**BJA FY 21 Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program**

**CATEGORY 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS**. **Competition ID: BJA-2021-00017**

**a. Description of the Issue (20% of score)**

*Within this section, the applicant should explain its inability to fund the program adequately without federal assistance.*

*The applicant must provide verified sources for the data that support the description of the issue (i.e., U.S. Census or other federal, state, and local databases).*

Describe the nature and scope of the substance abuse problem for veterans in the jurisdiction. Include data on race, ethnicity, age, gender, arrest volume (i.e., specifics of the general arrestee population, including the percentage screened for drug court and what percentage of those are admitted into drug court), and crime patterns for adult defendants.

Explain the problems with the current court’s response to cases involving substance abuse; identify how and to what extent the proposed program will address the current arrest volume; and describe how the current number of treatment slots meets the needs of anticipated referrals.

Describe the proposed veteran target population, including criminogenic risk level (high, medium, low), substance abuse treatment need, and the average jail or prison sentence that potential participants face, if any. Provide the target number of people for whom services will be provided under this program during the grant award period (48 months).

**b.****Project Design and Implementation (40% of score)**

*For this section, the applicant should address the following items and then address the specific category requirements below.*

Demonstrate that eligible drug court participants promptly enter the drug court program following a determination of their eligibility. The applicant must also explain that people receive treatment services while incarcerated, if available, and begin drug court treatment services immediately upon release.

The ADC and VTC Discretionary Grant Program authorizing statute requires participants to pay for treatment and restitution; however, it does not allow imposing a fee on a client that would interfere with their rehabilitation. In the application, indicate how participants will be notified of the fee and include provisions for determining how these costs would not interfere with their rehabilitation or graduation.

Demonstrate that the drug court for which funds are being sought will not deny any eligible client access to the program because of their use of U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for the treatment of substance abuse. Please refer to the discussion on MAT in the Program Description section for additional information.

Discuss the applicant’s commitment to admit and provide evidence-based interventions to participants with opioid and/or other substance abuse, including strategies for early assessment and entry into treatment to prevent overdose.

Describe the plan to provide treatment and services to address opioid, stimulant, and substance abuse reduction.

Describe how any budget expenses that are not specifically tied to the courts and criminal justice processes are reasonable and their use tied specifically back to the objectives of the drug court.

Applicants should budget to have up to three team members attend up to two conferences or trainings per year to support ongoing capacity and success in implementation.

**Category 1: VTC Implementation Applicants**

Describe the veterans treatment court program, to include the following:

* Referral, screening, and assessment process
* Eligibility requirements
* Structure of the drug court (pre-, post-, plea, etc.) Length and phases of the program
* Case management process
* Community supervision
* Availability of evidence-based treatment services Recovery support services delivery plan
* Judicial supervision
* Process for randomized drug testing
* Incentives and sanctions: Demonstrate an understanding that relapse is a part of the substance abuse recovery process and is taken into consideration in the development of incentives and sanctions.
* Graduation requirements and expulsion criteria
* Restitution costs and all fees required for program participation, including identifying how fees will be absorbed back into the program. Include whether the program fees present a barrier to participation and the measures available to reduce or waive fees for indigent participants.

Describe which, if any, evidence-based principles and practices included in the NADCP drug court standards will be implemented.

Describe how the treatment provider(s) will be selected and address the frequency with which key veterans treatment court members will monitor the providers. Monitoring should ensure that the treatment is effective. Describe the evidence base for the drug and other treatment intervention(s) to be used and how it is responsive to the needs of the target population.

Describe the range of treatment modalities that will be provided to address the substance abuse, mental illness, and cognitive behavioral needs of participants.

Describe how the court will identify, assess, and prioritize participation and services for high- risk/high-need persons. Identify the validated assessment tool that will be used. Provide information on why the specific assessment tool was selected, and identify who will administer the tool.

If a post-adjudication drug court model is proposed, discuss how the concept of “early intervention” will be implemented.

Discuss how the community has been engaged in the planning process and describe the community partnerships available to support the veterans treatment court program.

Discuss how the court will make efforts to engage and support participants’ families.

If trauma-informed care is proposed, discuss how the model will be implemented.

Demonstrate how the proposal conforms to the framework of the state drug court strategy, if one exists.

Describe how participant treatment will be funded.

Describe the plan to provide treatment and services to address opioid, stimulant, and substance abuse reduction.

For VTCs serving violent offenders, describe the availability of anger management and domestic violence treatment.

**c. Capabilities and Competencies (20% of score)**

Indicate whether the current veterans treatment court team members have received training through the BJA Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative or through another opportunity. If not, describe any training received or planning completed.

Identify each member of the veterans treatment court team and briefly describe their role and responsibilities. Key team members must include a judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, treatment provider, researcher/evaluator/ management information specialist, and VTC coordinator.

Attach an MOU signed by each key VTC team member with the responsibilities outlined for each.

Describe how effective communication and coordination among the team members will be implemented throughout the program period.

Indicate whether the team includes members from local law enforcement and probation departments. If applicable, describe the roles of these members as related to staffing attendance, home visits, and court appearances.

Describe the VTC program’s proposed treatment partners; describe the history of this partnership and how the court will ensure these substance abuse treatment providers will use evidence-based treatment services, including MAT.

**d. Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation’s Performance Measures (15% of score)**

*For this section, the applicant should address the following items and then address the specific category requirements below.*

The applicant must describe its current ability to collect and analyze client-level demographic, performance, and outcome data and to conduct regular assessments of program service delivery and performance as described in the evidence-based program principles described in this solicitation in the Application and Submission Information section. All applicants must indicate their willingness and ability to report aggregated client-level performance and outcome data through BJA’s performance reporting systems (e.g., JustGrants or PMT) as well as identify the person responsible for collecting the data

**Category 1: VTC Implementation Applicants**

Describe the steps the veterans treatment court will take to develop a performance management and evaluation plan. The plan should include strategies to collect data, review data, and use data to improve program performance, and it should discuss how the drug court will work with an evaluator when appropriate. Describe the program’s screening tool and referral process which ensure that participants screened and referred to the court mirror the jurisdiction’s substance abuse arrestee percentages.

Describe who will be responsible for, and the process of, the quarterly review of the actual number of participants served with grant funds as compared to the projected number of participants to be served. The Time Task Plan should reflect when and how the jurisdiction plans to reach that capacity and should be measured on a quarterly basis.

Provide a client community reintegration or continued care strategy detailing the stepdown provisions for reintegration services to assist program graduates as they reintegrate into the community. The applicant should emphasize client access to drug-free or transitional housing. If applicable, the applicant is encouraged to consider and describe how its state’s planned Medicaid expansion, as allowed under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, will increase future program capacity or sustainability.

Provide a sustainability plan detailing how veterans treatment court operations will be maintained after federal assistance ends. The sustainability plan should describe how current collaborations and evaluations will be used to leverage ongoing resources. BJA encourages the applicant to ensure sustainability by coordinating with local, state, and other federal resources. Note that allowable uses of funds under the BJA [Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program](https://bja.ojp.gov/program/jag/overview) include court services and substance abuse treatment.

Describe how operation and enhancement efforts will be maintained after federal assistance ends and how current collaborations and evaluations will be used to leverage ongoing resources.