

2014

ANNUAL
GRANTS
REPORT

gwinnett  county
GRANTS

Research | Writing | Management



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Administrative Office of the Courts

As an alternative to lengthy jail time, Gwinnett County's Accountability Courts offer non-violent DUI and/or substance abuse offenders a treatment program. The County is using a \$136,000 grant from the **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council** to provide case management, drug testing, and treatment in lieu of prison time with a caveat that the offender must agree to participate during the court appearance. The DUI and Drug Accountability Courts currently have 170 participants. Over the last year, 73 percent of Drug Court program participants have achieved success in meeting the program's requirements while DUI Court had a retention rate of 88 percent. For this year's grant period, it is estimated that the DUI and Drug Court programs have saved the County incarceration costs of approximately \$320,000.

Additionally, the County secured \$704,000 in federal funding through the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** to enhance the existing DUI/Drug Court program. The grant enables the County court system to collaborate with a local nonprofit, View Point Health, to offer extensive substance abuse treatment services to program participants. The treatment services include proven evidence-based therapies for trauma and life skills that deal with recovery and relapse prevention. The grant has allowed for the treatment of 105 substance abuse offenders since its award.

It is estimated that almost 17 percent of individuals entering local jails are suffering from some form of mental illness. Those individuals entering the justice system for minor offenses are now given an unconventional judicial approach to incarceration in Gwinnett with fund-

The influx of drug offenders continues to severely strain local adult court systems. With the success of adult drug courts in reducing recidivism, the application of drug court principles to populations in the juvenile court seems like the next logical step. An award of \$31,000 from the **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council** allowed Gwinnett County's Juvenile Court to start its first ever Drug Court program for juveniles. The grant's mission is to provide serious juvenile drug users a structured program designed to stop the illicit use and abuse of all addictive substances and curtail related criminal activity. The funding is being used to staff the court with a Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator. This individual will manage each juvenile's participation through a six stage program.

The Drug Court Coordinator, in collaboration with the presiding judge, evaluates the juvenile's eligibility. All program participants' day-to-day activities are monitored. In addition, the youth are required to participate in addiction therapy group sessions. Completion of the program takes approximately 10 months and can lead to dismissal of charges and sealing of the juvenile's record. Since the program began in early 2013, there have been 19 juvenile participants; 84 percent have consistently showed progress dealing with their substance abuse issues. On average, avoiding the placement of the juvenile in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility saves taxpayers \$200 per day.

Juvenile Court



ing of \$115,000 from the **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**. In partnership with our treatment service provider, View Point Health, the funding will be used to complete mental health assessment on defendants resulting in the development of an individualized mental health treatment plan. Treatment is provided as outpatient or inpatient services, depending on the needs of each participant. Outpatient services may include but not be limited to: taking medication, going to individual or group therapy, substance abuse counseling, intensive day services, and vocational training and/or placement. A referral to inpatient services is done only when it is determined that the severity of the individual's current mental health state makes outpatient services not a viable option. The presence of defendants with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system imposes substantial costs on that system and substantial harm on defendants. Treatment for individuals suffering from mental illness instead of incarceration saves the County \$47 each day.

Since substance abuse problems for a juvenile often translate into problems at school, **Walton EMC Trust Foundation** decided to support the County's Juvenile Drug Court's effort by giving a \$2,000 donation to offset program cost. Staff dedicated a portion of the grant towards educational tutoring sessions. The remaining funds will help the participant's family deal with any transportation hardships a child may face when they are required to attend addiction therapy group sessions or court appearances. Parents who demonstrate a need will be issued a gas card to offset their travel cost.

In 2012, the Georgia legislature and Governor Nathan Deal created a critical source of funding necessary to support the growth of Accountability Courts in Georgia with the intended goal to reduce the prison population. In fall 2013, Gwinnett County's Juvenile Court received news of a \$400,000 award from the **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**. The grant's purpose is to reduce the number of youth committed to long and short-term detention in a state juvenile facility. The program became operational in October through a community partnership with an organization called CHRIS Kids. The nonprofit will work with court staff and is tasked with providing high-risk juveniles in-home counseling services. The services are designed to address the juvenile's related emotional and behavioral problems. The program's goal is to strengthen and improve the juvenile's family unit while keeping the child in the home.

District Attorney

Victims of crime face many issues during the judicial process. To insure their rights are protected and their voice is heard the District Attorney's office is staffed with Crime Victim Advocates. The specialists are available to explain a victim's rights, how the court system works, and what to expect each step of the way. To deal with these and other issues, the District Attorney's office has received funding of \$57,000 from the **Prosecuting Attorney's Office** of Georgia that partially funds two of the office's eight full-time Crime Victim Advocates. Their role, in addition to dealing with any of the issues the victim is facing, is to also act as a direct liaison in the judicial system; to provide emotional support, clarification in the judicial process, and to provide any information to the victim that can help them through this difficult time. Over the last year, the Crime Victim Advocates have had more than 63,000 contacts with the victims of crime in the form of face-to-face contact, telephone calls, email, etc.

National events have shown that not only is first response critical in situations that pose potential harm to the masses, but preparedness for such events is equally crucial. Should a major event occur in the near future, Gwinnett County's Police Department is prepared to handle the situation with tactical equipment and funding from the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**. The County estimates the various awards to be valued at \$1.2 million and has enabled the department's Hazardous Device Unit, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosives) Unit, and SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Unit to upgrade and enhance their response capability. The items acquired will allow assigned officers to respond to high-risk situations while minimizing their safety risks. Such items include the acquisition of an armored carrier (LENCO Bearcat). This equipment will give officers the ability to move to and from hostile situations and assist with the recovery and protection of civilians in harm's way during hostage situations or encounters with armed offenders. What's most important about this recent upgrade is the County can deploy its resources to neighboring jurisdictions throughout metro Atlanta area should the need arise.

Police

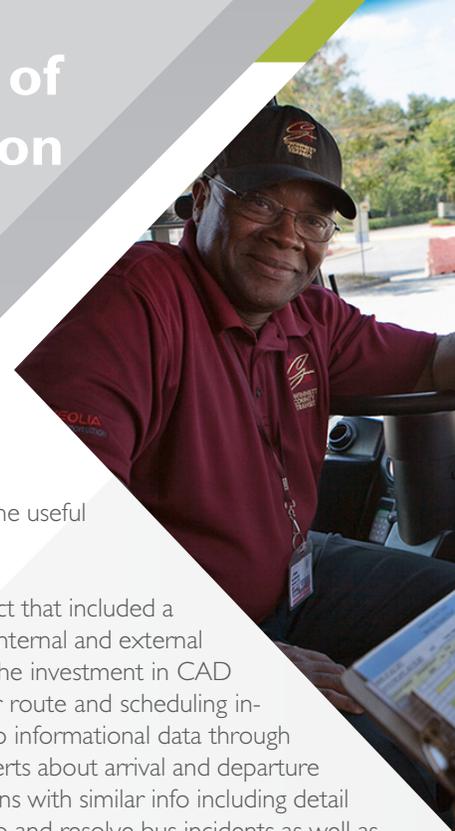
The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program was established to honor fallen New York Police Officer Edward Byrne. It is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. In 2013, the **U.S. Department of Justice** announced the County's annual award allocation at \$251,000. The requested funds will address activities such as specialized police training, public outreach initiatives, and any equipment needs that will further the police's ability to provide the highest level of service to the community.

A portion of this year's award directed toward public outreach included a Public Safety Fall Festival, which was geared to improve citizen safety knowledge and awareness. The festival was attended by 8,910 citizens, a 10 percent increase over last year. County police staff offered a wide array of activities that included child car seat checks, a helicopter display, safety demonstrations, kids' activities, and a wide array of informational brochures.

Additionally, the Police Department developed a "SAFE for Women" program as a direct result of funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant. The newly launched class is a two-hour educational awareness course that is offered to women ages 13 and up. It encompasses strategies, techniques, options, and prevention information to help reduce a woman's risk of exposure to violence. The program also introduces women to self-defense techniques. The program's first class had 83 women in attendance. The positive response has prompted the department to sponsor future classes in 2014.



Department of Transportation

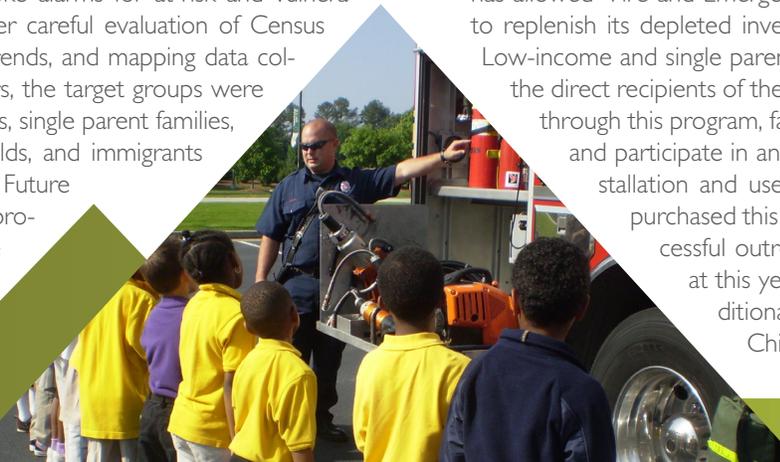


The Gwinnett County Public Transit System (GCT) continues to assist the metro Atlanta area in attainment and maintenance of EPA air quality emission standards. As part of this commitment, GCT operates 49 express buses with Cummins Clean Diesel Technology engines that include the Cummins After-treatment System and Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF). The maintenance schedule calls for the filters to be periodically cleaned or replaced every 120,000 miles/18 months at approximately \$7,000 per filter. After careful evaluation of options by County staff and the contracted maintenance group, the Department of Transportation acquired a \$20,000 DPF cleaning device with funds from the **Federal Transit Administration** grant program. Cleaning the DPFs versus replacement will save approximately \$343,000 every 18 months for the added benefit of reducing operational costs. The County plans to have 59 filters (counting spares) continuously cleaned for the useful life of the vehicle and will only have to replace a filter if it becomes damaged.

Using **federal and state transportation** grants of \$4.3 million, the County launched an installation project that included a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, an automatic vehicle location (AVL) system, and the installation of internal and external mounted video surveillance on all transit-operated buses. With more than 2 million transit riders per year, the investment in CAD and AVL technologies is expected to reduce the customer service centers' monthly call volume inquires for route and scheduling information. The newly installed AVL and CAD technologies will also allow riders to have immediate access to informational data through mobile technology devices such as cell phones and tablets. Commuters will be given the option to receive alerts about arrival and departure times via text through their cell phones. The Park and Ride lots will feature LED passenger information screens with similar info including detail on how they are addressing issues with delays. The security camera installations are being used to respond to and resolve bus incidents as well as provide a deterrent to disruptive behavior by passengers.

The County has undertaken a revitalization and improvement project in Duluth's central business district. Using \$529,000 in grant funding from the **Federal Highway Administration** provided through the **Georgia Department of Transportation**, the streetscape project is being completed in phases with joint efforts from the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District (CID). The program concept is to enhance this area's overall image thus promoting future growth and development of businesses and increasing visitors. Funds will cover costs associated with pedestrian type improvements along the Pleasant Hill Road corridor from Satellite Boulevard to Club Drive. The enhancements include decorative street lamps, benches, trash receptacles, landscaping embellishments, and the installation of sidewalks to accommodate foot traffic.

Educating the population in fire prevention and safety is one goal for Gwinnett's firefighters. To further this effort, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (FES) is scheduled to expend \$78,000 in grant funds from the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency**. These funds will aid in the expansion of the Firefighters and Community Together (FACT) program. Employees are in the process of kicking this program into full gear so they can better educate residents through community outreach classes. Scheduled classes will assist in the development of residential emergency escape plans and other fire prevention tips. The County will also allocate 93 percent of the award proceeds to purchase and install 4,050 smoke alarms for at-risk and vulnerable target groups in 2014. After careful evaluation of Census demographics, response calls trends, and mapping data collected over the past three years, the target groups were identified as low-income families, single parent families, seniors, special needs households, and immigrants experiencing cultural barriers. Future advertisements for the FACT program will be made available through the County website, news media, and community groups.



Fire and Emergency Services

Organizations such as Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS), hospitals, courts, and the local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) office refer families to "Safe Kids Gwinnett" program led by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. In support of the program, local **Wal-Mart** stores located in Norcross and Lilburn provided the County with \$2,000 for community outreach. The funding source has allowed Fire and Emergency Services an opportunity to replenish its depleted inventory of child safety car seats.

Low-income and single parent families with young children are the direct recipients of the car seat. Prior to obtaining a car seat through this program, families must first meet income guidelines and participate in an instruction-led course on the proper installation and use of the seats. Nineteen car seats were purchased this year with an additional 19 on order. Successful outreach yielded a disbursement of six seats at this year's Public Safety Fall Festival with an additional 12 being distributed during National Child Passenger Safety Week in September.



Community Services

Federal and state funding of \$1.3 million from the **Atlanta Regional Commission** has allowed the County's Community Services, Senior Service staff to continue their mission of improving the aging population's quality of life. Funds are used for a wide variety of programs from nutritional meals to transportation services. On average, the County offers 2,999 meals per month to seniors in a group setting at one of four Gwinnett Senior Center facilities. In addition, 5,596 nutritious meals are prepared and delivered monthly to seniors who are homebound or who face challenges with preparing their own meals. The Gwinnett Senior Center also provided seniors transportation to and from community centers, medical appointments, and field trips.

Community Development Block Grant

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is an entitlement program that provides communities with financial resources to address services and suitable living environments for low and moderate-income persons. In 2013, Gwinnett was awarded \$4.8 million from the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**. The County disbursed these funds to eligible organizations that wished to improve public infrastructure, facilities, or services in qualifying communities.

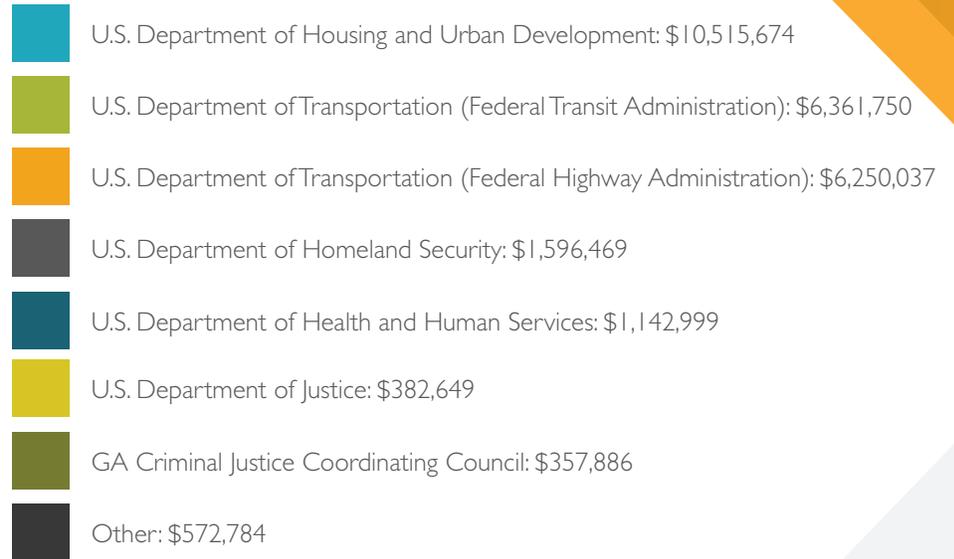
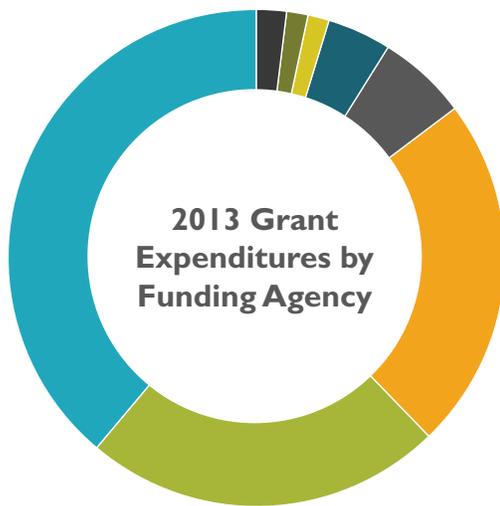
In early 2013, the Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) – a local nonprofit providing comprehensive services to domestic violence survivors – completed its substantial building acquisition and construction project for its Gwinnett County Safe House. The organization used \$1.63 million from CDBG funds for acquisition and leveraged \$4.3 million in private donations from individuals and foundations to build out the interior of the facility to include an endowment that ensured the shelter would begin operations on schedule in February 2013. Upon completion, the 14,000 square foot space became the largest certified domestic violence shelter in the state of Georgia. This organization has operated in Gwinnett County since 1987 and the completion of its new facility enhanced the nonprofit's capacity to provide lifesaving services and support to victims of domestic violence.

HOME/Neighborhood Stabilization Program

When the housing bubble burst, the effects were felt throughout all of Gwinnett County. The County continued to promote efforts on providing citizens with affordable housing options through programs such as the **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)** and **HOME** program. In 2013, the County approved a partnership with Lawrenceville Housing Corporation to construct a 16-unit residential townhome subdivision in Lawrenceville. The Oakland Downs Townhome project is being funded through both the NSP and HOME grants totaling \$2.1 million. The project broke ground in early November and is expected to be completed and sold in summer 2014. The units will be sold to low-income qualified buyers.

Emergency Solutions Grant

Gwinnett County continues to address the cycle of homelessness, poverty, and domestic violence. Confronted with a growing number of individuals and families who face the possibility of abusive situations, unsafe living conditions, and inadequate shelter, the County has taken action to help provide assistance for its citizens. To meet these imperative needs, the County has used a total of \$315,000 in 2013 **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)** money to fund nonprofit organizations that assist individuals and families with regaining stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis. Specifically, more than \$189,000 in ESG funds was awarded to agencies that provide emergency shelter to homeless persons. This investment resulted in 564 individuals being served in the community thanks to nonprofit agencies such as Rainbow Village, Norcross Cooperative Ministry, the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, and Partnership Against Domestic Violence.



2013 Grant Awards by Funding Agency

Funding Agency	Recipient Department	Award Amount
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	Admin Office of the Courts	\$286,026
	Juvenile Court	\$447,523
Georgia Department of Human Services	Financial Services	\$45,000
Georgia Department of Transportation	Transportation	\$329,915
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Community Services	\$1,486,026
	Juvenile Court	\$39,799
U.S. Department of Homeland Security	Police	\$523,933
	Fire	\$62,520
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Financial Services	\$4,179,674
U.S. Department of Justice	Sheriff/Corrections	\$99,451
	Police	\$149,642
	District Attorney	\$45,703
	Corrections	\$5,942
U.S. Department of Transportation	Transportation	\$6,358,111
U.S. Federal Aviation Administration	Transportation	\$1,482,445
U.S. Federal Highway Administration	Transportation	\$34,271,191
	Admin Office of the Courts	\$29,100
U.S. Federal Transit Administration	Community Services	\$182,916
U.S. Department of Labor	Corrections	\$116,000
Walton Electric Trust Inc.	Juvenile Court	\$2,000
Total Grants Received		\$50,142,917

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The Grants Business Unit is an available resource to all County departments. Our primary goal is to provide grant administrative oversight to Gwinnett County departments and secure alternative revenue through funding from federal, state, and local grant agencies. We are tasked to research grant opportunities, provide technical assistance in grant writing, and administratively manage all federal grants awarded to the County.

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