

**U.S. Department of Justice Solicitation  
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program  
FY 2020 Local Solicitation-- CFDA #16.738  
DeKalb County, Georgia Application**

## Program Narrative

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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, 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 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 2020 JAG allocation of \$224,081 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 2020 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:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Purpose Area</b>	<b>JAG allocation</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
District Attorney	Prevention, Alternatives to Prosecution, Victim Assistance	\$28,010	Community Prevention, Prosecution, and Victim Assistance Enhancements
Drug Court	Prevention, Drug Treatment, Drug Court	\$28,010	Case Management
Juvenile Court	Prevention-Delinquency, Training, Education, Intervention	\$28,010	Education and Leadership Training Initiative
Marshal’s Office	Leadership, Officer Safety, Training, Prevention	\$28,010	Specialized Leadership Training
Police	Officer Safety, Violent Crime, Less than Lethal, Equipment-video/audio	\$28,010	Law Enforcement Activities Enhancement
Public Defender	Indigent Defense and Training	\$28,010	Indigent Defense Enhancement
Sheriff’s Office	Law Enforcement and Inmate Safety	\$28,010	Safety Enhancement at Jail
Solicitor-General	Prevention, Counseling, Community Prosecution, Equipment, Prosecution	\$28,010	Prosecution Enhancement
		<b>\$224,081</b>	

## Program Narrative

### *Project Descriptions and Data Collection Plans*

#### *District Attorney's Office*

##### Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to provide training and enhancements to the D.A.'s special prosecution units, the Victim Assistance Program, Crime Strategies and Community Partnership Unit, and alternatives to prosecution programs. 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.

##### 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.

##### Expected Outcomes:

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.

##### 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.

#### *Public Defender's Office*

##### Goals and Objectives:

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 goal of this project is 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 goal will be achieved by providing staff with the necessary resources and training opportunities,

##### Expected Outcomes:

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

### *Drug Court*

#### Goals and Objectives:

DeKalb County Drug Court's (DCDC) Contract Treatment Personnel provides services that help support and guide participants the treatment process in order to achieve programmatic goals and specific objectives identified during their initial assessment and throughout the program. The DCDC 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 learn in various treatment groups to assist them in real time/ real life situations as they reintegrate back into the community. Addressing these areas further assist in preventing relapses and ultimately reduces the recidivism rate, as a result of promoting sobriety and long term recovery goals.

#### Activities

The DCDC Contract Treatment Personnel will use strategies to assist in maintaining a 65% retention rate. These strategies include assisting the new participants with understanding and obtaining the necessary coping skills to remain motivated in treatment; especially after being released from long periods of incarceration. While the participants are incarcerated they are not receiving evidence based substance use disorder treatment services as they would while participating in the DCDC and therefore sobriety looks very different. The DCDC contract treatment personnel will work towards assisting participants with the appropriate strategies and develop individualized recovery goals while maintaining long term sobriety in the community versus in jail and/or prison.

#### Expected Outcomes

DCDC anticipates maintaining a 65% retention rates amongst participants who enroll and complete the program.

## Program Narrative

### Prevention

The prevention component of this project include the reduction of recidivism using evidence-based cognitive-behavior treatment interventions, judicial supervision, and accountability. The Contract Treatment Personnel will assist the participants in understanding the tools and skills necessary to obtain and maintain their sobriety while working towards long term recovery.

### *Juvenile Court*

#### Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Leadership and Education Initiative is to provide vital educational opportunities for court leadership and staff that will help identify and discover new and improved practices; enable staff to become better equipped to manage and support evidence-based programs; motivate staff to explore and implement innovative practices for youth involved in the juvenile justice system; and, provide resources for youth involved in DCJC's educational programs.

Objectives include:

1. Providing vital and important educational opportunities for court leadership and staff.
2. Training and certify juvenile court staff in evidence-based programs
3. Providing educational supplies for juvenile court education programs.
4. Increasing the number of GED completions

#### Activities

- 1) Identify leadership and court staff for additional training to perform job duties effectively.
- 2) Identify training that will provide certification in evidence-based programs for court staff.
- 3) Identify youth in the GED program who are in need of payment for testing and practice tests in order to achieve their goal of attaining their GED.

As leadership and court staff are continuing to serve this population, professional development and training is critical. Attendance at professional development conferences will provide the court with the tools to ensure our programs have access to evidence-based solutions for the court and its participants. In addition, the opportunity for court staff to be trained and certified in evidenced-based practices that are standard in serving the population is key to continuing to address the delinquency and recidivism of court involved youth.

Training dollars will allow the court to equip the staff associated and apply an approach that is tailored to the needs of youth who come in contact with the court. Staff who are adequately trained will provide youth and their families with services that promote immediate intervention, treatment and structure; improve level of functioning; address problems that may contribute to delinquency; build skills that increase their ability to lead

## Program Narrative

crime-free lives; strengthen the family's capacity to offer structure and guidance; and, promote accountability for all involved.

The components of the Education and Leadership Training initiative will:

- Provide vital and important educational opportunities for court leadership and staff that will help identify and discover new and improved practices, share cutting edge research, enable staff to become better equipped to manage and support evidence-based programs, and motivate staff to explore and implement innovative practices for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.
- DCJC will educate, train, and certify juvenile court staff who have a direct effect on the programming delivered to juveniles in Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and Thinking for a Change.
- Provide education supplies to youth in need enrolled in the GED program.

MRT is a comprehensive, systematic treatment program with a cognitive behavioral perspective. It is an objective, systematic treatment system designed to enhance ego, social, moral, and positive behavioral growth in a progressive, step by step fashion. MRT aims to change thought processes and decision-making associated with addiction and criminal behavior. It utilizes a combination of psychological practices to assist with egocentric behaviors and improve moral reasoning and positive identity. Studies suggest it is effective in reducing recidivism after treatment.

Thinking For A Change (T4C): Thinking for a Change is a cognitive—behavioral curriculum developed by the National Institute of Corrections that concentrates on changing the criminogenic thinking of offenders. T4C is a cognitive—behavioral therapy (CBT) program that includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and the development of problem-solving skills. T4C combines cognitive restructuring theory and cognitive skills theory to help individuals take control of their lives by taking control of their thinking (National Institute of Corrections, 2018). The foundation of T4C is the utilization of CBT principles in group sessions. Research shows that cognitive—behavioral programming significantly reduces recidivism of offenders.

Current data available at the DeKalb County Juvenile Court (DCJC) shows that DCJC has averaged more than 1,300 delinquency cases annually over the past four years. The DCJC is faced daily with numerous circumstances and issues that each requires innovative ways to meet the needs of the youth and families involved. Data provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention states that "offenders under age 15 have a high risk of continued criminal involvement yet is more often amendable to services and sanctions." Using both risk and strength-based approaches, this initiative will aid juvenile court's leadership and staff in providing relevant services by training the staff that are tasked to work with the juvenile offenders and their families. With increased knowledge and training each employee will make a greater impact on the youth they serve.

The mission of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court is "to protect the best interests of the child and the community, to restore the lives of children who have been neglected or abused, to redirect 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 the DeKalb County

## Program Narrative

Juvenile Court's mission is protecting the long-term safety of the 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 our mission. However, while DCJC has demonstrated proven successes in carrying out the premise of its mission, it is undisputed that juvenile delinquency is an ongoing issue facing DeKalb County. Many of the court connected youth in its community face a high propensity of recidivism for new delinquent offenses. It is also widely accepted that increases in delinquency and violence are rooted in a number of interrelated social problems, such as child abuse and neglect, alcohol and drug abuse, youth conflict and aggression that may originate in the family unit. As such, of key importance to the DCJC is to provide to our court involved youth and their families juvenile court employees who are well trained in handling all types of situations so they can provide the support, counseling and services that promote pro social behavior and guide the family in a positive direction.

Research of serious and violent youth offenders identified seven risk factors or predictors of violence that are categorized in five domains: individual, family, school, peer-related, and community and neighborhood. It is believed that if these risk factors can be decreased and protective factors enhanced, the likelihood of violence should be reduced therefore, decreasing the incidence of future court involvement. The Education and Leadership Training initiative will enable DCJC to address most of these domains through the training it will provide to the staff who are tasked to work with the juvenile offenders and their families, thereby interrupting the cycle of dysfunction and reducing the recidivism of the youth we serve.

### Expected Outcomes

1. Leadership and court staff will receive additional training to aid in performing job duties more effectively and efficiently.
2. Court staff will receive certifications in two evidence-based programs.
3. Six youth will obtain their GED in the education program.

### Prevention

MRT, GED and Thinking for a Change are programs focused on reducing recidivism and preventing youth from remaining in the juvenile justice system

## *Marshal's Office*

### Goals and Objectives

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 the changing needs of their constituents and communities and enhance officer safety. The Marshal's Office objective is to provide our

## Program Narrative

Command Staff with specialized leadership training to study new conceptual frameworks for addressing policy issues to help us better serve our community.

### Activities

Command staff will attend focused leadership training, specifically Police Executive Research Forum and Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

### Expected Outcomes

Management staff will gain focused leadership skills to effectively and efficiently supervise and assist in carrying out the DeKalb County Marshal's Office mission.

### Prevention

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

## *Police Department*

### 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. Adopting and employing new supplies and equipment aids in decreasing crime, collecting 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

- Arresting criminals while preserving police safety
- Increasing tools available tools to specialty units

### Objectives

- Improving case investigations and evidence sharing through improved technology, equipment and supplies.
- Maintaining officer safety during daily and emergency operations to include narcotics, vice, other special investigations sections, and SWAT/SOD.



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## Program Narrative

### Activities

The equipment 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, equipment, and supplies to combat criminal activity.

Strategies to be used will be:

- Arranging target operations with various law enforcement agencies/jurisdictions for identified areas/suspects and times to apprehend criminals.
- Organizing specialty activities to improve case evidence for case prosecution.
- Sharing information and evidence with prosecutors, local, state, and federal partners

### Expected Outcomes

- Safer citizens and increased response times, especially in targeted and high crime areas.
- Improved violent crime case solvability.
- Enhanced officer safety during surveillance and criminal intervention activities.

### *Sheriff's Office*

#### Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes

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 mere presence of the cameras is expected to decrease inmates' attacks on officers and other 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.

## Program Narrative

### Activities:

Body worn cameras will be purchased through this funding. The 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.

### *Solicitor-General's Office*

### Project Goals and Objectives:

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.

Enhancing victim services/low level offender 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. Our objective is to use funding to create an educational atmosphere that serves to decrease violence and increase successful prosecution.

### Activities

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.

### Expected Outcomes

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

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

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## Program Narrative

community-based mentors and therapists and 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.

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<b>Activity</b>	<b>Identifier</b>	<b>Expectation</b>	<b>Data Collection</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Purchase GED vouchers and supplies	Prevention-delinquency, intervention programs	Clients will obtain GED	# of clients obtaining GED	Juvenile Court
Purchase pole cameras	officer safety, video/audio	Increased availability of taser equipment	Investigative statistics	Police
Purchase body worn cameras	Body worn cameras, officer safety	Increased officer safety	Corrections data	Sheriff
Purchase of program supplies	Prosecution, indigent defense, officer safety	Increased community events' contacts, diversion program reach, case, courtroom, and investigative efficiency and safety	Community events and diversion program statistics, case numbers	Solicitor-General, D.A., and Public Defender, Juvenile Court
Attend advanced-level off-site trainings and conferences.	indigent defense, training, LE leadership, prevention	Opportunities for specialized training & understanding of emerging trends in Indigent Defense, Prosecution, Offender Rehabilitation, and Law Enforcement	Surveys for participants; targeting their increased knowledge of emerging trends.	D.A., Public Defender, Juvenile Court, Solicitor-General, Marshal
Contractual hours for therapists/counselors/speakers	intervention programs, Drug Court, prevention	Increased reach and effectiveness of Alternative to Sentencing programs	Diversion program statistics, sessions offered	Solicitor-General, Drug Court