

to work with once the program provided assistance that made a difference for the juveniles.

5. Improve the academic standing of participants.

The juveniles will demonstrate improvement by tracking grades and progress.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

The following is generally already being provided at a lower intensity.

Each day at 9 a.m., the center (serendipitously located next to the courthouse) opens. The juveniles can begin to show up from 9 to 10 a.m. when the office staff opens the center. At 10 a.m., Kelisa Brown (an employee of the Mental Wealth Center) will supervise the progress and activities of the juveniles, providing encouragement, accountability, and academic assistance. Kelisa is the primary expense related to this project. We are looking for tutors from the local university for subjects that require specialized knowledge. I am confident we will get whatever assistance is needed.

When necessary, the center can provide breakfast and lunch – however, until funding is secured, this is limited to necessity (MWC indicated that \$ 600 per month would cover this expense).

The program's juveniles will receive academic assistance in the onsite computer lab. The juveniles are often far behind in school and can use this supervised time to work on catching up. Lowndes County Schools recently allowed one of the participants to use a virtual platform instead of going to the school due to behavior issues. The center will have life skills classes and academic support throughout the time juveniles are there. Some days, the juveniles cook something – sometimes anger management classes - sometimes, they might work on something else to increase their chances of a better outcome.

RESOURCES NEEDED

The cost of keeping the center open and staffed with a dedicated academic support person from 9-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, is \$2,400 per month or \$14,400 for January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024. Other sources cover all of the other costs.

The \$1,964 match has not been secured as of the submission of this request. The court believes the county will be willing to provide the match. If not, the amount will be found from another source.