



LINN COUNTY DECATORIZATION BOARD ANNUAL PLAN

Fiscal Year 2021

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) and
Chris Kivett-Berry, Linn County Decat Director (chris.kivett-berry@linncounty.org)
on behalf of
Linn County Decategorization Governance Board

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

Approved at 9/10/2020 Linn County Decat Board Meeting

LINN COUNTY GOVERNANCE BOARD DECATEGORYIZATION ANNUAL PLAN (FY 21)

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.

Linn County Demographics		
Total Population = 226,706 (est. 7/1/19)	# of Children in Foster Care	Single Headed Households
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 18 years of age: 23 % Under 5 years of age: 6.2% Black/African American: 6.1% Hispanic/Latino: 3.4% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019: 654 2018: 623 2017: 707 2016: 720 2015: 740 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018: 32 % 2017: 31.5% 2016: 30.3% 2015: 31.7% 2014: 31.5%
Source: (US Census 2019, Quick Facts)	6.8% of children in Iowa foster care are from Linn Co. (2019) Source: Iowa State Data Center	% out of the total # of Families with Children in Linn County Source: Iowa Kids Count

FUNDING

Overview of FY 21 Linn County Decat Revenue

State

FY 21 Decat Allocation: \$124,079
 FY 20 Carry Forward: \$654,926 (estimate)
 • 62.3% of State funds are currently obligated for FY 21 contracts.

Fed/State Pass Thru Funds

FY 21 Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC): \$20,000
 FY 21 Promoting Safe and Stable Families: (PSSFP): \$53,276
 • 100% of Pass Thru funds are currently obligated in FY 21 contracts.

FY 21 Decat Funded Programs

As of September 2020, the Linn County Decat Board has \$558,658 or 65.5% of total revenue under contract.

African American Family Preservation and Resource Committee

Contractor: Tanager
 Approved Budget: \$11,000
 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.

Breakthru Series Collaborative (BSC)

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.

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.

Decat Coordination (Staff and Fiscal Monitoring)

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors-Community Services

Approved Budget: \$93,383

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: \$500

Objective: Provide graduates or successfully discharged FTC participants, and their children, with sober family activities

Focusing Families

Contractor: Jane Boyd Community House

Approved Budget: \$15,500

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: \$225,000

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.

Parental Support Program (Mothers/Fathers)

Contractor: YouthPort

Approved Budget: \$70,000* PSSF& Decat\$

Objective: Support services to Mothers and Fathers involved with, or at risk for involvement, with DHS. The following programs are provided: 24/7 Dads, Love and Logic, Parent Cafes, and Understanding Dads.

Timely Family Reunification Services (Promoting Safe & Stable Families)

Contractor: Linn County Board of Supervisors-Child & Youth Services

Approved Budget: \$37,276

Objective: Provide Family Reunification supports and services up to 15 months after reunification.

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 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.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Planning Team Contributors

Decategorization Board

Matt Majeski, Department of Human Services Ben Rogers, Linn County Supervisor
Christopher Wyatt, Juvenile Court Office Sgt. Laura Faircloth, Cedar Rapids Police Dept.
David Thielen, Linn County Community Services

Community Planning

Linn Co Child & Youth Mental Health Committee Linn Co Community for Change Committee
United Way of ECI Education Solution Team Linn County Early Childhood Iowa Board
Immigrant Concerns Committee Linn County Safe Kids Coalition
Kristi Tisl, DHS CRSA Mary Loops, 6th Judicial District
CPPC Advisory Groups AAFPRC Youth Think Tank
SafeKids Linn County
Community Resilience Coalition of East Central Iowa

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, along with representation from Cedar Rapids Police Dept. 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 hosts trainings to bring information and resources to community partners. In addition, different community programs regularly present relevant topics to the Decat Board.

In FY 20, there were presentations to the Decat Board from these community programs:

- ✚ Amani Community Services, African American Family Preservation and Resource Committee, Jane Boyd (Focusing Families and You Do Matter Programs), Intercultural Center of Iowa - Intercultural Youth Services.

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 21 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, FTDM Facilitator, Parent Partners, Faith Based Group, Health Care, Linn County Child Development Center, Early Childhood Iowa, and community volunteers.

➤ Professional Development Opportunities:

In FY 20 the Linn County Decat Board funded the following professional development training: Introduction to the Autism Spectrum, through The Tanager Place Training and Education Institute. This virtual training opportunity provided 3.5 hours of information and discussion related to understanding the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and exploration into effective strategies to help professionals work successfully with children on the spectrum.

In FY 21 professional development opportunities will focus on the recovery from two major disasters in Linn County, the COVID-19 Pandemic and the August Derecho. The Linn County Decat Board will collaborate with CPPC, Iowa State University Extension, AmeriCorps, and other key community members to complete an updated CPPC Strategic Plan. The plan will have a focus of community based child abuse prevention. The strategic planning process, and other professional development opportunities will be held virtually, until such time that in-person training is appropriate.

Community Needs Assessment

A review of Linn County and State child welfare and Juvenile Court services trend data.

Department of Human Services:

Linn County ranks 44th of Iowa’s 99 counties in regard to the rate of child abuse in 2018. 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 per 1,000 children age 0 – 17)

Year:	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Rate:	13.1	13.6	9.7	9.8	10.5	9.4	14.4

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

The majority of child abuse in the State of Iowa remains Denial of Critical Care/Neglect. For the State of Iowa, 54% was classified as Denial of Critical Care/Neglect in 2019, and for Linn County, 53% was classified as Denial of Critical Care/Neglect in 2019. <https://dhs.iowa.gov/reports/child-welfare-data-and-report>

Type of Abuse for Child Victims of Confirmed or Founded Abuse for CY2019

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	Child Sex Trafficking	Bestiality in the Presence of a Minor	Total
Linn	581 (53%)	242	90	7	141	38	3	1	1	1	1105

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

Data from a review of 2019 Linn County Child Welfare Decision Points (SFY) indicate African-American youth are disproportionately represented in Referrals, Abuse Reports and Foster Care.

Linn County Decision Points SFY 2019

	<u>% of General Population</u>	<u>Accepted Referrals</u>	<u>Victims of Abuse</u>	<u>Entered Foster Care</u>	<u>In Foster Care</u>	<u>Exited Foster Care</u>
Hispanic	5.4%	6.6%	5.9%	4%	5.7%	7.9%
Undetermined/Unknown	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	1.6%	1.5%	0.9%
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%
Asian	2.9%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	.04%
American Indian & Alaskan Native	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%
African American	8.7%	21.5%	22%	25.9%	20.7%	23.3%
Two or more Races	6.6%	7.7%	10.7%	13.4%	14.7%	16.7%
White	81.3%	70.2%	66.5%	58.3%	61.9%	57.7%

Data provided at the October 2019 Break thru Series Collaborative State Conference.

Juvenile Court Services:

Per the Iowa Juvenile Court Services Annual Report (2017 – most current information available) Linn County had the 3rd highest percentage of chronic re-offenders in Iowa's 8 most populated counties. In 2017, Linn is at 12.5% chronic reoffenders compared to 10.4% in 2014. The number of Linn County juveniles new to the system declined in 2017 with 481 new juveniles (537 in 2014).

<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cjip/justice-data-warehouse/juvenile-justice-data>

Linn County Detention: (data provided by 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

Statewide Juvenile Justice System Planning Data – Statewide Report 2017, released: July 2018

<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/media/2018%20Statewide%20Data%20Report.pdf>

- Detention holds for White males decreased by 35.2%, while African-American males decreased 1.6%.
- Minority youth comprised 48.9% of detention holds.
- The average length of stay increased from 11.9 to 16.3 days for female youth, and from 14.9 to 17.5 days for male youth.
- Felony holds decreased 22.5% for White males, while African-American males increased 32.3%.
- Holds for African-American males for new offense-while on probation increased 11.9%.

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 4-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

At this time, the estimated amount of FY 20 carryover funds is estimated at \$654,926 and 74% is under contract for the following services:

DHS Stipulated Uses of Carryover funds for FY 21

- **Breakthru Series Collaborative** to improve family stability and decrease disproportionality and disparity rates.
- **Family Treatment Court** to support FTC graduates involvement with sober family activities.
- **Relative Support Family Wraparound** funds to assist with immediate costs associated with emergency family placement.
- **DHS Involved Families Wraparound** funds to provide financial support for expenses incurred by DHS involved child welfare families.
- **Mother and Father Support services** including 24/7 Dads and Parent Café's for parents at risk of DHS involvement.
- **African American Family Preservation** 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.
- **J-FAST** rapid response and case management of child/youth mental health services to reduce hospital committals and DHS/law enforcement contact.

JCS Stipulated Uses of Carryover funds in FY 21

- **J-FAST** rapid response and case management of child/youth mental health services to reduce hospital committals and DHS/law enforcement contact. *Includes DHS designated \$ too.
- **LINK** In-home supervision, referrals and outreach services to divert youth from detention placement and other extended, higher levels of care.

Uses of Carryover funds in FY 21

- **Decat Contract and Fiscal Management services**
- **Focusing Families** to support housing stability for primarily African American families in targeted neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids.