



# JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Project

*Laurie Nash – Youth and Family Services Manager*

## FY21 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 22, 2020*

### Overview

The Johnson County Decategorization Board consisted of 10 members at the beginning of FY21. Members represent the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, the Board of Supervisors, 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:

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	Contract needed (DCAT4-21-006)	Provide support for the County Equity Team.
\$3,000 JCS Designated	United Action for Youth-Shoplifters (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.
\$28,000	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/ family events.

<b>\$21,067 PSSF Designated</b>	<b>Families Inc.- PSSF-Supervised Visits (DCAT4-21-003)</b>	Support parent/child bonding and attachment by providing supplemental supervised visits for families with young children placed in family foster care or relative placement.
<b>\$8,000 Designated</b>	<b>Johnson County Social Services Wrap-around Funding (DCAT4-21-001)</b>	Wrap-around emergency assistance fund to aid in the reunification of children with their families, or to prevent their removal. (\$4,000 designated specifically for non-licensed placement supports).
<b>\$500 Designated</b>	<b>Johnson County Social Services Interpretation and Translation (DCAT4-21-001)</b>	Provide translation and interpretation for DHS clients and their families who will benefit from fully understanding the terms of case expectations and other court requirements.
<b>\$61,567/ 37%</b>	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.**

<b>Funding Allocated</b>	<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>\$5,500 Designated</b>	<b>Dream Center Fatherhood Programming – (DCAT4-21-005)</b>	Supportive group and individual-based services for dads using an evidence-based model that strengthens fathers' involvement with their children and increases parenting skills.
<b>\$5,500 Designated</b>	<b>UAY/ Dream City Young Fathers (DCAT4-20-011)</b>	Group based support services for young fathers using the Parents as Teachers evidence based curriculum model
<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>United Action for Youth PRIDE Group- LGBTQ based Support Services (DCAT4-20-003)</b>	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.
<b>\$27,000</b>	<b>United Action for Youth Crisis Mediation (DCAT4-20-002)</b>	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.
<b>\$11,000 Designated</b>	<b>Families, Inc. Nurturing Parent (DCAT4-20-006)</b>	To provide in-home parenting program using the Nurturing Parent curriculum. Program primarily works with moms strengthening parent-child relationships and parent supports.
<b>\$67,000/ 40%</b>	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**

<b>Funding Allocated</b>	<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>United Action for Youth- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art and Music Club (DCAT4-20-004)</b>	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.

<b>\$18,000/ 11%</b>	Category total and percent of funding
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<b>Other Contracts:</b>		
<b>Funding Allocated</b>	<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>Johnson County Administration (DCAT4-17-004)</b>	Decat Coordination and Johnson County Social Services staff time.
<b>\$20,000/ 12%</b>	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, CJPJ 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 FY21:

- 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 FY21, eight contracts with a total value of \$127,500 were renewed. Contracts support services such as Family Treatment Court supports, crisis intervention and mediation services, youth LGBTQ supports, positive youth development programming, and youth fathers' groups. Four new contracts have been issued in FY21 totaling \$38,067 for projects such as fatherhood groups, Wraparound Supports, in-home motherhood supports, and Supervised Visits and Parenting Support.

### **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.