



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Project

Laurie Nash – Youth and Family Services Manager

FY24 ANNUAL SERVICES PLAN

Decategorization Project Name: Johnson County Decategorization
Participating Counties: Johnson
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Overview

The Johnson County Decategorization Board consisted of nine members at the writing of this plan. Members represent the Department of Health & 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 and is specifically recruiting for a community representative. 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

Available Funding for FY24	
\$ 277,539.82	TOTAL
\$ 156,534.82	FY23 funds unencumbered and carried forward
\$ 72,136.00	FY24 Legislative Allocation held for FY25
\$ 25,869.00	PSSF FY24 transfer
\$ 20,000.00	CPPC allocation
\$ 3,000.00	Juvenile Court Services transfer

Executed 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
\$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 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.
\$500.00	Juvenile Court Services Interpretation (DCAT4-23-003)	Interpretation and translation services for youth involved in Juvenile Court Services and their families.
\$33,500 18%	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
\$35,000	UAY Pride Mental Health Supports (DCAT4-24-002)	Mental health supports for youth and families. Includes bi-weekly therapeutic mental health focused youth groups, individual counseling sessions, community-based presentations and consultations regarding mental health needs of LGBTQ+ youth.
\$5,500	Families, Inc. Nurturing Parent (DCAT4-24-009)	To provide in-home parenting program using the Nurturing Parent curriculum. Program primarily works with moms strengthening parent-child relationships and parent supports.
\$9,500	United Action for Youth Pride Parenting Groups (DCAT4-24-004)	Parenting supports for families with LGBTQ+ youth in Johnson County. Includes Parent Groups and Support Sessions.
\$5,000	Global Families Support (DCAT4-23-004)	8 parenting classes for immigrant/refugee families
\$55,000 29%	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
\$45,000	United Action for Youth Positive Youth Development for LGBTQ+ Youth (DCAT4-24-003)	Positive youth development services for LGBTQ+ youth ages 6-16 in Johnson County. Includes Pride Groups in 3 school districts, Pride Hangouts, Pride Camp, Pride Rock, and Peer Leadership.
\$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 HHS and/or JCS
\$60,923 32%	Category total and percent of funding	

Other Contracts:		
Funding Allocated	CONTRACTOR	Brief Description
\$20,000	Johnson County Administration (DCAT4-23-001)	Decat Coordination and Johnson County Social Services staff time.
\$20,000	Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (DCAT4-24-001)	CPPC programming, Neighborhood and Community Networking, mini-grants, and SDMT coordination.
\$40,000 21%	Category total and percent of funding	
\$189,423 68%	Total currently allocated for FY24	

Community Planning:

The Decat Board's process for community planning is ongoing. The Board identifies programming needs throughout the year through discussion of community partner needs assessments and updated data trends, review of program progress reports, contractor site visits and presentations. Additional needs are identified through networking and coordination with other community planning bodies. Organizations and individuals that contributed to the development of the FY24 plan included Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County, Iowa Health & 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 also 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 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, Juvenile Justice Youth Development agency reporting, CJPJ Johnson County Select Juvenile Justice Planning Data Report, Iowa Department of Education data, and local child abuse data. The Decat Board includes supervisors from Iowa Health & Human Services and Juvenile Court Services. Both provide regular updates and reports to the board.

Community resources, gaps, and needs are identified and assessed throughout the year. The Board utilizes information from board members, contracting partners, formal needs assessments, and site visits 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 HHS information that is tracked and trends updated annually includes Total Reports, Total Children, Unique Children, Type of Abuse, and Age of Child **as reported in DHS "Child Welfare data reports"**. Data for the last 3+ years is unique due to factors created by the pandemic including more children at home instead of physically in school, increased parental stress, and other factors. With that said, since 2018 Total Reports in Johnson County have increased by 16% and Total Children reported increased by 15%. Children Confirmed and Founded increased by 47% in that time period. This increase is attributed, in large part, to an increase in the incidence of Presence of illegal Drugs (+71%) and Denial of Critical Care cases (+35%). Since 2016, there has been a significant increase in Dangerous Substance (previously "exposure to manufacturing meth"), but those numbers have been relatively stable since 2018. The data set that has decreased since 2018 is Sexual abuse, though the overall numbers are relatively low (down from 11 cases to 6 cases; -45.5%). Johnson County continues to address disproportionality in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. **Data from the DHS Child Welfare Dashboard shows** that 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.

As mentioned in previous plans, long and short-term planning for Decat programming remains a challenge given the uncertain nature of funding. Recent decrease in funding has heightened this discomfort. Recent Informal Solicitations have received fewer applicants and some previously funded programs have not applied for continued funding. Efforts to reach out to new and varied service providers have been challenging, as the HHS contracting, invoicing, and reporting systems and requirements can be daunting especially for small organizations or those who haven't typically worked with government entities.

In FY24 the Decat Board reaffirmed the following Priority Service Areas:

- 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

Contracts:

Johnson County Decat administers 11 contracts in FY24. Six contracts with a total value of \$74,423 were renewed. Renewal contracts support services such as supplemental supervised visits for families in the child welfare system, immigrant/refugee family supports, afterschool positive youth development programs for youth of color, Shoplifters Diversion programming, Juvenile Court interpretation services, and administrative and program oversight duties for Decat. Five new contracts have been issued in FY24 totaling \$71,423 to support Community Partnerships for Protecting Children and provide in-home motherhood supports as well as services and supports for LGBTQ+ youth and families including parent education and support, mental health programming and consultation, and afterschool positive youth development.

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 are 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 underserved 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.