Program Narrative



With a population of 756,558, 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 20.4% 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 the metropolitan Atlanta area and is the most diverse in the state of Georgia. It consists of 10% of the city of Atlanta (the East Atlanta portion is in DeKalb County), Decatur (County Seat), Avondale Estates, 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. Also within this densely populated metropolitan area DeKalb County encompasses two (2) military bases, 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 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 making sure projects were in compliance with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) parameters.

Program Narrative

As such, the DeKalb County's FY 2019 JAG allocation of \$255,733 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, policing, indigent defense, 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 2019 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 | Prosecution | \$31,007 | Investigations and Special Prosecutions Enhancement |
| Drug Court | Drug Treatment and Prevention | \$31,007 | Case Management |
| Juvenile Court | Prevention | \$31,007 | DeKalb Education Empowerment |
| Marshal's Office | Law Enforcement and Community Safety and Training | \$31,007 | Conductive Energy Weapons (CEW) / Specialized Leadership Training |
| Police | Law | \$31,007 | Law Enforcement Activities Enhancement |
| | Enforcement Safety and Investigations Enhancements | | |
| Police | 3% NIBRS Set-aside | \$7,677 | BJA mandated NIBRS compliance |
| Public Defender | Indigent Defense and Training | \$31,007 | Indigent Defense Enhancement |
| Sheriff's Office | Law Enforcement and Inmate Safety | \$31,007 | Safety Enhancement at Jail |
| Solicitor-General | Prevention, Intervention, Officer Safety, and Training | \$31,007 | Prosecution Enhancement |
| | | | |

\$255,733

Project Descriptions, Design and Implementation, Analysis of Need, Anticipated Coordination Efforts, and Data Collection Plans

District Attorney's Office

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to enhance special investigations and prosecution units by adding a major case digital platform. Specifically, a device such as Greykey will be purchased, equipment/software to break Iphone security codes and then for Axiom-type software to download and read the data on the phones. In the initial half of 2019, alone, there have been 90 homicides in DeKalb, the majority complex, with a connected web to other crimes, and all having recovered phones. The devices store vital evidence, such as photos, location data, and text messages, always very relevant to proving the case, and often with the capability to decipher further connections to the cases. Unfortunately, the majority of the time currently, the information is unable to be extracted. The project will allow for the infiltration of sophisticated crime webs involving gangs or drugs such as opioid distribution, resulting in higher arrest and conviction rates for these. The technology enhancement would also be utilized in the human trafficking cases prosecuted by the DA's Office. Data collection metrics will include number of cases in which evidence is sought, number of phones in which information is extracted, and qualitative data on how the increased evidence aided in major cases' investigations and prosecution.

Brief Analysis of Need:

No funding is available from other sources to fund the equipment.

Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds:

We do not anticipate coordinating JAG funds for this project.

Public Defender's Office

Project Description:

The 6th Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that the accused has the right to an attorney in all criminal cases. The Public Defender Office provides legal representation to those unable to afford an attorney in all criminal cases in DeKalb County. The purpose of this project is to **continue to** provide excellent legal representation and customer service for our clients and the public and to promote equal justice, fairness and respect for all people in the judicial system. The objective of the project, by adding office training, courtroom technology, and operating supplies, is to improve the quality of representation provided to clients. An anticipated outcome is improved communication with clients and better outcomes, as determined by case disposition data.

Brief Analysis of Need:

A person charged with a crime has the constitutional right to counsel. The Public Defender Office provides legal representation to those unable to afford an attorney in all criminal cases in DeKalb County. Not only do we want to ensure that we provide excellent service and representation to our clients, but we also try and reduce recidivism, which promotes public safety. We work with clients to identify what led them to the criminal justice system and we create plans to address these issues. We work collaboratively with other agencies on programs that improve the criminal justice system. This funding will help provide us with the necessary resources and training to promote excellence in our office.

Program Narrative

Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds:

We do not anticipate coordinating JAG funds for this project. Partnership exists with Atlanta Legal Aid.

Drug Court

Project Description:

DCDC plans to utilize JAG funds for the purpose of supporting the salary of the full-time Case Manager from 10/1/2019 through 9/30/2022. DeKalb County Drug Court's (DCCC) Case Manager provides services that help support and guide participants as they endeavor to achieve programmatic goals and specific objectives identified during their initial assessment and throughout the program. The DCCC Case Manager will use strategies to assist in maintaining a 65% retention rate, with a goal of retained participants achieving a 100% employment and housing rate. These strategies include assisting the new participants with obtaining all necessary documents in order to secure a valid state identification, social security cards, etc., providing linkage to food banks to ensure the participant has adequate nourishment and ensuring that the participant has a MARTA card for the purpose of public transportation. In addition, the Case Manager secures stable housing, provides life, job, and resume skills and services, as well as assists with interviewing techniques. Other vital strategies include assisting the participants with any child support and/or probation obligations, and scheduling medical, dental, and/or mental health appointments.

Brief Analysis of Need:

There are currently no other funding sources available to continue this critical position to the DCDC. The case manager position is a critical component to the participants' and program's success as the position is not only an advocate but a guide through the treatment program and long term recovery process. The case manager further serves as a liaison between the Court, participants, and the community. As a liaison, the case manager ensures that the participants are adhering to the program rules by maintaining stable housing, securing suitable employment, attending Court, treatment, and community support meetings, as well as abstaining from addictive behaviors and any additional violations of the law.

Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds:

We do not anticipate coordinating JAG funds for this project. DCCC works with numerous local community partners and has maintained many of these relationships since the inception of the program in 2002. Partners such as DeKalb Workforce, First Baptist Church of Avondale, MARTA, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), First Presbyterian Church, Hillside Presbyterian Church, Young Life Pharmacy, Inspiritus (formerly Lutheran Services of Atlanta), Grady Hospital, Veterans Administration, Georgia Department of Labor, and Cross Road Ministries, just to name a few, work closely with DCDC every week to ensure that the needs of the participants are adequately met. As it relates to this project, the Case Manager has helped to develop and continues to maintain a positive relationship with these and many other community partners.

Juvenile Court

Project Description:

The mission of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court (DCJC) is to "protect the best interests of the child and community, to restore the lives of children who have been neglected or abused, to redirect the children who have admitted to or have been found in violation of the law to become law abiding citizens, and to support the continuity of families by leaving children in their homes whenever possible." The overarching premise of DCJC's mission is to protect the long-term safety of the youth and community by promoting accountability within the juvenile justice system.

Charged with the mandate of public safety and juvenile justice, DeKalb County Juvenile Court has taken great measures in carrying out its mission. In an effort to assist in not only crime prevention, public safety, and family preservation, DCJC has adopted a number of court-based programs that provide various services and resources to court-involved youth and their families, including the Education Enhancement Program.

Attainment of the General Education Diploma (GED) is the foremost goal of the program, as it is the gateway to post-secondary education and employment with advancement potential for youth who are identified as overage and underperforming in a traditional school setting. DCJC offers on-site, year-round GED instruction Monday-Thursday for four (4) hours per day. Classes are facilitated by qualified and credentialed educators, experienced in not only teaching the GED curriculum, but also teaching the "at-risk" population the court serves. In addition to regular GED classes, DCJC provides individual tutoring services in the five (5) academic subject areas including Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies required to pass the GED test. Tutorial services are determined based on an individual participant needs assessment, which is conducted by the case manager. All participants are administered the ONET (Online Occupational Competency Profile) and TABE (Tests of Adult Basic Education) which aids the instructor in assessing the student's academic readiness. The ONET and the TABE scores are reviewed with the case manager and/or probation officer to determine the youth's reading and math levels, career goals, employability skills, their aptitude and interests, and what skills and knowledge they already possess concerning the labor market so an appropriate plan can be developed specifically for them.

Students who score below the required 9th grade level on the TABE test are required to attend tutoring sessions to assist them in increasing their academic proficiency in preparation for the GED test. When appropriate, tutorial services will also be provided for college entrance exams such as the Compass test, ACT or SAT. DCJC classrooms are fully equipped with study materials for students pursuing entrance into a post-secondary institution. Once a student is GED ready, they are referred to Georgia Piedmont Technical College for official testing.

Throughout the course of their studies within the court, students are provided school supplies and GED practice test vouchers in order to determine when they are ready for the actual exam. After a student has shown they have passed the GED practice tests, they are encouraged to take the real exam. Test vouchers are provided for students to take the official tests to cover the cost and encourage them to complete the exam.

DCJC encourages students to be open to the possibility of attaining a post-secondary education. By developing partnerships with various colleges that will accept a GED or a student with a lower grade point average, we are able to expose students to post-secondary school options they may have not been exposed to before. Students will have the opportunity to visit colleges and/or technical school in and around metro-Atlanta area.

Brief Analysis of Need:

There is an urgent need to address literacy and education deficiencies of youth in the juvenile justice system in DeKalb County, GA. A significant number of adjudicated youth have been withdrawn, suspended, expelled from, or have dropped out of the traditional school setting. Data reported by the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ, 2016) indicates that in DeKalb County, 70% of youth who have been committed to the juvenile justice system have educational deficiencies and literacy levels below primary grade levels.

DeKalb County is the fourth most populated county in the state of Georgia and home to more than 756,000 residents. In 2018, 3,741 youth became involved with DeKalb Juvenile Court. Many of whom have been marred by poverty, violence, abuse, unstable home environments, substance abuse and academic disadvantages.

The DeKalb County School System educates nearly 102,000 students in 137 schools and centers throughout the county. While the school district is large in number, the graduation rates for students rank the fourth lowest in the metro-Atlanta area, only graduating 75% of its high school seniors in 2018 which is well below the national graduation rate average of 83%. DeKalb County Juvenile Court currently provides the most services and court supervision to youth within five (5) high schools throughout the service areas including Towers, McNair, Clarkston, Columbia, and Stone Mountain. According to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, the 2018 graduation rates for each high school are as follows:

- Towers High School: 70%
- McNair High School: 68%
- Clarkston High School: 61%
- Columbia High School: 73%
- Stone Mountain High School: 70%

According to a special report, Early Warning, from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, "...the process of dropping out begins long before high school. It stems from loss of interest in middle school, often triggered by retention in grade...and that, in a great many cases, is the result of not being able to read proficiently as early as fourth grade." There is a direct correlation between low literacy and the likelihood of incarceration. According to Literacy Mid-South, the relationship between incarceration and low literacy yields these compelling statistics:

- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally low literate.
- Juvenile incarceration reduces the probability of high school completion and increases the probability of incarceration later in life.
- High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested in their lifetime.
- High school dropouts are 63% more likely to be incarcerated than their peers with four-year college degrees.

According to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, in 2018, nearly 18,000 students dropped out of school in DeKalb County. It is imperative that DeKalb County, GA focus its efforts on promoting youth education and preparing them for the labor market.

<u>Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds</u>: There is no anticipated coordination.

Marshal's Office

Project Description

The mission of the DeKalb County Marshal's Office is to enforce all orders and directives of the DeKalb County State, and Magistrate Courts and to provide public safety services to the citizens of DeKalb County in a safe, professional and courteous manner. The goal of this project is to provide deputies with an updated Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) (commonly referred to as a Taser). This device will provide a less-lethal alternative of force for deputies to use should a threatening situation arise. Also, the goal is to obtain the latest leadership training for supervisors in order to more effectively lead a law enforcement agency.

Brief Analysis of Need:

Due to the age and condition of the current CEWs this upgrade will better enhance deputies' abilities to deescalate use of force encounters through enhanced less lethal means.

Leadership training is needed to enhance our agency's supervisors with the skills to manage personnel, increase departmental capabilities and ensure compliance with our assigned duties.

Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds:

We do not anticipate coordinating JAG funds for this project.

Police Department

Project Description:

The supplies, equipment, and training funded by this grant will increase officer safety and their ability to successfully close cases through enhanced evidence evaluation, secure tactical measures, and access to better crime fighting tools. Crime prevention, investigation, and case prosecution rely heavily on police having the skills, knowledge, and supplies/equipment to combat criminal activity. Implementation of Project Lifesavers will assist the Special Victims Unit with location of missing persons.

Goals:

- Arrest criminals while preserving police safety
- Increase tools available tools to specialty units
- Enhance data collection, RMS reporting, and activities related to agency's transition to NIBRS

Program Narrative

Objectives:

- Complete agency's transition from UCR to NIBRS by the federal national deadline
- Increase SVU case information, location of missing persons, and coordination with other units (such as SOD canine, aerial searches, etc.)
- Use of supplies and equipment that improve officer safety during daily and emergency operations to include narcotics, vice, other special investigations sections, and SWAT/SOD.

Strategies:

- Arrange target operations with various law enforcement agencies/jurisdictions for identified areas/suspects and times to apprehend criminals
- Organize undercover activities to improve case evidence for case prosecution
- Implement Project Lifesaver and other initiatives (as appropriate) to locate missing persons
- Train, test, and implement RMS, data collection, and other activities for the NIBRS transition

The required 3% NIBRS set-aside is being allocated to Police through this funding. The agency is making a full transition from UCR data submission to the NIBRS.

Brief Analysis of Need:

Uniform officers are typically the first to respond to emergency calls. They work with detectives of special units, local police departments, and other criminal justice agencies to compile evidence for the arrest of criminals and successful prosecution of cases. Proper training, enhanced knowledge, innovative and new equipment are essential to protecting the public from crime. The ability to perform forensics and house digital evidence is paramount in the current technological climate and its nexus to criminal activity. Adopting and employing new approaches expected to decrease crime, requires a multifaceted strategy from data-driven information to appropriate supplies and equipment. Funding from JAG will assist the DeKalb Police Department in solving chronic criminal activity, locate missing persons, and transition to NIBRS.

Tactical safety concerns are inherently a consideration each time an officer is dispatched to a scene or operation. Supplies included in this request will improve a host of operations and daily activities conducted by officers and specialty units (such as narcotics, special investigations, SWAT, and special victims). Providing police officers with supplies and equipment to firmly fight crime and protect themselves improves their performance, mental/emotional stability, and their capability to ensure survival of fellow officers.

Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds:

Various partnerships with local jurisdictions (dictated by the team or crime) to include Gwinnett County Police Department, City of Atlanta Police Department, Clayton County Police Department and other local jurisdictions. Partnerships with state and federal agencies are also active. There are also partnerships and information sharing with other criminal justice agencies and smaller jurisdictions within DeKalb County.

Sheriff's Office

Project Description:

The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office will purchase body worn cameras for detention officers assigned as security personnel in the jail. These cameras will be used to get an up close visual and audio recording as officers respond to incidents.

The mission of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office Jail Division is to operate the jail for the safety and security of the community while providing for a safe, humane and secure environment for both staff and inmates. The Sheriff is the official jailer of the county and is responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of all inmates. The courts have established strict guidelines which the Sheriff must follow in providing these services to his inmates. This project will aid in increased security in the housing area of the jail and other locations gather for medical, education and recreational activities. Objectives of the project are to provide recorded documentation of incidents in the jail as well as provided an added safety feature for officers and inmates. The decrease in use of force incidents will increase safety for inmates, officers and other staff. Expected outcome is strengthened documentation available for use during incident investigations.

Brief Analysis of Need:

Body worn cameras offer both audio and visual documentation of interactions and between officers and inmates. It provides unaltered documentation of incidents that is critical during investigations. Footage serves to support officer reports and can be key in litigation.

Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds: None

Solicitor-General's Office

Project Description:

This project came about because of the commitment of the DeKalb Solicitor's office to prosecuting misdemeanor offenses including domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault; victimcentered advocacy, and ending violence against women. Our office recognizes that is takes a coordinated community response to provide victims with the comprehensive services they so desperately 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. It takes a dedicated team to keep DeKalb safe. The entire staff of the Office of the Solicitor-General including prosecutors, investigators, victim-witness advocates, community liaisons, and legal assistants — is devoted to holding offenders accountable.

For the Solicitors office to successfully improve responses of the civil and criminal justice systems to families with a history of violence, we must do the following:

- Increase resources between our offices and partnering agencies in order to continue providing essential services to victims and the community at large.
- Provide additional trainings and other professional development avenues to staff.

- Ensure participants of any of our programs or other services receive professional, evidence-based programming.
- Increase staff resources related to equipment and supplies
- Promote public awareness and education in the areas of crimes against women.

It takes a coordinated community response to provide victims 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 by increasing the program's resources for training, contractual services, equipment, and supplies. Enhancing victim services and related resources; and increasing training for staff's professional development aids in strengthening program outcomes and ensure program sustainability. Additionally, promoting professional development throughout the department helps to increase the staffs' confidence in effective decision-making and implementing best-practices learned through advanced training courses.

Brief Analysis of Need:

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 limited 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 at the State and local levels were asked for their suggestions for improving the provision of victims' rights. Their responses basically fell into three groups: increased funding, increased training, and increased enforcement of victims' rights. Resource limitations were cited by officials as the most common reason for being unable to fulfill their legal responsibilities and it rings true for our County.

Gaps in services to victims and increased offender accountability fall largely on the inability to create, implement, and sustain resources due to lack of funding. Resources include man-power, updated technology, and access to professional development. Each area of need that is addressed in this application is addressed because our agency needs assistance in creating better processes for our organization and better outcomes for the families, women, and community we serve. The proposed program enhancements will significantly increase agency capacity and increase coordinated responses to crime throughout DeKalb. This grant can be what propels the needle forward in our efforts.

Anticipated Coordination Efforts to JAG/DOJ Funds:

We do not anticipate coordinating JAG funds for this project. Our partnerships with non-profit victim service providers within DeKalb such as: Men Stopping Violence, International Women's House, and Women's Resource Center, allow our agency to combine resources that help increase public awareness efforts and intolerance of violence against women. Additionally, we collaborate with local faith-based organizations to increase culturally competent responses to this community problem. This type of collective response increases victim safety, trust in the system, and optimism in future success. When a victim feels safe and confident in system responses, she or he is more likely to go through with the entire judicial process.

Project Identifiers: body worn cameras, drug courts, indigent defense, vehicles-police (sedan), vehicles-police (SUV), intervention programs, prosecution, officer safety, policing

Program Narrative

Activities

| Activity | Identifier | Expectation | Data Collection | Agency |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Purchase supplies for case processing | indigent | Public defender equipment for e-filing, | Case counts | Public |
| and client service | defense | courtroom, and client interview | | Defender |
| Purchase equipment for patrols | officer safety, less than lethal | Increased availability of taser equipment | Investigative statistics | Marshal |
| Purchase forensic investigation equipment | prosecution, forensic science | Increased investigative capacity | Major case statistics | District Attorney |
| Purchase of program supplies | Prosecution, indigent defense | Increased community events' contacts, diversion program reach, case, courtroom, and investigative efficiency | Community events and diversion program statistics, case numbers | Solicitor- General and Public Defender |
| Purchase of safety equipment for correctional officers | officer safety, less than lethal | Reduced critical incidents through purchase of body worn cameras | Jail records | Sheriff's Office |
| Attend advanced-level off-site trainings and conferences. | indigent defense, prosecution, officer safety, LE leadership | Opportunities for specialized training & understanding of emerging trends in Indigent Defense and Prosecution | Surveys for participants; targeting their increased knowledge of emerging trends. | Public Defender, Solicitor- General, Marshal |
| Contract with GED Instructor to facilitate DCJC's alternative education program. | prevention- juvenile delinquency | Facilitate alternative education program - GED program for DCJC youth | Weekly youth/student reports and progress via assessments, observations, and journals. Collect data from the number of youth completed the program and/or received their GED. | Juvenile Court |
| High Risk Youth Intervention and GED Program tutors | prevention- juvenile delinquency | Provide GED and on-site prevention and education programming | Collect data on program participants' educational status (i.e. attendance, | Juvenile Court |

| DeKalb County JAG Application FY 2019: Program Narrative

Program Narrative

| | | | progress, tests taken, pass rate) and recidivism rate | |
|--|---|---|--|-----------------------|
| Full-time Case Manager | prevention- substance abuse, drug courts | Support and guide participants as they endeavor to achieve overall programmatic goals and specific objectives | Retention statistics. # of groups provided, # of case management sessions, # of employment or educational success | Drug Court |
| Contractual mental health/life skills training | prosecution, intervention programs | Increased effectiveness of diversion programing | # of participants enrolled in programs | Solicitor- General |
| Program supplies | prevention- juvenile delinquency | Increased effectiveness of at risk youth intervention programs | # of students served, recidivism rates, graduation rates | Juvenile Court |
| Contract hours for Train the Trainer | NIBRS 3% set- aside | Staff training on system | # of staff trained | Police |
| Crisis response video throw phone system | officer safety, less than lethal | Improved safety of officers while negotiating with suspects | # of calls where system is utilized | Police |
| Police investigative supplies | officer safety, policing | Increase officer safety, investigative capacity | Response and investigative case counts | Police |
| Contractual hours for therapists/counselors/speakers | intervention programs | Increased reach and effectiveness of Alternative to Sentencing programs | Diversion program statistics, sessions offered | Solicitor- General |