

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
FOR
Problem Solving Courts Program Area
Family Dependency Courts
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

PROBLEM STATEMENT

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, reported cases of child abuse and neglect due to parental substance abuse have more than doubled from 1.4 million in 1986 to more than 3 million in 1997. This poses an immense challenge for courts, child welfare systems and treatment providers. Appropriate and timely access to treatment for families has always been difficult to attain. The increasing number of parents in need of treatment poses a burden on the courts and providers where resources are stretched to capacity. A coordinated effort among these systems is critical in handling the unique issues that are present in child abuse and neglect cases where such abuse stems from parental substance abuse. Otherwise, parents are likely to continue their addiction, increasing the possibility that children that may have been removed under such circumstances will remain in alternative placements.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Although family dependency courts vary by design, the Bureau of Justice Assistance describes such courts as: “a collaborative effort in which court, treatment and child welfare practitioners come together in a non-adversarial setting to conduct comprehensive child and parent needs assessments. With these assessments as a base, the team builds workable case plans that give parents a viable chance to achieve sobriety, provide a safe nurturing home, become responsible for themselves and their children, and hold their families together.” All focus on the best interests of the child, while addressing the needs of the parents/guardians and family.

REQUIREMENTS

A signed copy of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required at the time awards will be made. The MOU must include the specific roles and responsibilities in relation to the program and, at a minimum, must include the following: a dedicated family dependency drug treatment court judge, dedicated prosecutor, representative from the local Department of Human services agency, dedicated probation officer and/or dedicated case manager, and the local Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

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.

FAMILY DEPENDENCY DRUG TREATMENT GOALS

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program description areas require applicants to adhere to a set of goals, objectives and associated project activities. **Applicants applying for family dependency drug treatment court funds under the problem solving courts program area must address each of the goals listed below in their application and discuss how they will be integrated into the dependency drug treatment court program.** These goals are addressed in the document *“Family Dependency Treatment Courts: Addressing Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Using the Drug Court Model*, Bureau of Justice Assistance, December 2004.

- Goal # 1** To provide appropriate, timely, and permanent placement of children in a safe healthy environment-practices and procedures must ensure that the safety and welfare of the abused and neglected child is placed above the needs of the adult client.
- Goal #2** To stop the cycle of abuse and neglect in families.
- Goal #3** To provide children and parents with the services and skills needed to live productively in the community and to establish a safe, healthy environment for their families.
- Goal #4** To respond to family issues using a strength-based approach.
- Goal #5** To provide a continuum of family-based treatment and ancillary services for children and parents affected by substance use, abuse and dependence.
- Goal #6** To provide continuing care and information that families need to access the services they may require to function responsibly.
- Goal #7** To develop cost-effective programming and interventions using the ongoing allocation of resources to support parents and their children.
- Goal #8** To provide gender-specific, culturally and developmentally appropriate treatment.

- Goal #9** To avoid delays in case processing by ensuring parental compliance with court orders and ancillary services and by facilitating the court's ability to modify court orders as cases progress.
- Goal #10** To foster collaborative relationships among the systems operating in the community so they can effectively manage cases involving the abuse and neglect of children.
- Goal #11** To implement a mechanism for the appropriate and timely permanent placement for children consistent with the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.
- Goal #12** To ensure appropriate confidentiality requirements that is specific to individuals under court supervision.
- Goal #13** To provide families with the knowledge they need to access the services they may require post-program to function responsibly.

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)