

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY 2020 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant

Work Session/Regular
Session

DATE OF MEETING: January 26, 2021

BUDGET IMPACT: \$20,000 to be fully reimbursed by grant funding

FUNDING SOURCE:

CJCC Funding - \$20,000

Capital

N/A

SPLOST

TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval for staff to submit application for the FY2020 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Since 2013, Lowndes County Juvenile Court has been providing grant funded services, to local youth and their families, as an alternative to confinement. Most of those services are directed toward those youth who have higher charges and score higher on the risk matrix. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has recently announced the availability of limited funding for programs aimed at addressing those youth who may be first time offenders, committed lesser offenses or otherwise do not qualify for the current services. The goal of this particular program is to serve these youth earlier in the process and by doing so, hopefully equip them with the tools to make better life choices and stay out of the criminal justice system in the future, whether as juveniles or into adulthood.

This particular grant will award a maximum of \$20,000 to six (6) communities in Georgia to implement Strengthening Families Program (SFP). Lowndes County previously utilized SFP through the Juvenile Court but the program hasn't been used since funding for the Delinquency Prevention Grant Program was eliminated following the FY2016 award cycle.

SFP 7-17 is an evidence-based family skills training program designed to address risk and protective factors and increase resilience in families with children between the ages of 7 to 17 years old. The program includes four sessions and is delivered in 12 weekly, two-hour groups. The different sessions are parent, teen, child, and family. SFP 7-17 suggests to include all children in the home for programming, not just the youth being served. A typical group starts with the children, teens, and parents arriving and sitting down together for a meal that is provided to them by the program. Once they are finished eating, children, teens, and parents separate for the first hour to attend different sessions. Each week the subject matter and skills are the same for parents, teens, and children in the first session, even though they attend them separately. This is to assist with practicing the skills at home. After the first session is complete, children, teens, and parents are brought back together for a family session, which focuses on parent-child skill practice.

If approved for funding, CJCC will provide the required training for the providers and fund the program