs.

Need

The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office needs a dedicated vehicle to enhance recruitment, training, and operational efficiency, ensuring a well-trained workforce to manage one of the largest jails in the state. The vehicle will support key activities such as community outreach, recruitment events, and law enforcement duties, helping fill staffing gaps and improve community safety. JAG funding of \$35,890 is essential to acquire this vehicle, addressing local budget constraints while meeting growing personnel and operational demands.

This program advances equity and supports underserved communities by focusing on recruiting and training officers who reflect the diverse population of DeKalb County, including communities historically underrepresented in law enforcement. By enhancing outreach through job fairs and community engagement, the program aims to attract candidates from all backgrounds, including those from marginalized communities.

Goals

Enhance Recruitment and Retention

Purchase the vehicle (\$35,890) to support recruitment activities, including job fairs and community outreach.

Increase Community Engagement

Use the vehicle for community policing and events to improve visibility and build trust with underserved communities.

Improve Training Efficiency

Utilize the vehicle for transporting officers and equipment to training sites and conducting background checks to streamline recruitment processes.

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Activities:

Recruitment and Retention Actions

Conduct job fairs and community outreach events to attract diverse candidates.

Budget Item

Use of the Multi-Purpose Enforcement Vehicle (\$35,890) for transportation to events and outreach activities.

Community Engagement Actions

Participate in community policing events to increase law enforcement visibility and build trust.

Budget Item: Use the vehicle for community patrols and engagement activities.

Training Efficiency Actions

Transport training materials and conduct off-site training sessions to improve onboarding of new recruits.

Budget Item

Use the vehicle for efficient transport to training locations and background check operations

Metrics

Recruitment

Number of events attended, candidates processed, and vacancies filled.

Community Engagement

Number of community events attended and feedback collected.

Training

Number of training sessions conducted and recruits completing training.

Target

We will know the project is successful if we see an increase in the number of vacancies filled, particularly with diverse recruits, and receive positive feedback from community members about law enforcement engagement. Success will also be reflected in the efficient completion of training sessions, improved readiness of new recruits, and enhanced community trust and safety through visible and responsive policing.

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Prevention

Community Engagement

Enhanced visibility and proactive engagement to build community trust and deter crime.

Recruitment

Hiring diverse, well-trained officers to improve relationships and prevent conflicts.

Training

Comprehensive training in de-escalation and cultural awareness to prevent negative incidents.

Solicitor-General's Office

Project Description

The Diversion Unit oversees programs designed to hold defendants accountable for their crimes while addressing the behavior that led to their interaction with the criminal justice system. This overall objective is achieved by providing participants with life skills, supervision, therapeutic assistance, clinical intervention, and other support mechanisms as appropriate. By successfully completing one of our seven Diversion Programs, participants can avoid prosecution and a criminal conviction on their record.

G.O.A.L.S. (Gaining Opportunities and Life Skills) "B" - presents opportunities and life skills to non-violent offenders between the ages of 17 and 21 with some criminal history.

Phoenix - supports women who have been charged with prostitution who do not have any violent felony convictions.

The JAG funded project will increase resources between our offices and partnering agencies to continue providing essential services to victims and the community at large. As well, it will ensure participants of any of our programs or other services receive professional, evidence-based programming.

Our programs are designed for non-violent and/or first-time offenders who do not have any violent felony convictions. We do strive to serve and support underserved individuals in the community. Through previous and current JAG funding, we have been able to provide our programs in Korean and Mandarin. We hope to be able to expand the number of languages our programs are offered in.

Need

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All states and the federal government have passed laws to establish a set of victims' rights and the prosecution of offenders. In general, these laws require that victims have certain information, protections, and a role in the criminal justice process. Victims' rights depend on the laws of the jurisdiction where the crime is investigated and prosecuted. Criminal justice and victim advocate professionals all cite resource limitations as the most common factor for being unable to improve the provision of victims' rights. This holds true for our County as well.

Goals

It takes a coordinated community response to provide victims of crimes with the comprehensive services they need and bring offenders to justice. Our mission is to prosecute misdemeanor crimes committed in DeKalb County in a diligent, fair, just, and efficient manner while maintaining the highest ethical standards and ensuring that justice prevails for victims, defendants, and citizens of DeKalb County. Our goal is to enhance special victims and diversion program services and promote community prosecution. JAG provides the necessary funds that allow us to contract with providers to offer our program services

Activities

The Solicitor-Generals Office will partner with and utilize the expertise of social service, mental health, trauma-informed, and victim service professionals to deliver evidence-based practices within our programs.

Metrics

Diversion Programs are strictly voluntary. If participant begins a Diversion Program and later changes their mind, they are free to withdraw. However, we strive to encourage everyone who is eligible, to participate in our programs. We will measure the success of our Diversion Programs by the graduation rates of participants who successfully complete each program. This data will be collected in our various court case systems.

Target

Our office anticipates that increasing resources will similarly increase the number of participants that are eligible for, and will take advantage of, the Diversion Programs offered, which in turn will help boost graduation rates.

Prevention

"Not in My DeKalb" is our office initiative that collaborates with police and victim service providers to

Program Narrative

develop a unique take on what other agencies may view as a "task force" or "specialized unit". The initiative aims to provide the resources, manpower, and policy implementation necessary to prevent and reduce crimes against women on a much broader scale. It equips our agency with tools to help victims more efficiently, holds offenders accountable the first time, and reinforces the importance of successfully prosecuting misdemeanor offenses, ensuring that victims of crimes are safe and not subjected to ongoing or escalated threats.

Drug Court

Project Description

The DeKalb County Accountability Court (DCAC) program is requesting funding for Contractual Support services to include clinical assessor, psychiatric, and pharmacological services, as well as substance use group and individual treatment services. These contractors play an integral role in the participants' success in the program. Furthermore, these services help to monitor the substance use treatment and judicial adherence of each participant, ultimately leading to the participants becoming a healthy, productive, and tax-paying citizen.

Need

DCAC needs funding to help cover the costs of the contracted services. As most of the participants suffer from co-occurring disorders, psychiatric care, and medications are needed to help with stabilization early on in recovery. This stabilization sets up the participants with the greatest opportunity for success on the journey to recovery. DeKalb County Drug Court is requesting \$35,890 to help in the provision of clinical assessments, psychiatric, and nursing services, as well as the complementary education sessions, and ensure that they are met appropriately and in such a manner that benefits the participants.

Goals

The DCAC Contract Treatment Personnel will help provide stabilization for the participants by completing the appropriate assessments, implementing treatment plans, providing evidence-based treatment, etc. to ensure progress as they navigate through the treatment progress and work toward long-term recovery. The personnel will further assist the participants in identifying and utilizing the skills learned in various treatment groups to assist them in real-time/real-life situations as they reintegrate back into the community. Addressing these areas further assists in preventing relapses and ultimately reduces the recidivism rate, because of promoting sobriety and long-term recovery goals.

Program Narrative

Activities

The DCAC contractors will help provide stabilization for the participants through the delivery of treatment services (Contractual Support), including, but not limited to, psychiatric evaluations and ongoing psychiatric care, pharmacological services, as well as group and individual substance use treatment sessions. Psychiatric and pharmacological services will be utilized in aiding the participant with the tools need to manage the disease of addiction, as most participants have a co-occurring mental health disorder. Group and individual substance use treatment sessions will help the participant learn the skills and obtain the support needed in real-time/real-life situations as he/she reintegrates back into the community. Addressing these areas, as well as the obtaining a job, securing stable housing, and committing to a life in recovery, further assists in preventing relapses and ultimately reduces the rate of recidivism (State and/or local Initiatives).

Metrics

Progress will be measured using several factors. The program will look at recidivism rates, rate of psychiatric crises leading to interventions (i.e., hospitalization and/or emergency room visits), as well as the length of time from program entry to graduation. DCAC will monitor the rate of psychiatric crises leading to invention. These facts will assist DCAC in ensuring goal-focused success.

Target

The program will look at recidivism rates by ensuring that the participant has no new encounters with the criminal justice system. As individuals receive treatment for mental health disorders and substance abuse disorders, the need for higher levels of care is decreasing.

Prevention

The prevention component of this project includes the reduction of recidivism using evidence-based cognitive-behavior substance use treatment interventions and various psychiatric modalities. The contractors will assist the participants in gaining an understanding of the tools and skills necessary to attain and maintain sobriety, as well as provide clinical assessment, psychiatric and pharmacological interventions, and services to help them achieve mental stability.