

SFY2027 Alternatives to Detention Support Subgrant Application

Title II Formula Grant

South Dakota Department of Corrections

APPLICATION DUE: June 18, 2026

Applicants with original signatures must be **submitted and received** by the Department of Corrections by the close of business on **June 18, 2026**. Faxed and emailed applications will not be accepted. Submit complete applications to:

*John Stewart
Department of Corrections
3200 East Highway 34
Pierre, SD 57501-5070*

RECEIVED

JUN 18 2026

DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS

Funding under this application is non-competitive and not guaranteed to each applicant. The application narrative and budget must be approved by both the SD Department of Corrections and the Council of Juvenile Services. If approved, the application content will be presented to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for their approval of any addition of program purpose areas that may be needed to support the approved plan.

SECTION 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant: Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota		
Address: 705 East 41 st Street, Suite 200		
City/State/Zip: Sioux Falls, SD 57105-6048	Phone: 605-444-7500	Fax: 605-444-7530
Email: Amy.Witt@LssSD.org	Federal Employer or Payee Identification Number (FEIN): 46-0224731	
Project Director Name: Staci Jonson		Title: Vice President, Program Operations
Agency: Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota	Address: 3505 Cambell Street	
City/State/Zip: Rapid City, SF 57701	Phone: 605-389-8468	Fax: 605-444-7540
Email: Staci.Jonson@LssSD.org		
Please indicate the name of the service(s) implemented: JDAI Coordination and court expeditor services		
Project Title:	JDAI Coordination	
Requested Project Period:	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027	

SECTION 2. PROJECT BUDGET

The Council of Juvenile Services will award or not award funding based the extent to which program design addresses a recognized need and whether the proposal is financially responsible and efficient. Funds will be paid through a reimbursement process for items specifically outlined and approved in the application.

Applicants may apply for up to \$75,000.

Non-supplanting Requirements: Funds or other resources of the applicant normally devoted to programs and activities designed to meet the needs of criminal justice will not be diminished in any way as a result of a grant award of federal funds. The project for which assistance is being requested will be in addition to, and not a substitute for, criminal justice services previously provided without federal assistance.

A. Personnel	TOTAL
Court Expeditor (.50)	\$23,000
JDAI Coordinator (.25)	\$15,000
<i>Employee Fringe Benefits @ 25%</i>	\$9,500
TOTAL	\$47,500
B. Contracted Services	TOTAL
N/A	\$0
TOTAL	\$ 0
C. Travel and Per Diem	TOTAL
300 miles/year @ \$.70 (local travel)	\$210
TOTAL	\$210
D. Equipment	TOTAL
	\$0
TOTAL	\$0
E. Operating Expenses	TOTAL
Office/Meeting Supplies	\$1,995
12.3.% indirect rate	\$5,868
TOTAL	\$7,863
Total Project Budget -- Combined totals for all columns	\$53,573

NOTE: If there is a change in the above budget, programs will need to request an amendment to their budget. All amendments must be requested in writing **prior to the expenditure of funds.**

SECTION 3. BUDGET NARRATIVE

In the space provided, explain the relationship between budgeted items listed in Section 2 and project activities. Include information (data and criteria) as to how you arrived at budget estimates. Discuss all items by category and in full.		
Personnel Narrative - Explain how the compensation and expenses were calculated, duties of the position, and any other information about personnel of the project. If proposed funding covers more than one position, you must identify the duties and estimated percent of time for duties that directly relate to the successful implementation of the program(s).		
Position #1:	Court Expeditor	
Justification for the position :	This position would coordinate with the juvenile, their parent/guardian, court services, Department of Social Services, Department of Corrections, and any other supports in the juveniles' life to facilitate information to the court staffing team, as well as track and facilitate the court process to ensure that juveniles move through the court process in a timely manner.	
If the position is existing staff , explain how duties associated with this award are outside the current scope of their position and a provide a plan explaining how all duties associated with the position will continue to be provided and funded during this award:	This will be a .50 employee – this is part of an existing position; however, their work duties will be adjusted to allow time for this individual to gather, update, and track case specific data in Pennington County.	
Personnel Responsibilities & Duties <i>(must directly relate to the implementation of the program)</i>		Estimated % Time
1. Review all juvenile RAIs for youth who were held in an alternative or secure detention		10%
2. Complete an expeditor packet with input from the juvenile, their family and support system		50%
3. Complete two week reviews for all youth who are in an alternative or held in secure detention		40%
4.		
Wage/Salary:		
Benefits:		
Position #2:	JDAI Coordinator	
Justification for the position :	This position would support the re-engagement of community partners and stakeholders in Pennington County to evaluate, develop, and maintain the JDAI model in Pennington County.	
If the position is existing staff , explain how duties associated with this award are outside the current scope of their position and a provide a plan explaining how all duties associated with the position will continue to be provided and funded during this award:	The Program Director at Arise/West would take on these responsibilities and would spend approximately 25% of his time on JDAI Coordination. Responsibilities that have historically been his will shift to other program leadership to allow the Director to take on JDAI Coordinator tasks.	
Personnel Responsibilities & Duties <i>(must directly relate to the implementation of the program)</i>		Estimated % Time
1. Stakeholder engagement		75%
2. Scheduling and Leading steering committee meetings		25%
3.		
4.		
Wage/Salary:		

Benefits:	
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Please attach additional sheets for more than 2 positions
SECTION 3. BUDGET NARRATIVE CONTINUED

Contracted Services Narrative - Explain the consultant fees, consultant expenses, contracted services, the cost per service/per youth being served, how the cost for services was calculated, and the process that would be or has been conducted to select the consultant. **Contracted services fees cannot exceed \$650 per day.**

Consultant #1:	N/A
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Consultant Fees:	
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Contracted Service:	
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Selection Process:	
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Consultant #2:	N/A
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Consultant Fees:	
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Contracted Service:	
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Selection Process:	
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Travel and Per Diem Narrative – Explain the calculation of travel costs for travel **outside the home jurisdiction**, (travel **must be calculated at current state rates** (\$0.70 per mile and \$40 per diem)), how the expenses are directly related to the implementation of the project, and if out-of-state travel is anticipated, give particulars (i.e., location, state, dates, purpose, cost).

Purpose of Travel:	JDAI Statewide Meeting
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300 miles x \$0.70 = \$210

Purpose of Travel:	JDAI Conference (Indiana)
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Equipment and Operating Expenses Narrative – Explain the supplies and equipment costs directly related to the implementation of the program or project. You must be specific regarding the items in which you intend to use federal funding. For example, a budget item of “office expenses” will not be accepted as these items must be detailed. You need to identify what you anticipate for office expenses and list each item and the estimated costs. Items not specifically outlined will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Equipment – List nonexpendable items that are to be purchased and show how you calculated these costs. Nonexpendable equipment is tangible property having a useful life of more than 2 years.

N/A

Operating Expenses – List items by type (office supplies, postage, training materials, copying paper, and expendable equipment) and show how you calculated these costs. Generally, supplies include any materials that are expendable or consumed during the course of the project.

Office/Meeting Supplies - \$1995

Indirect rate of 12.3% - \$5868

SECTION 7. ATTACHMENTS

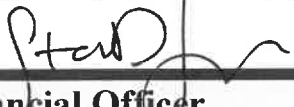
Description of Attachments – Identify and describe the significance of all additional materials you include as attachments. Please limit additional materials to items such as program effectiveness documentation; pertinent letters of support or commitment; research documentation; resource documentation; and any other materials. Attach all additional documents following this page.

Attachment 1
Letter of Support from Western South Dakota CJS
Attachment 2
Resume for Mark Kiepke
Attachment 3
Resume for Sarah Maciejewski
Attachment 4
Attachment 5
Attachment 6

ENCLOSE RELEVANT ATTACHMENTS AFTER THIS PAGE

SECTION 6. SIGNATURES

The officials who certify this document agree to adhere to all terms and conditions relating to this application. Duplication of responsibilities by one individual for any position listed below is NOT acceptable.

Original Signatures are Required		
County Commission Chair		
Name	Title	
Address	City/State/Zip	
E-mail	Phone	Fax
Signature	Date	
B. Project Director		
Name: Staci Jonson	Title: Vice President, Program Operations	
Address: 705 E 41 st St, Suite 200	City/State/Zip: Sioux Falls, SD 57103	
E-mail: Staci.Jonson@LssSD.org	Phone: 605-389-8468	Fax: 605-444-7540
Signature 	Date 6.15.2024	
C. Financial Officer		
Name Nathan Beyer	Title: Vice President, Finance & Support Services	
Address 705 E. 41 st Street, Suite 200	City/State/Zip: Sioux Falls, SD 57103	
E-mail: Nathan.Beyer@LssSD.org	Phone: 605-444-7508	Fax: 605-444-7540
Signature 	Date 6/17/26	
D. Other Official		
Name	Title	
Address	City/State/Zip	
E-mail	Phone	Fax
Signature	Date	



Strengthening Individuals,
Families & Communities

Alternative to Detention Application Narrative

A proposal to the South Dakota Department of Corrections
from Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota

Due June 18, 2026

SECTION 4. APPLICATION NARRATIVE

Project Abstract and Demonstration of Need

In FY26, at the request of the Unified Judicial Services, LSS submitted a grant request to fulfill the roles of JDAI Coordinator and Court Expeditor. LSS has been implementing these positions in cooperation with Pennington County and is applying to continue this work. The JDAI Coordinator is a key position in Pennington County that insures that stakeholder agencies are adopting best practices for juvenile justice. This includes ensuring that youth involved with the justice system receive the appropriate, quality care within a reasonable timeframe.

In our work with Alternatives to Detention work over the last decade, data demonstrates that the length of stay within shelter care (like LSS-SD's Arise Youth Center West) and extended detention facilities is trending upward each year. The average length of stay in shelter care for a youth in Pennington County has increased every year since 2022, rising from 12.46 days to 17.7 days in 2025 YTD. Since implementation in 2025, however, we saw our first reduction in ALOS to 14.14. This is an important indicator that there is room for efficiency as youth move through the court process to best serve youth in the juvenile justice system in Pennington County and we have demonstrated success increasing efficiency through dedicated focus on each case as they proceed through the juvenile court process.

In an effort to support the ongoing implementation of JDAI, adhere to the values they espouse

and increase engagement with stakeholders, we have implemented LSS management of JDAI coordination and court expeditor duties – these duties were distributed amongst two existing LSS Arise Youth Center – West staff positions. This division of duties has allowed for improved data analysis and evaluation, consistent leadership for engaging and communicating with all partners and stakeholders and a more efficient process through the court system for improved success for youth and families.

Community Readiness

LSS has witnessed the ongoing commitment from Pennington County to see efficiencies made to ensure effective processes for youth involved with the justice system. The court system, detention system and law enforcement see the value in the work of JDAI and are eager to see ongoing improvements made throughout the process which benefits the youth and their families as well as the community at large.

LSS has a strong history of partnership with the Rapid City Area Schools through our other youth program work. Rapid City Area Schools see the value in alternative to detention as it allows youth to remain in school while working through the court process. When the interruption to education can be diminished for youth, their chances for academic success increase. According to the Juvenile Law Center, justice involvement severely disrupts high school education by causing learning gaps and arrested youth are significantly less likely to graduate.

The primary barrier to change is creating the spaces for coordinated stakeholder engagement.

This proposal calls for the JDAI Coordinator tasks to prioritize system evaluations that provide

quality data points so the areas of need are clearly seen and informed strategies can be implemented. We acknowledge an air of implausibility can be present when attempting to make changes within an established system, but we believe community and stakeholder buy-in is possible as we improve data collection and analysis and make data-informed adjustments to improve best practices.

Alignment with South Dakota JDAI Implementation

Our proposal would allow LSS to continue to elevate the JDAI values in a number of ways. The JDAI Coordinator has maintained, monitored, and shared data that informs strategic conversations between stakeholders. For example, accurately tracking how long youth wait for a court appearance will help partners around the table develop strategies that can improve the process. In using data to direct decisions, we are able to ensure the right youth are in the right place at the right time for maximum benefit for all.

The JDAI Coordinator role will utilize the data to inform decisions and guide stakeholder engagement. Data helps inform decisions that will yield confidence that youth are receiving the best care for their situation while accounting for public safety. Utilizing assessments like the RAI provide an objective tool that can formulate the best option for all parties that prioritizes mutual benefit for all without compromising the integrity of the process or safety for all.

The JDAI Coordinator will use data to determine where there are disparities in the justice system regarding race, ethnicity and gender. The JDAI Coordinator will then work with stakeholders to address and reduce those disparities. For instance, if the data indicates that cases involving Native American youth are overridden at a higher rate than other demographics, the

Coordinator will work with stakeholders so that these disparities can be corrected and work toward equity within the process for all youth.

There are several ways this proposal looks to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The Court Expeditor will be the point of contact between youth and families, court services, DSS and DOC. They will work to ensure that youth continue to move through the system in a timely manner, allowing each case to be resolved as efficiently and effectively as possible. In addition, the JDAI Coordinator will serve as the lead in facilitating stakeholder meetings. This will ensure that all parties are communicating effectively and have a common understanding of goals and expected roles in order to make progress.

In Pennington County, there were 596 RAIs completed on 332 youth in CY 2024. 61.24% of 596 indicated for release, 25.34% indicated for an alternative, and 13.42% indicated for secure detention. 42.79% of 596 were actually released, 33.56% were held in secure detention, 6.21% were held in shelter care, 17.11% were conditionally released, and .34% were a DOC hold only.

Strategy for Implementation

This proposal takes on the position of JDAI Coordinator, which has historically been filled by court system staff. Due to system changes, court system staff have less time to dedicate to this coordinator position. LSS has successfully transitioned this role and maintains strong partnership with the court system in ongoing implementation. This has allowed for focused time to be given to realignment with JDAI core values. LSS has had two separate roles in 2025: JDAI Coordinator and Court Expeditor. These roles are divided among two Arise Youth Center –

West staff. The implementation of these roles has been successful. The court expeditor focuses their roles on the families and day to day court operations for youth who are in custody or on community supervision. The coordinator has focused on the big picture of JDAI implementation and broader system and community engagement.

LSS recognizes that building trusted relationships in the Rapid City area is essential to getting traction to influence systemic change. The Arise staff who would fulfill these roles are known in the community and are credible partners among stakeholders. This established trust will allow change to occur at a faster rate. In addition, the Court Expeditor role simply expounds on the work that Arise staff are already doing in this area which allows us to leverage our expertise as work to serve youth and families more effectively.

The primary goals for this proposal are:

- 1) Decrease the average length of stay for youth in secure detention and shelter care.
- 2) Decrease or maintain appropriate override rate.
- 3) Evaluate and implement any recommendations from the most recent system assessment in Pennington County that was completed in Spring 2026.

Project Performance Measures and Evaluation

Since 2013, LSS has reported on JDAI data. Our agency houses data from RAIs and the Evening Report Center. The expertise and knowledge of confidential data gathering and reporting is a strength we bring to this proposal.

Description of Project Geographic Boundaries

This project will serve families and youth in Pennington County who are involved in the justice system and their families.

Target Population

Target Population Details (Place an "X" in the box to the <i>left</i> of all those that apply)					
Race(s):		Offender Type(s):		Geography:	
X	American Indian/Alaskan Native	X	At-Risk Population (no prior offense)	X	Rural
X	Asian	X	First Time Offenders	X	Suburban
X	Black/African American	X	Repeat Offenders	X	Tribal
X	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	X	Sex Offenders	X	Urban
X	Other Race	X	Status Offenders	Age:	
X	White/Caucasian	X	Violent Offenders	X	Under 11
Sex:		Referral Source:		X	12-13
X	Female	X	School	X	Court System
X	Male	X	State's Attorney		Other _____
				X	14-15
				X	16-18

Cost Proposal

The cost proposal consists of personnel costs associated with assigning role responsibilities of the JDAI Coordinator and Court Expeditor to current Arise Youth Center – West staff. This includes salaries, fringe benefits, travel expenses and indirect costs.

The indirect cost reflects our federally negotiated rate of 12.3%.

Program Budget

EXPENSES	TOTAL
Personnel	
JDAI Coordinator (.25)	\$15,000
Court Expeditor (.50)	\$23,000
Employee Fringe Benefits	9,500
Travel and Per Diem	
300 miles/year @ \$0.70 per mile	\$210
Operating Expenses	
Office/Meeting Supplies	\$1995
Indirect Costs	\$5,868
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$55,573

SECTION 5: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND ASSURANCES

Council of Juvenile Services Conflict of Interest Identification

Council Member: Amy Witt

Description of potential conflict of interest: Amy Witt is the Chief Program Officer of Lutheran Social Services. Amy Witt derives compensation from her position at LSS, the entity that is party to this contract.



Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center

Operated via agreement with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office

3505 Cambell Street, Rapid City, SD 57701
www.penningtoncountysheriff.com
Ph. (605) 394-2639
Fax (605) 394-5136



June 10, 2026

South Dakota Department of Corrections
3200 East Highway 34
Pierre, SD 5750-5070

The Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center recognizes and values the vital services that Lutheran Social Services provides for families across South Dakota. We are in full support of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota submitting an application for the Alternatives to Detention grant through the South Dakota Department of Corrections.

Thank you for giving your careful consideration to Lutheran Social Services' proposal.

Sincerely,

Joe Gutierrez
Commander

MARK J. KIEPKE

QUALIFICATIONS

I have been working with at risk youth for the last twenty-three years, through my experience I have gained experience in working with challenging individuals and families..

TRAINING

Safe Crisis Management: De-escalation and restraint training (Initial Certification – 2007), CPR/First Aid, Supervisory Trainings through Lutheran Social Services, PRIDE Training, Completed annual training hours per Lutheran Social Services training requirements.

EDUCATION

1999-2004 Bachelors of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, University of South Dakota

EMPLOYMENT

2017 –Current – Arise West Program Director, Lutheran Social Services.

Developing and maintain the overall program to ensure a safe environment for youth ages 10 to 17 in a reception/shelter care program. Provide direct supervision, ongoing evaluation and training to staff; recruiting, hiring and training.

2014 –2017- Foster Care Program Manager, Lutheran Social Services, Foster Care Program

Oversee the foster care program to include staff, foster parents and foster children. Perform intake, assessment, initial and ongoing education/training services for foster care providers. Perform recruitment activities for foster care providers. Perform intake and coordination services for foster care referrals.

2008-2014 - Associate Director, Lutheran Social Services, Summit Oaks I and II

Developing and maintain the overall program to ensure a safe and therapeutic environment for youth ages 10 to 17 in the intensive/psychiatric residential treatment program. Provide direct supervision, ongoing evaluation and training to staff; recruiting, hiring as well as initial orientation and training.

2007-2008 – Residential Supervisor, Lutheran Social Services, Summit Oaks II

Direct and maintain a therapeutic environment for youth ages 10-17 in the Intensive Residential Treatment program. Provide direct supervision, evaluation and training to designated residential staff. Assist in hiring, orientation and training. Attend and participate in designated team meetings and in-service training and crisis intervention.

2006-2007 Safety and Security Officer I, Lookout Mountain, Division of Youth Corrections

Work with youth with mental health issues in a long-term treatment facility, provide safety and security, control responsibility and co-facilitate of some groups, role model positive adult behavior, and de-escalate youth.

2005-2006 Youth Treatment Counselor, Tennyson Center for Children

Responsible for the implementation of a therapeutic milieu, group and individual treatment programs and the daily supervision and care of children living in a residential units and classroom (ages 5-14).

2003-2005 Youth Counselor, Lutheran Social Services-Woodfield Center

Work with youth in a long-term treatment facility, provide safety and supervision, de-escalate angry youth, help with chemical dependency issues, anger issues, sexual abuse issues, and teach life skills through reality therapy.

1997-2003 Unit Armorer/Supply Specialist/Admin, South Dakota Army National

Guard Issuing weapons and other equipment to soldiers, doing inventory on equipment and other guard duties.

SARAH MACIEJEWSKI

406 North 25th Street Hot Springs, SD 57747 · (605) 890-5941 · tsiamrah@gwtc.net

For the past 30 years, my focus has been on supporting my family and their needs. Through my experiences with my own children and the experience listed below, I value the family systems and strength-based approaches. My primary goal is to have a positive impact on people when they are going through difficult or troubling times and provide hope.

EXPERIENCE

APRIL 2023-PRESENT

RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR, ARISE YOUTH CENTER WEST-I provide supervision and daily groups to youth while creating a safe space for them. I assist the youth and their families with maneuvering the process and connecting them to resources whenever possible. I have gained a depth of knowledge in this role, including working with multiple systems, such as therapists, lawyers, DSS, etc., the juvenile court system, runaway homeless resources and care logic. I have confidence and pride in the work that we do at Arise. I see first-hand the impact we can make here and I am passionate about continuing to build that.

FEBRUARY 2012 – PRESENT

COURT APPOINTMENT SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA), 7TH CIRCUIT COURT- I work with abused and neglected children, as well as their families and other systems, involved in the Department of Social Service. My responsibilities include the following: investigating the current and background facts thoroughly as a fact-finder for judges, advocating for children's best interests by providing factual written reports to judges and speaking for the child in the courtroom, facilitating communication in the case and monitoring the case until its completion. In addition, I create meaningful relationships with these children through our connections and interactions, providing consistency and safety for them to express themselves and find comfort. I have helped families achieve reunification when appropriate while making sure the children's emotional, educational, physical and psychological needs were being met. I have recently played a role in reunification of my previous three cases.

EDUCATION

MAY 1994

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 1996

COLLEGE COURSEWORK, BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY

I spent roughly two years as a full-time student, taking courses in Early Childhood Development.

SKILLS

- Experience navigating multiple systems such as:
schools, courts, counselors and other
community agencies
- Creative and innovative
- Patience in high-stress situations •
Compassion, empathy and hope while
meeting people where they are at •
Problem solver

TRAINING AND AWARDS

- 35 hours of initial advocacy training completed on 03/25/2012
- I have completed 12+ hours of training each year since 2013 including but not limited to: CPR First Aid, Narcan, Safe Crisis Management, Youth Mental Health First Aid Certified, Advocacy Training, Drug and Alcohol Training, Adult/Child Trauma, Poverty, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility walk throughs, Children's Attorney Training, Value or Permanency, Domestic Violence Awareness, 211 Helpline and Children's Justice Conferences
- AWARDS-Above and Beyond Aware-2018, Helpline Center Spirit of Volunteerism Award-2021, CARES Award, Employee of the Month