

## A-1. Program Narrative

### I. Project description:

**A. Agency Name, Type & Year Founded:** Lowndes County was founded in 1825.

**B. Geographic Area Targeted:** Lowndes County comprises five cities: Valdosta, Hahira, Lake Park, Remerton, and Dasher. Funding for this grant, if awarded, is expected to be utilized to serve all youth and families who meet eligibility criteria and are residents of Lowndes County. Specifically, Lowndes County is seeking funding to reduce the number of youth who commit first-time nonviolent acts and youth who commit status offenses, also known as Children in Need of Services (CHINS), who are at risk of escalating further into the juvenile justice system. approximately:

- At-risk youth who commit status offenses (CHINS): 185
- At-risk youth who commit first-time nonviolent acts: 275

**C. Estimated Number of Individuals to Serve:** Lowndes County proposes to provide at least two groups of the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). Each group is anticipated to serve 8-12 youth and families for a total of 16-24 families during the grant cycle. SFP is designed to provide parents with enhanced skills and tools to reduce problem behaviors by their offending child. In addition, these skills can then be applied to other children in the family, thus inoculating against future problem behaviors manifested by siblings.

**D. Relevant Characteristics of the Target Population:** In accordance with the intent of the Juvenile Justice Grant Initiatives, the Lowndes County Juvenile Court is choosing to prioritize the target population of youth status offenders, specifically those known as Children in Need of Services (CHINS), and youth who commit first-time nonviolent acts. The Court is requesting funding to support high quality evidence-based intervention in order to prevent repeat status offending and further penetration into the juvenile and criminal justice system. SFP admission will target families with youth who are first time offenders, diverted from the juvenile justice system, charged with a status offense/first-time nonviolent act, and who are appropriate for the services offered by the SFP program.

The overwhelming majority of these youth are African-American and male. Reducing further system penetration for these priority populations is consistent with the Court's mission to safeguard both long-term public safety and youth development and improve juvenile justice outcomes in Lowndes County.