



PeaceWay Counseling & Mediation Services, Inc.
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in Need of Services (CHINS). In certain circumstances, such as first-time nonviolent and CHINS youth, further intervention may not be necessary. Consequently, when services are appropriate for this population, effective interventions that target specific circumstances or criminogenic needs for these youth should be provided. In order to prevent further involvement with the justice system, evidence-based programming can be a great prevention tool for first-time nonviolent status offenders and CHINS youth at the front end. The SFP program is a wonderful opportunity to prevent at-risk youth, ages 7-17, from entering the juvenile justice system.

In the year 2022 Lowndes County so far has 207 total juvenile CHINS cases, of those 116 juveniles had further court action after the CHINS charges. Additionally, also in 2021, Lowndes County had 81 total juvenile commit first-time nonviolent acts, of those 10 juveniles had further court action after the charges. There is a significant need for evidence-based services that are geared towards low-risk youth and families in Lowndes County. The evidenced based programs that Lowndes County does have access to at this time are for moderate to high-risk youth; therefore, leaving a gap for services. Strengthening Families Program would be a great opportunity for at-risk youth and their families.

SFP research has also demonstrated the following programmatic outcomes, which directly impact the target population's needs described in the needs statement:

- Decreased use and intention to use alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- Enhanced children's protective and resilience factors by improving children's social and life skills, peer resistance, and communication skills.
- Improved parent/child attachment and family relations, communication, and organization.
- Improved adults' parenting skills, reductions in excessive punishment or lax discipline and improvements in parenting self-efficacy,
- Reduced youth behavior problems (i.e., substance use, conduct disorders, aggression, violence, and juvenile delinquency) as well as reduced emotional problems such as depression and psychosomatic disorders.

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