



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Project

Lynette Jacoby, LMSW – Social Services Director

FY20 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 16, 2019

Overview:

The Johnson County Decategorization Board currently consists of 10 members representing the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, the Board of Supervisors, the University of Iowa School of Social Work, United Way, community volunteers, and health and social services 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:

Funding Allocated	CONTRACTOR	Brief Description
	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	
\$1,500 Designated	Contract needed	Provide support for the Breakthrough Series Collaborative.
\$3,000 JCS Designated	United Action for Youth-Shoplifters (DCAT4-17-005)	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.
\$28,000 \$1,250 Designated	Families Inc.- Family Treatment Court (DCAT4-20-001)	Provide supportive services for families involved in Family Treatment Court. Services include; in-home family support, resource and referrals, and implementation of group and family events.

\$15,739 PSSF Designated	Families Inc.- PSSF-Supervised Visits (DCAT4-19-006)	Support parent/child bonding and attachment by providing supplemental supervised visits for families with young children placed in family foster care or relative placement.
\$8,000 Designated	Johnson County Social Services Wrap-around Funding (DCAT4-16-010)	Wrap-around emergency assistance fund to aid in the reunification of children with their families, or to prevent their removal. (\$3,000 designated specifically for non-licensed placement supports).
\$1,000 Designated	Johnson County Social Services Interpretation and Translation (DCAT4-20-012)	Provide translation and interpretation (fiscal agent) for Juvenile Court Services clients and their families who will benefit from fully understanding the terms of probation and other court expectations.
\$57,239/ 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.	
\$9,500 Designated	Dream Center Fatherhood Programming – (DCAT4-19-034)	Supportive group and individual-based services for dads using an evidence-based model that strengthens fathers' involvement with their children and increases parenting skills.
\$5,500 Designated	Fatherhood Programming (DCAT4-20-011)	Contract needed to encumber the remaining designated funding for Dads- services will be targeted toward under-served dads. Informal solicitation in-progress
\$18,000	United Action for Youth PRIDE Group- LGBTQ based Support Services (DCAT4-20-003)	Group-based support services for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and queer youth in Iowa City and a neighboring rural community in order to build circles of support.
\$27,000	United Action for Youth Crisis Mediation (DCAT4-20-002)	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.
\$13,451 Designated	Families, Inc. Nurturing Parent (DCAT4-20-006)	To provide in-home parenting program using the Nurturing Parent curriculum. Program primarily works with moms strengthening parent-child relationships and parent supports.
\$2,000 Designated	Johnson County Social Services/ CPPC Interpretation/Translation (DCAT4-19-005)	Provide community based child abuse prevention services with support by Interpretation and translation services of signage, written and oral materials for families who are English language learners
\$1,750	United Action for Youth PRIDE CAMP (DCAT4-19-035)	To provide a weeklong camp specifically addressing the needs of LGBTQ identified youth. A trained Health Educator provided emphasis on healthy relationships.
\$77,201/ 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	
\$18,000	United Action for Youth-6th Grade Art and Music Club (DCAT4-20-004)	Provide weekly after-school music and arts skill building groups for sixth graders, at four elementary schools. Program to provide positive supports and promote social skills and creative self-expression.
\$10,000 Designated	Johnson County Social Services- G-World (DCAT4-18-013)	Program partnership with Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County for African American girls group at the Junior and Senior High schools increasing self-confidence and problem solving skills.
\$28,000/15%	Category total and percent of funding	
	Other Contracts:	
\$20,000	Johnson County Administration (DCAT4-17-004)	Decat Coordination and Johnson County Social Services staff time.
\$20,000/11%	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; Empowerment Executive Committee, Juvenile Justice and Youth Development Policy Board and Workgroup, United Way Community Investment Committee, Johnson County CPPC, Prevent Child Abuse Johnson County, Juvenile Detention and Diversion Service Advisory Committee, 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, United Way’s 2020 Vision, 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 Empowerment, Juvenile Justice Youth Development, Community Partnership to Protect Children, Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, United Way, Iowa City Community School District, individual service providers and key stakeholders.

The Decat Board has identified the following Priority Service Areas for FY20:

- 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 on 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 significant loss of funding. In FY20, six contracts with a total value of \$52,500 were renewed. Thus far, in FY20, six new contracts have been issued totaling \$106,201 for projects such as; Family Treatment Court supports, crisis intervention and mediation services, in-home family support, youth LGBTQ supports and positive youth development programming. It is anticipated that one additional contract for fatherhood services will be procured in the coming weeks.

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.