



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Project

Laurie Nash – Youth and Family Services Manager

FY22 ANNUAL SERVICES PLAN

Decategorization Project Name: Johnson County Decategorization
Participating Counties: Johnson
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Approved by the Johnson County Decat Board on September 20, 2021

Overview

The Johnson County Decategorization Board consisted of nine members at the beginning of FY21. Members represent the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, the Board of Supervisors, public health, domestic violence prevention, substance abuse planning, school districts, and social service organizations. At this time, the Decat Board is accepting applications to the board. The Board meets on a monthly basis, with the Contract Oversight/Review Committee convening on an as needed basis to review grant proposals, monitor projects and put forth funding recommendations.

Funding

Executed or anticipated contracts include:

Priority Service Area: Address the needs of children and families currently involved in the child welfare system and/or juvenile court system paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families		
Funding Allocated	CONTRACTOR	Brief Description
\$1,000 Designated	To Be Determined (DCAT4-22-005)	Provide support for the County Cultural Equity Team.
\$3,000 JCS Designated	United Action for Youth-Shoplifters Diversion (DCAT4-21-002)	A diversion program for youth charged with first offense shoplifting, and their parents. The program aims to prevent future involvement in the juvenile court system.

\$30,000 (\$1,000 designated)	Families Inc.- Family Treatment Court (DCAT4-22-001)	Provide supportive services for families involved in Family Treatment Court. Services include; in-home family support, resource and referrals and implementation of group/ family events.
\$21,067 PSSF Designated	Families Inc.- PSSF-Supervised Visitation and Parent Education (DCAT4-21-003)	Support parent/child bonding and attachment by providing supplemental supervised visits for families with young children placed in family foster care or relative placement.
\$14,802 (\$10,000 designated)	Johnson County Social Services Wrap-around Funding (DCAT4-21-001)	Wrap-around emergency assistance fund to aid in the reunification of children with their families, or to prevent their removal. (\$5,000 designated specifically for non-licensed placement supports).
\$634.96 JCS Designated	Juvenile Court Services Interpretation (DCAT4-21-006)	Interpretation services for youth involved in Juvenile Court Services and their families.
\$70,503.96 31%	Category total and percent of funding	

Priority Service Area: Address isolation and mental health and trauma needs of youth and families that are at risk of involvement on the child welfare and/or juvenile court system paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.

Funding Allocated	CONTRACTOR	Brief Description
\$15,000 (\$10,000 designated)	Dream Center 24/7 Dads Fatherhood Programming (DCAT4-22-003)	Supportive group and individual-based services for dads using an evidence-based model that strengthens fathers' involvement with their children and increases parenting skills. Includes youth fathers programming.
\$20,000	United Action for Youth PRIDE Group- LGBTQ based Support Services (DCAT4-22-004)	Group-based support services for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and queer youth in Iowa City and a neighboring rural communities in order to build circles of support.
\$30,000	United Action for Youth Youth and Family Advocacy (DCAT4-22-007)	Mediation and support services for youth and families to prevent out of home placement and runaway behavior while increasing parent/child communication and conflict resolution skills.
\$14,077 (\$10,000 designated)	Families, Inc. Nurturing Parent (DCAT4-22-002)	To provide in-home parenting program using the Nurturing Parent curriculum. Program primarily works with moms strengthening parent-child relationships and parent supports.
\$5,000 Designated	To Be Determined Minority Family Services	Address the needs of families of color to prevent involvement with DHS and/or JCS.
\$84,077 37%	Category total and percent of funding	

Priority Service Area: Promote positive youth development for youth ages 6 to 16 during out of school time, paying particular attention to youth most at risk for involvement in the child welfare or juvenile court system

Funding Allocated	CONTRACTOR	Brief Description
\$20,000	NCJC Empowered2Ride (DCAT4-22-008)	Promote safety and positive adult and peer relationships for youth. Activities include week-long bicycle safety camps, weekly bike-to-school rides for youth attending elementary and junior high schools, off road trail rides, Girls Circle Groups during winter months.
\$10,000 Designated	To Be Determined Special Projects (DCAT4-22-006)	JCS and DHS identified internet safety as a growing concern with youth, resulting in involvement in the Juvenile Court System. Funding to educate and promote safety while online. Focusing on pornography, human trafficking, and bullying.
\$30,000 13%	Category total and percent of funding	

Other Contracts:		
Funding Allocated	CONTRACTOR	Brief Description
\$20,000	Johnson County Administration (DCAT4-17-004)	Decat Coordination and Johnson County Social Services staff time.
\$20,000	Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (DCAT4-19-005)	CPPC programming, Neighborhood and Community Networking, mini-grants, and SDMT coordination.
\$40,000 18%	Category total and percent of funding	

Community Planning:

Identifying programming needs, including development of resources and responding to needs through networking and coordination with other community planning bodies is an activity that continues throughout the calendar/fiscal year. The Decat Coordinator is involved with multiple planning initiatives and committees that address child and family wellbeing including; Early Childhood Iowa/Empowerment Executive Committee, Juvenile Justice and Youth Development Policy Board, Johnson County Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County, Iowa City Area Business Partnership, Johnson County Child Care Coalition, and the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee.

Information from a variety of sources is reviewed on a regular basis; including the Empowerment Community Plan and grantee reporting, Juvenile Justice Youth Development agency reporting, CJJP Johnson County Select Juvenile Justice Planning Data Report, and local child abuse data. The Decat Board includes a DHS and JCS supervisor. Both provide regular updates and reports to the board.

The Johnson County Decategorization Board continually reviews community gaps and needs throughout the year. This information is utilized to establish the Decat priority service areas and development of the annual plan. In addition, the Decat Coordinator and Decat Board Members participate in discussions on community needs with other planning bodies such as Early Childhood Iowa/Empowerment, Juvenile Justice Youth Development, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Disproportionate Minority

Contact Committee, United Way, Iowa City Community School District, Iowa City Area Business Partnership, individual service providers and key stakeholders.

The Decat Board has identified the following Priority Service Areas for FY22:

- Address the needs of children and families currently involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile court system paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.
- Address isolation, mental health and trauma needs and build circles of support for children and families that are at risk of involvement in the child welfare and/or juvenile court system paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.
- Promote positive youth development for youth ages 6 to 16 during out-of-school time, focusing on youth at risk for involvement with the child welfare and/or juvenile court system

Long and short-term planning for Decat programming remains a challenge given the uncertain nature of funding. In FY22, four contracts with a total value of \$78,869 were renewed. Contracts support services such as Wraparound supports for families in the child welfare system, additional supervised visits for families in the foster care system, Shoplifters Diversion programming, CPPC, and administrative supports. Six new contracts have been issued in FY22 totaling \$129,077 for projects such as Family Treatment Court Supports, fatherhood groups, in-home motherhood supports, crisis intervention and mediation services, LGBTQ+ mental health supports, and positive youth development.

Short Term Plan/Desired Results

The Johnson County Decat Board anticipates the following outcomes:

- A reduction in the disproportionate minority contacts in the child welfare system and juvenile court services,
- A reduction in social isolation as a result of increased outreach contacts and service offerings,
- An increase in out-of-school offerings for at-risk and isolated children,
- An increase in access to mental health services and increased opportunities for building positive social supports.
- A reduction in suspensions at schools receiving Decat programming

Additionally, we anticipate that children and families will have an increase in protective factors and in return reduce involvement with juvenile court and child welfare services. By providing a continuum of comprehensive services in collaboration with community partners, including DHS and JCS, a safety net of services will be in place to assist families and in turn reduce the number of children in out-of-home placement.

Tracking of Results and Outcomes:

Each contractor is required to submit a monthly invoice, and a quarterly progress report that are reviewed by the Decat Coordinator for contract compliance. The report template aligns with the scope of services and performance measures indicated in their contract. Johnson County Decategorization Board meets

monthly, and the Coordinator provides updates to the Board on progress report findings. Additionally, Contract and Monitoring forms are completed on a quarterly basis. The Contract Oversight/Review Committee receives all of the quarterly reports and reviews contractor's progress and performance prior to recommending contract renewals. Annually, each contractor receives a site visit and/or provides a presentation to the Decat Board.

The Decat Board tracks data on the number of children involved in the child welfare and juvenile court systems, in an effort to increase supports and skills and provide a supportive community to prevent initial and on-going involvement in these formal systems.

Monitoring and Maintaining Fiscal Accountability:

Each Contractor is provided a GAX form and instructions for completion. The Contractor sends monthly invoices to the Coordinator. The Coordinator reviews the invoice and compares to the Contract. Once approved, the documentation is reviewed by the Social Services Department Accountant. After the invoice passes this two-step process, the GAX form is sent to the SAM for review and approval.

In previous years the Decat program administrators have utilized the Child Welfare Budget Monitor to reconcile the financial records on a quarterly basis. However, this report is no longer provided. Reconciliation now occurs at the conclusion of the year when the Carry Forward Report is distributed.

A review of the Decat budget and contract monitoring occurs monthly at Decat Board meetings.

Carryover:

The carryover funds will be necessary to sustain existing programs that have a contract renewal option and demonstrated success. Should carry over funds exceed obligations, remaining funds would be dedicated to projects that have the ability to expand capacity and/or enrich existing services and fill a demand where a gap or unmet need exists, particularly in under-served areas.

Expansion of mental health services for children at-risk is an identified priority should additional funding become available, as well as group supports for school- aged children in foster care and informal supports for foster families.