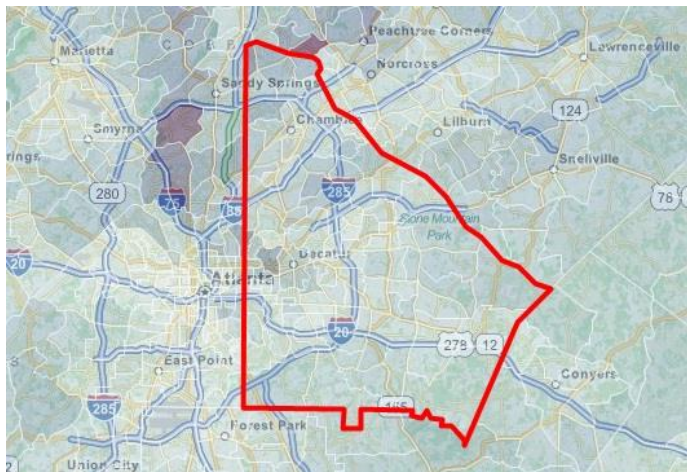


**U.S. Department of Justice Solicitation
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
FY 2021 Local Solicitation-- CFDA #16.738
DeKalb County, Georgia**

Program Narrative



With a population of 759,297, 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 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 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. As such, the DeKalb County's FY 2021 JAG allocation of \$245,718 will support a broad range of activities to

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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, 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 2021 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, Investigations	\$27,302	Special Investigations/Community Prevention and Engagement
Drug Court	Prevention, Drug Treatment, Drug Court	\$27,302	Psychiatric Eval and Medication Management
Juvenile Court	Prevention-Delinquency, Training, Education, Intervention	\$27,302	Education and Training Initiative
Marshal’s Office	Leadership, Officer Safety, Training, Prevention	\$27,302	Specialized Leadership Training
Police	Officer Safety and Effectiveness	\$27,302	Law Enforcement Activities Enhancement
Public Defender	Indigent Defense and Training	\$27,302	Indigent Defense Enhancement
School System	Prevention, Education, Substance Abuse Prevention, Conflict Resolution Training	\$27,302	Expanded Day Programs
Sheriff’s Office	Law Enforcement and Inmate Safety	\$27,302	Safety Enhancement at Jail
Solicitor-General	Prevention, Counseling, Officer Safety, Diversion Programming	\$27,302	Special Investigations/Diversion Programming
		\$245,718	

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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 by adding a law enforcement vehicle. The vehicle will be used by P.O.S.T. certified investigators in Special Victims Unit, Major Case, and Crime Strategies and Community Partnership Unit for the ordinary course of investigative work. Vehicles will be used for serving subpoenas, transporting victims and witnesses, collecting and transporting evidence, interviewing witnesses, investigating cases, and, as necessary, arresting and transporting suspects. Goals of the project are to allow for increased capability for case investigation, victim/witness transport, and community contacts. Outcome measures will be number of cases open by investigations and community contacts.

Funding will also be used to provide training and supplies for D.A.'s special prosecution units, the Victim Assistance Program, Crime Strategies and Community Partnership Unit, or alternatives to prosecution programs. Additionally, funds will be utilized for materials for community education and engagement forums. 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.

Need

The District Attorney's Office has a few aging law enforcement vehicles which were initially purchased with grant funds, not in the fleet, and, therefore, there is no ability to replace them other than via new grant funds.

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. Funds will be used to purchase a law enforcement vehicle for use in the normal course of special units' investigations.

Goals:

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

Outcome measures will be number of community contacts, numbers of trainings and staff satisfaction with the trainings, and clients served by the special units who receive enhanced supplies. Goals of the project are to allow for increased contacts with members of the community through crime prevention activities and

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community education, greater effectiveness of deferred prosecution programs, and increased training and resources for specialized program staff.

Metrics and Targets

Outcome measures will be number of cases open by investigations, the number of community events and citizen contacts, and the number of trainings offered to special units' staff.

Prevention

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

Drug Court

Project Description:

The DeKalb County Drug Court (DCDC) program is requesting funding for Contractual Support services to include psychiatric and pharmacological services, as well as substance use group and individual treatment services. These contractors play an integral role to 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 citizens.

Project Need

DCDC is in need of funding to help cover the costs of the aforementioned 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 \$27,345 to help the program maintain the delivery of these vital services.

Goals and Activities

DeKalb County Drug Court (DCDC) seeks to reduce the number of psychiatric episodes/crises through the use of psychiatric and pharmacological interventions, maintain a healthy graduation/retention rate, and reduce the rate of recidivism.

The DCDC contractors will help provide stabilization for the participants through the delivery of treatment services (Contractual Support), including, but not limited to, psychiatric evaluations and on-going psychiatric

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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 intervention (i.e., hospitalization and/or emergency room visits), as well as the length of time from program entry to graduation. These factors will assist DCDC in ensuring goal-focused success.

Recidivism rates will be measured throughout the program. Seeing as this program operates as a change agent for criminal and addictive thinking and behaviors, the goal is to have approximately a 5-10% recidivism rate. DCDC will monitor the rate of psychiatric crises leading to intervention, as well. The goal is to maintain no greater than a 10% rate of crisis episodes. Graduation rates are monitored, and the goal for this metric is to graduate at least 65% of the participants.

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 understanding the tools and skills necessary to obtain and maintain sobriety, as well as helping them to achieve mental stabilization with the aid of psychiatric and pharmacological interventions and services.

Juvenile Court

Project Description

DeKalb County Juvenile Court's (DCJC's) Education and Training Initiative will provide leadership and staff the training needed to design innovative solutions to address the needs of youth in our community. Additionally, funding will allow the court to sustain the virtual education program implemented during COVID-19, provide an instructor to administer the program, and offer the resources for youth to obtain their education.

Program Narrative

Need

In 2019, DCJC averaged 691 delinquency hearings per month, which brought numerous youth and families to DeKalb County Juvenile Court (DCJC). Many of whom have been marred by violence, abuse, neglect, mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, poverty, unemployment, and academic disadvantages. A significant number of youth are unnecessarily placed in or referred to the juvenile justice system for relatively minor, non-violent offenses, often in a misguided attempt to obtain treatment services that are lacking in the community. However, the unfortunate irony of this approach is that the services typically available to youth in the juvenile justice system are often inadequate or simply unavailable. The DCJC is faced daily with numerous circumstances and issues that require innovative ways to meet the needs of all youth served. Using strength-based approaches, this initiative will aid juvenile court in providing relevant services by training the staff who are tasked to implement solutions. With increased knowledge and training, staff will make a greater impact on the youth in our community. Additionally, sustaining the virtual education program helps youth increase their ability to lead crime-free lives by increasing opportunities that would not be available without an education.

Goals

- 1) Provide vital educational opportunities for court leadership and staff that will help identify and discover new and improved practices
- 2) Implement innovative practices for youth involved in the juvenile justice system
- 3) Sustain a virtual education platform implemented during COVID 19.
- 4) Provide instructor and resources for youth involved in DCJC's education program.

Activities

Leadership and staff will attend conferences that impact the juvenile population. (APPA conference, Leadership Conference)

Implement additional programs and services learned that will have a positive impact on youth served.(Blueprint Conference)

Provide the virtual platform for the GED program. (Aztec GED virtual program)

Provide an instructor and resources for youth enrolled in GED program. (Kingdom Fortunes and Pearson Vue Vouchers)

Metrics

1. The number of staff who attend juvenile justice related conferences.
2. The number of new prevention programs implemented in the court.
3. The number of youth attending the virtual platform.
4. The number of youth provided with vouchers to take the official GED exam.

Program Narrative

Targets

1. Six (6) court staff will attend juvenile justice related conferences.
2. Two (2) new programs will be implemented in the court.
3. Sixteen (16) youth will attend the virtual GED platform.
4. Eight (8) youth will be provided vouchers to take the official GED exam.

Prevention

The implementation of new prevention programs will focus on the needs of youth who are at-risk of becoming involved with the court. This will ensure youth receive the appropriate assistance to prevent the likelihood of receiving delinquent charges. The youth education component directly supports at risk and adjudicated youth completing their education and decreasing the likelihood they will enter the justice system or gain additional charges. Staff who are trained will have the knowledge and skill base to implement programs and services that assist families with preventative measures and can intervene with evidence-based solutions that have a lasting impact.

Marshal's Office

Project Description

To earn the Executive Certificate from Harvard University by participating in three specialized leadership training courses: (1) Senior Executives in State & Local Government, (2) Delivering Public Services: Efficiency, Equity, & Quality and (3) Creating Collaborative Solutions.

Need

The specialized leadership training 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

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. Our goal is to provide command staff with specialized leadership training that will examine innovative partnerships and new models of collaborative governance. Provide a balance of traditional and hands-on learning experiences to help seasoned public officials meet changing needs to their constituents and communities and enhance officer safety.

Program Narrative

Activities

The Marshal's Office will reach these goals through specialized training for the Executive Staff. The specialized training is comprised of a diverse group of colleagues in leadership which enables our command staff to learn and exchange ideas.

Metrics

Measuring training effectiveness of our staff is vital to our organization's success. Our goals will be measured by: 1) Self-assessment questionnaires to identify individual and departmental needs, 2) Plan and facilitate needs-based training among staff, 3) Evaluation of applied learning assignments as it relates to leadership and negotiating skills, 4) Evaluate task and decision-making competency, 5) Increase mentorship from executive staff, 6) Implement quarterly and annual plans to define and support continuous learning paths which enable staff to remain on an upward bound track.

Targets

Our target for each metric is 100% participation among the Marshal's Office staff in order to produce immediate and long-term positive results.

Prevention

The specialized leadership training will help prevent and detect possible liability issues and bring a holistic approach to operating.

Police Department

Project Description

The supplies and software funded by this grant will be used by training for upgrades, supplies for medical emergencies (for each precinct), record interviews conducted by Internal Affairs and case related activities for the Special Victims and Homicide/Assaults Units, provide customer service through the records division, and software for the Internet Crimes Against Children unit forensic lab. Crime prevention, investigation, and case prosecution rely heavily on police having the skills, knowledge, equipment, and supplies to combat criminal activity.

Need

Proper training, enhanced knowledge, innovative and new equipment are essential to protecting the public from crime. Adopting and employing new supplies and equipment aids in decreasing crime, collecting

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evidence, maintaining public safety, and solving cases. Funding from JAG will assist the DeKalb Police Department in solving chronic criminal activity, protecting the public, and maintaining officer safety.

Goals

- Enhance recruit and officer safety during training.
- Obtain supplies for emergency responses at precincts (officers and community).
- Increase tools available tools to specialty units.

Activities

- Purchase of outlined supplies and software:
 - Picnic Tables and Row Benches
 - Liefpak Defibrillators
 - Avigilon Fisheye Cameras
 - Voice Recorders
 - Printers
 - Cellebrite

Prevention

- Promote officer safety
- Promote public trust

Public Defender's Office

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to provide excellent and comprehensive legal representation to our clients, and provide equal justice for marginalized communities. The trainings will include programming in cultural competency, trauma informed responses and implicit bias. The software will help improve legal outcomes for our clients by enhancing our ability to review video and audio evidence. The additional supplies will help us create information pamphlets and guides that we can share with the public at community events.

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. 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 legal system, and we

Program Narrative

create plans to address these issues. We work collaboratively with other agencies on programs that improve the criminal legal system and reduces crime in our community. This funding will help provide us with the necessary resources and training to promote excellence in our office.

Goals

To provide excellent legal representation for our clients and to promote equal justice, fairness and respect for all people in the legal system. To partner with communities in addressing crime.

Activities

Provide staff with the necessary training and software resources to ensure we provide quality legal representation to all clients. To create information pamphlets that can be shared with the public at community events.

Metrics

Improved outcomes for clients, including case dispositions.

School System

Project Description

The Expanded Day programs, including GRIP and Safe Centers focuses on increasing nonviolent conflict resolution skills, improving communication, decreasing office referrals and providing programming that creates a safe environment for youth. Students who have a disciplinary infraction can be referred to the GRIP program as an alternative to suspension, which keeps the youth engaged in school. Participation in the GRIP program 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.

Need

Minority students are more likely to be impacted by poverty and are disproportionately suspended from school, which leads to a high drop-out rate. Students that 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 students who are exhibiting concerns related to violence or substance use and equip students and families with alternative skills to address and resolve conflict.

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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 Program 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

In order to obtain the program goal, which is to decrease out of school suspension, the program must be marketed effectively to obtain referrals from school leaders. Students and their parents will participate in a 6-hour training, taught by certified social workers and counselors, where they will learn de-escalation techniques, improve communication skills and the impact of substance abuse.

Metrics and Target

Indicators will include the following: complete development of a safe space for students; utilization of the GRIP Program; the number of students who participate in the program and remain enrolled in a traditional setting as opposed to being placed in an alternative program, and a decrease in suspension. Target is 500 students.

Prevention

Violence prevention, conflict resolution and deterring substance abuse, and greater educational success are the basic tenets of the project. DeKalb County School District will also develop Expanded Day programs, e.g. Safe Centers in identified high schools which will serve as a specific area for students to de-escalate in a nurturing environment with adult support.

Sheriff's Office

Project Description

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. This project will aid in increased security in the jail and other locations inmates gather for medical, education and recreational activities.

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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.

Goals

- Increased safety for both officers and inmates
- Decrease in use of force

Activities:

Purchase of body worn cameras for detention officers assigned as Jail Emergency Services Team (JEST) personnel in the jail. These cameras will be used to get an up close visual and audio recording as officers respond to incidents. Cameras will provide recorded documentation of incidents in the jail as well as provided an added safety feature for officers and inmates.

Metric and target

DKSO will utilize our internal data system and data from body cam's to determine if the number of use of forces involving inmates/staff is decreasing and/or increasing compared to previous years. In addition, DKSO will measure how effective verbal judo/deescalating training and policy compliance by conducting random/weekly video footage reviews of body cams worn by staff.

Prevention

DKSO plans to discourage unwanted/unwarranted behavior by both staff and the inmates. The body cams will assist in resolving inmate complaints / investigations, as well as providing legal assistance if needed.

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.

Program Narrative

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

The JAG funded project will 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.

Need

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.

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 by increasing the program's resources for training, contractual services, equipment, and supplies.

Activities

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The Solicitor's Office will partner with and utilize the expertise of social service, mental health, trauma-informed, and victim service providing professionals to deliver evidence-based practices within our programs and trainings. In order to increase staff trainings, our office must make trainings available and worthwhile. Trainings will be comprehensive and will be provided in-house as well as off-site.

Metrics

Diversion Programs are strictly voluntary. In fact, if one begins a Diversion Program and later change their mind, they are free to do so.

We will measure the success of our diversion program by graduation an successful completion data. This data will be collected in our various court case systems.

Target

Our office anticipates that increasing resources for victim-witness programs and services and promoting department-wide training initiatives will assist in increasing prosecution of misdemeanor crimes within the county; increasing victim satisfaction in the judicial process and handling of cases from beginning to end; and increase staff professional development, capacity, and sustainability

Prevention

Not In My DeKalb proposes to address the aforementioned community problem on a multifaceted level. Our Office will collaborate with police and victim service providers to develop a unique take on what other agencies may view as a "task force" or "specialized unit." The project is important because the County needs a solicitor-general's office that shows its constituents it is capable of handling and successfully prosecuting misdemeanor offenses; ensuring that victims of crime are safe and not subjected to ongoing or escalated threats. The proposed project is essential to providing the resources, man-power, and policy implementation necessary to prevent and reduce crimes against women on a much broader scale and truly equipped our agency with tools to help victims more efficiently and hold offenders accountable the first time. With crime at an all-time high in the County, residents need to know that they have a criminal justice system that is competent and effective in the work it is set out to do.