Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
County Plan

Polk County

For FY 2026-2027

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Attachments:

Executive Summary

The Polk County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC), in fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities as set forth in the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina, has reviewed and updated this County Plan for FY 2026-2027. In 2019, House Bill 593 passed which approved an optional 1 or 2-year funding cycle for DPS JCPC funds, which is determined locally by each JCPC statewide. Also included in the HB was Raise the Age in N.C. which directs 16 & 17 years old from District Court to Juvenile Court. In order to see any new possible trends in juvenile justice data (now serving 16- & 17-year-old) and to plan programming in the community accordingly, the Polk County JCPC approved one year funding cycle. Data continues to be monitored by the JCPC annually, which provides direction to which funding cycle is most beneficial to the community and Council.

The JCPC has identified the issues and factors which have an influence and impact upon vulnerable youth, at-risk youth, delinquent youth, and their families in Polk County. Further, the JCPC has identified the strategies and services most likely to reduce/prevent delinquent behavior.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Each program funded in the past fiscal year by the JCPC has been monitored by the JCPC Monitoring Committee and programs were found in full compliance with DPS JCPC Policy and within the operating parameters of their budget and providing the services as described in their program agreement. The monitoring results and program outcome evaluations were considered in making funding allocation decisions. The JCPC will continue to conduct annual implementation monitoring of its funded programs.

Priorities for Funding: Through a review of risk & needs assessment data, the Youth Assessment Screening Inventory (YASI) data and a community resource assessment, the JCPC has determined that the following services are needed to reduce/prevent delinquency in Polk County.

1. Substance Abuse Assessment/Treatment
2. Interpersonal Skills Building
3. Restitution/Community Service
4. Temporary Shelter
5. Parenting/Family Skill Building
6. Crisis Counseling
7. Psychological Assessment
8. Mediation
9. Structured Day
10. Home Based Family Counseling
11. Tutoring/Academic Enhancement
12. Teen Court

Funding Recommendations: Having advertised a Request for Proposals (RFP) for these services needed for a minimum of thirty (30) days, the JCPC has screened the submitted proposals and has determined which proposals best meet the advertised needed services. As required by statute, the JCPC recommends allocation of the NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds to the following programs in the specified below for the upcoming fiscal year: (Also, see the Polk County Funding Plan with this report.)

1. Aspire Kids at Work $50,617
2. Aspire Vocational Directions $27,687

The JCPC further recommends that the following amount be allocated for the administrative costs of the Council for fiscal year 2026-2027: $5,100

Respectfully Submitted,

_____, Chair, Polk County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Date: 5/21/26

Polk County

NC DPS - Community Programs - County Funding Plan

Available Funds: $ $83,404 Local Match: $ $24,906 Rate: 20%

DPS JCPC funds must be committed with a Program Agreement submitted in NC Allies and electronically signed by authorized officials.

#	Program Provider	DPS-JCPC Funding	LOCAL FUNDING			OTHER	OTHER	Total	% Non DPS-JCPC Program Revenues
			County Cash Match	Local Cash Match	Local In-Kind	State/ Federal	Funds		
1	JCPC Administration	$5,100						$5,100	
2	Aspire Kids at Work	$50,617	$10,123		$5,328			$66,068	23%
3	Aspire Vocational Directions	$27,687	$5,537		$3,918			$37,142	25%
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
	TOTALS:	$83,404	$15,660		$9,246			$108,310	23%

The above plan was derived through a planning process by the Polk County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and represents the County's Plan for use of these funds in FY 2026-2027

Amount of Unallocated Funds _____

Amount of funds reverted back to DPS _____

Discretionary Funds added _____

check type ☑ initial plan ☐ update ☐ final

-----DPS Use Only-----

Reviewed by _____ Area Consultant Date

Reviewed by Amanda Bullock Program Assistant Date 4/20/26

Verified by _____ Designated State Office Staff Date

5/21/26
Chairperson, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (Date)

Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners or County Finance Officer (Date)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Organization

FY 2026-2027	Name	Organization	Title
Chairperson	Jessica Winkel	Vaya Health	System of Care Coordinator
Vice-Chairperson	Ange High	Polk County	Community Services Director
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Assessment Committee Chairperson			
Funding Committee Chairperson			

Number of members for FY 20025-2026 **15**

List meeting dates during the current fiscal year and identify the number of JCPC members in attendance for each.

Meeting Date	Number of Members in Attendance	Quorum Present? Yes/No
9/19/2025	10	Yes
11/21/2025	8	Yes
1/16/2026	8	Yes
3/20/2026	9	Yes
5/15/2026		
6/19/2026		

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

I. **Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) Summary**
II. **Summary of Community Resources**
III. **Summary of Gaps and Barriers in the Community Continuum**
IV. **Proposed Priority Services for Funding**

Introduction:

Juvenile Court Services implemented the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) beginning January 1, 2021; the following data summary represents data gleaned from the YASI administered FY 2024-2025.

In reviewing and prioritizing the elevated risk and needs extracted from this data set, one must consider the utilization of YASI:

1. As a predictor of future risk of offending; and
2. As a Case Management instrument for determining level of service and types of services necessary to reduce recidivism.

Part I. Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (Full YASI)

The Risk and Needs Assessment Committee reviewed aggregate data gleaned from YASI assessments administered in the county during the previous fiscal year. The full assessment consists of over 100 separate items useful for both predictive risk and case management, so data reported from this review will consist of county-level risk factors that may be prioritized by the JCPC for RFP development, as well as for highlighting prevalent issues among court involved juveniles that individual programs and community-based service organizations will want to consider when working with court-involved juveniles in the county.

All juveniles at intake receive the YASI Pre-Screen (33 questions) which is also embedded in each full assessment. The aggregate outputs from full YASI assessments are just one of the data sources used by the Committee and, are the focus of summaries that follow in this document.

YASI questions are framed in either a historic context (Legal History, for example), or in some cases, "current" or "prior three-months" timeframes for other, more dynamic, questions.

General Observations and Points of Interest

Risk Level: 58% assessed youth exhibited low risks. 45% assessed youth fell into the moderate risk range as compared to the state's average of 41% in the moderate range.

Needs Level: 86% of the assessed youth exhibited low or very low needs. This is significantly higher than the state's average of 55%.

Strengths Level: 83% of assessed youth exhibited high or very high strength levels. This is much higher than the state's average of 58%.

The youth of Polk County are low risk, have very low needs and have very high strengths levels.

Legal History

Q1 Previous Delinquent Referrals- 72% of the assessed youth had previous delinquent referrals.

Q2 Age at first referral – 3% of the assessed youth were under 12 when they were first referred. This is lower than the state level of 9%.

Family Domain

Q1 & 2 Kicked Out & Runaway –7% of assessed youth were kicked out of their home and 21% have run away from home and/or placement before.

Q4 Family Alcohol/Substance Abuse & Mental Health – 17% of the assessed youth had family members with alcohol and/or substance abuse issues compared to the State's rate of 12%. 7% of assessed youth had family members with mental health issues compared to the State's rate of 12%.

Q6 Living Arrangements – Only 7% of the assessed youth were in foster care. There are many times when DSS social workers stay overnight with juveniles in the offices so that the juveniles will have a safe place to sleep until placement can be found.

School Domain

Q3 School Conflict – 4% of assessed youth reported infractions in the past 3 months. This is lower than the State average of 16%. 36% of assessed youth were reported to the police by the school. This is higher than the state average of 22%.

Community & Peers

Q1 Peers/Associates – 41% report negative influences from friends. No Polk youth reported any involvement or influences from gang members.

Alcohol and Drugs- 34% of assessed youth reported "yes" to the question of alcohol/drug use.

Q2 Age at 1st use – 10% reported first using drugs or alcohol before age 12, 80% reported first use between ages 12-15, and 10% reported not using until 15 or older.

Mental Health Domain- The mental health domain applied to all assessed youth. The council would like to recognize that mental health problems are a pervasive illness that is deeply affecting children's education, safety, aggression, and futures. Untreated mental and behavioral health issues can have profound consequences on the trajectory of a child's life. 72% of the assessed youth answered yes to having mental health problems .

Q6 Victimization History – 17% assessed youth were considered to have some type of sexual vulnerability. This is higher than the state's rate of 6%. Also, 14% were victims of bullying.

Part II. Summary of Community Resources

The following is a list of existing resources. It is not a measure of resource effectiveness and/or sustainability:

JCPC Funded Programs 2025-2026

- Kids at work! Polk - Interpersonal Skill Building Program
- Vocational Directions Polk- Community Service and Restitution Program

Department of Public Safety - Community Programs Funded Programs

- Treatment Alternatives for Sexualized Kids (TASK) (Iredell) - Intensive intervention
- Methodist Home for Children, Inc. Multi-Purpose Group Home – Macon
- Western Area Multi-Purpose Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center
- AMI Kids North Carolina Family Services, Inc. Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Eckerd Connects - Short-Term Residential

Structured Activities

- Mentoring:
  - Big Brother and Big Sister (impossible for court youth to access)
- Interpersonal Skill Building
  - Polk County's School Clubs and Athletics
  - Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, Parks and Recreation, Faith Groups, 4-H, and private classes (financial barrier)
  - Steps to Hope Empower Martial Arts (adolescent skill-building karate)
- Tutoring/Academic Program:
  - After School Enrichment/PEAK program
  - After School Program - Middle School and High School
  - Higher Academia - 501 C 3 providing academic assistance. Will take community referrals
- Vocational Service
  - Career Tech (School Based/Restricted)
  - Job Corp (Restricted)
  - Vocational Rehab (17 & 18 only, but unlikely)

Restorative Services

- Vocational Directions (VD) - Restitution/Community Service (JCPC Funded)

Community Day Programming

- ARC
- Clinical Treatment
- Crisis Counseling: RHA Mobile Crisis (Individual)
- Clarvida – Medicaid/Indigent Services: substance abuse (limited)
- Counseling: Private sector providers
- Intensive In-Home Counseling: MST - Youth Villages, Clarvida

- Children's Hope Alliance - TASK (Sexually Aggressive Youth)
- Vaya LME: Private Sector Providers
- Medication Management
- Equine Therapy - Guiding Reigns and Promise Ponies Ministry
- Family Functional Therapy
- RHA Prevention Services-Early Intervention Substance Use Prevention Program (Teen Intervene) - provided at Polk Middle School

Residential Services

- Tarheel Challenge Academic Program (Limited and Restricted)
- Job Corp (Restricted)
- Therapeutic Foster Care (limited)
- Eckerd Connects
- Respite (Limited)
- Enhanced Services - Children's Hope Alliance (Sexual aggressive youth residential treatment)
- Foster Homes/Group Residential Program (Restricted Based on Funding)
- Domestic Violence Shelter - Steps to Hope (Restricted to victims of Domestic Violence)

Part III. Summary of Gaps and Barriers in the Continuum of Services

Structured Activities

- Mentoring (Limited Access for Court involved youth)
- Tutoring/Academic Enhancement (Restricted and Limited)
- Parent Training/Family Skill Building (Limited)
- Experiential Skill Building (Limited)
- Vocational Skill Building (Restricted)
- Interpersonal Skills (JCPC funded program would not be available without JCPC Funds)
- Mediation/Conflict Resolution (Not available in the community, but highly needed)

Restorative Services

- Restitution/Community Services (JCPC funded programs would not be available without JCPC Funds)
- Teen Court (Not available in the community, but highly needed and wanted)
- Lack of referrals for JCPC-funded programs from SROs

Clinical Treatment

- Psychological Assessment (Time Barrier, not JCPC-Funded)
- Home Based Counseling (Limited)
- Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment for Youth (Hard to Access and Limited)
- Sex Offender Treatment (Limited)
- Sex Offender Assessment (Limited)
- Psychological Educational Counseling

Residential Services

- High need for residential services.
- Group Home for Delinquent - Level III Youth and Post-Release Youth (Limited and Hard to Access)
- Foster Care for Pre-Adjudicated youth through Post Released Youth (Hard to Access)
- Runaway Shelter in Buncombe County is closed.
- Temporary Shelter Care - No good option for youth with high needs or in a crisis situation.

Gaps and Barriers to JCPC Programs and other Community Programs

- Lack of therapeutic foster care placements
- Families not having insurance or having the ability to pay copays or deductibles for health or behavioral health care
- Youth and families feeling isolated from peers, family and community
- Lack of availability of residential placements for PRTF or Level I Transportation
- Food insecurity
- Continuation of stressors/trauma on youth and families caused by COVID-19 pandemic
- Traumatic experiences that impact youth and parents
- Difficulty in scheduling health or behavior health appointments or psychiatric appointments

Part IV. Proposed Priority Services for Funding

The Committee proposes that the following services in ranked order be approved as the funding priorities for FY 2026-2027:
The committee compared the services needed to address the elevated Juvenile Risk Factors and Juvenile Needs with services currently available in the community. Services that are currently available in the community and are sufficient to meet the needs of court involved youth or those youth most at risk for court involvement are not considered as a priority for JCPC funding.

PRIORITIES FOR FY 2026-2027:
~ Substance Abuse Assessment/Treatment
~ Interpersonal Skills Building
~ Restitution/Community Service
~ Temporary Shelter
~ Parenting/Family Skill Building
~ Crisis Counseling
~ Psychological Assessment
~ Mediation
~ Structured Day
~ Home-Based Family Counseling
~ Tutoring/Academic Enhancement
~ Teen Court

Polk County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
Request for Proposals

$83,404	20%	February 16, 2026
Anticipated Annual Allocation	Required Local Match Rate	Date Advertised

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) has studied the risk factors and needs of Juvenile Court involved youth in this county and hereby publishes this Request for Proposals. The JCPC anticipates funds from the NC Dept. of Public Safety Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the amount stated above to fund the program types specified below. Such programs will serve delinquent and at-risk youth for the state fiscal year 2026-2027 beginning on, or after, July 1, 2026. The use of these funds in this county require a local match in the amount specified above. The county can approve programs for
1 or 2 year funding awards, dependent on county approval and programs meeting all requirements.

Based on identified needed programs and possible gaps in the service continuum, the following checked program types will be considered for funding:

☐ Mentoring Services	☒ Restitution/Community Service	☐ Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior
☒ Parent/Family Skill Building	☒ Teen Court – including Sentencing and Responsive Circles	☐ Group Home
☒ Interpersonal Skill Building	☒ Psychological Assessments	☒ Temporary Shelter Care
☐ Vocational Skills	☐ Family Counseling	☐ Runaway Shelter Care
☐ Experiential Skills	☒ Home Based Family Counseling	☐ Specialized Foster Care
☒ Tutoring/Academic Enhancement	☒ Individual/Group/Mixed Counseling	☐ Temporary Foster Care
☒ Mediation/Conflict Resolution – including Truancy Mediation, Victim-Youth and Family Group Conferencing, Responsive Circles	☒ Substance Abuse Counseling	☒ Juvenile Structured Day

Proposed program services should target the following risk factors for delinquency or repeat delinquency:
Previous Delinquent Referrals, Family Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Family Mental Health, Living Arrangements (Foster Care and/or Independent Living situations), School
Conflicts, Youth Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Youth Mental Health, History of Victimization, and Aggression i.e. Bullying/Threatening and Assaultive Behavior

Proposed services should address the following concerns as reported in the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YAS) for adjudicated youth:
Peer Domain:
Individual Domain: Previous Delinquent Referrals, Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Youth Mental Health, History of victimization, Aggression (bullying/threatening, and assaultive behavior)
Family Domain: Living Arrangements (Being in Foster Care and/or Independent Living situations), Family Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Family Mental Health
School Domain: Infractions and Police Reports filed by the school

Applicants are being sought that are able to address items below:
1. Program services compatible with research that are shown to be effective with juvenile offenders.
2. Program services are outcome-based.
3. The program has an evaluation component.
4. Program services detect gang participation and divert individuals from gang participation.
5. Awareness of and sensitivity to Racial Ethnic Disparity that exists in the County.
6. Programs are encouraged to provide effective programming that includes restorative justice practices.

Only local public agencies, 501c3 non-profit corporations and local housing authorities will be considered for funding.

In order to apply for FY 2026-2027 JCPC funding, you must complete and submit your application online by accessing NC ALLIES. Please read and follow all instructions at: https://cp.ncdjjdp.org/CP
Additional self-help videos on the NC ALLIES webpage are available by clinking on the HELP tab.
Private non-profits are also required to submit, by uploading in NC ALLIES, the following:
1) No Over Due Tax form, 2) DPS Conflict of Interest Statement,
3) Agency Conflict of Interest Policy, and 4) Proof of 501(c)(3) status. (#1 & #2 are available at the above link.)

Jessica Winkel — JCPC Chairperson / or Designee

jessica.winkel@vayahealth.com — Email

For further information or other technical assistance about applying for JCPC funds in this county or about the program application workshop, contact:

Regina Arrowood, DPS Area Consultant at .828-230-3590

The deadline for receiving the application: **March 18, 2026 by 5:00pm** **(Email or deliver) to:** **jessica.winkel@vayahealth.com**

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding Decisions Summary

Funding Decision for:	**FY** 2026-2027	Date Completed:	5/11/2026
Program(s) Funded	**Select 1-year or 2-year funding and reason(s) for Funding**		**(Check all that apply)**
Aspire Kids at Work	☐ 2-year Funding approved for FY and OR ☒ 1-year Funding approved for FY2026-2027 **Rationale for 2-year Funding approval:** ☐ Funded in past years ☐ In good standing with county/JCPC and DPS (following PA, timely reports, reporting to JCPC as requested) ☐ Favorable JCPC monitoring ☐ In compliance with Consultant Monitoring ☐ Quality of Service Assessment (QOS) rating is min 70% (min. score of 14) OR progress made on PEP in QOS. ☐ Provides an essential dispositional option, explain: ☐ Meets target population as described in Program Agreement (*number served, and described target population*), with minimal exceptions (i.e. less than 10% variance) ☒ Meets funding priority ☐ Compatible with research ☐ Cost efficient ☐ Addresses reductions of complaints, violations of supervision & convictions ☐ Has evaluation component ☐ Addresses parental accountability ☐ Addresses use of alcohol/controlled substances ☐ Addresses restitution to victims ☐ Addresses gang participation ☐ Would increase funding to this service if funds were available ☐ Other Other		
Aspire Vocational Directions	☐ 2-year Funding approved for FY and OR ☒ 1-year Funding approved for FY 2026-2027 **Rationale for 2-year Funding approval:** ☐ Funded in past years ☐ In good standing with county/JCPC and DPS (following PA, timely reports, reporting to JCPC as requested) ☐ Favorable JCPC monitoring ☐ In compliance with Consultant Monitoring ☐ Quality of Service Assessment (QOS) rating is min 70% (min. score of 14) OR progress made on PEP in QOS. ☐ Provides an essential dispositional option, explain: ☐ Meets target population as described in Program Agreement (*number served, and described target population*), with minimal exceptions (i.e. less than 10% variance) ☒ Meets funding priority ☐ Compatible with research ☐ Cost efficient ☐ Addresses reductions of complaints, violations of supervision & convictions ☐ Has evaluation component ☐ Addresses parental accountability ☐ Addresses use of alcohol/controlled substances ☒ Addresses restitution to victims ☐ Addresses gang participation ☐ Would increase funding to this service if funds were available ☐ Other Other		
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November 2, 2020

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding Decisions Summary

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November 2, 2020

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding Decisions Summary

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Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Funding Decisions Summary

Program Not Funded	Reason for Not Funding (Check all that apply)
	☐ Lack of funding, addresses priority need and would fund if resources allowed ☐ Does not meet funding priority ☐ Not compatible with research ☐ Lesser quality than another program funded of its type ☐ Greater cost than program of same type and quality ☐ Other ☐ Other
	☐ Lack of funding, addresses priority need and would fund if resources allowed ☐ Does not meet funding priority ☐ Not compatible with research ☐ Lesser quality than another program funded of its type ☐ Greater cost than program of same type and quality ☐ Other ☐ Other
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November 2, 2020

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

G.S. 143B-853 allows for a 2-year funding cycle for programs that meet the requirements of the statute and have been awarded funds in a prior funding cycle. Indicate below if the JCPC plans to allow for a 1-year or 2-year funding cycle.

1-Year Funding: FY 2026-2027

Membership

A. Have the members of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council been appointed by county commissioners? Yes
B. Are members appointed for two-year terms and are those terms staggered? Yes
C. Is membership reflective of social-economic and racial diversity of the community? No
D. Does the membership of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council reflect the required positions as provided by N.C.G.S. §143B-846? No

If not, which positions are vacant and why?

Polk Co is recruiting for the Local Sheriff, Member of Faith Community, A person under 21, Juvenile Defense Attorney, Chief District Judge, Member of Business Community and Representative of Parks and Rec.

Organization

A. Does the JCPC have written Bylaws? Yes
B. Bylaws are On file
C. Bylaws contain Conflict of Interest section per JCPC policy and procedure. Yes
D. Does the JCPC have written policies and procedures for funding and review? Yes
E. These policies and procedures On file
F. Does the JCPC have officers and are they elected annually? Yes

Meetings

A. JCPC meetings are considered open and public notice of meetings is provided. Yes
B. Is a quorum defined as the majority of membership and required to be present in order to conduct business at JCPC meetings? Yes
C. Does the JCPC meet six (6) times a year at a minimum? Yes
D. Are minutes taken at all official meetings? Yes
E. Are minutes distributed prior to or during subsequent meetings? Yes

Planning

A. Does the JCPC conduct a biennial planning process which includes a needs assessment, monitoring of programs and funding allocation process? Yes
B. Is this Biennial Plan presented to the Board of County Commissioners and to DPS? Yes
C. Is the Funding Plan approved by the full council and submitted to Commissioners for their approval? Yes

Public Awareness

A. Does the JCPC communicate the availability of funds to all public and private non-profit agencies which serve children or their families and to other interested community members? Yes
☑RFP, Distribution List, and Advertisement attached
B. Does the JCPC complete a biennial needs assessment and make that information available to agencies which serve children or their families, and to interested community members? Yes

No Overdue Tax Debt

A. As recipient of the county DPS JCPC allocation, does the County certify that it has no overdue tax debts, as defined by N.C.G.S. §105-243.1, at the Federal, State, or local level? Yes

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JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Briefly outline the plan for correcting any areas of standards non-compliance.

Polk Co is working to recruit members reflective of the community, racial and social economic makeup.

JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Instructions: N.C.G.S. § 143B-846 specifies suggested members be appointed by county commissioners to serve on local Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils. In certain categories, a designee may be appointed to serve. Please indicate the person appointed to serve in each category and his/her title. Indicate appointed members who are designees for named positions. Indicate race and gender for all appointments.

Polk County - FY 26-27

Specified Members	Name	Title	Designee	Race	Gender
1) School Superintendent or designee	Todd Murphy	Superintendent		White	Male
2) Chief of Police or designee	Scott Hamby	Chief of Police for Columbus		White	Male
3) Local Sheriff or designee	VACANT				
4) District Attorney or designee	Robert Beaver	Assistant DA	☑	White	Male
5) Chief Court Counselor or designee	Adrienne Becton-Marsh	Chief Court Counselor		Black or African-American	Female
6) Director, Local Management Entity/ Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO), or designee	Jessica Winkel	System Care Coordinator	☑	White	Female
7) Director DSS or designee	Robin Elliot	Social Work Supervisor	☑	White	Female
8) County Manager or designee	Ange High	Clerk/County Manager Assistant	☑	White	Female
9) Substance Abuse Professional	VACANT				
10) Member of Faith Community	VACANT				
11) County Commissioner	Jennifer Hargett	County Commissioner		White	Female
12) A Person Under the Age of 21	Celia Pittman	Person Under 21		White	Female
13) A Person Under the Age of 21, or a member of the public representing the interests of families of at-risk juveniles	VACANT				
14) Juvenile Defense Attorney	VACANT				
15) Chief District Judge or designee	VACANT				
16) Member of Business Community	VACANT				
17) Local Health Director or designee	Doreen Iacona	HHS Agency	☑	White	Female
18) Rep. United Way/other non-profit	VACANT				
19) Representative/Parks and Rec	Holly Williams	Parks and Recreation		White	Female
20) County Commissioner appointee	Teri Palmer	Commissioner appointee	☑	Black or African-American	Female
21) County Commissioner appointee	VACANT				
22) County Commissioner appointee	VACANT				
23) County Commissioner appointee	VACANT				
24) County Commissioner appointee	VACANT				
25) County Commissioner appointee	VACANT				
26) County Commissioner appointee	VACANT				

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2026-2027 Polk County JCPC-Funded Programs

Aspire Kids at Work: Kids At Work is an interpersonal skills development program based around the culinary arts. Youth are a part of the program for 16 weeks and meet for three hours once a week for instruction. The curriculum consists of 24 hands-on lessons that are designed to meet the clients' unique learning styles and help them apply the skills in a work environment. Youth ages 15+ also receive SERV Safe training and exam, making them more markable for employment

Aspire Vocational Directions: Vocational Directions is a restitution/community service program designed to provide juveniles with accountability for their previous actions while also learning about different careers through their exposure at various service sites. Youth learn from the individuals who work in those locations while also contributing to the site and/or those it serves.