BRIAN P. KEMP
GOVERNOR

JAY NEAL
DIRECTOR

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (the Council) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for competitive funding for local jurisdictions within the State of Georgia under the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) (CFDA 16.540).

FY2027 Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Grants Program Request for Proposals

Eligibility

Applicants are limited to local county commissions/boards of commissioners, city governments, or school districts. The availability of funds is dependent on appropriations from OJP. The Office reserves the right to reduce the amount of funds available based on government budgetary actions. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, administers these funds at the national level.

Deadline

Applications are due by Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Available Funding

Maximum Dollar Amount per Award
Rural: maximum - $50,000
Non-rural: maximum - $100,000

The amount to be awarded to each agency will be determined by the Council under the advisement of the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group.

Award Period

October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

Contact Information

For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact:
Stephanie Mikkelsen at Smikkelsen@cjcc.ga.gov

Release Date: May 1, 2026

THIS IS A FEDERAL GRANT SUBJECT TO FEDERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION I: OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are limited to local units of governments (i.e. County Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, etc.) Priority will be given to applicants who have partnerships and/or letters of support with multiple agencies (i.e. juvenile court with law enforcement, or school with juvenile court).

This grant is open to new and returning applicants.

The Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Grants Program

The Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Grants Program provides funding for the implementation of programming for prevention from the juvenile justice system and intervention services for youth as alternatives to detention. Funding will be used to promote programming related to CHINS. Programming should be evidence supported or evidence based. Additionally, applicants may include time of a personnel position for the administration purposes of this grant, however, applications prioritizing funds for direct service will be prioritized.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council 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-seven members representing various components of the criminal justice system.

Overview of the State of Georgia's Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group

The Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group (SAG) is a Governor appointed body which provide expertise for juvenile justice efforts across the state of Georgia. The SAG will serve as the advisory body to the Council for the grant award.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should review the Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Grants Program Packet in its entirety, and submit the completed application, including the requested information and all required attachments.

This application will be submitted through the new grants management system, https://grantsportal.cjcc.ga.gov/. The application must be completed and submitted in accordance with the RFP guidelines in order for the submission or proposal to be considered for funding. Before you submit, review your application from start to finish to ensure you submit complete and accurate information. **It is recommended that applicants allow adequate time to complete the application. Applications must be submitted using the required format.** Any

application that does not adequately answer all applicable questions will be considered incomplete and may not be reviewed for funding.

If the applicant is not the authorized official, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council recommends the implementing agency applies on behalf of authorized official. The applicant **must** have permission by the authorized official to apply.

SECTION II: APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Review

Applications will be reviewed and assessed by the Council and the SAG members and its designated representatives who will consider the following:

1. Overall quality and completeness of the application;
2. Demonstration of clear, measurable and appropriate standards;
3. Demonstration of need including geographic location, local demographics, local statistics, other financial resources, etc.;
4. Adequate correlation between the cost of the project and the objective(s) to be achieved.

Only complete applications received by the deadline will be reviewed. **When an application is received by the Council, there is no commitment on the part of the Council to fund an application or to fund it at the amount requested**. Decisions related to these budget areas are based on both eligibility and reasonableness. The Council 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 Council.

Competitive Funding Decisions

All funding decisions related to the program application received in response to this solicitation are made by the Council, based on the availability of funding and recommendations by the SAG. The Council will inform the applicant of funding decisions through a grant award. Applicants should not make assumptions regarding funding decisions until they have received official written notification of award or denial signed by the CJCC Executive Director.

Once an award is made, it is within the discretion of the Council to determine that a subgrantee is not compliant with applicable policies. Upon such a determination, the Council may terminate further funding and require reimbursement of grant funds. Each year, CJCC will release a RFP for continuation of funds for grantees to apply for funding the following year, for a total of three years. Once an award is made, it is within the discretion of the Council to determine that a subgrantee is not compliant with applicable policies. Upon such a determination, the Council may terminate further funding and require reimbursement of grant funds.

Priority consideration will be given to applications which partner with school systems to prevent and reduce violence and support mental health needs of at-risk within the schools.

Allowable Funds
Funds for this award can be used for delinquency prevention and alternatives to detention programming as well as training cost, supplies, travel, and grant administration.

Restriction of Funds
Grant funds cannot be used for: office space, utilities, food, furniture, the purchase of vehicles, weapons, overall agency supplies, and construction projects. Please note, this is not an exhaustive list. Please contact the assigned CJCC contact if you have any questions.

Supplanting of Funds
Funds cannot replace or supplant federal or nonfederal funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose.

Match Requirement
No match is required under this program.

Award Notification
Notification of award funding will be made **no later than September 16, 2026.**

SECTION III: POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The Children in Needs (CHINS) Grants Program Subgrantee Workshop
As a requirement of the grant, all counties selected for funding will be required to attend a workshop to discuss the purpose of the grant.

Grant Acceptance
Subgrantees must accept or reject the grant award with original signatures and required forms within forty-five (45) days of the award date. The subgrantee will be unable to request funds until the award documents are submitted to the Council.

Special Conditions
At the time of the subgrant award, the Council will assign special conditions as deemed appropriate for the program. The special conditions will outline the subgrantee's responsibilities, as well as federal and state regulations that must be adhered to, 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 the Council within **forty-five (45) days** of the award date. The Council may assume your court rejects the grant award if these acceptance documents are not received by this submission deadline.

Per DOJ requirements, awardees will be required to have background checks on all personnel who will be directly interacting with the youth through this grant.

This is a federal reimbursement grant. Potential subgrantees are expected to abide by federal rules and regulations.

Fiscal Accountability

Commingling of funds on either a program-by-program or project-by-project basis is prohibited. The subgrantee's accounting system must maintain a clear audit trail for each source of funding for each fiscal budget period and include the following:

- Separate accountability of receipts, expenditures, disbursements, and balances. CJCC recommends creating an account in your accounting system for each grant using the grant number provided by CJCC.
- Itemized records supporting all grant expenditures in sufficient detail to show exact nature of activity.
- Data and information for each expenditure with proper reference to a supporting voucher or bill properly approved.
- Maintenance of billing records for project related expenses (i.e. service invoices)
- Provisions for payment by check (as applicable).

Subgrantees will select whether they would prefer to be reimbursed for grant expenses on monthly or a quarterly basis once awarded.

Risk Assessments

As a requirement of federal funding, prior to being awarded, grantees must complete the CJCC Risk Assessment.

Site Visits

Awarded grantees will receive programmatic and fiscal site visits as required. These may be in person or virtual.

Performance Measures and Reporting Requirements

Performance measurement can be defined as the process of routinely measuring the outputs and outcomes produced by a program, thereby allowing one to assess the effectiveness of program investments and activities. It has been found that measuring performance builds consensus and commitment within the justice community, assists with the goal of obtaining and allocating resources, demonstrates success, and improves accountability.

The Department of Justice, the federal entity that administers the Delinquency Prevention Grant Program, has developed performance measures for all funded program types. As such, the Council requires that all funded subgrantees complete a quarterly statistical report using DOJ's Performance Measurement Tool (PMT) that will be submitted to your CJCC contact The PMT will ultimately help states produce evidence-based guidance on monitoring and evaluating all programs.

PMT reporting is completed based on grant-funded activities. Reporting will be due:

Reporting Period	Due Date
October 1 – December 31	January 30

January 1 – March 31	April 30
April 1 – June 30	July 30
July 1- September 30	October 30

SECTION IV: PROGRAM DESIGN

Purpose

The overarching goal of this grant program is prevent CHINS youth from becoming further involved in the juvenile justice system, and improve community-based support for these youth while reducing unnecessary out-of-home placements, and better serve youth in the community.

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to provide funding for local programs designed to serve CHINS youth in the community. Applicants are encouraged to examine their local data to understand the profiles of youth who have a CHINS compliant filed, and who, with appropriate services, could have received services in their community. Recipients of this grant opportunity will be employing evidenced-supported and/or evidence-based programming appropriate to the needs of youth in the community.

Considerable evidence has shown that assessing each youth's need can help with classifying youth for appropriate levels/types of programming, as well as the necessary intensiveness of services. The challenge of this population is determining if the behavior is: "normal" teen behavior; a youth or family in crisis; or a youth who is a victim of abuse or neglect. Various acts of CHINS can be related to underlying issues in a child's life.

Bolstering a continuum of community support services and supervision has been shown to reduce recidivism, while promoting a positive relationship among youth, their families, and the community. Support services may include family and community reintegration and prevention services, basic life skills, job skills and employment training, job placement, educational support, and mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities.

Communities applying for these funds will be expected to bring together system stakeholders, community leaders, and residents to identify and access existing local resources for the development of a multifaceted response to prevent further penetration in the justice system. Research shows that by implementing community-based and family-focused alternatives to court intervention, the state can reduce court caseloads, lower government costs, and provide meaningful and lasting support to children and families. Features of systems include: diversion from court, immediate response, triage process, accessible and effective services, and ongoing internal assessments.

By employing targeted and intentional programming for appropriate youth along with community support, the State of Georgia will increase public safety while decreasing recidivism among juveniles in the juvenile justice system.

The CJCC ask that applicants fully describe how their project will reduce risk factors of participants with their selected model that addresses family engagement, reduces negative peer association, increases pro-social activities, and is tailored to the individual cognitive and maturational levels of their participants.

For the purposes of this solicitation, prevention and alternatives to detention strategies should target to middle and high school age youth (ages 11–17).

Program Period
This grant award period covers October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Target Population
Youth (11-17 years of age) who are at risk to become involved with or prevent the further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Goals and Objectives
Each applicant must utilize all of the following goals and objectives for its project. Applicants may add goals or objectives specific to their program.

Goals

- Reduction in juvenile delinquency and recidivism.
- Implement services with fidelity.

Objectives

- Decrease the number of CHINS cases becoming further involved with the justice system.
- Increase protective factors to prevent delinquent behavior by youth.
- Provide child and family focused services to target population.
- Establish partnerships with local level-based organizations or service providers.

SECTION V: APPLICATION FORM
Interested applicants should review the Program Packet in its entirety, and submit the completed application, including the requested information and all required attachments.

- **General:** Clarify if you plan to create or expand a current program and provide the estimated number of youth served by program.
    - Have you previously been awarded funding from this grant program, or is this your first time applying?
        - Continuing Applicant or New Applicant
    - Are you planning to create a new or expand a current program?
    - Who will render services?

- **Project Description:** Provide a description of the project including the agency's name, agency type, and year founded. Include the geographic area targeted, estimated number of

individuals who will be served during the grant period, and relevant characteristics of the target population.

- **Target Population:** Provide a detailed description of the clearly defined target population to be served in the grant period, include the following:
    - Applicants must select which type of CHINS the proposal shall target from the list below.
        - Truancy
        - Habitually disobedient or ungovernable
        - Runaway
        - Loitering
        - Other
    - Please provide the number of CHINS offenses (based on the proposal target area) over the last three years. This data should include both complaints, petitioned, and/or adjudicated cases.
    - Number of projected youth to be served.
    - Target group/age range a) 11 - 14 years of age; b) 14 – 17 years of age; or c) 11 – 17 years of age
    - Gender: a) male only; b) female only; or c) male and female
    - County or counties to be served (please only apply for counties you are able to serve)
    - Other demographics, including at-risk population(s)
    - List assessment instruments to be used for selected target population and how they will be used to screen youth. If no screening tools are used, please explain how services will be determined.

- **Needs statement**:
    - Provide a statement of the specific problem(s)/gap(s) the project will address. Include data that supports this claim. Only use data that is verifiable and relevant to the target population. For example, do not use statewide data for a local problem statement and do not use national data for a statewide problem statement. This section should also discuss any previous or current attempts to address the need and provide an overview of existing system resources to identify gaps/barriers in available resources.

- **Project goals**:
    - State the goals of the proposed project. Explain how the project goals will meet the needs of the project's target population and/or impact the proposed service area. Include any accomplishments from previous years. For example, an estimated number of participants to be served during the grant period and the anticipated outcomes. Outcomes are defined as changes in attitudes, knowledge, skills, behaviors, and conditions. Goals must be specific, measurable, action-oriented, reasonable, and time-sensitive having performance indicators. Please prepare to explain in the evaluation plan section.

- **Project activities and services:**
    - Describe the project's service delivery plan. In other words, explain how the agency will achieve project goals.
    - Explain how these cases (type of CHINS) are handled within your agency.
    - State how services will be implemented or enhanced. Outline proposed programming, a timeline for implementing services, as well as an explanation of how youth will be identified and referred into services. Applicants must attach a process map for how referrals and services will be determined for the target population, where decisions are made for services and administration of the grant.
    - Explain how the plan for project activities will meet the target population's needs as described in the needs statement.
    - How will the program overcome barriers of engaging the entire family?
    - Staffing: Describe the primary roles and responsibilities for each grant-funded position. Attach a job description for each position discussed.

- **Other**
    - Does your county have a designated CHINS Coordinator?
    - Does your county currently have a CHINS Protocol?
    - Does your county currently have a Student and School Climate Committee (please note, these may also be called Student Attendance Committees, School Climate Tasks Force, etc.)?
    - Does your county have a Student and School Climate Protocol?

- **Sustainability:**
    - Describe any barriers to implementation experienced in Year 1.
    - Describe any successes to implementation experienced in Year 1.
    - Describe the specific activities that will take place during this upcoming grant period to ensure sustainability, including any barriers for the program and how the organization intends to address said issues.
    - List the current juvenile related funding sources (state, federal, and/or private) and amount of funding for your organization.
    - Identify potential state, federal, and/or private funding streams for program support.
    - List the community partners and their description and contribution, if any, to the proposed program.

Attachments

- Budget - All applicants must attach a budget using the provided **Budget Detailed Worksheet**. All line items within the budget are subject to review and approval. Decisions related to these budget line items are based on federal program guidelines, justification of costs in relation to project activities, and reasonableness of costs based on current market rates.
- CHINS Process Map. This should outline the process from a complaint to services ending

for a youth.

- Letter of Support (if available)
- MOU/Contracts - Please attach any contract or MOU between your agency and the established service providers. (if available)
- Job Description (if applicable)
- Personnel Description (if applying for 50% of a personnel position)
- Program timeline
- Federal Forms