

# **FY09 Annual Report**

## **Cedar County Decategorization Program**

Submitted by:

Nicole Mann  
Decategorization Coordinator

1) Summarize the project’s key activities during the pervious fiscal year:

Cedar County Decategorization Project intention for fiscal year 2009 was to stay true to the mission of Decategorization, helping youth and families by enhancing the infrastructure to include services that are strengths based and diversity focused that meet the diverse needs of the community. Various methods were used to gain a broad perspective on the needs of youth and families in Cedar County.

**TABLE 1**

<b>Community Planning Sources</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Reviewed Cedar United Way Needs Assessment	Cedar Decategorization Board Members and Decat Staff
Department of Human Services CY 2008 on child abuse rates	Decategorization Staff and Cedar County Decategorization Board Members
Juvenile Delinquency Annual Statistical Report	Decategorization Staff and Cedar County Decategorization Board Members
DHS Annual Report	Decategorization Staff and Quad County Decategorization Board Members
Review of Cedar Empowerment Annual Report	Cedar Decategorization Board Members and Decat Staff

2) Describe the project’s progress in reaching the desired outcomes of their project plan during the previous state fiscal year:

Fiscal year 2009 was a productive period for Cedar County Decategorization. The Cedar County Decat Board members engaged in community planning exercises to ensure their financial investment into community programming would meet the needs of children and families who were most at risk. All new programs funded in FY09 had projected outcomes to keep youth out of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, improving family functioning, and improving the educational wellbeing of children. These outcomes were closely monitored by the Decategorization Coordinator and were reported to the Cedar County Decat Board. During Decat Board meetings the members reviewed the outcomes and gave input on modifications and recommendations to contract holders.

3) Describe any planning adjustments and lessons learned during the fiscal year:

For FY09 the Cedar County Board chose to renew In Home Brief Intensive Services, Summer Community Services, and Coordination services. They also approved for a Request for Proposal to be written to obtain a CPPC site in Cedar County, This is the first year that Cedar County has a CPPC site. Cedar Agriculture Extension was

awarded the CPPC contract. In addition, Cedar County Decat staff organized a community meeting to address transportation barriers in the county. Community members attended three meetings in which stakeholders brainstormed on viable options and made recommendations to pass this initiative to United Way of Muscatine County.

Due to budget constraints, Decat staff utilized electronic communication and electronic surveys. Many community members used the on-line resources to provide feedback on issues, community needs and use of our website, which highlights Cedar County Decat. The website displays minutes, agendas and community planning documents to guide and educate the stakeholder of Decat's process and protocols. There are instructions on how to complete a GAX form on the website. This explanation allows staff time to be freed up and return responsibility to the contract holder for contract compliance.

Decategorization staff spent time in FY09 educating local legislators about the funding regulations of Decategorization. Decats are only guaranteed to carryover unobligated funding for one fiscal year. Legislation has allowed Decat's to carryover more than one year of funding however, this is an exception, not the rule. It is appreciated when the prior year's funding is retained however, when financial numbers are released in October this limits the competitive bidding process, the ability to execute a long term contract and effectively begin a new service prior to the end of the fiscal year. A new program can take a considerable amount of time to begin services that can be limited by hiring and training of staff, become established in the community and have an effective referral process. Contractors are reluctant to take the considerable financial risks to embark on such projects when they do not know if the project can be sustained from year to year due to the unstable carryover funding process.

#### 4) Cedar County Decat Funded Programs

##### **Project 1) In Home Brief Intensive Services, DCAT-06-021, Lutheran Services in Iowa**

###### **Description:**

Provides in home family centered brief intensive services with Cedar County children, 6-17, who are not currently involved with and who are at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system and/or child welfare system including Community Care Program and their families.

###### **Key Activities:**

The Performance Measures for this service are:

- 90% of children and families will have no involvement in the child welfare system
- 90% of children and families will have no involvement in the juvenile court system
- 75% of families will show improvement in functioning
- 75% of families will have at least one informal support added by the close of a case
- 80% of children will have no contact with law enforcement within six months of service completion

- 60% of school age children will improve school performance by close of the services and maintain this level for three months after services are completed.

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

The contracted service has met area expectations.

- 100% of children and families had no involvement in the child welfare system
- 97% of children and families had no involvement in the juvenile court system
- 92% of families showed improvement in functioning
- 100% of families had at least one informal support added by the close of their case
- 99% of children had no further contact with law enforcement within six months of service completion
- 100% of school age children improved school performance by close of the services and maintained this level for three months after services were completed.

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

There were no adjustments made to this contract.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$60,000

**Project 2) Summer Community Services, DCAT8-08-300, Lutheran Services in Iowa**

**Description:**

Provide Summer Community Services for youth ages 12-17 who reside in Cedar County who have been court-ordered to provide community service as a consequence for problem behavior and to monitor progress toward identified outcomes.

**Key Activities:**

The Performance Measures for this service are:

- 75% of youth will complete their community service hours
- 50% of youth will avoid new delinquency charges for a period of six months after completion of their community service hours

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

- 63% of youth completed their community service hours
- Six months had not passed at the time of the final report; however so far 100% of youth participants have avoided new delinquency charges. The contract was continued for FY10.

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

There were no adjustments made to this contract.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$8,800

**Project 3) Decategorization Coordination, DCAT-07-030, Scott County Kids**

**Description:**

Coordination services are provided to Cedar County to ensure Decategorization practices are maintained and provides assistance in meeting the CFSR outcomes.

**Key Activities:**

The Key Activities for this service are:

- Contract management including development, competitive selection process, site visits, monitoring and reviewing performance
- Planning and facilitation of meetings
- Organization and preparation of agendas, notices and minutes
- Research of program and policy issues
- Representation of Decategorization in the community
- Prepare written and oral reports

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

Decategorization staff:

- Maintained all contract files and performed monitoring activities for all contracts
- Planned and attended all board meetings
- Organized and prepared all the agendas, notices, and minutes
- Educated legislators about Decategorization and proposed a pilot project
- Attended various community meetings and focus groups designed to enhance the well being of Cedar County children and families
- Prepared all required written reports

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

No adjustments were made to this contract.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$12,000

**Project 4) Victim Restitution, DCAT8-09-185, 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

**Description:**

The Judicial Branch will act as the employer of record and perform the payroll functions for the juveniles enrolled in the Seventh Judicial District Juvenile Court Services Victim Restitution Program.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$1,000

**Project 5) After School Program, DCAT8-09-190, Durant CSD**

**Description:**

Contract provides after school and summer programming to students residing in the Durant Community School District who experience one or more of the following: qualify for free or reduced lunch, academic challenges, behavior issues, social deficits, or attend a Title One school.

**Key Activities:**

The Performance Measures for this service are:

- 60% of students participating in the program will show improved attendance rates at the completion of the program.
- 100% of students will receive academic and recreational activities during each day the program is open.
- 100% of students will receive age appropriate character or skill building activity two times per week.

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

The contracted service has met area expectations.

- 66% of students participating in the program showed improved attendance rates at the completion of the program.
- 100% of students received academic and recreational activities during each day the program was opened.
- 100% of students received age appropriate character or skill building activity two times per week.

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

This program was closed due to a lack of funding; funds were placed into other program investments that provided more long term results.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$17,000

**Project 6) After School Program, DCAT8-09-180, North Cedar CSD****Description:**

Contract provides after school and summer programming to students residing in the North Cedar Community School District who experience one or more of the following: qualify for free or reduced lunch, academic challenges, behavior issues, social deficits, or attend a Title One school.

**Key Activities:**

The Performance Measures for this service are:

- 60% of students participating in the program will show improved academic performance at the completion of the program.
- 60% of students participating in the program will show improved attendance rates at the completion of the program – For Art Club Program Only.

- 100% of students will receive academic and recreational activities during each day the program is open.
- 100% of students will receive age appropriate character or skill building activity two times per week.

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

Contract is still in negotiations.

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

This program was closed due to a lack of funding; funds were placed into other program investments that provided more long term results.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$27,000

**Project 7) After School Program, DCAT8-09-191, Tipton CSD**

**Description:**

Contract provides after school and summer programming to students residing in the Tipton Community School District who experience one or more of the following: qualify for free or reduced lunch, academic challenges, behavior issues, social deficits, or attend a Title One school.

**Key Activities:**

The Performance Measures for this service are:

- 60% of students participating in the program will show improved academic performance at the completion of the program.
- 60% of students participating in the program will show improved attendance rates at the completion of the program
- 100% of students will receive academic and recreational activities during each day the program is open.
- 100% of students will receive age appropriate character or skill building activity two times per week.

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

The contracted service has met area expectations.

- 86% of students participating in the program showed improvement in academic performance
- 100% of students participating in the program showed improvement in attendance rates.
- 100% of students received academic and recreational activities during each day the program was open.
- 100% of students received age appropriate character or skill building activities twice a week.

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

This program was closed due to a lack of funding; funds were placed into other program investments that provided more long term results.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$20,000

**Project 8) After School Program, DCAT8-09-189, West Branch CSD**

**Description:**

Contract provides after school and summer programming to students residing in the West Branch Community School District who experience one or more of the following: qualify for free or reduced lunch, academic challenges, behavior issues, social deficits, or attend a Title One school.

**Key Activities:**

The Performance Measures for this service are:

- 60% of students participating in the program will show improved academic performance at the completion of the program.
- 60% of students participating in the program will show improved attendance rates at the completion of the program
- 100% of students will receive academic and recreational activities during each day the program is open.
- 100% of students will receive age appropriate character or skill building activity two times per week.

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

- More than 60% of students participating in the program showed improved academic performance.
- 60% of students participating showed improved attendance rates.
- 100% of students received academic and recreational activities during each day the program was opened.
- 100% of students received age appropriate character or skill building activities twice a week.

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

This program was closed due to a lack of funding; funds were placed into other program investments that provided more long term results.

**Expenditures:**

FY09 \$10,000

**Project 9) CPPC Pilot Site, DCFS8-09-121, Cedar Agriculture Extension**

**Description:**

This contract provides leadership and coordination of activities to implement the Community Partnership for the Protection of Children Initiative in Cedar County.

**Key Activities:**

The Performance Measures for this service are:

- A minimum of seven people will serve on the Shared Decision Making Board by 9/30/09.
- The Shared Decision Making Board will hold three meetings by 9/30/09
- A plan will be developed to implement all four strategies by 9/30/09.

**Progress in reaching desired outcomes:**

- Eight individuals serve on the Shared Decision Making Board.
- The Shared Decision Making Board held three meetings
- The Cedar Co. CPPC has been developing a plan in all four areas to be implemented in the next federal year.
  - Shared Decision Making – established a board that has met three times and is working towards recruiting new members.
  - Neighborhood Networks – Cedar Co. CPPC has held one community meeting to build awareness of CPPC.
  - Individualize Course of Action-Family Team Decision Making – they have trained people in the FTM process and in the process of developing ways to access FTMs in Cedar Co.
  - Policy and Practice Change – starting to develop a community assessment tool to identify needs of families.

**Planning adjustments and lessons learned:**

No adjustments were made to this contract.