

The specific evidenced-based program to be managed by Peaceway Counseling and Mediation Services, and selected by Lowndes County during the 2023-2024 funding cycle will include:

**The Strengthening Families Program (SFP 7-17)** is an evidence-based prevention program for parents and children in at-risk families. SFP sessions include all the critical core components of effective evidence-based parenting programs including: parent and child practice time in the family sessions learning positive interactions, communication, and effective discipline. The parenting sessions review appropriate developmental expectations, teach parents to interact positively with children (such as showing enthusiasm and attention for good behavior and letting the child take the lead in play activities, increasing attention and praise for positive children's behaviors, positive family communication including active listening and reducing criticism and sarcasm, family meetings to improve order and organization, and effective and consistent discipline including consequences and time-outs. The children's skills training content includes communication skills to improve parents, peers, and teacher relationships, hopes and dreams, resilience skills, problems solving, peer resistance, feeling identification, anger management and coping skills.

The family practice sessions allow the parents and children time to practice what they learned in their individual sessions in experiential exercises. This is also a time for the four group leaders to coach and encourage family members for improvements in parent/child interactions. The major skills to learn are: 'Our time', similar to therapeutic child play where the parent allows the child to determine the play or recreation activity, Family Meetings and effective communication exercises, and 'Parent Game' or effective discipline. Home practice assignments improve generalization of new behaviors at home.

Case Rates are provided as follows. (These rates are subject to adjustment on a yearly basis in accordance with the Consumer Price Index or another adjustment factor agreed by the parties).

Strengthening Families Program – \$1,980.33 per group session for a total of 12 sessions, including orientation and make ups not to exceed \$50,000.

*a. Program Referrals and Intake*

Peaceway and Lowndes County (the Partners) commit to establishing program referrals and intake procedures consistent with the parameters and requirements of the evidence-based program selected. The Partners also commit to developing:

- Detailed description of how the DJJ Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) and the Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment will be utilized to ensure consistency and uniformity in decision-making