

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2020 Addressing Victimization within the Juvenile Justice System  
Grant Application

Work Session/Regular  
Session

DATE OF MEETING: October 13, 2020

BUDGET IMPACT: \$99,938 - Fully reimbursed through the grant

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- CJCC Funding - \$99,938
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval to submit application for 2020 Addressing Victimization within the Juvenile Justice System Grant.

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HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is designated by the Governor of Georgia as the State Administering Agency for criminal justice and victims' assistance programs.

CJCC is soliciting applications for funding for local jurisdictions to implement evidence-based and trauma-informed services to delinquently charged youth who have been directly impacted by abuse, neglect, or trauma.

Children's exposure to abuse, whether as victims or witnesses, is often associated with long-term harm because they are at a higher risk of engaging in criminal behavior. Strong relationships exist between youth victimization and issues with mental health, such as substance abuse or post-traumatic stress disorder, and delinquent behavior. Consequently, youth involved with the juvenile justice system are often unable to access the resources and services needed to address their victimization, especially youth from suburban or rural counties, due to limited resources. This grant opportunity will provide funding to implement evidence-based, trauma-informed programs to serve delinquently charged youth who have been directly impacted by abuse, neglect, or trauma with the overarching goal of reducing the risk of future victimization.

If awarded funding, Lowndes County would implement a program that would identify these youth coming through the juvenile justice system, who have been previously victimized, and subsequently provide them with a referral to specialized services which would address their victimization issues. Once the victimization issues are resolved, the therapists would work with the Juvenile Justice Multi Disciplinary Team to determine what, if any, additional services might be appropriate and provide the Juvenile Court Judge with information to make the best decision as to how to further adjudicate the charged youth.

Because this grant is funded through VOCA, there is a 20% match requirement, however, due to the financial hardships most governments are facing due to COVID-19, a blanket match waiver has been issued so any