

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Selection of Provider for Implementation of Strengthening Families Program

DATE OF MEETING: November 8, 2022

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: Not to exceed \$50,000.00 which is the amount of grant funding. Fully reimbursed by CJCC so no direct budget impact to Lowndes County.

FUNDING SOURCE:

- CJCC Funding: \$50,000.00
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Selection of Provider for Implementation of Strengthening Families Program

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Lowndes County was recently awarded continuation funding under the Delinquency Prevention Grant to allow for continued implementation of the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). Previously, Lowndes County contracted with Evidence Based Associates (EBA) to provide overall program management services and as part of that agreement, EBA selected a service provider and provided programmatic oversight. This provider served as a subcontractor to EBA. For the first year of the grant, EBA utilized Peaceway Counseling and Mediation, a local counseling agency, to provide SFP services. Prior to applying for this funding, EBA informed Lowndes County that they felt it would be in the best interest of all parties, as well as more cost effective, for Lowndes County to contract directly with a service provider and, as such, they would not be serving as Program Manager for this grant moving forward.

Lowndes County solicited Requests for Proposals from qualified organizations to provide SFP services during the current grant period, which runs from October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Proposers were asked to provide information on their experience, staff and pricing to provide the required services for at least two (2) cohorts of SFP. If time and funding allow, a third cohort may be possible. They are also required to complete progress reports as required by CJCC as a condition of funding. Lowndes County received two (2) proposals from qualified firms, Peaceway Counseling and Mediation and Legacy Behavioral Health Services, both located in Valdosta.

Both proposals were reviewed for completeness and evaluated by staff based on their experience working with children, overall experience, staff experience, program delivery strategy and the cost of services. Both firms meet the qualifications and have staff with sufficient experience to implement the program effectively. Peaceway Counseling proposes providing two (2) cohorts for \$50,000.00 which includes training for two additional staff. That would give them seven (7) staff trained in SFP. Legacy Behavioral Health proposes training eleven (11) staff and providing the same two cohorts for \$45,114.00. CJCC has indicated that they may be able to provide the training at no cost to Lowndes County or the provider, which would reduce the proposal of Peaceway to \$49,400.00 and the proposal of Legacy would be \$37,575.00 without training costs.