

## **Co-Op: Decatur County**

### **Community Improvement Strategy: Juvenile Delinquency & Childhood Development**

#### **Community Improvement Strategy:**

**Decatur County will address issues surrounding education, juvenile delinquency and childhood development which have a negative effect on the county's graduation rate. The county will work with children to get them the tutors and mentors they need to be successful. The county will also work with parents to improve their relationship with the schools and get them any necessary parenting skills classes.**

#### **Issues to be addressed**

The percentage of high school graduates in Decatur County is 69.7% and the percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher is 12.1%. These statistics are directly connected to juvenile delinquency rates and parenting skills. The County wants to identify and serve elementary students at high risk of becoming juvenile offenders or dropping out of school. Decatur County hopes to reduce the number of discipline referrals and decrease the number of students in in-school suspension (ISS) and out-of-school suspension (OSS). Summer programs, mentoring and tutoring will be offered to children to help them succeed in school. Parenting classes will help improve parenting skills thereby increasing the odds of raising responsible children. Teachers will be trained on the nine essential skills for love and logic in the classroom so that they will learn how to deal productively and caringly with the students' behavior in the classroom. This program, which will simultaneously address the issues of juvenile delinquency and childhood development, will be organized under the larger umbrella of a System of Care. The ultimate goal is to keep these at-risk children from engaging in juvenile delinquent behavior so they can succeed at home, school and in their future. The program will begin with ten children chosen from Potter Street Elementary and John Johnson Elementary and expand over time to include more children from those and all of the county's schools.

#### **Strategy**

Over the two year period, Decatur County will accomplish the following:

1. Parenting classes
2. Mental health counseling
3. Substance abuse treatment and prevention
4. Conflict resolution for youth and parents
5. Relationship education

- 6. Shoplifting prevention
- 7. Adult-youth and peer-peer mentoring
- 8. Academic supports

The community will measure its success at the end of two years, by:

- 1. Decrease the number of discipline referrals at Potter Street Elementary from 201 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 160 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).
- 2. Decrease the number of discipline referrals at John Johnson Elementary from 60 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 48 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).
- 3. Decrease the number of in-school suspensions at Potter Street Elementary from 13 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 10 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).
- 4. Decrease the number of in-school suspensions at John Johnson Elementary from 4 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 3 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).
- 5. Decrease the number of out-of-school suspensions at Potter Street Elementary from 11 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 8 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).
- 6. Decrease the number of out-of-school suspensions at John Johnson Elementary from 15 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 12 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).
- 7. Decrease the number of students with 15 or more absences at Potter Street Elementary from 15 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 12 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).
- 8. Decrease the number of students with 15 or more absences at John Johnson Elementary from 11 in school year 2008-2009 (through March 9, 2009) to 8 in 2009-2010 (or by 20%).

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

<b>Issue Addressed</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Local Partners</b>	<b>Responsible State Partners</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Possible Funding Sources</b>	<b>Starting and ending dates for completion of action item</b>
Juvenile Delinquency	Volunteer Run Mentoring Mentoring Program run by volunteers	Communities in Schools	Department of Education	\$400	Family Connections	Start of '09-'10 school year – ongoing

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Juvenile Delinquency	Tutoring Program run by volunteers	Family Connections	Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Education	\$400	Family Connections	Start of '09-'10 school year – ongoing
Childhood Development	Parenting classes	Family Connections	Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1060	\$1000 – Wal-Mart; \$60-Park Avenue Bank	Start of '09-'10 school year – ongoing
Juvenile Delinquency	Improve function and usefulness of System of Care Meetings	Local Interagency Planning Team	Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Mental Health; Division of Family and Children Services	Minimal – less than \$50	Family Connections	1 June 2009 - ongoing
Childhood Development	<b>Collect all information on targeted children from the different involved groups (DFACS, Department of Education, etc.) to produce unified case plans for families to give caseworkers the “full picture.”</b>	Local Interagency Planning Team	Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Mental Health; Division of Family and Children Services; Department of Community Affairs (Affordable	\$200	Family Connections	1 June 2009 - ongoing

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			Housing); Department of Technical and Adult Education			
Childhood Development	Conflict resolution for youth and parents	Samaritan Counseling	Department of Family and Child Services	\$9040	\$440-Park Avenue Bank; \$5000-DCA; \$3600-Cleve Bostick Memorial Foundation	1 June 2009 – ongoing
Juvenile Delinquency	Teacher training – classroom conflict skills	Family Connections	Department of Juvenile Justice	\$1125	\$400-Cleve Bostick Memorial Foundation; \$700-Decatur County/City of Bainbridge	Start of '09-'10 school year – ongoing
Juvenile Delinquency	Summer Program	Family Connections	Department of Juvenile Justice	\$500	\$500-Decatur County/City of Bainbridge	1 June 2009 – 15 July 2009

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto Agree to adopt the Decatur County Community Improvement Strategy.

FOR THE RECIPIENT

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, County

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Coordinator

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City