

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2023 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING, IF AWARDED, FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENION JUVENILE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO AN ADDITIONAL SOCIAL WORKER/PROJECT COORDINATOR POSITION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING EXPENSES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND REDUCE RECIDIVISM FOR GIRLS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the Grants Special Revenue Fund to provide grant funding, if awarded, from the DOJ Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Juvenile Justice Grant Program for expenses related to an additional Part-Time Project Manager position and associated operating expenses to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism for girls in the juvenile justice system. Said Operating budget is hereby amended as follows:

Grants Special Revenue Fund:

REVENUES:

Increase:
DOJ Juvenile Justice Grant \$511,802

EXPENDITURES:

Increase:
District Attorney:
Personal Services \$65,000
Operating Expenses \$446,802
Total \$511,802

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: District Attorney's Office Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System Grant

DATE: July 8, 2022

BUDGET INFORMATION:

REVENUES: \$511,802.35

EXPENSES:

ANNUAL: \$511,802.35 Grant

CAPITAL: \$0

OTHER:\$0

FUNDING SOURCE: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant Program

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: August 2, 2022

PURPOSE:

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

1. Approve the District Attorney's application for and, if awarded, acceptance of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant in the amount of \$511,802.35 to be used to:
 - Fund one Social Worker/Project Coordinator position as well as necessary supplies and equipment for the position;
 - Build off of a diversion program that has been created for Athens-Clarke County, and pay for services for that portion of the program, designed specifically for the needs of girls under the age of 17 with a focus on young mothers or girls at high risk to become young mothers;
 - Authorize a sub-award for the direct service provider of the program (Juvenile Offender Advocate INC.) of \$187,000; and
 - Create a public awareness campaign surrounding the application.
2. Authorize the creation of a new full-time position Social Worker/Project Coordinator.
3. Adopt the attached budget amendment ordinance (**Attachment #1**); and
4. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all related documents.

HISTORY:

1. On April 5, 2022, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released Reducing Risk for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System, a request for proposals aimed at programs designed specifically for the needs of justice-involved girls.
2. On April 26, 2022, the District Attorney's Office held a meeting with Juvenile Offender Advocate INC in which community needs were discussed. It was determined to be a needed program for the Athens-Clarke County area.
3. Throughout the month of May 2022, the District Attorney's Office met with several service providers and non-profits to determine the needs the program should fulfill for the community.
4. The District Attorney's Office partnered on this grant with Juvenile Offender Advocates Inc. (JOA), a local non-profit, due to their vast knowledge of working with justice-involved teens and the Executive Director's experience as a member of community law enforcement. The DA's office met with several potential partners and considered several variables such as experience, network, space, and capacity.
5. The District Attorney's Office and JOA worked together to design a program, including utilizing a Restorative Justice Conferencing pre-petition diversion program designed by a working group consisting of The District Attorney's Office (DAO), Athens-Clarke Juvenile Court Judges, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Georgia Conflict Center (GCC), and Juvenile Offender Advocate Inc (JOA).
6. In May 2022, the District Attorney's Office worked alongside Juvenile Offender Advocates INC to draft a proposal.
7. On June 2, 2022, the District Attorney's Office submitted the grant package.

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. While rates for youth male offenders steadily decline, rates for female offenders remain fairly steady accounting for the increase in the share of arrests, calling into question the issue at hand: juvenile justice measures are not designed with girls' needs in mind.
2. In 2019 there were 641 cases referred to the ACCGov Juvenile Court, in that same year female offenders accounted for 31% of juvenile arrests nationwide DA staff estimate that approximately 200 girls had cases referred to the Juvenile Court in Athens-Clarke County. Currently, there exists no girl-specific programming feeding into the nationwide issue that while overall juvenile arrest rates have been steadily declining, male youth make up a much larger portion of the overall decline causing the female share of juvenile arrests to increase from 18% in 1980 to 31% by 2019.

3. Giving Justice-Involved Girls WINGS has designed program operations around the key risk factors facing these girls with teen motherhood being the main focus: substance abuse, risky sexual behavior, poverty, illiteracy, and mental health concerns being essential contributing factors to the overall success of the program for justice-involved girls. The overall goal of this program is to improve long-term outcomes and reduce recidivism.
4. Girls eligible for this program will be girls 17 and under who have a non-violent first offense in the juvenile justice system. These girls will be in the pre-sentencing phase and will be offered this program as a diversion program.
5. This grant requires no match, and there is no obligation by ACCGov to fund the program beyond the grant timeline.
6. This grant would last for 36 months, beginning in October of 2022.
7. These recommendations support the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:
 - Good Neighbors Goal, Strategy B: *Proactively reform systems of accountability to reduce jail and supervised population and plan for transitioning and returning residents*

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a. Approve the District Attorney's application for and, if awarded, acceptance of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant in the amount of \$511,802.35 to be used to:
 - Fund one Social Worker/Project Coordinator position as well as necessary supplies and equipment for the position;
 - Build off of a diversion program that has been created for Athens-Clarke County, and pay for services for that portion of the program, designed specifically for the needs of girls under the age of 17 with a focus on young mothers or girls at high risk to become young mothers;
 - Authorize a sub-award for the direct service provider of the program (Juvenile Offender Advocates INC.) of \$187,000; and
 - Create a public awareness campaign surrounding the application.
 - b. Authorize the creation of a new full-time position Social Worker/Project Coordinator
 - c. Adopt the attached budget amendment ordinance (**Attachment #1**); and

- d. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all related documents.
- 2. Mayor and Commission deny acceptance of the District Attorney's application for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant in the amount of \$511,802.35.
- 3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option #1 a, b, c & d

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Jenna Vaisvil

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7/12/2022

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a, b, c & d



Manager

July 14, 2022

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1 – Budget Amendment Ordinance