

Veterans Treatment Court Risk and Need Enhancement Initiative

Beginning in 2014, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in partnership with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) developed a VTC-specific tool to identify the criminogenic risks and clinical needs of veterans involved in the justice system. The resulting VTC Risk and Needs Assessment Tool was designed to incorporate the latest research on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), substance use disorders (SUDs), and other issues affecting veterans. The initiative evolved to a multiphase project to develop and validate three tools for veterans treatment courts:

- **VET-S Short screener for program eligibility:** A short pre-adjudication screening tool will be used to identify veterans as they enter the justice system and measure their risk of re-offending prior to case disposition. This tool will help courts and criminal justice professionals to appropriately identify veterans early and promptly connect them to a VTC.
- **VTC-Q Comprehensive risk-need assessment for admission screening and case planning:** A comprehensive risk-need assessment will allow VTC staff to learn more about individuals' needs and criminogenic risk factors. This information will help VTCs confirm a participant's eligibility.
- **Case Planning Guidelines:** A set of case planning guidelines will help VTCs and partner agencies develop individualized supervision and treatment plans for each veteran. The planning guidelines will use the results of the risk-need assessment to match participants with appropriate levels of intervention.

Please visit the following websites for details on the initiative and its phases, including planning for phase 4.

- Phase 1 and 2: NIC National Veterans Treatment Court Enhancement Initiative (<https://info.nicic.gov/jiv/node/4>)
- Phase 3: BJA FY2021 Veterans Treatment Court Enhancement Initiative (<https://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/veterans-treatment-court.cfm>)
- Phase 4: BJA FY2022 Veterans Treatment Court Risk and Need Enhancement Initiative Solicitation (<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171275>)

Following are user guides and other support materials for this initiative.

- VET-S and VET-Q User Guide, July 2020 (<https://bja.ojp.gov/doc/veterans-treatment-court-vets-vcq-user-guide.pdf>)
- VET-S and VET-Q Training (overheads), December 2019 (<https://wcu.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=c9cd59e2-e30a-4402-bfff-abc0011743cd>)