

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
FOR
Problem Solving Courts Program Area
Drug Treatment Courts
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Nationwide, 80 percent of all offenders in the criminal justice system (about 1.4 million individuals) are substance abusers, and two-thirds of the 3 million probationers under court supervision are involved in alcohol or drugs. Despite the overwhelming prevalence of substance abuse, only about 3 percent of drug-using offenders participate in drug court programs. Drug treatment courts must focus on a broad population if they are to have a substantial impact.

Drug treatment courts involve comprehensive programs that include frequent drug testing, supervision, treatment, judicial monitoring and court-mandated sanctions. Drug treatment courts also serve to generate new levels of program coordination within the criminal justice system - creating partnerships with community organizations, fostering collaboration between governmental agencies, inspiring judicial leadership and forging innovative linkages with law enforcement.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Drug treatment court systems offer an integrated, systematic approach to dealing with a broad range of drug-using offenders including juveniles and adults. Drug treatment courts represent an enhancement of community supervision by closely supervising drug offenders in the community, placing and retaining drug offenders in treatment programs and providing treatment and related services to offenders who have not received such services in the past. The benefits of drug treatment courts have shown to generate cost savings when offenders' reliance on the service delivery system is ultimately or eventually reduced, especially when drug courts reduce reliance on jail and prisons. Drug Courts have been found to substantially reduce drug use and recidivism while offenders are in the program. Eligible courts funded under the drug treatment court area are adult, juvenile, driving under the influence and tribal.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requirements outlined in the drug court legislation (P.A. 224 of 2004), drug courts must also include the role and responsibilities of the local Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency in the MOU.

Drug courts must also attach a separate budget sheet to the application that outlines the other sources of funding that the drug court is receiving; in particular, all sources of funds for substance abuse treatment. These documents must be attached to the application at the time of submission.

Travel is an eligible expense but only to increase the supervision of offenders and for the purposes of transporting or assisting victims and children to and from critical or rehabilitative services. No out-of-state travel is allowed, and any other travel or training activities proposed must have prior approval of this office.

Awards under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will be one-time awards, and accordingly, should propose project activities and deliverables that can be accomplished without additional grant funding. If desired, the award may be amortized over a three-year period.

All requests for personnel must describe if funding will:

- **create a new position**
- **restore a previously funded position (including positions that were being removed from the budget)**
- **increase the status of a current position (from part time to full time)**
- **add overtime hours not previously funded to a position**

Be sure to include the same information for any subcontractors.

GOAL, OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal #1 **Reducing the demand for drugs by breaking the cycle of drug use through drug treatment courts.**

Objective #1 Integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

Activities Offer the potential for many different levels and modalities of treatments. Develop adequate case tracking and processing systems.

Objective #2 Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

Activities All program participants must be formally charged and adjudicated. The program must be limited to non-violent offenders.

Objective #3 Eligible participants should be identified early in accordance with formal selection criteria and promptly placed in the drug court program.

Activities Prior to implementation, selection criteria must be developed. Sophisticated case management also must be in place to screen candidates for successful intervention. Each participant must be given a formal needs assessment evaluation by a treatment professional at the initiation of the program.

Objective #4 Provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment, employment and rehabilitation-based services.

Activities A broad variety of treatment and rehabilitation services should be made available to participants. Grantees must use the information obtained from the needs assessment to match participants with appropriate services. In addition, adult participants must be provided with employment assistance. Grantees are encouraged to use the 12-step, cognitive behavioral and faith-based treatment services that are present in their community. Family-based treatment should also be emphasized. Coordination with local community correction advisory boards, probation and parole representatives, and law enforcement agencies is encouraged in order to access services for drug court participants.

Objective #5 Abstinence must be monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Activities Prior to program implementation, grantees must develop a drug testing policy. This policy should include both fixed interval and random drug tests. The number of random drug tests administered should be proportionate to the results of past drug tests.

Objective #6 A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.

Activities Grantees are encouraged to develop shared information systems with other members of the local criminal justice community. Participation in the program must be included as a condition of probation. Probation conditions should be included within the Law Enforcement Information Network. Grantees should dedicate adequate staff time to the case management of program participants. If staff resources are available, a full time case manager, treatment coordinator or probation officer should be assigned to provide case management.

For circuit court drug courts, coordination with local probation, parole and law enforcement officials should be well defined.

Objective #7 Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.

Activities A system of graduated sanctions for program violations should be developed prior to implementation. Incentives should also be incorporated into the program. Grantees must also develop a court appearance schedule for all participants to appear before a judge so that periodic status reports can be developed. Program participants should be required to make a contribution toward program costs. The nature of the participant contribution (e.g., cash payment, community service) should be determined by court personnel.

Objective #8 Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

Activities Assessment of program processing and outcomes of drug courts is required. The first year of drug court operation should include adequate comparison groups, which may include a plan for random assignment of individuals to treatment and non-treatment control groups.

For Drug Courts targeting otherwise prison-bound felons, monitoring and reporting of Michigan Sentencing Guideline scores is essential, as well as data to measure relapse and recidivism, defined as a new criminal conviction either during the program or after graduation.

Objective #9 Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation and operations.

Activities Monthly (or more frequent) meetings of project personnel are necessary.

Objective #10 Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court effectiveness.

Activities The development of partnerships and increased collaboration at the local and state level are encouraged to maximize the effect of resources.

Coordination with local probation, parole, community corrections advisory boards, coordinating agencies, substance abuse agencies and law enforcement is required.

This is a competitive grant and will be awarded based on merit, demonstrated need, data driven decision making and performance measures.

UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES AND ACTIVITIES

- Construction costs and/or renovation
- Costs in applying for this grant (e.g., consultants, grant writers, etc.)
- Any expenses incurred prior to the date of the contract

- Indirect costs rates or indirect administrative expenses (only direct costs permitted)
- Lobbying or advocacy for particular legislative or administrative reform
- Legal fees
- First class travel
- One-time events, prizes, entertainment (e.g., tours, excursions, amusement parks, sporting events)
- Management or administrative training, conferences (only pre-approved project-related training)
- Management studies or research and development (costs related to evaluation are permitted)
- Honorariums
- Fines and penalties
- Fund raising and any salaries or expenses associated with it
- Purchase of land
- Losses from uncollectible bad debts
- Memberships and agency dues, unless a specific requirement of the project (prior approval required)
- Contributions and donations
- Compensation to federal or state employees for travel or consulting fees
- Military type equipment such as armored vehicles, explosive devices and other items typically associated with the military arsenal
- Informant fees, rewards or buy money
- Animals (including related supplies and materials for animals)