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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 Local Law Enforcement Agencies assigned to Accountability Courts in the State of Georgia.

# <u>State of Georgia</u> <u>Accountability Court Funding Program</u> <u>FY'25 Law Enforcement Competitive Request for Application</u>

# <u>Eligibility</u>

Applicants are limited to existing Accountability Courts and local Law Enforcement Agencies assigned to Accountability Courts. Limited funds will be available to support services to accountability courts. The services may include but are not limited to surveillance, courthouse security for accountability court's staffing and court sessions, as well as transport to treatment.

# **Deadline**

Applications are due by September 27, 2024

# **Available Funding**

The limited amount to be awarded to each agency will be determined by the Council of Accountability Court Funding Committee.

# Award Period

January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

# Release Date: September 3, 2024

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

<u>Contact Information</u> For assistance with the requirements of this solicitation, contact: Taylor Jones, at <u>Taylor.Jones@georgiacourts.gov</u>

## **SECTION I: OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS**

## **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-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 Judges (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'25 Law Enforcement Solicitation Packet in its entirety, and submit the completed application, including the requested information and all required attachments, using the link on the website at <u>cjcc.georgia.gov</u> on or before 5 p.m., September 27, 2024. This form and provided budget detail are the only acceptable formats 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; <u>scanned or handwritten copies of the application will not be accepted</u>. Any application that does not adequately answer all applicable questions will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed for funding.

## **SECTION II: ELIGIBILITY PROCESS**

#### **Application Review**

Applications will be reviewed and assessed by the CACJ Funding Committee 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.
- 5. Support provided by agency to accountability court.
- 6. Sharing resources among each accountability court within the circuit is strongly encouraged. All applications within each circuit will be reviewed together.

7. Demonstration of current participation in Accountability Courts and compliance with Certification Requirements.

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.

## **Competitive Funding Decisions**

All competitive 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 CJCC.

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.

## Use of Funds

For this grant period, grants funds can be used for overtime purposes, office supplies (only to be used for surveillance in support of Accountability Courts) and vehicle maintenance.

## **Restriction of Funds**

Grant funds will not be allowed to be used for: state training, salary, office space, utilities, furniture, incentives, monthly cell phone charges, the purchase of vehicles, weapons, for overall agency supplies, construction projects and grant administrative overhead.

## **Supplantation**

Funds must be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and cannot replace or supplant state 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 and 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 and signed.

Grantees wishing to accept FY'25 funding must submit signed Acceptance Letters and Special Conditions to the CJCC by December 31, 2024. CACJ Funding Committee will assume your court rejects its FY'25 award if these acceptance documents are not received by this submission deadline.

*This is a reimbursement grant.* If awarded funds, your agency will be required to submit check stubs and copies of invoices to CJCC for reimbursement on a quarterly or monthly basis.

#### **SECTION IV: Project Narrative**

All applicants must complete a project narrative describing the proposed project. The following elements are required in the project narrative.

- **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 for the Accountability Court funded project. Applicants must demonstrate how they are currently interacting with Accountability Courts.
- **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.
- **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. For example, surveillance service providers should state an estimate of the number of participants that will be observed during the grant year 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 Accountability Court-funded project's service delivery plan. In other words, explain how the agency will achieve project goals. Outline who will conduct the activities and/or provide services, what the activities and services are, a timeline for accomplishing the activities, where services will be delivered, and why the activities and services are needed to achieve the stated goals. Please also explain how the plan for project activities and services will meet the target population's needs as described in the needs statement.
- **Resources needed:** In this section, please clearly explain the resources needed to conduct, enhance, and/or expand the project activities and services necessary to achieve the project's goals. For example, if the proposed project will also be supported by an Accountability Court grant and/or county funding, then explain how these grant funds will enhance these resources and enable the project to be conducted.

# **SECTION V: Attachments**

## <u>MOU</u>

Please attach an MOU between your agency and the accountability court(s).

## **Budget**

All applicants must attach a budget using the provided Detailed Budget Worksheet. All line items within the budget are subject to review and approval. Decisions related to these budget line items are based on allowance of line-item costs per Accountability Court program guidelines, justification of costs in relation to project activities, and reasonableness of costs based on current market rates.