



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Project

Laurie Nash – Youth and Family Services Manager

FY23 ANNUAL SERVICES PLAN

Decategorization Project Name: Johnson County Decategorization
Participating Counties: Johnson
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Date of Report: Approved by the Johnson County Decat Board on **September 19, 2022**

Overview

The Johnson County Decategorization Board consisted of ten members at the submission of this plan. Members represent the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, the Board of Supervisors, public health, domestic violence prevention, substance abuse planning and prevention, school districts, community members, and youth serving 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 (DCAT4-23-no#yet)	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 (\$1,500 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.

\$30,000 PSSF (25,869 designated)	Families Inc.- PSSF-Supervised Visitation and Parent Education (DCAT4-23-002)	Support parent/child bonding and attachment by providing supplemental supervised visits for families with young children placed in family foster care or relative placement.
\$10,000 (\$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).
\$500.00 JCS Designated	Juvenile Court Services Interpretation (DCAT4-23-003)	Interpretation and translation services for youth involved in Juvenile Court Services and their families.
\$74,500 28%	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 (\$15,000 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 (\$14,077 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.
\$23,244.56 (\$3,000 designated)	United Action for Youth Minority Family Services, SPARK (DCAT4-22-005)	To provide family supports and positive youth development programming for youth and families of color to prevent involvement with DHS and/or JCS.
\$10,000 Designated)	Refugee Family Support Services (DCAT4-23-004)	Contract negotiation underway
\$112,321.56 42%	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
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\$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.
\$15,923	United Action for Youth Ranshaw House Hang-Out (DCAT4-23-006)	To provide positive youth development programming for youth and families of color to prevent involvement with DHS and/or JCS
\$35,923 13%	Category total and percent of funding	

Other Contracts:		
Funding Allocated	CONTRACTOR	Brief Description
\$25,000	Johnson County Administration (DCAT4-23-001)	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.
\$2,000 Designated	Johnson County Social Service Professional Development (DCAT4-22-006)	Funding to address emergent needs, with trainings offered to DHS, JCS and other child serving agencies
\$47,000 %17	Category total and percent of funding	

Community Planning:

The Decat Board’s process for community planning is ongoing. The Board identifies programming needs throughout the year as part of progress report reviews, contractor site visits and presentations, and reviewing community partner needs assessments. Additional needs are identified through networking and coordination with other community planning bodies. Organizations and individuals that participated in developing the FY23 plan included Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County, Department of Human Services, Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP), Dream City, Families Inc., Four Oaks, Iowa City Community School District, ISU Extension, Juvenile Court Services, Johnson County Board of Supervisors, Johnson County Public Health, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, United Action for Youth, and community members. The Decat Coordinator is the coordinator for Johnson County’s Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, and Juvenile Justice & Youth Development Policy Board. The Decat Coordinator is also actively involved with multiple planning initiatives and committees that address child and family wellbeing including Early Childhood Iowa/Empowerment Executive Committee, Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County, Iowa City Area Business Partnership, and the Johnson County Child Care Solutions Team.

Information from a variety of sources is reviewed on a regular basis including Child Care Resource & Referral data, Early Childhood Iowa Area/Empowerment Community Plan and grantee reporting, Juvenile Justice Youth Development agency reporting, CJJP Johnson County Select Juvenile Justice Planning Data

Report, Iowa Department of Education data, and local child abuse data. The Decat Board includes supervisors from DHS and JCS. Both provide regular updates and reports to the board.

Identification of community resources, gaps, and needs are assessed throughout the year. Information from board members, contracting partners, formal needs assessments, and site visits is utilized by the Board to establish priority service areas and develop the annual plan. The Decat Coordinator and Decat Board Members participate in discussions on community needs with other planning entities including Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, Early Childhood Iowa/Empowerment, Iowa City Area Business Partnership, Juvenile Justice Youth Development, individual service providers and key stakeholders.

Some basic DHS information that is tracked and trends updated annually includes Total Reports, Total Children, Unique Children, Type of Abuse, and Age of Child. Since 2016, Total Reports in Johnson County have increased by 45% and Total Children reported increased by 33%. Children Confirmed and Founded increased by 98.5% in that time period. This increase is due, in large part, to a significant increase in the number of Dangerous Substance and Presence of Illegal Drugs cases. The only data set that has decreased since 2016 is the number of Family Assessments and children in Family Assessments, though the decreases were relatively small. Johnson County continues to address disproportionality in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. From FY2019 to FY2022, almost all racial groups experienced a decrease in the number of placements. While Black of African American children had one of the greatest decreases during that time, they continue to be disproportionately represented in Johnson County's child welfare system.

The Decat Board reaffirmed the following Priority Service Areas for FY23:

- 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

In FY23, nine contracts with a total value of \$162,077 were renewed. Renewal contracts support services such as wraparound supports for families in the child welfare system, fatherhood supports, motherhood supports, support services for Family Treatment Court, crisis and family mediation services, afterschool mental health supports for LGBTQ youth, two afterschool positive youth development programs for youth of color, Shoplifters Diversion programming, and CPPC. Four new contracts have been issued in FY23 totaling \$71,423 for projects such as afterschool programming for minority youth in an underserved community, supplemental supervised visits for families in the child welfare system, Juvenile Court interpretation services, Two contracts totaling \$25,245 continued from FY22; services supporting minority youth and professional development for \$2,000 continued from FY22. At the time of this report, the Decat Board was considering two applications for minority-focused family supports in response to the second Informal Solicitation totaling \$10,000 for that purpose. As mentioned in previous plans, long and short-

term planning for Decat programming remains a challenge given the uncertain nature of funding.

Short Term Plan/Desired Results

The Johnson County Decat Board anticipates the following outcomes:

- A reduction in 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.

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 therefore reduce the number of children in out-of-home placement.

Tracking of Results and Outcomes:

Each contractor is required to submit monthly invoices and quarterly progress reports that are reviewed by the Decat Coordinator for contract compliance. The report template aligns with the scope of services and performance measures indicated in the contract. Johnson County Decategorization Board meets monthly and the Board receives updates on progress reports and programming. Contract and Monitoring forms are completed on a quarterly basis. The Contract Oversight/Review Committee receives all of the quarterly reports and reviews contractors' 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. Data is reviewed in order to make effective decisions 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. Contractors send monthly invoices to the Coordinator, who reviews the invoices and compares to the Contract. Once approved, documentation is reviewed by the Social Services Department Accountant. After an invoice passes this two-step process, the GAX form is sent to the SAM for review and approval. Reconciliation 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:

Carryover funds are 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 supports for minority families at risk of involvement with the child welfare system.