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At the direction of the Funding Committee under the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for competitive funding for qualified new and existing Accountability Courts in the State of Georgia.

State of Georgia
Accountability Court Funding Program
FY'24 Solicitation Packet

Eligibility

Applicants are limited to local entities for new and existing Adult Felony Drug Court, Adult Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, DUI Court, Family Treatment Court, Juvenile Drug Court, or Juvenile Mental Health Court.

Any applications received of the same court type within a single jurisdiction (circuit or county) will be reviewed together and considered one application.

Deadline

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2023

Available Funding

The amount available for distribution will be determined by the legislature during the 2023 session. There is a 12% cash match requirement.

Award Period

July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

Release Date: February 1, 2023

THIS GRANT IS NOT INTENDED TO FUND YOUR PROGRAM 100%.

SECTION I: OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is designated by the Governor of Georgia as the State Administering Agency for criminal justice and victims' assistance programs. Created by the General Assembly (O.C.G.A. § 35-6A-2), the Council is comprised of twenty-four members representing various components of the criminal justice system.

Overview of the State of Georgia's Accountability Court Funding Program

The Council of Accountability Court of Judge (CACJ) was created in 2015 by the Georgia Legislature and by Governor Nathan Deal to provide courts with the critical funding necessary to support the growth of Accountability Courts in Georgia to reduce the prison population.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should review the FY'24 Solicitation Packet in its entirety, and submit the completed application, including the requested information and all required attachments, using the link provided to the court by CJCC on or before 5 p.m., March 3, 2023. **The application is the only acceptable format for submitting the narratives and budget for this funding year. It is recommended that applicants allow adequate time to complete the application. Applications must be submitted using the required format; scanned or handwritten copies of the application will not be accepted.** The CACJ and CJCC will release a pre-recorded FY'24 instructional grant webinar on or about Wednesday, February 1, 2023; interested applicants are encouraged to view the webinar. Additionally, CACJ and CJCC will host a FY'24 grant virtual question and answer webinar on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 12:00 pm. Any application that does not adequately answer all applicable questions will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed for funding.

Match Requirement (12 percent CASH match)

Applicants must identify the source of the 12 percent non-state portion of the total project costs and how they will use match funds. Match is restricted to the same uses of funds as allowed for the state funds. Applicants may satisfy this match requirement with cash only (no in-kind services).

Match Waiver: The CACJ may waive the match requirement upon a determination of fiscal hardship. **To be considered for a waiver of match, a letter of request signed by the Authorized Representative or Program Judge must be submitted with the grant application defining the fiscal hardship.** Fiscal hardship is defined in terms related to reductions in overall budgets, furloughing or reductions in force of staff or other similar documented actions by the local governing authority which have resulted in severe budget reductions. A match waiver request must be submitted as a separate attachment to the application and titled as the *"Match Waiver."*

NOTE: You do NOT need to match every item you are requesting but must supply a 12% match in the overall budget request. The match must be from one of the allowable categories.

The formula for calculating the match is:

Requested Grant Amount multiplied by 12 then divided by 88 = Required Match

Example:

12 percent match requirement: for a state award amount of \$100,000, match would be calculated as follows:

State Award x 12/88 = Match

Ex. \$100,000 x 12/88 = \$13,363.36

SECTION II: SOLICITATION PROCESS

Please read and understand the Certification for Accountability Court Funding attachment before completing the application. All accountability courts shall attend training and submit a proposed budget/narrative for all funds requested through this grant.

Existing Courts

Complete all sections of the application, unless noted otherwise.

Implementation Courts

Complete sections of the application to the best of your ability. The committee understands that you may not have all the answers yet but expects that you have thought through all of the issues related to each section of the application.

Application Review

Applications will be reviewed and assessed by the CACJ Funding Committee members and its designated representatives who will consider the following:

1. Past compliance with all financial and programmatic reporting requirements.
2. Overall quality and completeness of the application.
3. Demonstration of clear, measurable, and appropriate project goals.
4. Demonstration of need including geographic location, local demographics, local statistics, other financial resources, etc.
5. The use of evidenced-based treatment.

6. Responsiveness to peer review, certification, and treatment fidelity findings.
 7. The use of other funding sources, including participant fees.
 8. Adequate correlation between the cost of the project and the objective(s) to be achieved; and
 9. Sharing resources among each accountability court within the circuit is strongly encouraged.
- All applications within each circuit will be reviewed together.

Only complete applications received by the deadline will be reviewed. When an application is received by the CJCC, there is no commitment on the part of the CACJ Funding Committee to fund an application or to fund it at the amount requested. All areas of the budget are subject to review and approval. Decisions related to these budget areas are based on both eligibility and reasonableness. The CACJ Funding Committee has full discretion to determine the reasonableness of budget items based on both objective and subjective decision-making tools. See "Restrictions on Use of Funds" subsection below to determine whether budget items requested are allowable prior to submitting your budget. Applications for funding will undergo several reviews. At any point during these reviews, a decision not to fund a project or any part thereof may be made. These decisions are within the complete discretion of the CACJ Funding Committee.

Funding Decisions

All funding decisions related to CJCC applications received in response to this solicitation are made by the CACJ Funding Committee and are based on the availability of funding. The Council will inform the applicants of funding decisions through grant awards. Applicants should not make assumptions regarding funding decisions until they have received official written notification of awards or denials signed by the CJCC Council Director.

Once an award is made, the CACJ in conjunction with CJCC, maintains discretion to determine that a grantee is not compliant with applicable policies, and upon such a determination may terminate further funding and require reimbursement of grant funds to the CACJ.

Restrictions on Use of Funds

For this grant period, grant funds will not be allowed to be used for: out of state training, any part of a salary or pay supplements for state or county paid employees, office space, utilities, furniture (existing courts only), incentives, monthly cell phone charges, case management software (including maintenance and upgrades), vehicles, weapons, office supplies (existing courts only), construction projects and grant administrative overhead.

Supplantation

Funds must be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and cannot replace or supplant funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose.

Generally, supplanting occurs when a local government or program reduces local or other available funds for an activity specifically because state funds are available (or expected to be available) to fund that same activity. When supplanting is not permitted, any State grant funds may not replace any local, or other available funds that have been appropriated or allocated for the same purpose. In those instances when a question of supplanting arises, the applicant or grantee will be required to substantiate that the reduction in non-state resources occurred for reasons other than the receipt or expected receipt of state funds.

SECTION III: POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Grant Acceptance

Grantees wishing to accept FY'24 funding must submit signed Acceptance Letters and Special Conditions to the CJCC Office, so it is *received* no later than 5 p.m., June 30, 2023. The CACJ Funding Committee will assume your court rejects its FY'24 award if these acceptance documents are not received by this submission deadline.

Special Conditions

At the time of the grant award, the CACJ Funding Committee will assign special conditions, as deemed appropriate for the program. The special conditions will outline the grantee's responsibilities, as well as state regulations that must be followed, as a condition of accepting the grant award for the approved program. The special conditions will be included in the award packet and must be reviewed, signed, and returned to CJCC by 5 p.m., June 30, 2023 (see above). **One fourth of all awarded funding must be requested in that quarter's SER each reporting period. This means that the expenditure must be paid by your local funding agency and CJCC reimbursement has been requested within that reporting period. Any unused funds each quarter end will be retained by the CJCC to be managed by the CACJ. This is a reimbursement grant.** If awarded funds, your court will be required to submit check stubs and copies of invoices to CJCC for reimbursement on a quarterly basis. **Training is made available to each court that accepts grant funding. Please see www.cacj.georgia.gov for the training dates and attendee requirements.** Expenses for training will be reimbursed by the CACJ Funding Committee.

Reporting Requirements

Recipients of this FY'24 grant award will be required to complete and submit SER and a CACJ electronic data submission report, due no later than 15 days after each quarter end. Failure to submit reports in a timely fashion could result in a 10% penalty that will be based on the initial grant award. Subgrantees are given a 10-day grace before any action is taken (applies to SER only). **The electronic data submission reports will be generated using the state approved case management systems during FY'24. The CACJ will present implementation courts with the opportunity to select a state approved case management system on or about July 1, 2023.**

SER (Sub-grant Expenditure Requests): Reimbursement requests for expenses incurred during the grant period on either a monthly or quarterly basis. To request reimbursement, the recipient must submit a financial report within fifteen days of the month's end date, to their designated grant specialist.