

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2018 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

DATE OF MEETING: April 11, 2017

BUDGET IMPACT: \$531,360.00

FUNDING SOURCE

Annual

Capital

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (\$531,360.00)

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Recommendation

Policy/Discussion

Report

Other

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: 2018 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

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**HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:** In 2011, the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform was formed to study Georgia's criminal justice system and was charged by Governor Nathan Deal with recommending policy changes. In keeping with Governor Deal's goal of increasing public safety through a more effective juvenile system, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and the Juvenile Justice Incentive Funding Committee has issued requests for proposals seeking local juvenile justice projects that aim to reduce the number of youth served out of home. This goal can be realized by using available grant funds to develop programs that address the needs of youth who are typically committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

In each of the last two years, Lowndes County has been awarded funding to implement evidence based diversion programs through the Juvenile Court System which provide the Judge alternatives to confinement for offending youth which appear before the court. First year funding was split between two programs, Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and the current funding is allocated solely to the FFT. Since their implementation beginning in October 2013, the Juvenile Court has utilized these programs to refer 40 offending youth to either family therapy or group counseling programs as opposed to sending them off to a youth detention center. This has resulted in a costs savings to taxpayers but more importantly has hopefully been beneficial to the youths and their families by providing them with the guidance and direction they need to steer them back on a positive track and keep them from a lifetime in and out of the judicial system.

The CJCC has recently announced the availability of funding for the Fiscal Year 2018 Grant Cycle. The current funding opportunity allows applicants that were previously awarded funding to submit a proposal for continuation of their current programs. Lowndes County currently funds two full time therapists and a part time therapist/supervisor to provide FFT in Lowndes County. For planning and budgeting purposes one therapist is allocated per 32 youth referred per year. Based on current and projected numbers Lowndes County would not have enough youth to support a third full time therapist but this proposal would extend services to neighboring Brooks County thereby justifying the expense of a third therapist within the Lowndes County program and also allowing Brooks County's Juvenile Court to benefit from the services that have benefitted Lowndes County so far.

Included as part of the application is an updated Memorandum of Understanding with Evidence Based Associates as the service provider for implementation of services and reporting requirements.

There will be no direct budget impact to Lowndes County as the grant covers 100% of the costs for program implementation up to the maximum grant award amount. However, the grant is a reimbursement grant which means that all costs associated with program implementation will be paid by Lowndes County and will be reimbursed upon the submission of appropriate documentation to the CJCC.

- OPTIONS: 1. Authorize the Chairman to sign the required documentation for staff to submit the proposal to CJCC.  
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management      Department Head: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION:

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County Manager

Action Taken By Board: \_\_\_\_\_