**FY24 Indianola Cluster Decategorization Plan**  
Madison, Marion and Warren Counties  
Sarah Gibson, DCAT Coordinator

1. **Overview**

Decategorization was created through legislation enacted by the Iowa General Assembly in 1987.  The legislation authorized for the participation of two counties initially.  Polk County and Scott County were selected to be the pilot projects, and both started in 1988.

The goals of the 1987 legislation were to:

* enhance the array of services available to clients to better meet their needs
* overcome some of the problems and barriers to serving clients which traditional categorical funding streams presented
* accomplish major system changes without spending more than would have been spent in the former categorical system

The Decategorization initiative was developed in response to:

* The growing number of children going into foster care
* The need to increase emphasis on early intervention and prevention services
* Community values which support the reality that most families, even dysfunctional ones, do a better job of raising children than the government
* The recognition that local jurisdictions are much more in touch with the needs of their children and families and have the capability to respond quicker and more appropriately than the state bureaucracy

Decategorization was designed to be a process that combines the individual state appropriations for child welfare services into a single fund to encourage the development of services that better meet the needs of youth and families by allowing the local county flexibility in how these funds are used.  Participation by the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services and the County are required terms of the legislation.

Decategorization is an effort to significantly change the child welfare system to one that is needs based, family focused, easily accessible, more intensive, less restrictive and cost effective.

Decategorization projects are organized by county or clusters of counties.  There are approximately 30 decategorization coordinators across the state of Iowa.

The Des Moines Service Area DCAT Coordinators:

* + Polk County-Teresa Burke-515-752-2729
  + Madison, Marion & Warren Counties – Sarah Gibson- 515-468-8181

The Indianola Cluster Decategorization Project’s and Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC) mission is as follows:

“The mission of the Madison/Marion/Warren Cluster DCAT Project is to meet the needs of families and youth by promoting safety and stability in homes, schools, and communities. We will do this by identifying issues, resources, creative solutions, and by networking and collaborating with community partners.”

The Indianola Cluster Decategorization Project’s and Community Partnership for Protecting Children core values are as follows:

* All children deserve to live in a safe, stable home.
* All families in Madison, Marion, and Warren counties shall have the opportunity to learn about available resources in their communities.
* Community Partners shall be responsive to the changing needs of families.
* Children/families shall be empowered to realize the greatest possible degree of independence.

The cohesive structure, mission statement, and core values the counties established over the last several years have been kept in place to better address and identify needs and gaps within the service delivery area. The overall objective and long-term goals are to have a reduction in duplication of services, improved communication, enhance collaboration, and make it easy for smaller effective organizations to apply for funds. Another goal is to provide programs that keep the youth of the three counties from being placed in more restrictive environments or speed up youth’s reunification with family If that is the plan) if they have been taken out of the home. The Indianola DCAT Project’s core values represent the local perspective in a distinct manner and that represents the local area ideals.

What is the Indianola DCAT Cluster’s over-all theme and short-term goals? It is to surround families in crisis or common need with a “circle of community support” that include the programs such as School Based Mental Health Services in all school systems (some have multiple therapist at multiple grade levels), Parent Cafés (see special information below page four), Parent Partners, the [www.cppconline1.com](http://www.cppconline1.com) website that links to mental health services, jobs, food, clothing, etc. in the counties, regular support of horse therapy for youth and families that benefit from this service, The WeLift Job Search Center, Al’s Pals programs for youth up to 6 years old (serving 800+ youth) in the three counties of Madison, Marion and Warren, and various other parenting programs.

1. **Funding**

Below is a list of programs and/or services that will be administered as of July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024, through the Decategorization Project for State Fiscal Year 2024 along with agency name, number, budgeted amount for program, and contract numbers.

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| **Family Assistance $24,000**  DCAT5-19-033  Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)- 515.961.5353 |
| Family assistance is designed to prevent out of home placement, support to adoptive families, and provide assistance for family reunification. Goals include: maintain children in the home, maintain children in the least restrictive setting, transition children from a more restrictive to a less restrictive setting and meet the needs of the families which do not fit traditional categorical services.  Serves Madison, Marion & Warren Counties. |
| **Community Support Contract $10,000.20**  DCAT5-20-003  **Community Partnership for Protecting Children Contract (CPPC) $20,000**  DCAT5-21-091  Sarah Gibson- 515.468.8181 |
| Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC) is an initiative rolled-out across the state of Iowa. The four strategies include Shared Decision-Making Team, Policy & Practice Change, Neighborhood Networking & Family and Youth Centered Engagement. CPPC is dedicated to identifying issues, resources and creative solutions by networking and collaborating with community partners including local child abuse prevention councils, schools, domestic violence coalitions, local provider groups. Mini grants and other projects have also been initiatives of these contracts over the years. In our service area DCAT and CPPC work together as a team to accomplish our yearly plan. Emphasis this year will be placed on developing a stronger relationship with HHS through data and resource sharing. Our hope is to provide them with more ways to meet families’ needs without having to go looking for resources. We will also be focusing on growing our CPPC Steering Committee (providing an educational component), engaging more parents, youth and those with lived experience with our CPPC and all it has to offer, maintaining our ever-expanding website ([www.cppconline1.com](http://www.cppconline1.com)) and continuing to grow and support Parent Cafes in our three county area.  Serves Madison, Marion and Warren Counties. |
| **DCAT Coordination $77,814**  DCAT5-24-001  Sarah Gibson- 515.468.8181 |
| Contracted coordination services to administer the DCAT project as well as to coordinate and facilitate the planning/collaborative efforts undertaken to effect change. Budget also includes additional funds to help cover events such as conferences, HHS social worker training request, small amounts of assistance to budgets they may be running low on funds, etc. The overall objective is to reduce duplication of services, improve communication, enhance collaboration, provide accurate budgets/reimbursement request, write contracts, amendments, support documents, etc., monitor/report all contract actions according to State guidelines and oversee all mini grants. In FY24, we hope to continue expanding Parent Cafes in our area, particularly in school systems. Sarah will continue working this year to build a strong foundation and very open, frequent conversation with our new HHS staff. This includes providing quarterly reports on spending. She delivered and processed nearly $20,000 in flex fund requests (gas cards and general assistance to HHS Clients) in FY 23. Serves Madison, Marion & Warren Counties. |

**C. Community Planning**

Three local provider meetings are held each month (one in each county) that are comprised of 20-30 local providers including state and private social service agencies, Early Childhood, schools, first responders, community health, etc. Community planning and needs assessments issues are on-going and discussed at each meeting. Members from each county group serve on the DCAT/CPPC Steering Committee who review DCAT proposed projects/issues and through consensus meetings send recommendations to the DCAT Board when needed for Mini Grants. Early Childhood, county health departments/hospitals and others do needs assessments and many of those individuals are members of the DCAT/CPPC Steering Committee. DCAT/CPPC submits info for the Early Childhood Community Plan/Resource Mapping when needed. The DCAT Governance Board is comprised of three Board of Supervisors (one from each county), two JCS officers and a DHS liaison. The Board meets about eight times per year.

Utilization of Decategorization resources is identified by the community and HHS, with an emphasis on projects/services that will defray traditional child welfare spending as well as reduce or insure non-duplication of services.

DCAT priorities for FY 24 for our counties include: Parent Cafés expansion, CPPC, HHS Family Assistance, Community Support, Parenting Programs and DCAT Coordination. As of July 2023, Flex Fund are available at this time and $10,000 has been set aside along with about $4,000 in gas cards.

Additionally, when a need is identified many community partners invest multiple hours collaborating to provide input and feedback to provide the best service/product. This process has brought a collaborative perspective to the community and is well received; additionally, providers/vendors find it beneficial to be involved with community partners to assist with programmatic challenges. Meetings for CPPC will be virtual and bi-monthly in FY24.

New programs are still discussed and contracted for if there is a strong need. IE: FY 2010 Family Interaction/Aging- Out Foster Care Program, FY 2011: Communities in Action (Circles of Support-Marion County Pilot), FY 2012 School Credit Recovery Program Earlham Schools, FY 13 Parent Partners, FY 15: Parents Café (Madison), PAWS after school program, (Madison), FY 16 Cowboy-Up Family Program, FY 17 Habitat for Humanity and School Based Mental Health, FY 18 Pilot program Cowboy-up Family Program with HIRTA partnership for DHS Clients Transportation from Warren County, FY 19 Community Based Family Team Meetings being done by State Trained school and social service agency employees as part of their already scheduled times to meet with families, FY20 the acceptance of the State Wide Coordination of Parent Cafés and continued expansion of School Based Mental Health Programs established in 12 of 12 school systems as of 2020. FY 23 we added a school-based Parent Café to the existing cafes in our counties. Also, at the request of our local HHS offices, Sarah created a HHS user friendly information sheet on all food, clothing, and free services (including locations, necessary data or paperwork, etc.) for all three counties which is updated and redistributed as needed. These sheets can be handed out to HHS clients so they can access these free services and hopefully reduce the reliance on HHS Flex Funds such as Wal-Mart Cards. We also have a link to the mental health services information sheet created by Early Childhood Iowa on our website.

A description of the decategorization project’s efforts to network and coordinate with other community planning initiatives affecting children and families within the boundaries of their project:

1. Shared Decision Making

In the three counties the Community Partnership Shared Decision-Making Leadership Group is made up of two shared decision-making parts: (1) The DCAT Governance Board/DCAT Contract Monitor who write, oversee, and have final approval for the CPPC State Contract (and all other DCAT or other contracts) Final Yearly Budgets, CPPC Coordinator employment, and are the only legal representatives for the contracts and any action taken that affects or changes the contracts/contract budgets. The Governance Board has final authority (if needed) over all CPPC Steering Committee actions. (2) The DCAT/CPPC Steering Committee and CPPC Coordinator make recommendations to the DCAT Board for the use of additional DCAT funds and can assist with budgets, plans, review of Request for DCAT funds, implements and set the course of action for extra money given down by DHS at the approval of the DCAT Governance Board, sets the CPPC Strategies approach with CPPC Coordinator, etc. See “C. Steering Committee Roles/Purpose within the Indianola DCAT Cluster” below.

1. Steering Committee Contract Funding Examples

Below are examples over the last several years of programs recommended by the Steering Committee and approved by the DCAT Governance Board. These examples are virtually all extra funds given to the Indianola DCAT Cluster during that time and originated with the Steering Committee and its members.

100% of all programs recommended by the Steering Committee have been accepted and passed by the DCAT Governance Board in the form of contracts. The Steering Committee for the Indianola DCAT cluster has had most of the extra money in each yearly DCAT budget going to projects they recommended and proposed to the DCAT Board. The only DCAT programs that continued into FY24 besides DCAT Coordination $77,814, (but had no objections from the Steering Committee) were regular programs: CPPC $20,000, Community Support $10,000.20 and Family Assistance $24,000.

FY 2007: Mom off Meth $63,000, Wee Care $2,000, We Lift $31,817(pilot program), Spring Projects $110,250 (all Spring Projects program proposals are reviewed by Steering Committee members with recommendations sent to the DCAT Board for final approval).

FY 2008: AmeriCorps $36,022 (includes additional $15,000 for Parent Partners and Parent Partners Training recommended by CPPC coordinator and Steering Committee to DCAT Governance Board), Mom off Meth $22,000, School Based Mental Health $108,011, Spring Projects, 121,091, CPPC part time Coordinator $20,000 (included $7,500 for projects in three counties decided by Steering Committee and PT coordinator position recommended by the Steering Committee to the DCAT Governance Board)

FY 2009: AmeriCorps (includes additional $15,000 for Parent Partners) $34,000, School Based Mental Health $65,000, Spring Projects $63,000, CPPC $20,000(PT coordinator with benefits).

FY 2010: AmeriCorps $51,000 (includes additional $15,000 for Parent Partners and $12,000 for county projects recommended by Steering Committee and approved by DCAT Board), School Based Mental Health $65,000, Spring Projects $63,00, Family Interaction Aging Out $26,00(Pilot program whose purpose, budget etc. decided at Steering Committee meeting with DHS Supervisor Kristen Walker present-program approved as recommended by Steering Committee by DCAT Board), CBCAP $7,500 (programs decided by Steering Committee with Madison County as fiscal agent, DCAT Board Approved), CPPC $3,000 extra money in CPPC budget with programs in each county determined by the Steering Committee.

FY2011: Parent Partner/Community Support $42,620 (includes money for Parent Partners $7,500 and community spring projects – Every 15 minutes at Winterset HS $2,583, Family Directions, Storks Nest Madison 5,000, and Partial Salary, Benefits, and general support for FT Community Partnership Coordinator $24,500. Other Spring Projects: Wee Care $9,000, We Lift $4,000, School Based Mental Health $16,000, ISU Extension After School $5,500, Public Health Child Screenings $3,000, Cowboy Up Wildwood Hills Horse Therapy with At Risk Youth $21,350. CBCAP: Marion County Health $4,000, Family Directions Madison County $4,000, Wee Care Warren County $4,000. CPPC: $20,000 partial Salary and Benefits for FT CPPC Coordinator Position

FY2012: Spring Projects: Every 15 minutes Carlisle Community Schools $2,583, We Lift Job Training Program $1,600 (with additional $3,400 match from Warren County Board of Supervisors), Wee Care $13,000, High School Credit Recovery $4,736, School Based Mental Health $6, 500, Crisis Intervention Out Reach Advocate $6,500, Cowboy up $13,000, Mental Health Interventions $5,000, Necessity Pantry $3,000 (with $3,000 match from Warren County Board of Supervisors) and $3,000 split equally between Madison, Marion and Warren County. Programs included Madison County Cares, Marion County Back-to-School Project and Warren County Resource Directories.

FY2013: There was $34,942 in Parent Partner expenses ($33,529 PSSFP Contract & $1,413 from Community Support Contract). This does not include approximately 50% wages, benefits, mileage from CPPC Coordinator and 20% time from DCAT Coordinator. $1,243 spent for Warren County Resource Directories, $1,000 spent for New Car and booster seats for the DHS loaner program for clients, $1,600 spent in additional support from the Community Support Contract for DHS Clients (Flex Funds shortage): Transports, Paternity Testing and Psych Evaluations, $200 spent on website upgrade. CBCAP awarded funding was approximately $15,000 for two projects.

FY2014: $12,000 in PSSFP Funds were used for Family Team Meetings, CBCAP awards were approximately $11,000 for two projects. There was $3,000 used for Here Now and Down the Road (ALS PALS for Parents of ALS PALS Students) for all three counties under the ALS PALS contract. Steering Committee Voting Members used point scoring system for the first time to rate all proposals that were submitted for Request for DCAT Funds for FY 15. You can view them under the Special Projects and Parenting Programming and Support Contracts listed above.

FY2015: $23,900 in PSSFP Funds were used for Family Team Meetings, CBCAP awards were approximately $11,000 for two projects. There was $2,000 used for Here Now and Down the Road (ALS PALS for Parents of ALS PALS Students) for all three counties under the ALS PALS contract. $3,000 was awarded to the We Lift Job Training Program, $1,500 for sex abuse prevention booklets used in curriculums for all three counties. Mini Grants: $20,000 Wee Care, $20,000 Cowboy Up, $10,00 24/7 Dads, $10,000 Parents Café, $9,975 School Based Mental Health, $9,844 Victim Advocacy, $9,000 Parent Support, $8,849 New Parent, $2,000 Winterset Stage and for the first time in several years, the Tri County Collaborative Conference (sponsored by DCAT/CPPC) was held in Indianola with 45 plus in attendance.

Over a two-day period in June 2015 and with the help of a State Expert Keith Wunder facilitating, Joe Burke was trained to facilitate, and the DCAT/CPPC Steering Committee Voting Members learned and utilized, the State’s Consensus Scoring System for all FY 16 Mini Grants. Sarah Gibson took all notes for the scoring. As facilitators, Joe, Sarah and Keith were not allowed input into the scoring decisions. Joe was the facilitator for the second day of consensus scoring. The DCAT/CPPC Steering committee’s recommendations were then sent to the DCAT Governance Board who then voted for Mini Grant award winners for FY16. You can view the awarded Mini Grants above under “Youth 0-18 and Family Mental Health” and “Parenting Programming” in this document.

FY2016: was a very busy year with 7 Contracts and an additional 11 mini grants plus CBCAP program. Plus, the first year of Family Team Meetings with an outside vendor, Parent Cafes initiative to go Statewide (we piloted the program since 2015) and training local providers in the Family Team Meeting process so we can continue to provide Community Based Family Team Meetings. Mini grants for FY 16 included New Parent Program (Warren & Madison) $8,849, Wee Care Respite Nursery (Warren), $10,000, Parents Cafes (Madison) $7,553, Young Parents (Warren) $8,565, Domestic Violence Advocate Expansion (Marion) $10,000, Behavioral Health Interventions Services Expansion (Madison) $7,633, We Lift Job Training Program (Madison, Marion and Warren) $10,000, School Based Mental Health Student Assistance Program (Indianola High School) $10,000, Cowboy Up Individual Program (Madison and Warren County) $10,000, Cowboy Up Family Program (Madison and Warren) $9,900, Habitat for Humanity (Marion) $2,500. There was also $2,000 used for the expansion of ALS PALS to the parents Hear “Now and Down the Road” for two sets of parent trainings

FY2017: Core Contracts for DCAT Coordinator, Family Assistance (Flex Funds) Community Support and CPPC. 13 Family Team Meetings took place and Oversite of ALS PALS Continued. The web site was also updated on several times per week basis. No mini grant money was available for FY 17.

FY2018: was the busiest in 13 years for the Indianola DCAT with 17 Contracts (including 12 mini-grants) for the year. Mini Grants for FY 18 included $42,000 divided between five School Based Mental Health Programs (Knoxville, Pleasantville – Marion County, Indianola – Warren County, Earlham and I-35-Madison County), Equine Psychotherapy (Turning Point - Madison County) $4,900, Integrated Health Services Funds (Orchard Place - Warren County) $4,900, Parents Café (Marion County Public Health) $8,000, Victim Advocacy (Crisis Intervention Services - Marion County) $4,900, Wee Care (Child Abuse Prevention Council – Warren County) $4,900, Young Parents (Child Abuse Prevention Council – Warren County) $4,900, We Lift Job Training Center – Madison, Marion and Warren Counties) $4,900. Other Program Assistance- Family Integration Collaboration (Marion County Public Health) ESL Expansion to include refugee family assistance) $995, Resource Directories (2,000) Warren County $5,760, Resource Directories (1,500) Madison County $4,140, ALS PALS material support for 14 programs in Madison, Marion and Warren Counties for FY 18 $5,726, ALS PALS training for two centers FY 18 $650, Race Power of Illusion Training for Madison Marion and Warren Counties (Required Training CPPC, 31 in attendance) $405.

FY2019: Core Contracts for DCAT Coordinator, Family Assistance (Flex Funds - anticipate over $20,000 of request in FY 20, budget is $24,000) Community Support and CPPC. 9 Family Team Meetings took place and oversite of ALS PALS Continued. The web site was also updated on several times per week basis with over 5,000 hits per week. No mini grant money was available for FY 19.

FY2020: Joe and Sarah spent about 15-20 hours per week (combined) on Parent Cafés in FY 2020 which included the development of the manual and overseeing the program statewide. All school systems in the Indianola DCAT Cluster have at least one School Based Mental Health Therapist (several have multiple therapist), a few Community Based Family Team Meetings took place, ALS Pals served 850 youth (up from 650 in FY 19). No mini grant money was available for FY 20.

FY2021: Joe and Sarah spent about 10 hours per week (combined) on Parent Cafés in FY 2021. All school systems in the Indianola DCAT Cluster have at least one School Based Mental Health Therapist (several have multiple therapist), a few Communities Based Family Team Meetings took place but will no longer be supported by DHS in FY22.

FY2022: Al’s Pals and all our other core programs were of course severely affected by Covid-19, but all are going back in person by September 2021. Al's Pals centers were contacted via email or the phone to make sure they had everything they needed and were functioning as best they could during the pandemic. No mini grant money was available for FY 21, but we did receive over $100,000 for DCAT Coordination from Juvenile Court Services through the Polk County DCAT and were able to transfer 100% of our funds into FY 22. Our budgets are in excellent shape for FY 22 due to this transfer.

FY2023: Al’s Pals was up and running again full force by the end of FY 22 serving about 850 youth in the three counties and will be in great shape to start the new school year. Due to the new companies ALS PALS ordering issues, $9,000 slated for new ALS PALS Kits could not be purchased. Joe and Sarah held a discussion with the ALS PALS personal involved and changes may be made in the Fall of 2022. As Mentioned before the Indianola DCAT Cluster’s emphasis will be on Expanding Parent Café’s from 4 sessions to 16 by the end of the fiscal year. Flex Funds for DHS Clients will, as always, be a priority for FY 23.

FY2024: Al’s Pals served 800+ children in FY23. We anticipate working with the same schools with roughly the same amount of children in FY24. In FY23 we expanded Parent Cafes to include one school-based café. We hope to continue this momentum in our school systems in FY24. Maintaining our website with the most up to date information will remain a priority. We do not have any funds for mini grants.

The Steering Committee can adjust strategies as needed and ensure the partnership work is linked to relevant DCAT/CPPC activities in the three counties. It also over-sees (along with the DCAT Contract Monitor, DCAT Board and Warren County Board of Supervisors) the CPPC Coordinators job duties and performance including Al’s Pals, the CPPC website and other CPPC related activities which are all funded under DCAT Contracts.

At the request of the DHS DCAT Contract Manager, DCAT Contract Monitor (Sarah Gibson) and DCAT Governance Board, the Steering Committee along with the CPPC Coordinator will review new request for DCAT funds and/or renewals if money is available.

1. Steering Committee Roles/Purpose within the Indianola DCAT Cluster:
2. Submit recommendations with budgets to the DCAT Board for future contracts when there is extra Child Welfare Money given by DHS to the Indianola DCAT Cluster (see above examples) through use of the Consensus Scoring Process
3. Set CPPC budget with each fiscal year (final approval by DCAT Governance Board).
4. Submit recommendations to DCAT Board if Committee feels that one of the regular DCAT programs should no longer be funded (see above list).
5. Adjust budgets to approved DCAT contracts for distribution of extra DCAT funds available through- out the year (see above examples).
6. Be part of the job interviews and give hiring recommendations to DCAT Board for CPPC Position, AmeriCorps, etc.
7. Adjust Strategies, and submit to DCAT Board for their approval, for the more efficient use of limited amounts of funding. IE: FT CPPC Coordinator, Parent Café’s, ALS PALS, CPPC Web Site and promote the four CPPC strategies at every opportunity.
8. Oversee (but does not supervise) and help plan the CPPC Coordinator’s approach to the Indianola DCAT Cluster
9. Attend Monthly provider group meetings held in each county
10. Attend CPPC Steering Committee Meetings and give updates on important changes or new programming in their home counties.
11. Attend/observe/participate in CPPC Strategies approaches approved by the Committee and CPPC Coordinator. IE: Drug Court, Community Family Team Meetings, Mandatory CPPC Trainings, etc.
12. Elect Committee Chair and /or vice Chair.
13. Set policies for recruitment, participation, voting members, committee members applying for DCAT or other approved DCAT Indianola Cluster funding, etc.

The DCAT Coordinator also attends the local provider group meetings when available or reads the minutes and provides a CPPC/DCAT update for the minutes and serves/attends: CPPC State Executive Committee, CPPC Statewide Planning Committee, Early Childhood meetings (reads on-line copies of meeting minutes) as well as other meetings that focus on the needs of youth, Interns, Indianola Cluster Meetings, HHS discussions, review or focus groups, Advisory Councils, etc. The Indianola Cluster DCAT Coordinator has also served as a presenter at statewide CPPC meetings, Immersion 101 and 201 trainings, etc. She also contributed to the development and finalization of the CPPC manual, statewide reporting form, etc.

Partnering Examples:

DCAT no longer directly funds a contract for the Al’s Pals programming in all three counties but will continue to monitor and assist the programs through CPPC and the Community Support Budget. Program was expanded in FY 14 to include a three-pilot parent-based programs, one in each county. FY 17 and FY 18 did not have the money in the budget to run the Parent Al’s Pals program (Here Now and Down the Road) in the counties. For FY 18 $5,726 was allocated for Al’s Pals teacher training, supplies, CD’s, materials, etc. FY 19 and 20 had about $1,000 worth of support for Al’s Pals. FY 21, 22 and 23 we have provided each site with all necessary materials for their Al’s Pals classes.

Over the last fifteen years and through about half of FY23, DCAT funded a large portion of the CPPC full-time position $67,233 (FY23) (in addition to the $20,000 from CPPC) to enhance CPPC in the counties ($700,000 + over fifteen years). This year the Indianola DCAT Cluster is continuing its partnering project with CPPC as the DCAT Coordinator will also serve as the CPPC Coordinator, combining the roles due to budget cuts. DCAT Coordinator will continue to assist State CPPC Coordinator in the expansion of Parent Cafés and the move to evidence-based Parent Cafés. She’ll also assist State CPPC Coordinator in statewide and regional meeting planning due to her staff being eliminated with the ending of the ISU service contract.

DCAT has partnered with local schools over the last 14-15 years to provide school based mental health for all ages of students in all school districts in the three counties (affecting about 20+ schools). $332,000+ over the last fifteen years has been provided by DCAT for these programs in the three counties. About $42,000 was provided by DCAT for FY 18 (Madison, Marion and Warren County) to 5 school systems and no money was available for FY 19-23. All the school based mental health programs have continued with partnerships with private non-profits and individual licensed therapists. DCAT continues to support them when money is available and as previously stated all school systems in the Indianola DCAT Cluster now have School Based Mental Health Programs (up from 55% a few years ago).

1. **Short Term Plan/Desired Results**

*A description of the project’s specific and quantifiable short-term plans and desired results for the state fiscal year; as well as a description of how these short-term plans align with the project’s longer-term goals for improving outcomes for children and families.*

Short term plans include implementing and monitoring the programs approved through the three county processes ending with the DCAT Board approval. These programs will accomplish the long- term goals of DCAT: needs based, family focused, easily accessible, more intensive, less restrictive, and cost-effective programs for youth 0-18 years old.

*A description of the project’s proposed plans to use funding available within their decategorization services funding pool during the fiscal year, including plans to use their available carryover funds- resulting from decategorization operations during the previous fiscal year- by the close of the current state fiscal year.*

The Indianola DCAT Cluster will continue to fund the four core programs already approved and in place (DCAT Coordination, Community Support, Family Assistance and CPPC). This year Child Welfare money has not been allocated as of August 2023. Even if we get a transfer, it is unlikely we will be able to fund mini grants this year as we will need to replenish the state allocations we are utilizing in our FY24 budget due to lack of a child welfare transfer. Mini grants have been available for ten of the last 18 years.

1. **Tracking of Results and Outcomes**

Following State Contract requirements, each contract will be monitored quarterly by the DCAT Coordinator and bi-annually by the Governance Board by reviewing comparison to the Scope of Service (outcomes/performance measures) of the contract. The semi-annual reports are also made available to the DCAT Steering Committee, community partners, etc. if they want them and they are also posted on the CPPC website along with all meeting notes. The DCAT Coordinator will also conduct site reviews with the contract holder twice annually and anyone can attend (in person and/or on the phone), two DCAT Board meetings in which twice yearly reviews/reports are given by the DCAT/CPPC Staff. As stated above, all Indianola DCAT Cluster’s End of Year Program Reports, Board Notes, Yearly Plans and Annual Reports, steering committee notes, etc. are all now posted on the website: [www.cppconline1.com](http://www.cppconline1.com)

1. **Monitoring and Maintaining Fiscal Accountability**

*A description of the project’s plans to monitor and maintain fiscal accountability during the year [fiscal accountability includes monitoring the performance and results of contractors receiving funding and monitoring expenditures for decategorization services during the year].*

As per State of Iowa requirements, GAX sheets will be reviewed at least monthly to ensure correct program records, budgets, documentation etc. are being followed. Each program must have a line-item budget which has three sections: total money approved for each line item, amount requested for current month for each line item and a running total of request for the year per line item. This ensures that there are no budget issues on amounts remaining per line item as the year progresses. If there is a dispute GAX sheets will be held until the dispute is resolved and the contract wording will be followed. Contractors must meet listed contract performance measures or payments could be decreased as per contract. All money was accepted and used in accordance with each individual transfer letter.

1. **Carryover**

All carryover funds (including the State Allocations) that must be spent by the end of FY 24 have been allocated to the above contracts. All unspent State Allocation money that has not been allocated for FY 24 and can be carried over for programming in FY 25.