Applicant Agency

Applicant Agency Name

Richmond County Juvenile Court

Mailing Address 1

971 Broad Street

Mailing Address 2

City	State	Zip	County	Phone	Fax
Augusta	*Georgia*	*30901*	*Richmond County*	*(706) 821-1185*	*(706) 821-1196*

Does your organization have an Authorized Agency that manages your funding? *

[X] Yes *[ ]* No

Authorized Agency: *Augusta Richmond County*

[X] I certify that I have the authority to make representations and apply on behalf of the agency listed as the "Authorized Agency" on this application. If the Authorized Agency is an agency of local government, I further certify that I have the authority to make representations and apply for this grant on behalf of the unit of local government listed on this application. I understand that the representations included in the application are made on behalf of myself and the Authorized Agency and that these representations will be relied upon as material in any decision to make an award to the Applicant based on its application. I certify that the statements included in the application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.

Does the Organization have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) ?

If the field belowis blank, please visit the Organization Information page on your Organization's Profile

UEI: *ZH93N1J4TBES* *

Designation of Grant Officials

Project Director

This official must be an employee of the applicant agency or from a contractor organization, at the applicant's option, who will be directly responsible for operation of the project. This person will be the primary contact for the application and the post-award phase.

Name

Dr. * Prefix *Audrey* * First Name *Armistad* * Last Name

Title/Position

Program Director *

Address

971 Broad Street *

Augusta * City *Georgia* * State *30901* * Zip

Phone

(706) 821-1185 *

Fax

Email

aarmistad@augustaga.gov *

Financial Officer

This official must be the chief financial officer of the applicant agency such as the county auditor, city treasurer, comptroller, or the board treasurer.

Name

Ms. * Prefix *Mattie* * First Name *Stevens* * Last Name

Title/Position

Interim Director *

Address

535 Telfair Street *

Augusta * City *Georgia* * State *30901* * Zip

Phone

(706) 842-2806 *

Fax

Email

mstevens@augustaga.gov *

Authorized Official

This official is authorized to apply for, accept, decline or cancel the grant for the applicant agency. This person must be the executive director of a state agency, chairperson of the county Board of Commissioners, mayor, chairperson of the City Council, or the chairman/president of the board of directors. All official correspondence regarding the grant and the application (assurances, disclosures, certifications, award documentation, subgrant expenditure reports, subgrant adjustment reports) must be signed by the authorized official. Once an award has been made, the authorized official may designate someone to sign this documentation by submitting a letter on agency letterhead to the Council.

Name

Mr. * Prefix *Garnett* * First Name *Johnson* * Last Name

Title/Position

Mayor *

Address

535 Telfair Street *

Augusta * City *Georgia* * State *30901* * Zip

Phone

(706) 821-1831 *

Fax

Email

mayorjohnson@augustaga.gov *

Agency Description

Agency Type: *County* *

Congressional District(s) to be served (Please click here to look up Congressional Districts. Zoom into the map to view all districts) *

12

1. Does your county have a designated CHINS Coordinator? *
*[X]*Yes, Full-time
*[ ]*Yes, Part-time
*[ ]*No, an individual is not designated.
*[ ]*Other:
2. Does your county currently have a CHINS Protocol? *
*[X]*Yes
*[ ]*No
*[ ]*Other:

Please upload a copy of your most recent CHINS Protocol. *

Juvenile Court Richmond County CHINS Protocol (1) (6).pdf
3. 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.)? *
*[X]*Yes *[ ]*No
What is the name of your School and School Climate Committee? *

Richmond County Schools/Richmond County School Climate and Attendance Committee
Is your Student and School Climate Committee actively meeting? *
*[X]*Yes *[ ]*No
4. Does your county have a Student and School Climate Protocol? *
*[X]*Yes *[ ]*No

Please upload a copy of your most recent Student and School Climate Protocol. *

Student Attendance Protocol Richmond County - Proposed.pdf

5. Please indicate whether or not the agency has a current written language access plan to assist people who are LEP individuals. *
*[X]*Yes *[ ]*No *[ ]*Not Applicable

6. Please indicate the language in which your agency or organization's staff members are proficient. "Proficiency" indicates that the staff member can appropriately serve, or otherwise converse with, someone in their native language if they are LEP. *

Our agency have contractor interpreters to provide interpretations for n0n-English speaking youth and their families.

Project Activities

Please select the Project Type that applies to this award.

(funding categories represent the areas where awarded monies will be spent)

Project Type: *Juvenile Justice: Delinquency Prevention* *

PROJECT SCOPE

1. Are you planning to create a new, or expand a current, program? *

*[X]*Expansion of Program *[ ]*New Program

2. Who will render services? *

*[X]*Juvenile Court
*[ ]*School
*[ ]*Law Enforcement
*[ ]*Other:

3. Select which type of CHINS the proposal shall target from the list below. *

*[X]*Truancy
*[ ]*Habitually disobedient or ungovernable
*[ ]*Runaway
*[ ]*Loitering
*[ ]*Other:

Does your proposed project collaborate with the juvenile court and/or school system? *

*[X]*Yes *[ ]*No

4. Explain how these cases (type of CHINS) are handled within your program. *

The Richmond County Juvenile Court utilizes the Children In Need of Services (CHINS) program to actively meet the needs of at-risk youth and their families, seeking to provide targeted services that rehabilitate rather than punish. When a CHINS complaint is received, a dedicated Intake Unit must file it within 48 hours. Within 5 days, they contact the family to schedule an initial interview. During this comprehensive screening process, the unit investigates the youth's full background—pulling legal histories, school attendance sheets, grades, and guidance counselor reports (including ACE Questionnaire scores). They also cross-reference with state agencies like DFCS and DJJ to see if the family is already receiving aid. The primary goal is to assess whether behavioral issues stem from root causes like trauma, medical challenges, or temporary hardships (such as housing or transportation displacement). Based on this data, the unit decides whether to close the case, create an informal diversion agreement for cooperative families, or escalate the matter if severe indicators exist, such as uncooperative parents, failed school interventions, or repeated truancy exceeding 25 days.

When informal interventions are exhausted or a case involves these severe issues, the matter is referred to the CHINS prosecutor for formal court intervention. At least 72 hours before the court date, a mandatory service review meeting is held to ensure all parties are fully prepared. In this meeting, a member of the CHINS intake unit, the child's attorney, the Solicitor General, and representatives from relevant agencies (such as DFCS, DJJ, or CASA) collaborate to deeply review the child's case file, behavioral history, and family dynamics so they can present a well-informed, unified recommendation to the judge. During the formal court hearing, a strict format is followed: the prosecutor presents a concise summary of the case, the child's attorney responds, and the parents are permitted to speak. If a resolution is reached, the judge states the terms on the record and issues a consent order with a one-time supervision fee, after which the Intake Unit steps in to manage the official supervision.

TARGET POPULATION

5. Provide a detailed description of the target population to be served during the grant period. *

The targeted population is driven by specific local metrics from the Richmond County School System (RCSS), where the chronic absenteeism rate has reached a staggering 32.9% (affecting nearly one in three students). Under Georgia law and RCSS policy, the legal pipeline targets families at the 10 unexcused absences threshold, which triggers a mandatory school petition to the Juvenile Court. The court then narrows its highest-risk focus to students cross-referencing 25 or more days of truancy, signaling that traditional school-level interventions have failed.

While the court actively manages disengaged middle and high schoolers (ages 11–17) facing court referral, a critical target for the Strengthening Families Program is the K–5 elementary school population (ages 5–10), where early truancy notifications are heavily concentrated. Because absenteeism at this young age is statistically tied to parental barriers rather than student defiance, the court will use Strengthening Families Program to target the whole family unit including younger siblings under 11 wrapping rehabilitative resources around overwhelmed parents to resolve root household crises (such as severe trauma, housing displacement, and transportation barriers) before they spiral into permanent academic failure.

6. Select the county(s) to be served (please only apply for counties you are able to serve): *

Richmond County

7. 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. *

2,943

8. State the total number of projected youth to be served. *

240

9. Select the target group/age range: *

*[ ]*11 - 14 years of age *[ ]*15 – 17 years of age *[X]*11 – 17 years of age

10. Select the targeted gender group(s): *

*[ ]*Male Only *[ ]*Female Only *[X]*Male & Female

11. Please state any other demographics, including at-risk population(s). If none, state "N/A" *

The Richmond County Juvenile Court actively targets youth and families dealing with a severe overlap of socioeconomic strain and criminal involvement. In Richmond County, systemic vulnerabilities frequently pull at-risk juveniles into criminal activities, ranging from property offenses and gang involvement to increasingly violent offenses. Tragically, a rise in gun violence has directly impacted the community's youth, driving a juvenile murder rate that reflects the urgent need for early, aggressive intervention. To break this cycle before it escalates into the adult justice system, the court relies on early diagnostic screening to identify the root causes driving a child's behavior.

This demographic crisis is further compounded by deep racial, behavioral, and systemic inequities. Reflecting a broader crisis across Georgia's juvenile justice system, Black youth are significantly overrepresented among at-risk and justice-involved populations; statewide data indicates that nearly 78% of youth entering secure detention are African American, a trend mirrored locally in the Augusta-Richmond area due to systemic vulnerabilities like the school-to-prison pipeline. Furthermore, a substantial segment of these juveniles enters the system with unmet complex developmental, learning, or mental health needs, as a severe shortage of pediatric behavioral health providers leaves youth with untreated trauma that escalates into severe behavioral issues at school and home. Finally, Richmond County sees high numbers of "crossover youth"—children who navigate both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems—creating an exceptionally high-risk group where foster care placements, family trauma, and a lack of domestic stability directly fuel behavioral challenges like running away and chronic truancy.

Recognizing that extreme financial strain directly translates into household instability, the Richmond County Juvenile Court CHINS team has administered over 400 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) questionnaires to local youth. The data gathered from these assessments reveals a widespread pattern of trauma across the targeted demographic, proving that widespread financial strain manifests as systemic ACEs, including food insecurity, housing displacement, and highly unstable home environments. By analyzing these specific trauma indicators, the court can identify vulnerable juveniles at the first sign of chronic truancy or behavioral disruption, utilizing programs like the Strengthening Families Program to heal the domestic unit and disrupt the path toward violent crime.

12. List assessment instruments to be used for selected target population and how they will be used to screen youth. *

To determine which families facing truancy issues are the right fit for the Strengthening Families Program, the Richmond County Juvenile Court CHINS team will utilize and build upon a specific combination of diagnostic screening tools:

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Questionnaire: As already implemented by the CHINS team, this is the primary clinical screening tool. It assesses the level of trauma, abuse, or household dysfunction a child has faced. Families with high ACE scores are ideal candidates for Strengthening Families Program,, as the program specifically targets trauma-informed recovery and domestic stability rather than punitive discipline.

The Protective Factors Survey (PFS): This is the core screening and evaluation tool designed specifically for the Strengthening Families framework. It will measure a household's baseline strength across critical areas like parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, and nurturing parenting skills. A low score on the PFS indicates that a family lacks the structural protective factors needed to ensure stable school attendance, making them an exact match for Strengthening Families Program enrollment.

School-Based Intake Screening Matrix: Combining school data such as reaching the 10-day unexcused absence pipeline or approaching the 25+ day severe truancy threshold with a structural screening interview. If the intake officer determines the root cause of the absenteeism is a "parental or systemic barrier" rather than willful juvenile defiance, the family is routed directly into Strengthening Families Program

Project Narrative

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Provide a description of the project including the agency's name and agency type. Include the geographic area targeted, estimated number of individuals who will be served during the grant period, and relevant characteristics of the target population. *

Established in 2018 by the late Juvenile Court Judge Doug Flannigan, the Richmond County Juvenile Court THRIVE Program is a collaborative initiative designed to support and rehabilitate youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system by offering evidence- and community-based interventions. Led by a veteran education administrator and retired Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) school superintendent, the program specifically targets marginalized and at-risk youth to help them make healthy choices, remediate academic gaps, and develop foundational morals and values.

The Richmond County Juvenile Court serves a diverse population of court-involved youth, including those who are deemed dependent via the Department of Family and Children Services, those with delinquency cases through the Department of Juvenile Justice, individuals facing truancy or school-related offenses through the Richmond County School System, or youth classified as a Child in Need of Services (CHINS). THRIVE operates on the guiding principle that while every child in the juvenile court system may not be dependent or adjudicated delinquent, every single one is a child in need of services.

A critical focus of this project is its commitment to court-involved youth and their families, explicitly addressing the severe social stigma that households face in Richmond County. By reframing the court process around rehabilitation and dignity, the project works to dismantle these community barriers while pursuing core goals to increase family closeness, help family members learn to be good communicators, and enhance parents' abilities to nurture and guide their children through everyday challenges. To achieve this, THRIVE features a robust, year-round curriculum that blends therapeutic care, behavioral modification, and educational assistance. Youth participate in evidence-based and evidence-supported programming, including Aggression Replacement Training, Multisystemic Therapy, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Seven Challenges, Not Another Number, and the "One Degree At A Time" curriculum, which functions in furtherance of the court's specialized Gang Suppression and Intervention Programming.

To eliminate systemic barriers to attendance, program staff transport youth twelve months a year from their homes, temporary housing, motels, or wherever they may be residing. During the school year, staff members pick up youth directly from school and transport them to the THRIVE facility to receive a meal, educational assistance, counseling, mentoring, and curriculum sessions before transporting them safely back home each evening. For youth who are not enrolled in one of the fifty-five local public schools, the program provides dedicated transportation to morning or evening GED classes. Currently, the program provides these comprehensive services to 240 Richmond County youth every week. This support remains seamless during Spring, Fall, and Winter breaks, extending into a specialized Summer Enrichment Program. Throughout the summer months, certified teachers provide credit recovery and academic remediation alongside ongoing therapeutic services, beautifully balancing the core programming with classes in the arts, sports, and recreation to ensure the youth continue to thrive.

2. Have you previously been awarded funding from this grant program, or is this your first time applying? *

*[X]*Continuing Applicant *[ ]*New Applicant

NEEDS STATEMENT

1. 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. *

Children and families in Richmond County face challenges that extend far beyond the classroom. Poverty, chronic absenteeism, family instability, and exposure to crime continue to create barriers that prevent many young people from reaching their full potential. Without positive supports and meaningful opportunities, too many youth become disconnected from school, their families, and their communities, increasing their risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Approximately 22% of Richmond County residents live below the federal poverty level, compared to about 13% statewide. These economic hardships are reflected throughout the Richmond County School System (RCSS), where every student qualifies for free breakfast and lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision. Serving approximately 28,000 students across 54 schools, RCSS educates a population where financial hardship is not the exception—it's the reality for nearly every family.

School attendance has become one of the community's most pressing concerns. The Richmond County School System reports a 32.13% chronic absenteeism rate, meaning nearly one out of every three students misses at least 10% of the school year. By comparison, Georgia's statewide chronic absenteeism rate is 20.7%. The district has identified attendance as a top priority and has set a goal of reducing chronic absenteeism to 22.13% during the 2025–2026 school year. Nonetheless, Students who miss school regularly are more likely to struggle academically, experience behavioral challenges, fall behind their peers, and eventually drop out. They are also at greater risk of becoming involved in delinquent behavior due to a lack of supervision, positive peer relationships, and consistent connections with caring adults.
While Richmond County has made progress in improving student achievement, challenges remain. The district's 81.7% graduation rate continues to trail the state average, leaving too many young people without the education and skills needed to pursue higher education, secure stable employment, or achieve long-term economic independence. Every student who leaves school without a diploma faces increased risks of unemployment, poverty, and future involvement with the criminal justice system.

These educational challenges are mirrored by continued juvenile justice involvement in the community. The Georgia Juvenile Justice Data Clearinghouse consistently identifies Richmond County as one of Georgia's highest-volume jurisdictions for juvenile court activity. The number of youth entering the juvenile justice system highlights the importance of intervening early before young people become further involved with the courts or detention system.

The challenges facing Richmond County youth are interconnected. Poverty contributes to poor school attendance, academic struggles can lead to disengagement, and disconnected youth are more vulnerable to risky behaviors and justice system involvement. Breaking this cycle requires more than punishment, it requires prevention.

Comprehensive juvenile programming provides young people with the support they need before problems escalate. Through academic assistance, mentoring, life skills development, workforce readiness, social-emotional learning, recreation, and family engagement, youth gain the tools, confidence, and positive relationships that help them stay in school, avoid delinquent behavior, and build productive futures.
Investing in prevention is an investment in the future of Richmond County. By providing safe, structured environments during out-of-school hours and connecting youth with caring adults and meaningful opportunities, this program will strengthen families, improve educational outcomes, reduce juvenile crime, and help young people become healthy, successful, and engaged members of their community.

PROJECT GOALS

1. 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. *

By implementing the evidence-based Strengthening Families Program (SFP), this project directly addresses chronic truancy within the Richmond County School System. A core strength of this initiative is its holistic approach rather than isolating the truant youth, the project targets all school-age children within the family unit. This intervention alters the home environment, stopping a cycle of chronic absenteeism before it impacts younger or older siblings. SFP directly satisfies the target population's needs by improving family bonding, reducing structural chaos at home, and equipping parents with the tools to prioritize consistent school attendance.

SMART Project Goals & Performance Indicators
Goal 1: Decrease unexcused absences by 25% among all school-age children in participating families within 6 months of completing the SFP curriculum.
Performance Indicator: Program Director will review Richmond County School System attendance logs reviewed at 30, 90, and 180 days post-graduation for Strengthening Families Program.

Goal 2: Ensure 80% of participating parents and school-age children demonstrate an increase in positive communication and coping skills upon completion of the 11-week program.
Performance Indicator: Demonstrate significant improvement scores on standardized SFP Pre- and Post-Test Questionnaires to measure family conflict, organization, and parental supervision.

Goal 3: Achieve a 75% completion and graduation rate among the families enrolled across all cohorts during the 12-month grant cycle.
Performance Indicator: Weekly program attendance rosters, school check-ins, and transcript tracking logs will be conducted by Program Director.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

1. Describe the project's service delivery plan. In other words, explain how the agency will achieve project goals. *

During this grant cycle, the Richmond County Juvenile Court will implement four cohorts of the evidence-based Strengthening Families Program (SFP) for court-involved youth ages 11 to 17 and their families following chronic truancy referrals originating from the Richmond County School System's Attendance Committee. Eligible families will be identified through formal juvenile court hearings or informal Child in Need of Services (CHINS) intake meetings. Prior to enrollment, families will undergo a standardized screening process to assess strengths, needs, and risk factors, establishing a baseline to create individualized support plans and measure ongoing progress. Program participation is mandatory and enforced through a court order issued by the assigned Judge or Prosecutor, with attendance monitored and reported back to the court.

Each weekly SFP session features separate youth and caregiver skill-building modules followed by a structured family practice activity. To maximize retention and eliminate common barriers to participation, the court will provide weekly family meals prior to sessions, advance calendars to accommodate work schedules, ongoing food distribution information, and case-by-case transportation assistance coordinated by the Program Director.

2. 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. *

The Richmond County Juvenile Court's Strengthening Families Program is designed to address the needs identified in the community by providing an evidence-based intervention for court-involved youth ages 11–17 experiencing chronic truancy. Many of these youth face challenges related to poverty, family stress, school disengagement, and other risk factors that increase the likelihood of academic failure and juvenile justice involvement.

Through collaboration with the Richmond County School System Attendance Committee, youth identified through truancy referrals and petitions will be connected to early intervention services before attendance issues escalate. The program will provide four annual cohorts of the 10-week Strengthening Families Program, requiring families to attend weekly sessions from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. under a Juvenile Court protective order.

The program activities directly address the factors contributing to truancy by strengthening family relationships, improving communication, increasing caregiver skills, and helping youth develop positive decision-making skills. Weekly sessions will include a family meal, caregiver and youth skill-building lessons, and family practice activities focused on parenting skills, emotional regulation, conflict resolution, peer pressure, goal setting, and improving school engagement. Participating families will complete the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Questionnaire and the Protective Factors Survey to identify family strengths, resilience, and areas needing support. These tools will also help measure changes in family protective factors after program completion.

To reduce barriers to participation, the program will provide family meals and transportation assistance when needed. Program staff will monitor attendance, communicate with the Juvenile Court, and connect families with additional community resources as appropriate.
By combining court accountability with evidence-based family support, the Strengthening Families Program will help youth improve school attendance, strengthen family connections, increase protective factors, and reduce the likelihood of continued involvement in the juvenile justice system.

3. Explain how the plan for project activities will meet the target population's needs as described in the needs statement. *

To accommodate caregiver schedules, the program will provide weekly evening sessions from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., allowing families the opportunity to participate outside of traditional work and school hours. A family meal will be provided during each session to reduce concerns related to food access while creating a welcoming environment that encourages family connection and participation.

The program will address barriers related to family conflict, communication challenges, and limited parenting resources by providing evidence-based Strengthening Families Program lessons focused on positive parenting, youth decision-making, communication, conflict resolution, and building stronger family relationships. Participation will be supported through a Juvenile Court protective order requiring attendance and completion of the 10-week program, while program staff provide ongoing encouragement and support to help families successfully complete the intervention.

Through these strategies, the Strengthening Families Program removes practical barriers to participation while providing families with the tools, structure, and support needed to improve school attendance, strengthen family relationships, and promote positive outcomes for youth.

4. How will the program overcome barriers of engaging the entire family? *

The Richmond County Juvenile Court's Strengthening Families Program will be designed to address barriers that may prevent families from fully engaging in services. Many families experience challenges such as transportation limitations, work schedules, competing family responsibilities, food insecurity, and difficulty accessing supportive resources. To reduce transportation barriers, assistance will be provided when needed and determined by the Program Director to ensure families can consistently attend required sessions.

5. Describe the primary roles and responsibilities for each grant-funded position *(ensure to attach a job description for each position on the "Personnel" budget page).* *

The proposed budget includes funding for six facilitators to deliver the Strengthening Families Program at a rate of $100.00 per hour. Facilitators will conduct two-hour sessions over an 11-week period, serving a total of four cohorts with a maximum of 12 families per session. All of the facilitators and the Program Director have been trained on the model.

Additionally, funding is requested for a Program Director to oversee the project. The Director's responsibilities will include managing staff, addressing family needs, maintaining financial records and grant reports, and overseeing truancy intervention and prevention programs.

To ensure accessibility, a Driver and Rider will also be hired to transport youth participants in educational programs and families facing transportation barriers to designated CHINS activities.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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. *

During the upcoming grant period, the evidence-based Strengthening Families Program (SFP) will deliver parallel group sessions for parents and youth, followed by joint family practice. Parent sessions will focus on positive discipline, tracking attendance, and building stronger communication with schools. Youth sessions will build life skills around resisting peer pressure, managing stress, and connecting regular attendance to long-term goals. Each weekly meeting begins with a shared family meal, giving families a structured, positive space to practice communication exercises together.

To ensure the program continues beyond the grant cycle, funds will be used to certify local school social workers, court intake officers, and counselors as licensed SFP facilitators. This builds permanent in-house expertise rather than relying on external vendors. Additionally, SFP will be formally embedded into school Attendance Review Teams and CHINS court diversion protocols as a standard referral option, supported by ongoing community partnerships with local food banks and businesses for meals and incentives.

To maintain long-term program sustainability, the the will work to overcome key operational barriers. Outdated student databases frequently make families difficult to contact, which staff will resolve by cross-referencing records and making targeted home visits before sessions begin. To prevent high dropout rates over the multi-week curriculum, the program and court will ease logistics by providing free meals, on-site childcare, transportation, and weekly completion incentives. Outreach will also address parental stigma and resistance by framing the program as a supportive, confidential resource rather than a punishment during intake. Finally, to eliminate delayed referrals that let attendance issues snowball into crises, an effort will be made to have an automated software triggers at 5 to 10 unexcused absences will flag at-risk youth early, ensuring the program consistently operates as an effective, proactive diversion tool.

2. List the current juvenile related funding sources (state, federal, and/or private) and amount of funding for your organization. *

The Richmond Juvenile Court current receive grants from GA CJCC and GA DOE

GA CJCC Grants
Delinquency Prevention
Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant
SCIP Grant
CHINS Grant

GA DOE Grant
BOOST (Building Opportunity in Out -of -School Time)

3. Identify potential state, federal, and/or private funding streams for program support. *

There are no additional funding streams for program support.

4. List the community partners and their description and contribution, if any, to the proposed program. *

Augusta Technical College-Augusta Technical College is a public postsecondary institution serving the CSRA that provides technical education, adult literacy programs, career certifications, and workforce development initiatives. Within the Strengthening Families framework, Augusta Tech assists participating families by promoting economic self-sufficiency through targeted career training and educational advancement. By offering High School Equivalency (GED) programs and adult literacy classes, the college helps parents overcome foundational educational barriers. Furthermore, its vocational certificate programs and career coaching equip parents with marketable skills, direct job placement opportunities, and long-term financial stability to better support their households.

Child Enrichment, Inc.-Child Enrichment, Inc. is a local non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for, preventing, and treating child abuse and neglect in the Greater Augusta area. It directly assists families by offering trauma-informed support services, including its Child Advocacy Center and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, which ensure children remain protected while navigating complex legal and social systems. Additionally, Child Enrichment empowers parents by providing evidence-based parenting workshops and child safety training, such as Connections Matter Georgia. These programs equip caregivers with the practical tools and mental health resources needed to resolve trauma, foster resilience, and build safe home environments.

Richmond County Success Center-operated by the Richmond County School System at the Tubman Education Center, the Richmond County Success Center acts as a centralized community hub designed to eliminate non-academic barriers for students and their families. The center assists families in the Strengthening Families program by offering immediate relief through essential basic needs, including an on-site Community Food Market, a Clothing Boutique, personal hygiene supplies, and school items. To support family stabilization, the center also provides practical amenities like on-site washer and dryer access and pairs families with dedicated case managers who connect them directly to housing assistance and social service resources.

Collins Head Start Center (CSRA EOA)-operated under the CSRA Economic Opportunity Authority, Collins Head Start Center is an early childhood education facility that provides high-quality preschool, developmental, and family engagement services to low-income households. The center assists families by preparing preschool-aged children for kindergarten through structured academic, social, and emotional learning tailored to early childhood development. In addition to educational programming, Collins Head Start provides children with nutritious meals and health/dental screenings while actively supporting parents through leadership development opportunities, family goal-setting workshops, and holistic wrap-around services.

Local Fraternities and Sororities-local Greek-letter organizations specifically the graduate and alumni chapters of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (Divine Nine) in the CSRA, such as Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, and Omega Psi Phi play a key role in community uplift and family enrichment. These organizations assist participating families by providing youth mentorship programs, college preparation workshops, and academic scholarships to encourage educational success for children. Furthermore, these chapters host community outreach initiatives, including back-to-school supply drives, financial literacy seminars, and health awareness campaigns, giving parents access to valuable civic resources and positive adult role models for their children.

Local Churches and Faith-based Organizations-local churches and faith-based partners throughout the Augusta region and local cooperative serve as immediate safety nets and holistic support centers for families in need. They directly assist families in the Strengthening Families framework by offering essential relief, including emergency food pantries, clothing closets, temporary housing assistance, and utility or meal support. In addition to meeting urgent physical needs, local congregations foster long-term stability by providing youth after-school mentoring, marriage and parenting guidance, life skills workshops, and a supportive spiritual and social community.

5. Describe any barriers to implementation experienced in Year 1. *

The partnership between the Richmond County School System and the Juvenile Court was built to keep truant youth out of the justice system using supportive diversion like CHINS and the THRIVE program. However, heavy case backlogs and outdated student contact information severely disrupted its effectiveness, leaving court intake workers overwhelmed and social workers wasting time tracking down missing families.

Compounding these issues, schools routinely delayed court referrals for month handing over cases only after students had missed 30 or 40 days forcing the court into emergency catch-up rather than early intervention. Because schools also lacked the legal authority to compel struggling or uncooperative parents to act without a judge's order, these operational delays often allowed preventable attendance issues to turn into full-blown crises.

6. Describe any successes to implementation experienced in Year 1. *

The partnership between and Richmond County Schools and Richmond Juvenile Court has yield a vast amount success and results that have improved attendance throughout the school district. Richmond County experienced a sharp post-pandemic spike in attendance challenges, with chronic absenteeism defined as missing 10% or more of school days reaching 32.9%. Furthermore, attendance-related infractions accounted for 21% of all disciplinary incidents in the district, historically leading to high rates of in-school and out-of-school suspensions. Recognizing that suspending absent students only compounded the problem, RCSS and local county partners pivoted toward supportive, diversion-focused intervention.

When formal legal intervention is required, success is achieved through the Children in Need of Services (CHINS) framework in partnership with the Richmond County Juvenile Court. Rather than placing delinquency charges on a student's record, the CHINS intake unit initiates informal review meetings and offers voluntary diversion agreements. These agreements connected youth and families to crisis counseling, tutoring, and family therapy. If formal court action occurs, the child receives mandatory legal representation, and judges utilize accountability programs to monitor weekly attendance while compelling state agencies to provide wrap-around care.

Personnel

What type of personnel do you wish to enter?

Salaried
Volunteer

SALARIED

Name	Position	Fund Type	Pay Rate	Pay Frequency	Time Worked (# of hours, weeks, months, years)	Total Cost	Percentage Charged to Project	Cost Charged to Grant
							%	
						Personnel - Total:		

VOLUNTEER

Name/Position	Number of Hours	Hourly Rate	Fund Type	Cost
			Personnel - Total:	

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

Support Documentation

Employee Benefits

Employee Benefits

Name	Position	Fund Type	Personnel Cost Charged to Application	Benefit Type	Benefit Percentage	Cost Charged to Grant
					0.00%	
				Employee Benefits - Total:		***$0.00***

*[ ]*Do you have fringe benefits for Personnel that are not listed on the Personnel form?

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

If you selected "Other" for a benefit type in the chart above, please explain the benefit type in this box:

Support Documentation

Travel

Description/Name of Traveler	Purpose of Travel	Location of Travel	Travel Expense	Fund Type	Number of Days / Miles / Items	Cost Per Day, Item, or Mile	Total Cost	Percentage Charged to Project	Cost Charged to Grant
								%	
							Travel (Including Training) - Total:		

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

Support Documentation

Equipment

Equipment Item	Fund Type	Number of Units	Price Per Item	Total Cost	Percentage Charged to Project	Vendor	Cost Charged to Grant
					%		
					Equipment - Total:		

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

Support Documentation

Supplies

Supply Item	Fund Type	Number of Units	Price Per Unit	Total Cost	Percentage Charged to Project	Vendor	Cost Charged to Grant
Meals for Families	*Grant*	*240*	*$22.79*	*$5,469.60*	*82.27%*	*Various*	*$4,500.00*
Printing of Materials	*Grant*	*117*	*$6.66*	*$779.22*	*64.17%*	*Augusta Printshop*	*$500.00*
						Supplies Expenses - Total:	*$5,000.00*

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

A request of $4,500.00 to purchase a meal for each family member during the Strengthening Family Program.
12 families are expected in each cohort.

A request of $500.00 is requested for materials for all participants.
Support Documentation

Consultants & Contractors

Consultant Fees & Expenses

Name	Service Provided	Fund Type	Hourly Rate	Number of Hours	Total Cost	Percentage Charged to Project	Cost Charged to Grant
					$0.00	*0.00000 %*	
					Consultant - Total:		*$0.00*

Contracts

Name / Position	Service Provided	Fund Type	Compensation	Percentage Charged to Project	Cost Charged to Grant
Strengthening Families Facilitator	*Pamela Woods*	*Grant*	*8,800.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$8,800.00*
Strengthening Families Facilitator	*Portia Cook*	*Grant*	*8,800.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$8,800.00*
Strengthening Families Facilitator	*Julia Thomas*	*Grant*	*8,800.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$8,800.00*
Strengthening Families Facilitator	*Valeria Green*	*Grant*	*8,800.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$8,800.00*
Strengthening Families Facilitator	*Demetria Whitaker*	*Grant*	*8,800.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$8,800.00*
Strengthening Families Facilitator	*Shalanda Sharpton*	*Grant*	*8,800.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$8,800.00*
Program Director	*Audrey Armistad*	*Grant*	*18,500.00*	*64.86486 %*	*$12,000.00*
Strengthening Families Program Support	*Vernell Mims*	*Grant*	*2,500.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$2,500.00*

Tranportation Driver	*D. Logan*	*Grant*	*3,850.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$3,850.00*
Transportation Rider	*S. Wright*	*Grant*	*3,850.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$3,850.00*
CHINS Program Support	*TBD*	*Grant*	*10,000.00*	*100.00000 %*	*$10,000.00*
				Contractors - Total:	*$85,000.00*

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

The proposed budget includes funding for six facilitators to deliver the Strengthening Families Program at a rate of $100.00 per hour. Facilitators will conduct two-hour sessions over an 11-week period, serving a total of four cohorts with a maximum of 12 families per session.

Funding is requested for a Program Director to oversee the project. The Director's responsibilities will include managing staff, addressing family needs, maintaining financial records and grant reports, and overseeing truancy intervention and prevention programs.

To ensure accessibility, a Driver and Rider will also be hired to transport youth participants in educational programs and families facing transportation barriers to designated CHINS activities.

Support Documentation

Justification — *Justification for Fee Rates for Facilitators.docx*
Facilitator Certificates — *Strengthening Families Cert.pdf*

Other

Other Costs

Cost Category	Description	Vendor	Quantity	Cost	Fund Type	Total Cost	Percentage Charged to Project	Cost Charged to Grant
						$0.00	*0.00 %*	

If other; please specify

Other - Total:	*$0.00*

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

M
Support Documentation

Indirect

Are you seeking Indirect Costs? * Yes [X] No

Indirect Cost Budget Calculator	
Indirect Cost Rate (Up to 15%)	
Federal Award (Not Including Match)	
Unallowed MTDC Costs	
MTDC	*$0.00*
Total Cost	***$0.00***

Indirect Cost Total:

Include a Budget Narrative further describing this spend:

Budget Summary

TOTAL BUDGET BY CATEGORY

BUDGET CATEGORY	Budget Total	Grant	Match - Cash	Match - In - Kind
PERSONNEL		*$0.00*	*$0.00*	*$0.00*
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	*$0.00*			
TRAVEL (INCLUDING TRAINING)				
EQUIPMENT				
SUPPLIES	*$5,000.00*	*$5,000.00*		
CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS	*$85,000.00*	*$85,000.00*		
OTHER	*$0.00*			
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	***$90,000.00***	***$90,000.00***	***$0.00***	***$0.00***
INDIRECT COSTS	*$0.00*			
TOTAL	***$90,000.00***	***$90,000.00***	***$0.00***	***$0.00***

TOTAL BUDGET BY FUND SOURCE

FUND SOURCE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGES
GRANT	*$90,000.00*	*100.00%*
MATCH	*$0.00*	*0.00%*
Cash	*$0.00*	*0.00%*
In-Kind	*$0.00*	*0.00%*
TOTAL	***$90,000.00***	*100%*

Approved Award Amount: *$90,000.00*

Approved Match:

TOTAL:	***$90,000.00***

Match Requirement (cash and/or in-kind)

Automatically calculated based on the awards match requirement (if applicable)

0.00% *$0.00*

Match waiver needed? *

*[ ]*Yes *[X]*No

Certification & Attachments

The required attachments listed below must be correctly completed and uploaded with the application submission. The online application system will only upload one attachment for each field. So if an applicant has multiple documents, it will be necessary to combine them or submit under separate attachment fields. Please carefully read and follow the instructions on all forms.

- Organizational Chart (Structure) – Include names, titles, and salaries for each position
- Supporting Documents for Budgeted Items
- Other (job descriptions for any positions requested under this grant and any other documents CJCC may find helpful to understand the agency and/or its project)

Other Documents: e.g. MOU, Letters of Support, etc.	**Description:**
SFP2.pdf	*Process Flowchart*
Strengthening Families Program Summer.pdf	*Calendar*
CPJ - Trans.pdf	*MOU-Transportation*
DL - Trans.pdf	*MOU-Transportation*
SW-TRANS.pdf	*MOU-Transportation*
DRA-PD.pdf	*MOU-Program Director*
DW-SFF.pdf	*MOU-Faciliator*
PW-SFF.pdf	*MOU Facilitator*
PW-PS.pdf	*MOU Facilitator*
SS-SFF.pdf	*MOU-Program Support*
PC-SFF.pdf	*MOU Facilitator*
VG-SFF.pdf	*MOU Facilitator*
VM-PA.pdf	*MOU-Program Support*
JT-SFF.pdf	*MOU-Facilitator*
HB-SFF.pdf	*MOU Facilitator*
ACE.pdf	*ACE Assessment*
AP.pdf	*School District Protocol*
Protective-Factors-Survey.pdf	*Protective Factors Survey*

Point of Contact for this Application

Name

Dr. * Prefix *Audrey* * First Name *Armistad* * Last Name

Title/Position

Program Director *

Phone

(706) 799-4137 *

Email

aarmistad@augustaga.gov *

Do you want to add an alternative point of contact?*

[ ] Yes *[X]* No

CERTIFICATION

Certify the application entry by selecting the checkbox below. Please be sure to click submit so that the online application is received. The application must be submitted by the deadline to be considered for an award. If more than one application is submitted for the same project, CJCC will only accept the most recent application.

[X] **By selecting this checkbox, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief, all statements and data in this application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the authorized official of the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances.***

Name: *Audrey Armistad*

Date: *07/22/2026*