



# LINN COUNTY DECATORIZATION BOARD ANNUAL PLAN

**Fiscal Year 2022**

Submitted to  
DHS Division Administrator & Program Manager,  
Cedar Rapids DHS Service Area Manager  
& the Iowa Early Childhood Iowa Office

Prepared by  
Jeanette Shoop, Linn County Decat Coordinator ([jeanette.shoop@linncounty.org](mailto:jeanette.shoop@linncounty.org)) and  
Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County Decat Director ([chris.kivett-berry@linncounty.org](mailto:chris.kivett-berry@linncounty.org))  
on behalf of  
Linn County Decategorization Governance Board

Linn County Community Services Building  
1240 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ct. S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Approved at 9/9/21 Linn County Decat Board Meeting

## LINN COUNTY GOVERNANCE BOARD DECATEGORIZATION ANNUAL PLAN (FY 22)

### OVERVIEW

Linn County Decategorization Board’s intent is 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.

<b>Linn County Demographics</b>			
Total Co Population = 230,299 <small>Source: <a href="https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/decennial/Pop2020">https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/decennial/Pop2020</a></small>	# of Children in Placement in Linn County (DHS & JCS)	% of Children age 0-17 who live below Poverty Level during the year	% of Single Parent Families
Under 18 years of age: 23% * Under 5 years of age: 6.2% * Black/African American: 6.1% * Hispanic/Latino: 3.4% *  *Vintage 2019 estimates  <small>Source: <a href="https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/decennial/Pop2020">https://www.iowadatacenter.org/data/decennial/Pop2020</a></small>	2021: 652 * 2020: 672 2019: 668  *8.7% of Iowa children in placement in 2021 (DHS&JCS) are from Linn County as of 3/31/2021.  <small>Source: <a href="https://dhs.iowa.gov/dashboard_childwelfare">https://dhs.iowa.gov/dashboard_childwelfare</a></small>	2019: 13.0% 2018: 11.4% 2017: 11.1%  <small>Source: <a href="https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/1239-child-poverty?loc=17&amp;loct=5#detailed/5/2771/false/1729,37,871/any/2685">https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/1239-child-poverty?loc=17&amp;loct=5#detailed/5/2771/false/1729,37,871/any/2685</a></small>	2019: 32.2% 2010: 31.5% 2000: 26.1%  <small>Source: <a href="https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6752-single-parent-families?loc=17&amp;loct=5#detailed/5/2771/false/1984/any/any">https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6752-single-parent-families?loc=17&amp;loct=5#detailed/5/2771/false/1984/any/any</a></small>

### FUNDING

#### Overview of FY 22 Linn County Decat Revenue

##### State

FY 22 Decat Allocation: \$ 123,865.00  
 FY 21 Carry Forward: \$1,186,351.79 *estimated*

- 46% of State funds are currently obligated for FY 22 contracts.  
 (State funds obligated = \$605,315 / 1,310,217 Decat Revenue less Pass Thru \$'s)

##### Fed/State Pass Thru Funds

FY 22 Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC): \$20,000  
 FY 22 Promoting Safe and Stable Families: (PSSF): \$73,789

- 100% of Pass Thru funds are currently obligated in FY 22 contracts.

##### FY 22 Decat Funded Programs

As of September 2021, the Linn County Decat Board has \$699,104.00 or 50% of total revenue under contract.  
 (State Funds and Fed/Pass Thru Funds = \$1,404,006 total revenue)

## **FY22 Decat Funded Programs -- Descriptions:**

### Caring Dads – Support Services

Contractor: WayPoint Services

Approved Budget: \$53,405

Objective: Support Services to parents involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the Iowa Department of Human Services. Services are provided to any eligible parent, with a priority on families that live outside of Cedar Rapids. Caring Dads Program is an evidenced based program for fathers.

### Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC)

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors

Approved Budget: \$20,000

Objective: Community members and professionals work with families in a way that helps child welfare services be more inviting, needs based, accessible and relevant.

### DHS Involved Families Support Wraparound

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors

Approved Budget: \$5,000

Objective: Wraparound services for youth and families involved in the Child Welfare System.

### DHS Relative Support Wraparound

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors

Approved Budget: \$5,000

Objective: Financial support for expenses incurred by relatives or other DHS identified caregivers, that are not licensed to provide foster care, but have children placed in their care.

### DHS Regional Cedar Rapids Service Area PSSF Wrap

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors

Approved Budget: \$28,854

Objective: Funding for services and activities provided to a child in a foster family home, child care institution, or a child who has been returned home (during the 1st 15-months) and to the parents or primary caregiver in order to facilitate the reunification.

### Decat Coordination (Staff and Fiscal Monitoring)

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors-Community Services

Approved Budget: \$97,919

Objective: Facilitate and support the Linn County Decat Board and provide contract management and fiscal monitoring services to Linn County Decat contracts.

Family Treatment Court Alumni Group

Contractor: ASAC  
Approved Budget: \$1,000  
Objective: Provide graduates or successfully discharged FTC participants, and their children, with sober family activities.

Focusing Families

Contractor: Jane Boyd Community House  
Approved Budget: \$20,000  
Objective: Assist primarily African American youth and their families with barriers that are keeping them from becoming stable and functioning.

J-FAST (Juvenile & Family Assistance & Stabilization Track)

Contractor: Foundation 2, Inc.  
Approved Budget: \$74,999  
Objective: Community based alternative to inpatient hospitalization for juveniles with substance abuse and mental health issues.

LINK-Detention Tracking Program

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors-Detention Center  
Approved Budget: \$253,000  
Objective: Reduce the minority numbers and misdemeanor holds within secure detention facility and to reduce recidivism and divert youth from a higher level of care.

Linn County Equity Team

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors  
Approved Budget: \$1,000  
Objective: Use Plan-Do-Study-Act methodology to impact and improve family stability and decrease disproportionality and disparity rates.

Parental Support Program (Mothers/Fathers)

Contractor: YouthPort  
Approved Budget: \$74,992\* PSSF& Decat\$  
Objective: Supports to Mothers and Fathers involved with, or at risk for involvement, with DHS. The following programs are provided: 24/7 Dads, Incredible Years, Love and Logic, Parent Cafes, Parents Forever, and Understanding Dads.

Protective Program - Timely Family Reunification Services (Promoting Safe & Stable Families)

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors-Child & Youth Services  
Approved Budget: \$39,935  
Objective: Provide Family Reunification supports and services up to 15 months after reunification.

### Resilient Youth and Family Programs and Support

Contractor: African American Family Resilience Association (AAFRA)  
 Approved Budget: \$12,000  
 Objective: Positive youth development and community engagement supports to youth of African descent who are involved or at risk for involvement with DHS or JCS.

### Restoring a Safe, Equitable and Thriving Cedar Rapids (ReSet CR)

Contractor: CCDC  
 Approved Budget: \$12,000  
 Objective: Services for families with African descent, with children under the age of 18, who are involved, or risk for involvement, with the Department of Human Services or Juvenile Court Services. 'ReSet CR Cohort Training' includes individual coaching, family team meetings, and goal setting.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING

### **Planning Team Contributors**

#### Decategorization Board

Matt Majeski, Department of Human Services  
 Christopher Wyatt, Juvenile Court Office  
 David Thielen, LCCS  
 Hailee Sandberg, ISU Linn County Extension

Ben Rogers, Linn County Supervisor  
 Sgt. Laura Faircloth, Cedar Rapids Police Dept.  
 Jennifer Slife, IA Child Advocacy Board

#### Community Planning

Linn Co Child & Youth Mental Health Committee  
 United Way of ECI Education Solution Team  
 Immigrant Concerns Committee  
 Kristi Tisl, DHS CRSA  
 Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Advisory Groups and Executive Committee

Linn Co Community for Change Committee (Equity Team)  
 Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Board  
 Linn County Safe Kids Coalition  
 Mary Loops, 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

### **Structure of the Planning & Governance Process**

#### Organizational Structure

Linn County Decat has been in operation since 1992 and became a Governance Board on June 14, 2007. The Linn County Decat Board serves as the governance board for expenditure of funds for Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Youth Development Programs. The Decat Board is comprised of the required representation, per DHS guidelines: Dept of Human Services, Juvenile Court Office, and the County. In addition there is representation from the Cedar Rapids Police Department, Linn County ISU Extension, and Iowa Child Advocacy Board. The Decat Board's Rules of Operation were put in effect on June 14, 2007. The Decat Board holds 6 to 8 meetings annually, generally on the second Thursday of the month, which are open to the public.

Public Input

A vital part of the decision making process for the Decat Board is public input. Decat Staff attends community meetings, serves on Advisory Boards and co-hosts trainings, when the opportunity arises, to bring information and resources to community partners. In addition, different community programs regularly present relevant topics to the Decat Board.

In FY 21, there were 6 presentations to the Decat Board from these community programs:

- Rachel Rockwell, Restoring a Safe, Equitable and Thriving Cedar Rapids (ReSET CR)
- Angie Freiburger, Families First Counseling Services provided update on Family First Act
- Michele Lerch, HACAP Disaster Case Management Program
- Nicole Kintzle, Junior League, Bridging the GAP Program
- Denise Bridges, Tanager Place, Saving Our Sister (SOS) Program
- Amber Wood, AmeriCorps Partnering to Protect Children Program Member

Collaborations

The effectiveness of collaborative planning is the development of a service delivery system that crosses over boundary lines, increases communication among players, and addresses a stated need. Collaborative planning must exist outside of the funding process. To do otherwise allows the funding to guide the planning process so that the proposed service meets the requirements of the funder and not the needs of the community. Here are examples of partnership efforts that will inform FY 22 services in Linn County:

➤ Direct Oversight of Community Partnerships for Protecting Children:

The Linn County Decat Grant Coordinator also serves as the Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Coordinator (CPPC). Membership on the Shared Decision Making Team includes representation from the following: DHS, WayPoint Domestic Violence Program, HACAP, Kirkwood Community College, Linn County Community Services, Iowa Legal Aid, Four Oaks, YPN, Iowa State University Extension, Parent Partners, Faith Based Group, Health Care, Linn County Child Development Center, Early Childhood Iowa, and community volunteers.

➤ Professional Development Opportunities:

In FY 22 the Linn County Decat Board will continue to collaborate with Linn County CPPC, Iowa State University Extension, and other key community members to complete the CPPC Strategic Plan (process started in FY21). Over the course of four (4) facilitated virtual Zoom sessions the CPPC Strategic Plan Team will focus on the following question:

- *In the next 3-5 years, how will the Linn County CPPC build a culturally diverse and community-based child protection network for all Linn County families?*

The Decat Coordinator will stay current with required DHS contract trainings. Due to COVID, these and other professional development opportunities, will be held virtually, until such time that in-person is appropriate.

## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A review of Linn County and State Child Welfare and Juvenile Court services trend data is provided.

### **Department of Human Services:**

Overall Linn County ranks 29<sup>th</sup> of Iowa's 99 counties in regard to the rate of child abuse, birth-17 years, in 2019. A marked improvement from 2018 when Linn County ranked 44<sup>th</sup>. The ranking is from the lowest (#1) to the highest (#99) rate of child abuse. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Linn County Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (rate per 1,000 children age 0 – 17)

	Year:	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Rate:	13.6	9.7	9.8	10.5	9.4	14.4	12.4

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

The age of abuse and the type of abuse warrant additional review. Consistently the highest % of confirmed or founded abuse cases involve children under age 6. The Linn County % exceeds the state average.

Child Safety < age 6

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Confirmed or founded child abuse cases of children (5yrs or younger) as % of all cases & # <sup>1</sup>	Iowa: 51%	Iowa: 47%	Iowa: 47%	Iowa: 46%	Iowa: 47%
	<u>Linn</u>	<u>Linn</u>	<u>Linn</u>	<u>Linn</u>	<u>Linn</u>
	58%	54%	52%	46%	49%
	317	372	393	297	373

Department of Human Services. Child Welfare Data Report- Age tab <https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/child-abuse-statistics> via ECI Annual Report Update

The majority of child abuse in the State of Iowa remains Denial of Critical Care/Neglect. For the State of Iowa, 53% was classified as Denial of Critical Care/Neglect in 2020, and for Linn County, 50% was classified as Denial of Critical Care/Neglect in 2020. <https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/child-welfare-data-and-report>

Type of Abuse for Child Victims of Confirmed or Founded Abuse for 2020

Calendar Year	County	Neglect/ Denial of Critical Care	Dangerous substance	Physical Abuse	Mental Injury	Illegal Drugs in Child's System	Sexual Abuse	Allow Access to Obscene Materials	Allows Access by Registered Sex Offender	Total
<b>CY20</b>	<b>Linn</b>	<b>672, (50%)</b>	309	86	2	212	51	2	9	<b>1343</b>

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/child-welfare-data-and-report>

Linn County Child Welfare Decision Points SFY 2020: *(Data provided from the Statewide Equity Conference FY21)*

A review of 2020 Linn County Child Welfare Decision Points (SFY) indicates African-American youth are disproportionately represented in each of these data points: Accepted Referrals, Abuse Reports, and Foster Care.

	Child as % of Population	Accepted Referrals	Victim of Abuse	In Foster Care	Entered Foster Care	Exited Foster Care
Two or more races	5.5%	6.9%	7.3%	12.2%	9.5%	10.4%
African American	11.5%	21.7%	20.6%	19.2%	20.5%	14.5%
Asian	3.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.3%	0.5%	1.7%	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	1.4%	.05%
Undetermined / Unknown	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%	2.2%	1.9%	1.6%
White	79.3%	69.8%	69.2%	64.6%	66.7%	72.0%

***Linn County Detention:*** *(data provided by [laura.roeder-grubb@iowa.gov](mailto:laura.roeder-grubb@iowa.gov))*

Data may include youth accepted from other counties, due to bed availability.

Year	# of Holds	Male	Female	Avg. Length of Stay	Avg. Daily Population
FY 16	356	277	79	14.3	13.9
FY 17	345	265	80	13.9	13.1
FY 18	396	311	85	12.8	13.9
FY 19	399	336	63	12.5	13.7
<b>FY 20</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>14.0</b>

Review of the data for the Linn County Detention Center, provided by the State of Iowa, indicates the number of “Holds” at the Linn County Detention Center in FY 20 decreased 15% as compared to FY 19 and is at its lowest level since FY 17. Conversely, the number of female “Holds” fluctuated but did increase 16% as compared FY 19, along with an increase in “Avg. Length of Stay” by 2.6 days.



**Linn County Detention:** (data provided by [dawn.schott@linncounty.org](mailto:dawn.schott@linncounty.org))

<b>FY21 Linn County Demographics of "NEW" Youth Served</b> (Tracking and Intervention Services)		
<i># of "New" Admissions: 134 # of Males -- 62# of Females</i>		
<u>Ethnicity of Child/Youth Served</u>	# of individuals	% of Total
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0%
<u>Race of Child/Youth Served</u>	# of individuals	% of Total
White	85	43.4%
African American	77	39.3%
Multi-Racial	29	14.8%
Asian	1	0.5%
Other/Unknown	4	2.0%
Total: <u>New</u> program admissions for FY21	196	

Data indicates that more males than females are served in the program and that African-American youth are disproportionately represented in the number of "New" youth served.

<b>FY21 Linn County Demographics of Youth "with new" aggravated misdemeanor or felony charges while in program or at discharge</b> (Tracking and Intervention Services - duplicated youth):		
<i># w/"new" aggravated misdemeanor or felony charges: 22 # of Males -- 4 # of Females</i>		
<u>Ethnicity of Child/Youth Served</u>	# of individuals	% of Total
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0%
<u>Race of Child/Youth Served</u>	# of individuals	% of Total
White	6	23.1%
African American	16	61.5%
Multi-Racial	4	15.4%
Asian	0	0.0%
Other/Unknown	0	0.0%
Total: " <u>New</u> " aggravated misdemeanor or felony charges:	26	

Data indicates the majority of youth in the program are male and that African-American youth are disproportionately represented in the number with "New" aggravated misdemeanor or felony charges or at discharge.

## SHORT TERM PLANS/DESIRED RESULTS

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.

The Linn County Decat Board approach to meeting the Decat Intent is to fund research-based or promising practice programs. Upon completion of a community needs assessment the Linn County Decat Board adopted the following priorities:

### Priority Areas

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

Requests for funding are assessed for alignment with these Board Priorities.

## TRACKING OF RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Each funded program is required to develop a matrix of Measurable Outcomes, with assistance from the Decat Staff. In addition to Output data, each program must provide Outcome Measures in regard to what difference their program made. Typical outcome measures include recidivism, % increase in school attendance and performance, % successful discharges, and % reunification with family to name a few. Client Diversity data is also collected.

Funded programs are required to submit a data Progress Report to the Decat Staff on a quarterly basis. A summary of the progress reports is then provided to the Decat Board on a quarterly and year-end basis. In addition, a minimum of 3-funded programs will provide one presentation to the Decat Board each fiscal year. The presentation will include a budget utilization update, a review of program data and a discussion on “the difference the program has made”.

The program goals that were established in their contract are noted on the progress reports. If a program is not making progress toward meeting their goals, they meet with the Decat Staff to discuss.

## MONITORING AND MAINTAINING FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Programs are required to submit a monthly GAX form, Invoice and documentation to the fiscal staff at Linn County Community Services (LCCS). LCCS fiscal staff notes the receipt of the GAX & Invoice, records the amount of the expenditure and forwards the original claim/GAX to the fiscal staff in the DHS Cedar Rapids Services Area office.

To assist the Linn County Decat Board with fiscal overview a detailed financial Control is prepared on a monthly basis. The reports are compiled by the LCCS fiscal staff and include monthly expenditure and year to date budget utilization. The Decat staff also prepares a Projections report to show current and future status of unobligated funds. In addition, funded programs are surveyed annually as to their expected budget utilization and provided an opportunity to identify any barriers to full expenditure of their approved award.

#### Annual On-Site Contract Reviews:

The Linn County Decat Board conducts Annual On-Site Reviews for all contracts when the total cumulative value of a given contract is \$100,000 or more and when the total cumulative value for all contracts with the specified vendor are equal to \$100,000 or more. Vendors not meeting the dollar threshold will receive an on-site visit every other fiscal year. On alternate years, a desk audit of financial claims will be completed.

### CARRYOVER

The estimated amount of FY 21 carryover funds is \$1,186,351.79. Of that 48% is designated by DHS or JCS for services to be provided in FY 22-23. The balance is to be contracted for services that meet the Decat intent and Linn County Board Priorities.

#### DHS Designated Uses of Carryover funds for FY 22

- **African American Family Resilience Association** to provide positive youth development and community engagement supports to youth of African descent who are involved, or at risk for involvement with DHS or JCO.
- **Caring Dads Program – WayPoint** to support parents involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the Department of Human Services.
- **DHS Involved Families Wraparound** funds to provide financial support for expenses incurred by DHS involved child welfare families.
- **Family Treatment Court** to support FTC graduates involvement with sober family activities.
- **J-FAST** rapid response and case management of child/youth mental health services to reduce hospital committals and DHS/law enforcement contact. *\*also includes JCS designated \$.*
- **Relative Support Family Wraparound** funds to assist with immediate costs associated with emergency family placement.
- **Regional Wraparound Fund for Cedar Rapids DHS Service Area:** to provide financial support for expenses incurred by DHS involved child welfare families.
- **Linn County Equity Team** to improve family stability and decrease disproportionality and disparity rates.
- **Mother and Father Support services-Youth Port** including 24/7 Dads and Parent Café's for parents at risk of DHS involvement.

#### JCS Designated Uses of Carryover funds in FY 22

- **J-FAST** rapid response and case management of child/youth mental health services to reduce hospital committals and DHS/law enforcement contact. *\*also includes DHS designated \$.*
- **LINK** In-home supervision, referrals and outreach services to divert youth from detention placement and other extended, higher levels of care.
- **Focusing Families** to support housing stability for primarily African American families in targeted neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids.
- **Decat Contract and Fiscal Management services.** *\*also includes non-designated \$.*

### Uses of Carryover funds for non-designated services in FY 22

- **Decat Contract and Fiscal Management services** *\*also includes JCS designated \$.*
- **Restoring a Safe, Equitable and Thriving Cedar Rapids** -- 'ReSet CR Cohort Training' includes individual coaching, family team meetings, and goal setting.
- **Caring Dads Program – WayPoint** to support parents involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the Department of Human Services *(co-funded with Designated and non-Designated funds).*
- **Mother and Father Support services-Youth Port** including 24/7 Dads and Parent Café's for parents at risk of DHS involvement *(co-funded with Designated and non-Designated funds).*
- **J-FAST** rapid response and case management of child/youth mental health services to reduce hospital committals and DHS/law enforcement contact *(co-funded with Designated and non-Designated funds).*
- **African American Family Resilience Association** to provide positive youth development and community engagement supports to youth of African descent who are involved, or at risk for involvement with DHS or JCO *(co-funded with Designated and non-Designated funds).*