



LINN COUNTY DECATORIZATION BOARD
Annual Progress Report for Fiscal Year 2020

Prepared for the Linn County Decategorization Board by:

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Approved by Linn County Decategorization Board: 11/12/2020

Upon approval, the report will be sent to:

- DHS Division Administrator and Program Manager
- DHS CRSA Service Area Manager
- 6th Judicial District Chief Juvenile Court Officer
- Early Childhood Iowa State Office

DECAT KEY ACTIVITIES

The Decat Governance Board partnered with community members to ensure the Decat intent was met. *Decat Intent: To redirect child welfare and juvenile justice funding to services which are more preventive, family centered, and community-based, in order to reduce use of restrictive approaches that rely on institutional, out-of-home, and out-of-community care.*

Linn County Decat Planning Team Contributors

Decat Governance Board:

David Thielen, Linn County Community Services
 Laura Faircloth, Cedar Rapids Police Department
 Matt Majeski, Department of Human Services-CRSA
 Ben Rogers, Linn County Board of Supervisors
 Christopher Wyatt, 6th Judicial District Juvenile Court Office

Staff:

Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County Decat Director
 Jeanette Shoop, Linn County Decat Coordinator

Decat Services Planning Partners:

Kristi Tisl, Dept of Human Services-CRSA	Mary Loops, Juvenile Court Office
Valarie Lovaglia, Dept of Human Services	United Way of ECI Education Impact Solution Team
Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Board	Linn County SAFE Kids Coalition
Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID)	Child & Youth Mental Health Committee
Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC)	Jennifer Cress-Sliffe, Iowa Child Advocacy Board
Immigrant Concerns and Refugee Alliance of Linn County	Linn County Community for Change Committee (BSC)
Linn County Coalition for Safe and Healthy Communities	Linn County ISU Extension and Outreach
Equity and Justice Counseling Services, Katy Swalwell and Daniel Spikes	
RISE Program (Reintegration Initiative for Safety & Empowerment)	

Presentations from Linn County Decat Funded & Community Programs

There were 4 presentations in FY 20 to keep the Linn County Decat Board current on community needs:

- African American Family Preservation and Resource Committee
- Amani Community Services
- Focusing Families and You Do Matter, Jane Boyd
- Intercultural Youth Program

Coordinate and Collaborate with DHS Service Area Manager(*Denotes funds for **Designated** services provided in FY 20)

The Cedar Rapids Service Area DHS SAM is a member of the Linn County Decat Board and provides monthly updates on factors affecting the child welfare system. Per input from the SAM, the Decat Board provided support to the following programs that have a direct positive impact on child welfare services. These include:

1. ***Relative Support Wraparound funds:** \$5,000 for FY20 financial support for expenses incurred by relatives or other DHS identified appropriate caregivers that are not licensed to provide foster care, but who have children placed in their care.
2. ***DHS Involved Families Wraparound funds:** \$5,000 for FY20 financial support for expenses incurred by families involved with DHS, an additional \$5,000 of PSSF funds was added 3/1/2020, for total contract of \$10,000.
3. ***African American Family Preservation Resource Committee:** \$35,000 for FY 20 positive youth development and community engagement supports to youth of African descent who are involved or at risk for involvement with DHS or JCS.
4. ***Parental Support Programs for Mothers and Fathers:** \$30,000 FY20 Services to YouthPort for parents at risk for involvement with DHS, \$5,758.00 in PSSF funds, and \$34,242 undesignated funds awarded, for a total contract in the amount \$70,000 for FY20.
5. ***Family Treatment Court Alumni Group:** \$1,000 for FY20 services in support of the Family Treatment Court graduates.
6. ***Breakthru Series Collaborative (BSC):** \$1,500 for FY20 support of the BSC committee projects.
7. ***JFAST:** \$35,241 for FY20 services to reduce the number of involuntary child mental health committals. Unobligated Decat state funds brought contract total to \$74,999.
8. **Professional Development:** \$5,000 transferred from 2 other Decat Boards to support community trainings.

Additionally, Cedar Rapids DHS staff completed a prioritization survey of Linn County Decat-funded programs to assist the Board in FY funding decisions.

Coordinate and Collaborate with Juvenile Court Office:(*Denotes funds for **Designated** services provided in FY 20)

The Chief Juvenile Court Officer is co-chair of the Linn County Decat Board and provides monthly updates on factors affecting the juvenile courts system. Per input from the Chief Juvenile Court Officer, the Decat Board provided support to these programs that have a direct positive impact on juvenile delinquency prevention. These include:

- *JFAST:** \$40,000 received for use in FY 21 services to reduce the number of involuntary child mental health committals.
- *Wellington Heights NESP:** \$18,974 for use in neighborhood based youth development summer program.
- *LINK Detention Alternative:** \$200,000 for FY20 services to reduce the number of minority youth in Detention.

JCO staff also provided program prioritization information to assist the Board in FY funding decisions.

Pass-Through Funds

The Linn County Decat Board handles funds that are allocated to them as a Pass-Through grant, or to be transferred to another entity for a specified relevant use.

1. **Community Partnership for Protecting Children** (CPPC): \$20,000 to *identify ways for community members and professionals to work with families* that helps child welfare services be more inviting, needs-based, accessible, and relevant.
2. **Promoting Safe and Stable Families** (PSSF): \$90,309 awarded to *Nurturing Parent Program (NPP), Tanager Place, and as noted above for Youth Port and DHS involved wraparound services.*

Other Funded Programs with un-stipulated \$'s:

1. *Focusing Families and You Do Matter–Jane Boyd* : \$31,515 and \$31,000
2. *Intercultural Youth Program (LEP)*: \$55,000
3. *Decat Contract and Fiscal Management*: \$89,232

Community Training in FY 20:

Tanager Place was awarded professional development funds to provide "Introduction to the Autism Spectrum" training. This training was offered by webinar, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty participants attended the training live, and the training was also recorded.

DECAT PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS

The Linn County Decat Board’s Community Needs Assessment identified the following Priority Areas:

1. Prevent Child Abuse and Re-Abuse
2. Increase Supports for Non-Licensed (out-of-home) Relative Care Placements
3. Reduce Disproportionality & Disparity of Youth in Juvenile Justice/DHS Systems
4. Reduce Child (out-of-home) Removal Rates
5. Increase Supports for Appropriate Family Reunification

All programs selected for funding are reviewed for their alignment with the Board Priorities. Program year-end data provides an opportunity to see if the services positively impacted the Priority Areas and the Decat Intent.

Below is data from Linn County Decat funded programs that demonstrate progress toward Board Priorities and Decat Intent.

- *Less than 4% of youth in the LINK Diversion & less than 3% in LINK Tracking had a new aggravated misdemeanor or felony charge.*
- *96% of families receiving Promoting Safe and Stable Families in-home support had no new incidence of child abuse.*
- *77% of J-Fast youth served by program were diverted from juvenile hospital committals, services with the Department of Human Services or further involvement with law enforcement.*
- *89% of African American youth with families enrolled in the Focusing Families program successfully maintained their in-home placement.*
- *87% of Intercultural Youth Program students improved their school attendance.*

- 100% of youth in the African American Family Preservation & Resource Committee Girls Anger Management Group improved their school attendance and communication skills with adults in leadership roles.
- 90% of youth in the NESP Summer Program improved their attitudes towards law enforcement, elders and authority figures.
- 96% of youth that successfully completed the "You Do Matter" Program had no new referrals to Juvenile Court Services.
- 88% of families that successfully completed a "Strengthening Families" program reported an increased awareness of community resources to support healthy family development.
- 77% of participants in the Family Treatment Court Alumni Group reported remaining sober, abstaining from substances, and their children remained in their home.
- 78% of participants in the "Love and Logic" parenting program reported the program increased their ability to employ practical strategies with their children for reducing behavior problems.

DECAT KEY OUTCOMES AND EXPENDITURES

CONTRACT #	PROVIDER	Program Name & Service	FY20 Total Expended \$ and %	# of Goals	# of Goals Met	Did they meet the minimum # Goals for full payment?
Programs that support the Decat Board priority: Prevent Child Abuse						
DCAT4-19-007 Grant total FY20: \$21,500	Cedar Rapids School District	<u>NESP</u> : Summer programming for elementary youth, entering 1st - 6th grade, residing in targeted neighborhoods and/or elementary schools.	\$18,974 88%	8	8	Yes
DCAT4-19-066 Grant total FY20: \$20,000	Linn County Board of Supervisors	<u>CPPC</u> : Coordinate four key strategies to prevent child abuse, neglect and re-abuse. The four key strategies are: 1) Individualized Course of Action, 2) Policy and Practice Change, 3) Neighborhood and Community Networking, 4) Shared Decision Making.	\$20,000 100%	8	8	Yes
DCAT4-19-014 Grant total FY20: \$31,000	Jane Boyd	<u>Focusing Families</u> : Flexible financial supports and referrals to community partners that will assist primarily African American youth and their families with barriers that are keeping them from becoming stable.	\$31,000 100%	9	7	Yes
<i>DCAT4-19-014 Reviewer comments: 2 Outcome Goals not met</i> - % of youth that maintain in-home placement, goal was 90%, program met 89% - % of families served in core neighborhoods, goal was 70%, program met 56%, due to housing needs extending past core neighborhoods						
DCAT4-20-007 Grant total FY20: \$70,000	YouthPort	<u>Mothers/Fathers Support Services</u> : Support services to Mothers and Fathers involved with, or at risk of involvement with DHS, in order to reduce out of home placement and increase family stability	\$70,000 100%	14	10	Yes
<i>Reviewer comments 1 Output Goal and: 3 Outcome Goals not met</i> -# of participants in Love and Logic Group, goal was 30, program met 27 -% of participants that report increased knowledge, goal was 75%, program average for all parenting programs was 57%						

Programs that support the Decat Board priority: Reduce Child Removal Rates						
JUV-19-CB-6-001 Grant total: \$200,000	LCBOS	<u>LINK</u> : Diversion: Target population is low to moderate risk offenders. Designed to assist youth/family to identify needs and link them to resources in order to build natural support system. Tracking: Target population is higher risk offenders. Provides in-home supervision, referrals & outreach services	\$200,000 100%	N/A	N/A	N/A Program does not have this requirement.
DCAT4-19-013 Grant total FY20: \$74,999	Foundation 2, Inc.	<u>J-FAST</u> : Rapid response and case management of child/youth mental health support services to reduce involuntary mental health committals.	\$74,999 100%	6	5	Yes
<i>Reviewer comments: 1 Outcome Goal not met -% of families on case management that successfully complete 3 follow up appointments, goal was 85%, program met 78%</i>						
Programs that support the Decat Board priority: Support Non-Licensed Relative Care						
DCAT4-18-020 Grant total FY20: \$5,000	LCBOS	<u>Relative Wraparound</u> : Coordinate financial support for expenses incurred by non- licensed relative caregivers	\$5,000 100%	5	5	Yes
DCAT4-19-017 Grant total FY20: \$10,000	LCBOS	<u>DHS Families Wraparound</u> : Coordinate financial support for expenses incurred by families involved with DHS	\$1,847 32%	5	5	Yes
Programs that support the Decat Board priority: Reduce Disproportionality						
DCAT4-19-011 Grant total FY20: \$1,500	LCBOS	<u>Breakthru Series Collaborative</u> : Use Plan-Do Study-Act (PSDA) methodology to impact and improve family stability and decrease disproportionality & disparity rates.	\$1,355 90%	4	3	Yes
<i>Reviewer comments: 1 Goal not met -# of BSC meetings held not met due to COVID-19 Pandemic.</i>						
DCAT4-19-065 Grant total FY20: \$35,000	Tanager	<u>AAFPRC</u> : Positive youth development, family stability and community engagement supports to youth of African descent who are involved with, or are at risk for involvement, with Department of Human Services (DHS) or Juvenile Court Services (JCS).	\$31,658 90%	10	7	Yes
<i>DCAT4-19-065 Reviewer comments: 2 Output Goals not met, 1 Outcome Goal not met -# of unduplicated families served, goal was 95, program served 84 unduplicated families, due to the Covid-19 pandemic -# of Youth Think Tank Empowerment Conferences held, goal was 1, program was unable to hold a conference due to the Covid-19 pandemic -% of Unsnapping participants that successfully completed a session, goal was 50%, program met 32%, due to the Covid-19 pandemic</i>						
DCAT4-18-102 Grant total FY20: \$31,515	Jane Boyd	<u>You Do Matter</u> : African American youth (ages 6-14) will identify their strengths in the You Do Matter program and their families will attend parent support training via the Strengthening Families program.	\$31,515 100%	9	9	Yes
DCAT4-20-008 Grant total FY20: \$55,000	ICCI	<u>Intercultural Youth Program</u> : Academic and community supports to students and families of limited English proficiency who have experienced trauma.	\$55,000 100%	8	5	Yes

DCAT 4-20-008 *Reviewer comments: 3 Output Goals not met*

-# of unduplicated youth served, goal was 250, program served 245 unduplicated youth, due to the Covid-19 pandemic

-# of Community Forums held, goal was 3, program held 2 forums, and was unable to provide the final forum due to the Covid-19 pandemic

-% of Quarterly Reports submitted by due date, goal was 100%, program submitted one report on time, this has been an on-going issue

Programs that support the Decat Board priority: **Support Family Reunification**

DCAT4-20-013 Grant total FY20: \$1,000	ASAC	Family Treatment Court: Support services for current and past participants of the Family Treatment Court, and their children. Services include the following programs: Alumni Group and Sober Family Activities	\$1,000 100%	6	6	Yes
DCAT4-20-014 Grant total: \$17,062	Tanager Place	<u>Stronger Together Family Program:</u> Parent Education and Family Camps to prevent the unnecessary separation and/or reunification of children and their families.	\$14,350 84%	10	9	Yes
DCAT4-20-014 <i>Reviewer comments: 1 Output Goal not met</i> <i>-# of Therapeutic Camps held, goals was 3, program provided 1 due to Covid-19 pandemic</i>						
DCAT4-19-009 Grant total FY20: \$62,489	LCBOS	<u>PSSF: Timely Family Reunification Services</u> Supervised Visitation and/or In-Home Parent Education for families whose children have been "removed" from the home and placed in foster care, which includes relative care.	\$45,299 72%	7	6	Yes
<i>Reviewer comments: 1 Outcome Goal not met</i> <i>-% of cases closed due to "Goals Achieved", goal was 66%, program met 44%</i>						
Programs that support the Decat Board:						
DCAT4-18-016 Grant total FY20: \$89,232	LCBOS	<u>Decat Staff/ Fiscal Services:</u> Staff to assist Linn Co Decat Board in carrying out its roles and responsibilities in implementing Decat Projects including fiscal monitoring.	\$89,154 99%	6	6	Yes
DCAT4-18-017 Grant total FY20: \$5,000	LCBOS	<u>Professional Development:</u> Coordinate trainings for Department of Human Services and Juvenile Court staff and partners on issues related to juvenile crime and prevention.	\$2,075 42%	5	5	Yes

PLANNING ADJUSTMENTS in FY 21

Future Funding Concerns:

Discussions with currently funded programs will continue in FY21, with the goal of supporting programs to apply for alternative funding sources. Programs funded with unstipulated Decat dollars are most at risk, especially if they rely 100% on Decat funds to operate. Linn County Decat staff will communicate with programs when information on other funding sources is available, such as the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation Grants.

Covid-19 and Derecho:

Linn County families will continue to experience the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the Derecho Storm event of August 2020. The Linn County Decat Board plans to support funded programs as they develop new methods of reaching families and providing services, including electronic group classes and individual meetings.

Community Engagement Focus:

In order to increase our community engagement in FY21 we will work closely with Linn County Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC). The Linn County Decat Coordinator is also the CPPC Coordinator. Linn County CPPC received an ICAPP Grant for FY21 which will allow the members to develop a Strategic Plan. Linn County Decat looks forward to participating in the Strategic Planning process which will be developed with the assistance of Iowa State University Outreach and Extension.

Plans also include partnering and supporting the RE-Set 2020 program that focuses on reducing gun violence. The Program Manager, Rachel Rockwell, has been invited to speak at a Linn County Decat Board Meeting and at a CPPC Meeting, with the goal of finding areas to support this innovative program, which is currently funded through the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.