

# **“Bridging the Funding Gap to Meet the Needs of Families”**

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## About Your Presenter

Keisha Jones serves as the Grants Services Administrator for DeKalb County Juvenile Court. In that role, she is tasked with pursuing funding and implementing evidence and community-based programs for youth who encounter Juvenile Court. Her role includes assisting the juvenile court's non-profit, DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council, in meeting the needs of the families in the community.

Mrs. Jones has successfully secured grants on every level of government as well as corporate and foundation grants. Over the past 13 years, she has written and managed grants and contracts for government, local, and national nonprofits spanning 30 states to support causes she believes in. She believes grants provide organizations the opportunity to educate, empower and promote self-efficacy for the clients they serve.

Mrs. Jones and her husband reside in Decatur and are the proud parents of three adult daughters.

# AGENDA

- HISTORY OF DEKALB COUNTY JUVENILE COURT GRANT FUNDING AND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SUPPORTED
- IDENTIFYING GAPS IN SERVICES AND FUNDING
- DEVELOPING A PLAN OF ACTION
- GRANTS AND NON-PROFITS-LESSONS LEARNED
- SUCCESSES OF BRIDGING THE GAP IN FUNDING AND SERVICES

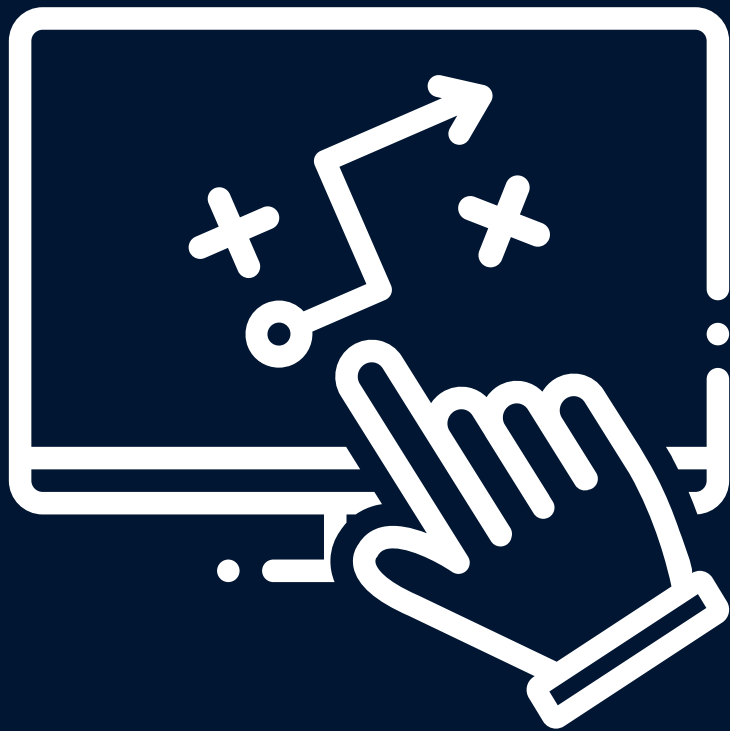
# GRANT FUNDING DATA

2019 Grant Funds Managed-\$1,560,070

2020 Grant Funds Managed-\$2,069,701

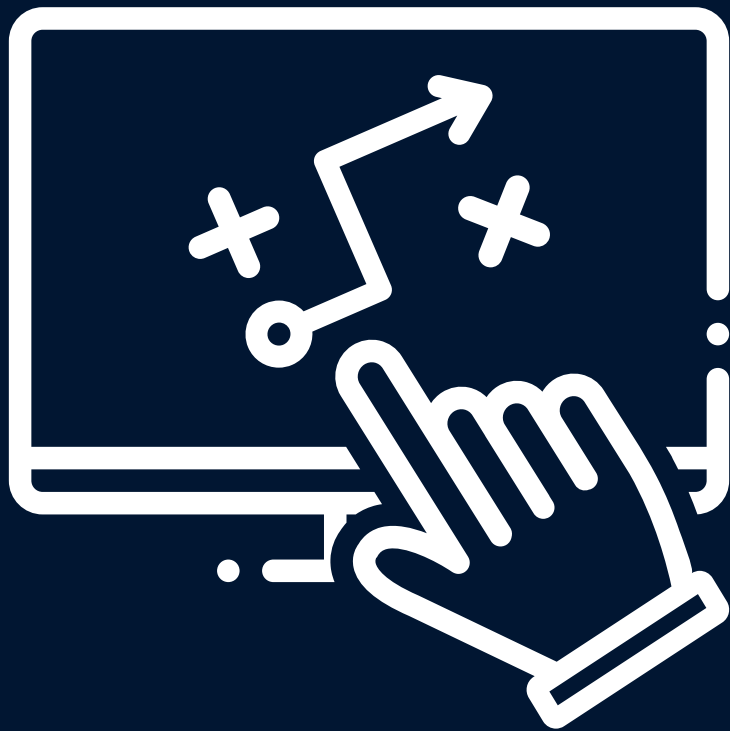
2021 Grant Funds Managed-\$3,279,517

2022 Grant Funds Managed- \$3,778,899



## **WHAT IS GRANT FUNDING USED TO SUPPORT?**

- **3 Accountability Courts**
- **1 Specialty Court**
- **6 Staple programs**
- **CHINS Program Cluster**
- **Formal Probation Cluster**
- **Internal Programs**
- **Community Based Programs**
- **Health Fairs and Community Events**



# IDENTIFY GAPS

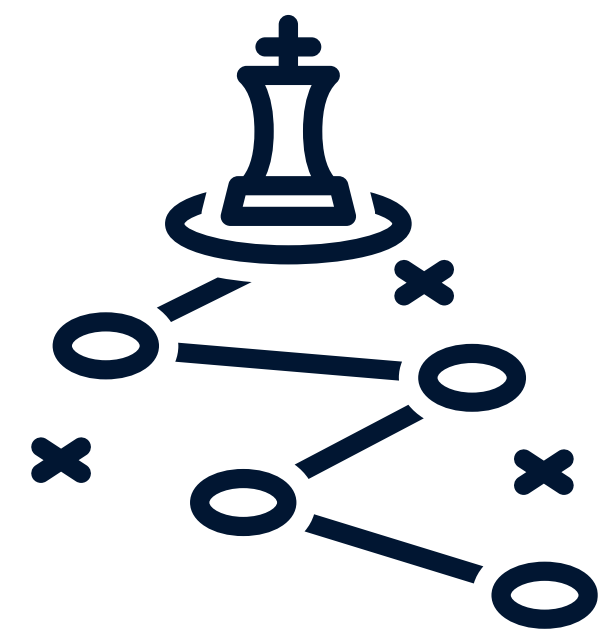
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- Review the specific population you are serving.
- Conduct surveys with staff, parents, youth, partners, and community to determine if you are meeting their needs.
- Analyze your data.
- Determine which needs are priorities and decide what it would require to meet that need.



# DEVELOP A PLAN

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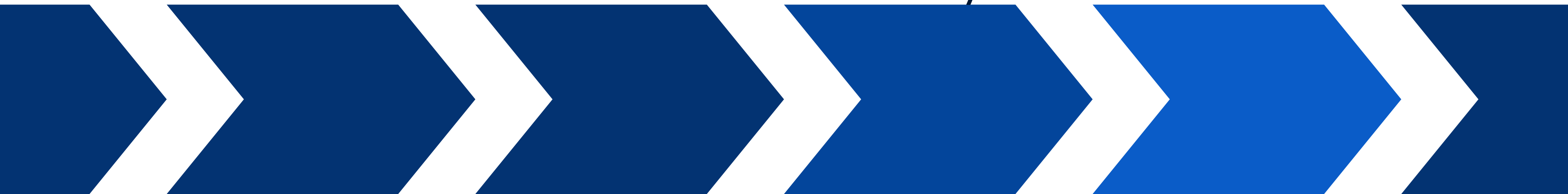
**Identify gaps in services**

**Identify gaps in funding**

**Seek funding to fill those gaps through:**

- Grants
- Establishing a non-profit
- Partnerships in the community

**Identify someone who can focus on the details of each specific grant, partnership, and non-profit**





# GRANT FUNDING





# GRANT FUNDING, CONTINUED

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Choose grant funding that fits the needs of your court, population, and funding gaps.

Only apply for what you need and feel confident you can spend.

Use grants as a launching pad to begin something new and innovative or support what you have in place.

Grants require a lot of reporting and management, make sure you have the staff to manage and provide oversight.

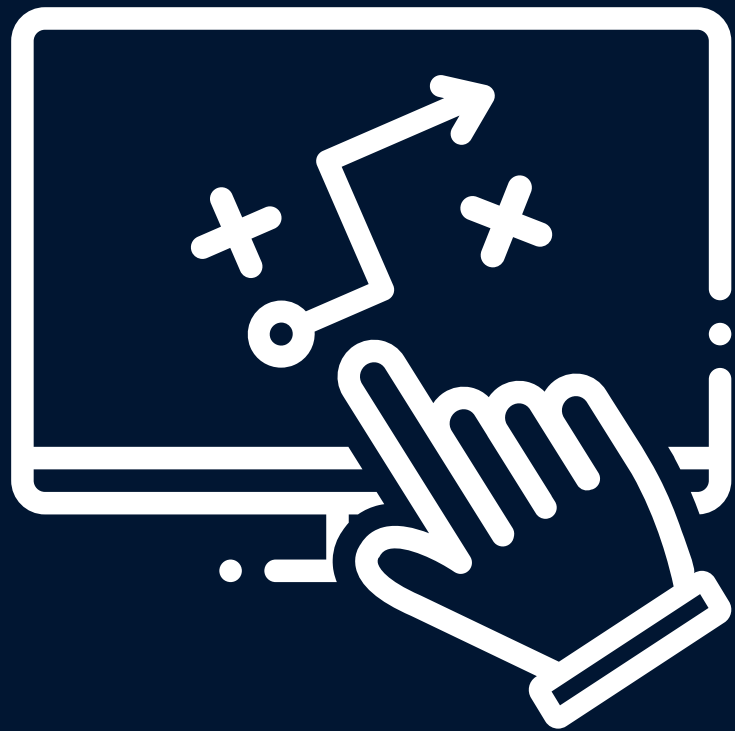
# GRANT DATABASES

[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)  
<https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/current>

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)  
<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
(SAMHSA)  
<https://www.samhsa.gov/grants>



## Best Practices For Writing Grants

- Develop the budget first.
- Decide on a proposal strategy and define roles before you decide to apply to an opportunity.
- Build in time for editing and plan to submit at least 2 days prior to the deadline.
- Keep all documents from the planning stage, even if you are not funded.
- Store everything in a central location that is accessible to several people so it is easily found, if needed.
- Communicate early and often with everyone involved.
- Follow the directions outlined in the Funding Opportunity.

## Best Practices For Awarded Grants

- Follow all the Funding Opportunity Guidelines and the guidelines in the Notice of Award (NOA).
- Become familiar with your Federal Project Officer (FPO) or grant analyst.
- Do not change anything without talking to your funder or submitting a formal modification.
- Keep all documents and correspondence from funder in a central location that is accessible to several people, so it is easily found, if needed.
- Communicate early and often with everyone involved.



# NON-PROFITS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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# BOARD MEMBERS

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Choose a board president that shares your court's vision for serving families, has strong leadership skills and is willing to take up the cause and will recruit others to do the same.

Select board members that have varying skill sets; such as an attorney, CPA, writer, social services, social media, etc.

Engage board members according to their interests.

Assign a liaison from the court to provide the assistance and knowledge the board needs to operate efficiently.

# Formation

- Name your organization.
- Set a meeting time when everyone is available.
- Develop bylaws and structure.
- Develop your mission and vision.
- File with the state as an organization.
- File for non-profit status with the IRS.
- Develop structure for your processes and funding.
- Develop committees within the board with roles and empower them to make decisions and provide input.



# Develop a Strategic Plan

- Review the needs of the court and the funding gaps.
- Structure the non-profit to address those needs.
- Assign board members to assist in addressing those needs with court staff.
- Develop a budget and protocols for meeting the needs.
- Execute and review the plan often.



# Non-Profit Operation

- Operates as a standard non-profit
- Requires filing taxes every year
- Financial books should be reviewed or audited every year by an independent CPA.
- Transparency in all operations



## Rules to Remember

- Board members are volunteers.
- Show them appreciation often.
- Get to know your board members.
- Communicate with them outside of requesting assistance.
- LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN!



# Successes of DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council

- Provided food to families throughout the year and on holidays
- Provided laptops, Chromebooks, and hotspots for youth for the last two years
- Assisted youth in obtaining employment
- Provided sites for civic engagement
- Provided pro-social events
- Gas and gift cards to parents to assist them in visiting and purchasing items for their children in care
- Assist with developing partnerships in the community to help families.
- Awarded two scholarships to youth.











# **Thank you**

DeKalb County Juvenile Court  
Chief Judge Vincent Crawford  
Judges

Mr. Colet Odenigbo, Court Administrator  
DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council  
Programs Staff  
My Family

# Keisha M. Jones

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DeKalb Juvenile Court website:  
[www.dekalbjuvenilecourt.org](http://www.dekalbjuvenilecourt.org)

DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council  
[www.dekalbjjc.org](http://www.dekalbjjc.org)