

Juvenile Court Services Perspective
Decategorization (Decat) Projects

The Decategorization (Decat) Projects began in Iowa in 1987 as a pilot project by the Iowa Legislature in two counties based on the premise that most funding came from the state bound by specific categories of services and clients, and that being able to design services across those boundaries or categories allowed for more creative and cost effective services. The goal was to allow for unspent child welfare dollars to be reinvested in local communities for locally identified needs of “at risk” children and their families. It was to specifically focus on reducing out of home placements through prevention and early intervention services. The local control was to encourage community involvement to meet their own unique needs, keeping in mind their specific resources and approaches.

Eventually all Iowa counties became involved, divided into 39 multi or single county “Decat cluster” enacted in 1993 by Iowa Code Section 321.188 (and later modified in 2005). The Administration rules are contained in code section 153.

The Decat process is bringing State and Local government officials together with local citizens and agency involvement. Juvenile Court Services, Department of Human Services and Board of Supervisor representatives and other community members make decisions on funding services based on the needs of their local communities, focusing on helping “at-risk” youth and their families avoid the need for out of home services. Not only has this program proven to be a highly successful way to deliver services for both child welfare related services and Juvenile Justice services, it has been nationally recognized by Juvenile Justice experts as an efficient process for developing and sustaining best practice programs. It’s effectiveness in bolstering Iowa’s juvenile justice programs and initiatives is evidenced by a steady decline in the use of group foster care and state training school beds while at the same time, the majority of communities continue to experience impressive reductions in juvenile crime.

As Iowa has become increasingly diversified in its population, that diversity has not spread equally across the state. The Decat process has allowed local communities to focus on the special needs and issues of their unique populations. Also programs developed in Decat can serve both Juvenile Court involved clients as well as clients who are identified of being “at-risk” by school, agencies, or Department of Human Services.

Below is a graph of the funds transferred to all Decats statewide by Juvenile Court Services and Department of Human Services in the 5 year period of 2010-2014. The legislature has granted a two year carryover for Decat funds which allows for consistency in services to these children and families.

The growth in Juvenile Court Services funds in Decats from FY13 – FY14 reflects in encumbered but unspent funding from the Iowa Legislature for the current and planned expansion of “best practice” Programs. Local details of spending and programs by Court districts are available in a separate appendix.

5 Yr. History of Transfer to Decat by DHS and JCS

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>DHS Transfers</i>	<i>JCS Transfers</i>	<i>Total Transfers</i>
<i>FY10</i>	<i>\$8,737,626</i>	<i>\$3,651,114</i>	<i>\$12,388,740</i>
<i>FY11</i>	<i>\$8,629,877</i>	<i>\$2,835,508</i>	<i>\$11,465,385</i>
<i>FY12</i>	<i>\$9,154,029</i>	<i>\$3,439,839</i>	<i>\$12,593,868</i>
<i>FY13</i>	<i>\$10,440,927</i>	<i>\$3,784,567</i>	<i>\$14,225,494</i>
<i>FY14 – EST</i>	<i>\$7,573,285</i>	<i>\$6,286,322</i>	<i>\$13,859,607</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$44,535,744</i>	<i>\$19,997,350</i>	<i>\$64,533,094</i>

First District

Chief: Ruth Frush – (319) 291-2506 ext. 205

Ruth.Frush@iowacourts.gov

(Counties: Allamakee, Blackhawk, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Grundy, Howard, Winneshiek)

Decat funding used for:

1. A district wide restitution program that allows youth to perform community service work hours to earn a stipend which is paid to his/her victim.
\$25,000/year
2. District wide credit recovery and after school programming. Provides educational tutoring, credit recovery, and skill enhancement through the local school systems. May also include mediation. Service varies, but available across the District.
\$83,500/year
3. DMC Projects, Mentoring, Tomorrows Leaders, Dare to Be King/Queen, Cultural Gender projects. Engages and provides community supports for minority youth with the focus of self-awareness, education and personal goals. Primarily in two counties, but available across district.
\$295,000/year
4. District wide Circles of Support - Evidence based support groups for youth to address risk/need areas identified for each participant.
\$50,000/year
5. District wide Supportive Enhancement – Covers various needs not met with traditional funds.
\$50,000/year
6. Mental Health services in the school – Mental Health services provided in the school for problem solving and consistent access. Available in one school district.
\$80,000/year
7. District Wide Aggression Replacement Therapy in the community. An evidence based curriculum that focuses on Skill Streaming, Anger Control, and Moral Reasoning.
\$30,000/year
8. Heart Program in Dubuque County. This program allows youth to broaden options for earning a high school diploma while learning new skills and assisting the community.
\$8,000/year
9. Gender – DMC program in Black Hawk County. Programs that target female youth to achieve their full potential and gain life skills along the way.
\$120,000/year
10. STAR Program for Life Skills Coaching – Trains and supports foster parents for delinquent youth placements. 4 beds available District wide.
\$42,000/year
11. In Home Supervision Program in Dubuque County Detention Alternative. Program for youth at-risk of out of home placement.
\$120,000/year

Second District

Chief: Tom Southard – (515) 233-3346

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(Counties: Boone, Bremer, Butler, Calhoun, Carroll, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Humboldt, Marshall, Mitchell, Pocahontas, Sac, Story, Webster, Winnebago, Worth, Wright)

Decat funding used for:

1. Two Functional Family Therapy contracts covering 13 counties
**Functional Family Therapy is a research based time limited in-home counseling program proven to be successful with delinquents and their families.*
\$230,000/year
2. Girls Weekend Violators treatment program covering entire district
**Weekend violator program provides life skills and community services work in lieu of detention or out of home care.*
\$80,000/year
3. Boys Weekend Violator treatment program covering entire district
**Weekend violator program provides life skills and community services work in lieu of detention or out of home care.*
\$120,000/year
4. Two girls day treatment programs covering 12 counties
**Day treatment is a five day a week treatment and education program used as a last opportunity for clients.*
\$140,000/year
5. Restorative Justice/community liaison program for Boone County
\$60,000/year
6. A district wide restitution program that requires clients work for their community to earn money to repay the victims of their crime.
\$30,000/year
7. Six programs to support mental health and substance abuse treatment in multiple local communities and schools.
\$120,000/year
8. Four school support programs encouraging attendance and behavior support directed to academic success.
\$60,000/year

Third District

Chief: Gary Niles – (712) 279-6586 ext. 19

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(Counties: Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dickinson, Emmet, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pymouth, Sioux, Woodbury)

Decat funding used for:

1. Functional Family Therapy contracts covering 16 counties
**Functional Family Therapy is a research based time limited in-home counseling program proven to be successful with delinquents and their families.*
\$350,000/year
2. BV County Community Service covering 1 county
**Provides supervision for youth completing community service.*
\$2,000/year
3. Woodbury County Community Service covering 1 county
**Provides supervision for youth completing community service.*
\$100,000/year
4. Rehabilitative service program covering 16 counties
**Provides assessment evaluation and therapy services.*
\$100,000/year
5. School Liaison services for Sioux City Community School District
**Nine probation officers in the middle/high schools in Sioux City mentoring At risk youth.*
\$340,000/year
6. Drug Testing services for Woodbury County
**Department of Health collects and tests all court ordered drug/alcohol compliance tests.*
\$30,000/year
7. Siouxland Mental Health
**Two MSW therapists provide crisis intervention evaluation and on going Therapy services for youth on probation.*
\$90,000/year
8. Reunification Program for Woodbury County
**Three therapists work with youth returning from out of home placements.*
\$26,000/year
9. JCS Programming that covering 16 counties.
**Provides wraparound services for all youth in the third judicial district.*
\$140,000/year
10. Juvenile Court Specialty Coordinators covering 15 counties
**Eight coordinators provide tracking services to moderate and high risk youth on probation or parole.*
\$356,000/year

Fourth District
Chief: Tim Ross – (712) 328-5623 ext. 22
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(Counties: Audubon, Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Shelby)

Decat funding used for:

1. Functional Family Therapy (in development)
**Functional Family Therapy is a research based time limited in-home counseling program proven to be successful with delinquents and their families.*\$65,000/year
2. District wide outpatient comprehensive Sexual abuse treatment program\$44,100/year
3. District wide Anger Management Program\$10,700/year
4. Iowa Legal Aid Preventative Law program
**Providing direct legal assistance, outreach, and legal education to at-risk youth and their families.*\$34,000/year

Fifth District
Chief: Chad Jensen – (515) 286-3978
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(Counties: Adair, Adams, Clarke, Dallas, Decatur, Guthrie, Jasper, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Polk, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Warren, Wayne)

Decat funding used for:

1. Functional Family Therapy covering 5 counties. FFT is a research based time limited in-home counseling program proven to be successful with delinquents and their families. \$80,000/year
2. Psychological Evaluations and Assessments for district. This service is utilized for the purposes of treatment and placement of juvenile offenders. \$51,000/year
3. Restorative Justice program for 9 counties includes training, victim restitution program, community service program for entire district. \$170,000/year
4. Functional Family Therapy services for Jasper County. FFT is a research based time limited in-home counseling program proven to be successful with delinquents and their families. \$40,000/year
5. Early Services Prevention services for youth ages 7 to 12. This program offers case management services for young offenders during and after their informal adjustment agreement. ESP also connects youth and parents to community resources. \$107,000/year
6. Sex Offender Treatment program for entire district. This program offers community based treatment and tracking services for low-risk juvenile sex offenders. \$190,000/year
7. Re-entry program for youth. This program is designed for youth in group care, services offered are skill-building related to re-entry back into the community. Skill-building is offered if the juvenile is placed back in their home or into independent living. Program also includes transition-to-adulthood skill building. \$49,500/year
8. Community Sanctions and Restitution program for Polk County, designed for youth to work and earn money to repay victims of their crimes. Program also focuses learning about the impact of their crimes. \$125,000/year
9. Wraparound funding designed to help youth that have been in Out of home placement. \$16,500/year
10. Minority Youth Academic , Employment and Community Engagement program. This program is designed support a variety of contracts and community services that are related to the reduction of disproportionality of African-American youth in the Child Welfare System in Polk County. Mini grants are awarded from this fund designed to re-engage minority youth with their community. Project is for FY15 and FY16. \$525,000

Sixth District
Chief: Candice Bennett – (319) 398-3545 ext. 2104
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(Counties: Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Tama)

Decat funding used for:

1. Three Functional Family Therapy contracts covering 6 counties
**Functional Family Therapy is evidence based short term counseling program for delinquent youth and their families, designed to be done in the home.* \$156,000/year

2. Life Skills Coach in the Cedar Rapids Schools (for two years)
**The Life Skills Coach provides intervention services and Aggression Replacement Training for targeted middle and elementary students in the Cedar Rapids School District to reduce the number of youth charged with a delinquent act.* \$ 50,000/year

3. Summer/After school programming for the Cedar Rapids schools
**The Neighborhood Empowerment Summer Project is designed to address the needs of elementary youth ages 9 – 11 residing in the Wellington Heights neighborhood or attending the neighborhood elementary schools.* \$ 75,000/year

4. Tracker/School Liaison for Tama County \$ 25,000/year

5. Life Skill training for Coaches in Licensed Foster Homes for Delinquent Youth \$ 42,000/year

6. Tracking, Monitoring & Outreach contract for 4 counties \$200,000/year

Seventh District
Chief: Scott Hobart – (563) 326-8612
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(Counties: Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine, Scott)

Decat funding used for:

1. Functional Family Therapy contract covering all 5 Seventh Judicial District counties
**Functional Family Therapy is a research based, time limited, in-home counseling program proven to be successful with delinquents and their families.*

\$155,000/year
2. A district wide Victim Restitution program that requires clients work for their community to earn money to repay the victims of their crime. Assuring that the victim is made whole again is one of the cornerstones of the restorative justice model that Juvenile Court Services follows.

\$35,000/year
3. Placement Diversion Program covering the 7th Judicial District will reduce the risks of delinquent youth from being placed outside of the home. The youth referred to the program will be determined as at high risk to reoffend by a Juvenile Court Officer after reviewing the Iowa Delinquency Assessment. An individualized treatment plan will be developed based on the client's needs and desired outcomes identified by the JCO. A diversion counselor will meet with the client individually 2-3 times per week and include the family once per week until 50 session hours are completed, using approaches and components derived from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Aggression Replacement Training, and/or Motivational Interviewing. Diversion Counselors will ensure that clients are involved in a pro-social activity and families are rewarded by the time services end.

\$140,000/year
4. Step in Program (Short Term Evaluation Program for Immediate Needs) is free and voluntary for families in crisis in Clinton and Jackson Counties. LSI will work with families and help solve issues together, one step at a time to prevent child(ren) from entering the child welfare system, hospital setting or Juvenile Court.

\$ 10,000/year
5. Youth Corp Program is for 14-16 yr olds which utilizes an education curriculum to strengthen competence, confidence, connections and character for positive personal growth in the youth that participate in this program. This program collaborates with the youth's teachers and parents, monitors grades, attendance and behavioral referrals before and after participating in the program

\$ 3,355/year
6. Summer Community Services programs provide summer community services for youth ages 12-17 who reside in Muscatine/Cedar County who have been court-ordered to provide community service as a consequence for problem behavior and to monitor progress toward identified outcomes.

\$18,800/year
7. Brief Intensive Services (BIS) program provides in-home family-centered brief intensive services to children (age six to seventeen) in Scott County who are not currently involved with but are at-risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system and/or child welfare system.

\$200,000/year
8. School Facilitator program provides a School Facilitator at Edison Academy. The School Facilitator is a social service specialist with expertise in the educational setting. The School

Facilitator is a member of the team that provides services to students and their families in an Alternative School Setting. The School Facilitator provides services which include: consultation, networking with community agencies and educational program design.

\$28,000/year

9. STAR Program (Steps to Adult Readiness) is a program that utilizes foster families as Life Skills Coaches for JCS youth in need of foster care placement to develop life skills with a service array that wraps youth in individualized, supportive, and therapeutic interventions which will enable them to make positive choices that are demonstrated through positive actions. The goals of the STAR are to successfully maintain stability for JCS youth in a less restrictive environment and keep them from entering deeper into the juvenile justice system.

\$40,500/year

10. Strong African American Families To get support to families prior to their youth having their first brush with the Juvenile Justice System and to do this in a positive affirming way. Juvenile Court Services motivation is to do no harm and deal in an intrusive manner with youth only when necessary for public safety or the safety of the youth. Seven week program 2 hour modules where the youth and parents meet separately for the first hour and together for the second hour. A total of 14 hours of prevention programming. Deals with African American families with youth in early adolescence. Issues surrounding substance abuse and other high risk behaviors. Strengthens positive family interactions.

\$33,400/year

11. Parenting Successful Kids – Educational courses and discussion about the most important job-parenting. There are ten sessions in the series. Each session focuses on a different topic. Parents may attend one or more of the topics in the series. Each session includes dinner and gift that will help families implement the concept from that session. Parents who attend at least five of the ten sessions will receive \$50 worth of incentives of their choice

\$ 17,800/year

12. After-School Program provides after-school programming to youth who reside within and attend the Tipton community school district. Youth are between the ages of 6-18 years of age. Educational and social supports are provided to youth by focusing on character development; school readiness and providing structured activities for youth engagement.

\$ 36,500/year

13. School-based Youth Transition Decision Making is a process which develops a team of informal supports for the youth that may continue into adulthood and, ideally fosters some lifelong connections. Team members are chosen by the youth. The goal is to support, encourage and help the youth develop action steps. The facilitator has been trained, coached and mentored in the YTDM model as well as the Family Team Decision Making process. This contract provides a full-time Youth Transition Decision Making Facilitator to serve Scott County schools. YTDMs are conducted with youth ages 15-21 through the Scott County School Districts

\$ 39,360/year

Eighth District

Chief: Mike Rempe – (319) 753-8281 ext. 7117

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(Counties: Appanoose, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Mahaska, Monroe, Poweshiek, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington)

Decat funding used for:

1. Galaxy Youth Programs provide 2 youth programs that offer an enriched learning center for youth and their families.
\$35,000/year
2. Youth Mental Health Program which supports diagnosed youth and their families with service options.
\$15,000/year
3. A district wide Wrap-Around Program that includes a restitution program and other services to clients and families when there are no other resources available.
\$47,000/year
4. School Based Life Skills Program providing adolescents in various school districts the tools to develop good decision making skills with appropriate values and accountability.
\$15,000/year
5. Community Restitution Program that coordinates schedules and supervises year round juvenile youth work crews in the completion of community service and victim restitution hours.
\$60,000/year
6. In-Home Brief Intensive Services Program provides families with assessments, skills and counseling to accommodate the family's schedule and needs.
\$30,000/year
7. Female Specific Life Skills Program is designed to enhance and encourage teenage girls with hope, help and healing.
\$30,000/year
8. Hispanic Life Skills Program is a program to address issues unique to Hispanic children and their families.
\$67,000/year
9. Gender Specific Life Skills Program helps young women individually and collectively develops resistance strategies to meet the difficult challenges they face in society.
\$30,000/year
10. At Risk Life Skills Program to assist youth in achieving positive self-improvement, accountability, and judgment that will enhance community safety.
\$10,000/year