

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Award of CJCC Subgrant AW-ACFP-27-074

DATE: August 17, 2026

☒ **RECOMMENDATION**

☐ **POLICY DISCUSSION**

BUDGET INFORMATION:

☐ **STATUS REPORT**

ANNUAL- \$274,492.00

☐ **OTHER**

CAPITAL-

PRESENTED BY: Lupe Banda and Deanna Guerrero

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: August 17, 2026

PURPOSE: To request approval for acceptance of the award of CJCC Subgrant AW-ACFP-27-074 and delegation of signing authority for documents related to acceptance of this award to Superior Court Judge Nichole Carswell.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY: The Accountability Courts were awarded CJCC Subgrant AW-ACFP-27-074. The purpose of the State Accountability Court Program is to allocate state funds to local courts and judicial circuits of established specialty courts for the intent to fund the overall operational costs for these specialty courts. These specialty courts, such as mental health court, effectively integrate evidence-based substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives and transitional services in judicially supervised court settings with jurisdiction over substance abusing offenders.

The funds from this subgrant will be used by Mental Health Court to continue operations. Funds will be used to provide salaries for existing employees, compensate various specialized contractors for services provided such as surveillance, lab confirmations, treatment services, etc. Mental Health Courts offer intensive treatment along with court supervision to individuals who are in the criminal justice system and have been identified with a substance use disorder and a severe and persistent mental illness. These individuals would otherwise remain in the jail at the expense of the taxpayers. Having individuals participate in the drug court programs as an alternative to incarceration saves the taxpayers around \$4,000/year for each participant. This grant is effective July 1, 2026 with a termination date of June 30, 2027. The total grant is \$274,492.00 with \$233,318.00 in state funds and required 15% match of \$41,174.00. The funds for this match will come from collected participant fees and D.A.T.E funds; there is no anticipated cost to the county.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- The funds for the 15% local match for this grant would come from participant fees and D.A.T.E funds.
 - Accountability Court programs save the County around \$4,000/year for each participant.
 - This grant is awarded annually to cover the operational cost of the program.
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OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve recommendation
 - 2) Deny recommendation
 - 3) Commission defined alternative
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RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION: “I motion to approve acceptance of the award of CJCC Subgrant AW-ACFP-27-074 and authorize Chairman to sign documents related to the acceptance of the grant award including delegation of signing to Superior Court Judge Nichole Carswell.”

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Brandalin Carnes

Director: _____

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMENTS:** _____

_____ **DATE:** _____
County Manager

GRANT AWARD

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

SUBAWARDEE:	Habersham County Board of Commissioners	CFDA NUMBER:	
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	58-6001495	SUBAWARD NUMBER:	AW-ACFP-27-074
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:	Mountain Mental Health Court	SUBGRANT PERIOD:	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027
PROJECT TYPE:	Mental Health Court	SUB AWARD AMOUNT:	\$233,318.00
AWARD NUMBER:		MATCHING FUNDS:	\$41,174.00
AWARD PERIOD:	-	TOTAL FUNDS:	\$274,492.00

This award is made under the Council of Accountability Courts Judges State of Georgia grant program. The purpose of the Accountability Court Grants program is to make grants to local courts and judicial circuits to establish specialty courts or dockets to address offenders arrested for drug charges or mental health issues. This grant program is subject to the administrative rules established by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. This Subgrant shall become effective on the beginning date of the grant period, provided that a properly executed original of this "Subgrant Award" is returned to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council within 45 days of receipt.

Reimbursement/Payment
Frequency:

Agency Approval



Jay Neal, Director
Criminal Justice Coordinating
Date
6/17/2026

Awardee Approval

Signed Name: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____