



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Board

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FY22 Johnson County Decat Annual Progress Report *Approved by the Johnson County Decat Board on October 11, 2022*

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Date of Report: December 1, 2022

Summary of Key Activities and Progress of Johnson County Decategorization Board

(Summarize the project's key activities and the progress toward reaching the project's desired outcomes during the previous FY22 state fiscal year)

In FY22 the Johnson County Decat Board included **9 members** representing the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, Johnson County Board of Supervisors, domestic violence (DVIP), youth services (Four Oaks), education (ICCSA), public health (JCPH), and substance abuse planning (Prelude). The board met on a monthly basis, excluding July and May. The Contract Oversight Committee, which includes four board members, met on multiple occasions to monitor contracts and review grant proposals.

The Johnson County Decategorization Board entered into **16 contracts, plus CPPC**, to provide services to youth and families in Johnson County at- risk of new or increased child welfare or juvenile court involvement. The dollar value of those contracts totaled **\$257,171.40**. The contractors expended **\$192,754.44** of the grant funds awarded. Spending was continued to be less than expected as a result of new programming that took longer than anticipated to get started.

In FY22, the Johnson County Decategorization Board maintained the following Priority Service Areas to guide funding decisions:

Priority Service Areas

- 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.
- Address social isolation and mental health and trauma needs of youth 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 - 16 during out of school time, paying particular attention to youth most at risk for involvement with the child welfare or juvenile court system.

Proposals were solicited for the following services that align with the local priority service areas: Crisis Intervention for Youth and Families, Family Treatment Court Support Services, Fatherhood Support Services, Motherhood Support Programs, Mental Health Supports and Services, Minority Focused Services, Positive Youth Development, and Supervised Visitation and Parent Education Services. In addition, Johnson County Social Services administered contracts for Juvenile Court Interpretation Services, Professional Development, and Wraparound Support Services. There were **12 new contracts** procured in FY22.

The Decat Board monitors contracts carefully. The Contract Oversight Committee receives each of the quarterly reports. Following the second quarterly report, the Committee carefully reviews for contract compliance and progress toward scope of services and performance measures. The Decat staff monitor progress and spending on a monthly basis. In FY22, presentations from three contractors representing 5 funded programs, as well as CPPC were provided to the Decat Board. In addition, Decat Board staff and board members completed three contractor site visits for 5 funded programs.

The Johnson County Decategorization Project solicited information from a variety of sources throughout the year to fulfill its obligations for planning and identification of needs. The activities utilized during FY22 included: discussion during regularly scheduled board meetings with members, service providers, and key stakeholders; contractor presentations at the Decat board meetings; solicitation of information from a variety of local groups and coalitions; review of local child welfare and juvenile court services data. The Board reviewed the results of the local Early Childhood Iowa Area Needs Assessment. The CPPC Coordinator (also Decat Coordinator) provided updates to the board, along with Juvenile Court and DHS supervisors. The Decat Coordinator is active in many community coalitions and groups; facilitating the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, coordinating CPPC activities (including Shared Decision-Making Team, Community & Neighborhood Networking), coordinating the Johnson County Juvenile Justice Youth Development Program and Policy Board, and supporting the Early Childhood Iowa Area Board.

The Board maintained the priority of reduction of disproportionate minority contacts for children in the child welfare and juvenile court systems, family support services and child mental health services. In FY22 programs funded with a primary or secondary goal of reducing disparities included Empowered2Ride, Pride Support Groups, Minority Focused Youth Services/SPARK at UAY, Strengthening Sudanese Families, Strong African American Families, translation services, and supplemental supervised visits. Mental health and supportive services were enhanced with the Young Father's group.

The Decat Board prioritizes increasing access to after-school and summer care for low income and at-risk youth and reducing isolation for families most in need. In FY22, 105 families received individual and/or group-based family support services funded by Decat. These supportive services assisted families with building community connections, identifying and accessing resources, and increasing parental skills. As a result of Decat funding, 516 youth participated in after-school/summer enrichment programming; up 150% from FY21 when 207 youth were served. In FY22, there were 475 group sessions, 1,597 individual sessions, and 81 court-based support sessions offered. Individual sessions increased dramatically from FY21, from 769 to 1,597.

The Johnson County Decat Board is committed to funding programs that increase community supports for children and families and reduce the prevalence of out-of-home placements for children.

Key Activities, Outcomes, and Expenditures

(Describe key activities, outcomes, and expenditures for programs and services that received funding from the governance board during the previous state fiscal year)

Outcomes Achieved by Funded Programs

Priority Service Area: Meet 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.

CONTRACTOR	Description	Outcomes
All providers attempted	to reach their clients with zoom or	virtual groups and phone calls since social distancing began in March of 2020
United Action for Youth – Shoplifter’s Program DCAT4-21-002 \$3,000 Designated (reduced for \$1,500 to interpretation) (\$1,000) 67% Expended	Provide monthly Shoplifter diversion class to first-time offender youth and their parents.	44 youth, 44 parent/ guardians attended one of 10 workshops offered in FY22. 100% of youth and 100% of parents indicate the program was well organized, and that the workshop increased their understanding of the impact shoplifting has on their community, and that the program was presented in a clear and effective manner. Juvenile Court data indicate that 1 youth was charged with a subsequent theft charge within 6 months of taking the class. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Johnson County Social Services - Wrap Around DCAT4-21-001 \$10,000 Designated (\$8,461.68) 85% expended	Wraparound fund for families to prevent the removal of a child from their home, or to support a Suitable Other placement. Funds assist with necessities making the home safer for a child to remain in, or supporting a relative placement	34 Families /62 children received assistance with wrap-around services in the form of housing (53%), food/ diapers (18%), transportation (4%), utilities (17%), clothing (8%). Surveys indicate that funding assisted families in obtaining stability, 100% of workers reported that their requests were addressed timely and that the coordinator was responsive and available. Suitable other designation assisted with requests for shelter (3%), food and diapers (43%), transportation (31%), clothing (20%) and utilities (11%), and household goods (6%). Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Johnson County Social Service- Interpretation- DCAT4-21-006 \$634.96 Designated (\$110.00) 17% expended	Wrap-Around fund designated for interpretation and/or translation services	Translation services were provided for a family involved in the child welfare system, to keep the youth safely in their home. 17% of funding expended.
DHS PSSF Funded Wrap-Around Services DCAT4-21-001 \$4,802.00 (\$1592.26) 33% expended	Wraparound fund for family reunification services, to assist with services for children who have been removed from their homes, in order to return to family care	3 Families were assisted with 54% transportation supports, 25% food/diapers, 11% utilities and 10% on clothing to keep children reunified with their families.

<p>Families Inc. – Family Treatment Court DCAT4-22-001 (\$2,500 designated) \$30,000 (\$22,034.98) 73% Expended</p>	<p>Provide Family Treatment Court services that includes; family support services, community outreach, and implementation of supportive family events.</p>	<p>11 Parents, 13 families (33 children) served during FY 22 through the FTC. 1,230 client visits completed, 81 Client supports for court hearings/ DHS staffing’s were provided. 85% of families participated in a family networking events (4 offered). 3 out of 8 cases closed successfully (38%). 86% of participants made moderate/ substantial progress with family interactions. 59% of participants made some progress toward abstinence. 72% are making moderate /substantial progress with parenting skills. An Alumni group continues to meet. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Families Inc. - Supervised Visits DCAT4-21-003 \$21,067 PSSF FUNDS - (\$19000.80) 99% Expended</p>	<p>Provide supervised visitation and parent education services for families’ who meet the Time-limited Family Reunification Services guidelines.</p>	<p>99 Supervised visits provided, each visit included transportation supports. 4 families were served with a total of 7 children receiving additional visits with their parents while in the foster care system. 100% of youth were eligible for the PSSF funding. 100% of Families’ received parenting education and support during each visit. Reunification was promoted for families using this service by providing them additional visits with their children during foster care placement. This contract met 100% of Performance Measures</p>
<p>Families, Inc. Supervised Visitation and Parental Education Services II DCAT4-22-034 \$15,000 (\$8,708) 58% expended</p>	<p>Provide supervised visitation and parent education services for families’ currently involved with the Department of Human Services</p>	<p>A second contract was issued to continue to support families with visits after the original contract ran out of funds. This contract did not use PSSF funds. 4 Families (5 children) were assisted with the continuation of the Supervised Visits program. This program started in the 3rd Quarter and continued to provide 49 visits for children thru June 30,2022.</p>
<p>Johnson County Social Services – Interpretation \ Translation DCAT4-21-006 \$634.00 (110.00) 17% Expended</p>	<p>Provide interpretation and translation services for families involved with Juvenile Court Services Contract term 2/1/21-6/30/22</p>	<p>Fiscal Agent Contract used to pay for services needed to assist families who are English language learners. Service was requested for 1 family. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures</p>
<p>Priority Service Area: Address isolation of mental health and trauma needs of youth and families that are at-risk of involvement in the child welfare system and/or juvenile court system.</p>		
<p>United Action for Youth - LGBTQ Groups DCAT4-22-004 \$20,000 (\$20,000) 100 % Expended</p>	<p>Provide weekly support groups, at 3 locations, for LGBTQ identified youth. Provide a trained Health Educator to work with youth attending groups to promote healthy relationships, and to educate others regarding LGBTQ youth populations.</p>	<p>4 Different locations hosted a total of 129 Pride groups in FY22, 237 youth (1560 duplicate count) attended group. 52 Participants met with the Health Educator. 100 youth and 30 parents attended PrideCon on April 2nd when it was safe to host an in-person event. UAY reports the event features many break out sessions and the youth were full of excitement and joy. Over 90% of youth report they have learned something new, have more trusted adults in their lives, are better able to communicate their feelings, and that they have contributed to making LGBTQ youth feel better heard in the community.</p>

<p>Dream City – Fathers United Now DCAT4-22-003 \$15,000 Designated (\$12,477) 83% Expended</p>	<p>Provide weekly father’s group, using the 24/7 Dad Curriculum, focusing on building strong bonds between fathers, their children and/or co-parenting each session.</p>	<p>27 fathers have attended programming at Dream City, in FY22- a duplicate count of 266 contacts for Fathers during programming. 50 Small group sessions of 24/7 Dad have been provided, and 68 additional sessions have been provided using the one-on-one model. Provider reports 100% of the Fathers report an increase in healthy interactions with their children, an increase in pro-fathering knowledge skills and attitudes, and that they feel supported by staff. Contract meets 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>United Action for Youth – Youth and Family Advocates DCAT4-22-007 \$30,000 (\$29,323.73) 98% Expended</p>	<p>Provide 24- hour crisis services, advocacy, and consultation for youth and families in crisis.</p>	<p>42 Youth were served with a total of 151 individual counseling sessions in FY22. 21 youth requested counseling services for peer/school issues, 21 individual sessions and 29 group-based sessions were provided. 42 youth received case management services, and 42 assessments were done for referrals. 102 Referrals were made for additional services. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Families, Inc. - Nurturing Parent Program DCAT4-22-002 \$14,077 Designated (\$7,883.40) 56% Expended</p>	<p>Provide an in-home parenting program using the In-Home Nurturing Parent Program curriculum</p>	<p>12 Families participated in NPP in FY22. 81 Sessions were provided. 67% of participants were referred from the child welfare system and/or live in a rural area. No-Shows are still a problem, but the parents who do attend the program are reporting many positives, unfortunately many pre and post surveys questions we answered as the same so not as much progress in parenting noted in the surveys. Still 16 parents and 20 children were provided with NPP curricula. Contract met 38% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>United Action for Youth Safe African American Families DCAT4-22-036 \$3,515 designated 100% Expended</p>	<p>Provide safe African American Family program and services/ supports for families/youth of color</p>	<p>3 Parents and 3 Youth attended programming. 3 sessions were provided and attended by each family. The parents all indicated that they increased formal and informal supports and that they felt an increase in parent-child communication after attending the programming, youth did not complete any survey. Contract met 50% of Performance Measures – low # of families and no youth surveys to report progress.</p>
<p>Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County Strengthening Sudanese Families DCAT4-22-037 \$5,000 designated \$10,320 (\$,160) 50% expended</p>	<p>Provide the Strengthening Sudanese Families program in the Pheasant Ridge neighborhood along with the ICCSD.</p>	<p>6 Safe Sudanese Family sessions were provided in FY22. 18 parents and 27 children attended programming. 9 families attended all weekly session provided. 6 children attended child care. 218 meals were provided. 12 parents and 17 youth completed the post-survey. NCJC staff report that the youth reported that they “ were not allowed to talk about these things” when given the survey and that the parents gave their families exceptionally high marks, 100%did report an increase in formal and informal supports. Contract met 43% of Performance Measures.</p>

Priority Service Area: Promote positive youth development for youth ages 6 to 16 years old during out of school time, paying particular attention to youth most at risk for involvement with the child welfare or juvenile court services.		
United Action for Youth - Minority Focused Services DCAT4-22-005 \$12,000 Designated \$8755.44 (\$8755.440) 100% Expended	Provide family supports and positive youth development programming for youth and families of color who are involved, or at risk of involvement, with the child welfare system	These services began on April 24 th . 130 BIPOC youth participated programming. 38 SPARK sessions and 59 groups at ICCSD schools were provided. in each school youth were engaged in conversations/discussions that foster positive social emotional well-being. Participants in each group were fully engaged in those conversations and participated positively. The BIPOC night hang out participation improved towards the end of the first contract year, This program also facilitated sessions for the youth to provide input and feedback on the layout and furniture choices for the Ranshaw House in North Liberty where additional BIPOC programming will be facilitated by UAY. June provided great weather for outdoor activities like kayaking, biking and a farming experience at Grow Johnson County. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County- Empowered2Ride DCAT4-22-008 \$20,000 (\$20,000) 100% Expended	Promote safe and positive adult relationships for children involved, or at risk of involvement, with the Child Welfare System	9 Week long safety bike camps were provided in FY22. A total of 134 youth participated in E2R programming (1223 duplicate contacts). 37 youth attended weeklong off-road trail education camps (197 duplicate contacts). 23 youth attended weekly group off-trail rides. 59 youth attended monthly trial rides (208 duplicate contacts) 9 week-long safety camps were hosted at Mark Twain Elementary, attended by 96 youth (309 duplicate contacts). 15 weekly bike to school rides were supported for 53 youth (281 duplicate contacts). 37 youth attended weeklong off-road trail education camps (197 duplicate contacts). 13 girls circle group activities were attended by 17 youth (86 duplicate contacts). Contract met 60% of Performance Measures
OTHER		
Johnson County Social Services – Decat Administrative Support DCAT4-17-004 \$25,000 (\$25,000) 100% Expended	Decat Coordinator and Johnson County Social Services program administrative support.	Held monthly Decat Board meetings and completed state required contracting. Completed monitoring and reviews of all contracts, created financial reports for monthly board meetings; reviewed all financial claims submitted for payment, prepared and submitted the Annual Services Plan and Annual Progress Report to DHS and JCS officials. Facilitated renewal process and a competitive grant application for new funding including preparation of documents for board review. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Johnson County Social Services - CPPC DCAT4-19-005 \$20,000 (\$12,575.21) 63 % Expended	Provide community based child abuse prevention strategies.by coordinating community based services, managing grants, and promoting shared decision making,	Community networking met as outlined, Family team and youth transition goals were met, policy and practice goals were met and the shared decision-making survey scored above the required percentage. Contract met 100% of Performance measures.

Johnson County Social Services Professional Development DCAT4-22-006 \$6,000 Designated 100% Expended	Provide coordination services for professional development training on issues related to child welfare	14 staff members from area child serving agencies attended the Restorative Justice Circle Training, a 2-day training facilitated by Johnson County Decat. Contract met 80% of PMs
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Lessons Learned/Planning Adjustments

(Describe any lessons learned and planning adjustments made by the governance board during the previous state fiscal year)

Johnson County Decat partners have worked to adjust programming to address the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some programs have returned to school buildings, while many continue in community-based locations such as Rec Centers or churches. Some programs continue to offer a hybrid approach, offering flexibility for those who want to attend in-person and those who prefer virtual. Consideration continues to be given regarding safety and social distancing. Some programs experienced week-long closures due to illness exposure among participants. Whenever possible, programming tends to be held outdoors to minimize risk. Similar to what is being seen in the community at-large, several partner agencies experienced high staff turnover and difficulty filling staff positions.

Development of new programming is a challenge, with fewer organizations responding to notices of funding requests for smaller scale projects. Administrative costs to solicit and implement new projects often exceed the value of the potential grant. Staff resources are very lean and agencies lack the capacity to take on new projects without hiring additional staff. Many organizations are not interested in conducting a hiring search for part-time, potentially short-term employment (an added cost to the organization). As a result, there are fewer responses to solicitation of proposals. This is especially true when addressing previously underserved populations. The board continues to evaluate ways to help facilitate the utilization of Decat funding to meet the growing needs within our community while also preserving existing programs that have proven effective in serving vulnerable children and families.

Supporting evidence-based programming for diverse populations is sometimes challenging. There is not a wide variety of curriculum that is evidence-based on communities of color or families who have immigrated to the United States. Contractors have found it necessary to adjust programming to the populations served and we continue to seek input directly from targeted communities about their programming needs and wants as well as culturally-responsive practices.

The unpredictable nature of available Decat funding makes it difficult for both the Decat Board and partner agencies to plan and implement programming. Several years ago, in an effort to increase efficiencies and maximize services, the JC Decat Board prioritized fully funding projects whenever possible and dedicating fewer resources to smaller, piece-meal programs. Procuring and monitoring contracts is a staff-intensive task and is not cost effective for low dollar projects. The Board sometimes utilizes discretionary funding to supplement designated funds to provide a greater level of service. However, the Board has been apprehensive about soliciting new, larger scale projects that require significant investment of time and resources to implement, given the uncertainty of future funding.

The Johnson County Decat Board membership is engaged, knowledgeable, and represents many disciplines. We are fortunate that so many individuals and organizations recognize the value of participation in Decat. The board engages in ongoing communication with partner organizations, monitors contracted programs, and carefully reviews emerging community needs. Board members are mindful of funding priorities and intentional about distributing funding based on identified priority areas while placing emphasis on services that are evidence-based and proven effective. Johnson County Decat communicates regularly with other local initiatives including Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Early Childhood Iowa/Empowerment, Juvenile Justice & Youth Development, and Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County. This helps to identify gaps and increase effectiveness of local funding.