



The [U.S. Department of Justice](#) (DOJ), [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP), [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) is seeking applications to establish or enhance drug court services, coordination, offender management, and recovery support services. This program furthers the Department's mission by providing resources to state, local, and tribal governments and state, local, and tribal courts to enhance drug court programs and systems for nonviolent substance-abusing offenders

Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program FY 2015 Competitive Grant Announcement

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are those that meet the following:

For **Category 1: Implementation** and **Category 2: Enhancement**, applications will be accepted to support states, state and local courts, counties, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) on behalf of a single jurisdiction drug court.

For Category 3: Statewide, applicants are limited to state agencies. State agencies include the state court administrative offices, state criminal justice agencies, and other state agencies involved with the provision of substance abuse, mental health or related services to criminal offenders such as the State Administering Agency (SAA), the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Agency.

Note: Applicants must demonstrate that eligible drug court participants promptly enter the drug court program following a determination of their eligibility. BJA will not make awards to applicants whose drug courts require an initial period of incarceration unless the period of incarceration is mandated by statute for the offense in question. In such instances, the applicant must demonstrate the offender is receiving treatment services, if available, while incarcerated and begins drug court treatment services immediately upon release.

Applicants must also demonstrate that the drug court for which funds are being sought will not: 1) deny any appropriate and eligible client for the drug court access to the program because of their medically necessary use of FDA-approved medication assisted treatment (MAT) medications (methadone, injectable naltrexone, non-injectable naltrexone, disulfiram, acamprosate calcium, buprenorphine) that is in accordance with an appropriately authorized physician's prescription; and 2) mandate that a drug court client no longer use medically necessary MAT as part of the conditions of the drug court if such a mandate is inconsistent with a physician's recommendation or prescription.

Note: BJA will prioritize making awards to those jurisdictions who do not have an active BJA drug court award. BJA may also elect to make awards for applications submitted under this solicitation in future fiscal years, dependent on the merit of the applications and on the availability of appropriations.

For additional eligibility information, see Section [C. Eligibility Information](#).

Deadline

Applicants must register with [Grants.gov](#) prior to submitting an application. All applications are due to be submitted and in receipt of a successful validation message in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on April 16, 2015.

All applicants are encouraged to read this [Important Notice: Applying for Grants in Grants.gov](#).

For additional information, see [How To Apply](#) in Section [D. Application and Submission Information](#).

Contact Information

For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via e-mail to support@grants.gov. The [Grants.gov](#) Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

Applicants that experience unforeseen Grants.gov technical issues beyond their control that prevent them from submitting their application by the deadline must e-mail the BJA contact identified below **within 24 hours after the application deadline** and request approval to submit their application. Additional information on reporting technical issues is found under "Experiencing Unforeseen Grants.gov Technical Issues" in the [How To Apply](#) section.

For assistance with any other requirement of this solicitation, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center: toll-free at 1-800-851-3420; via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email responsecenter@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>. The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

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Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program (CFDA #16.585)

A. Program Description

Overview

The purpose of the Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program (42 U.S.C. 3797u et seq.) is to provide financial and technical assistance to states, state courts, local courts, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to develop and implement drug courts that effectively integrate evidenced-based substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in a judicially supervised court setting with jurisdiction over substance-abusing offenders. BJA is accepting applications for FY 2015 grants to establish new drug courts or enhance existing drug court services, coordination, and offender management and recovery support services. Funding for certain Veterans Treatment Courts are available through a separate appropriation in FY 2015.

Program-Specific Information

Drug courts are part of the larger universe of problem-solving courts and have been demonstrated (where implemented in an evidence-based manner) to reduce recidivism and substance abuse among high-risk substance abusing offenders and increase their likelihood of successful rehabilitation through:

- early, continuous, and intense treatment,
- close judicial supervision and involvement (including judicial interaction with participants and frequent status hearings),
- mandatory and random drug testing,
- community supervision,
- appropriate incentives and sanctions, and
- recovery support services/continuing care.

BJA provides drug court applicants the flexibility to identify the most appropriate court (service/docket) model in which to base the drug court in order to accommodate the needs and available resources of that jurisdiction, so long as the model conforms to the key drug court components, which describe the basic elements that define drug courts.

For the purposes of this solicitation, an “adult drug court” is a court program managed by a multidisciplinary team that responds to the offenses and treatment needs of offenders who have a drug addiction. Drug courts funded through this grant solicitation may use federal funding and matched funding to serve only nonviolent offenders.¹ An exception to this restriction is veterans

¹ Programs funded through this solicitation may not, with Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program funding or matched funding, serve violent offenders. As defined in 42 U.S.C. 3797u-2, a “violent offender” means a person who—(1) is charged with or convicted of an offense that is punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year, during the course of which offense or conduct— (A) the person carried, possessed, or used a firearm or dangerous weapon; (B) there occurred the death of or serious bodily injury to any person; or (C) there occurred the use of force against the person of another, without regard to whether any of the circumstances described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is an element of the offense or conduct of which or for which the person is charged or convicted; or (2) has 1 or more prior convictions for a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with

treatment courts funded through this solicitation using funds appropriated under the FY 2015 Veterans Treatment Court line item which are not subject to the violent offender exclusion included the Drug Court Program authorizing legislation (42 U.S.C. 3797u et seq.). Applications for veterans treatment courts should clearly identified in the abstract. **All adult drug courts must be operated based on BJA's and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' publication: *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components*.**

For the purposes of this solicitation, eligible drug court models must include one of the following types: **Adult Drug Courts; Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)/Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Courts; Co-Occurring Courts where those participants possess a substance abuse related charge and diagnosis; Veterans Treatment Courts; and Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts.** Court programs that combine or propose to combine the above-referenced drug court models (meeting the requirements of such) with other court programs or dockets are also eligible for funding, although the funding under this program must be used to address only those clients eligible for drug court services. Applicants should refer to their relevant local statutes to define the legal age of an "adult."

For [Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts](#), [Veterans Treatment Courts](#), and [DWI Courts](#), program designs must function in accordance with the corresponding key components or evidence-based principles as included in the appendices of this solicitation.

The National Drug Court Resource Center, available at www.NDCRC.org, is a BJA-funded resource for the drug court field that serves as a clearinghouse for drug court training, technical assistance, publications, funding resources, and other practitioner-specific resources. Applicants are encouraged to visit this site for useful information regarding the solicitation priorities before submitting the application. In addition, grant solicitation resources can be found at: www.ndcrc.org/content/grant-solicitation-references.

Goals, Objectives, and Deliverables

The overall goal of the Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program is to equip courts and court systems with the necessary tools and resources to intervene with substance abusing offenders while preparing citizens for successful community reintegration. To accomplish this goal, adult drug court discretionary grant funds will be awarded to build and/or expand drug court capacity at the state, local, and tribal levels to reduce crime and substance abuse among high-risk, high-need offenders.

Program objectives include building and maximizing the capacity of jurisdictions to ensure that all potential participants are identified and assessed for risk and need; ensure all participants receive targeted research-based services; enhance the provision of recovery support services that prevent recidivism; and lower costs associated with this target population. For enhancement grants (state and local), objectives also include supporting strategies that ensure drug court practitioners have tools to effectively manage these interventions, including data collection and analysis, training and technical assistance, and tracking and improving drug court performance.

the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm. A BJA Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program-funded drug court may, at its own discretion and after taking a valid assessment of risk into consideration, choose to provide services to an offender that is otherwise excluded from this program if the grantee is using non-federal (including match) funding to provide the services to that offender. BJA strongly encourages the use of valid risk assessment instruments and consideration of public safety needs in this local decision making process.

BJA's Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program is committed to ensuring fair and equitable treatment of drug court participants regardless of race or ethnic background.

Evidence-Based Programs or Practices

OJP strongly emphasizes the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. OJP is committed to:

- Improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates
- Integrating evidence into program, practice, and policy decisions within OJP and the field
- Improving the translation of evidence into practice

OJP considers programs and practices to be evidence-based when their effectiveness has been demonstrated by causal evidence, generally obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Causal evidence documents a relationship between an activity or intervention (including technology) and its intended outcome, including measuring the direction and size of a change, and the extent to which a change may be attributed to the activity or intervention. Causal evidence depends on the use of scientific methods to rule out, to the extent possible, alternative explanations for the documented change. The strength of causal evidence, based on the factors described above, will influence the degree to which OJP considers a program or practice to be evidence-based. OJP's CrimeSolutions.gov web site is one resource that applicants may use to find information about evidence-based programs in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

Applicants can also find information on evidence-based treatment practices in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) *Guide to Evidence-Based Practices* available at www.samhsa.gov/ebpwebguide. The *Guide* provides a short description and a link to dozens of web sites with relevant evidence-based practices information—either specific interventions or comprehensive reviews of research findings. Note that SAMHSA's *Guide to Evidence-Based Practices* also references the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP), a searchable database of interventions for the prevention and treatment of mental and substance use disorders. NREPP is intended to serve as a decision support tool, not as an authoritative list of effective interventions. *Being included in NREPP, or in any other resource listed in the Guide, does not mean an intervention is "recommended" or that it has been demonstrated to achieve positive results in all circumstances.* www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is an evidence-based substance abuse treatment protocol and BJA supports the right of individuals to have access to appropriate MAT under the care and prescription of a physician. BJA recognizes that all communities may not have access to MAT due to a lack of physicians who are able to prescribe and oversee clients using anti-alcohol and opioid medications. This will not preclude the applicant from applying, but where and when available, BJA supports the client's right to access MAT. This right extends to participation as a client in a BJA-funded drug court. **Applicants must demonstrate that the drug court for which funds are being sought will not:** 1) deny any appropriate and eligible client for the drug court access to the program because of their medically necessary use of FDA-approved medication assisted treatment (MAT) medications (methadone, injectable naltrexone, non-injectable naltrexone, disulfiram, acamprosate calcium, buprenorphine) that is in accordance with an appropriately authorized physician's prescription; and 2) mandate that a drug court client no longer use medically necessary MAT as part of the conditions of the drug court if such a mandate is inconsistent with a physician's recommendation or prescription. Under no circumstances may a drug court judge, other judicial official, or correctional supervision officer

connected to the identified drug court deny the use of these medications when medically necessary and when available to the clients and under the conditions described above.

Priority Consideration

- A. Category 1: BJA will give priority consideration to all Category 1 Implementation applicants who have completed the BJA Drug Court Planning Initiative (DCPI) training. For more information or to register for the training, visit www.NDCRC.org.
- B. Categories 1-3: Based on a review of drug court evaluations and research, BJA has partnered with the NIJ to identify recommended policies and practices to yield effective interventions that maximize outcomes for adult drug court participants and the return on investment for Adult Drug Court Program funding. Findings from the NIJ's Multisite Adult Drug Court Evaluation are available at www.nij.gov/topics/courts/drug-courts/Pages/madce.aspx. BJA will give priority consideration to applicants who propose designs and strategies that are consistent with the following Key Components and their corresponding evidence-based program principles.

Adult Drug Court 10 Key Components and Corresponding Evidence-Based Program Principles

Key Component #1: Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

***(Corresponding evidence-based program principle) Treatment and Other Services—**The applicant should maintain program resources that: address drug court participant needs identified over time; accommodate the range of treatment and other rehabilitation services required; and apply case management beyond initial referral to confirm that providers appropriately deliver ongoing assessment and services.*

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

Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.

***(Corresponding evidence-based program principle) Screening and Assessment—**Referral sources and other stakeholders should be clear on program eligibility criteria, which must be consistent with targeted population needs and available program resources. Applicants should demonstrate an ability to screen promptly and systematically for all offenders potentially eligible for the drug court, identify the agency which will conduct this screening, and detail the procedures that will be used for screening.*

The applicant should further demonstrate how those offenders determined to be eligible for the drug court as a result of screening will then be assessed to identify their risk for relapse and recidivism, as well as the nature of treatment and other rehabilitation needs. Assessments should be conducted using instruments that have been validated for the targeted population and updated periodically. Treatment and other service assessments should be reviewed and adjusted to gauge offender needs that may change over time.

***(Corresponding evidence-based program principle) Target Population—**Program*

resources should be prioritized for offenders who demonstrate both high criminogenic risk and high substance abuse treatment need. Applicants should aim to serve offenders whose characteristics and risk factors directly relate to a high probability of offending, and who are frequent drug users diagnosed for drug dependence. Also, applicants should target offenders who are subject to (or eligible for) legal sanctions that may provide greater leverage in program compliance.

Key Component #4: Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

(Corresponding evidence-based program principle) Relapse Prevention, Aftercare and Community Integration—From the first program phase, the applicant should demonstrate how culturally sensitive planning and other programming will be implemented to support relapse prevention, community integration, and aftercare/continuing care services.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

(Corresponding evidence-based program principle) Monitoring—The applicant should demonstrate a comprehensive plan to: monitor drug court participants using random and observed drug testing and community supervision; disseminate results efficiently to the drug court team; and immediately respond to noncompliance according to established program requirements.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.

(Corresponding evidence-based program principle) Procedural and Distributive Justice—Applicants should establish and clearly communicate a system of graduated sanctions and incentives that is activated and delivered with certainty in response to offender behavior. Information from the drug court team and the offender should be considered in determining noncompliance and the appropriate response. Specific program responses should be meaningful to the offenders, understandable, and delivered in a manner perceived as fair and equitable.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.

(Corresponding evidence-based program principle) Judicial Interaction—Judges should interact directly and regularly with drug court participants during drug court hearings, which should be as frequent as the participant may require. As the program leader, the judge will maintain authority by demonstrating support for the program and knowledge of individual offenders. Communication between the participant and the judge should be based on a foundation of respect, and judges must maintain an understanding of program resources available to assess and respond to participant behavior.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation to measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.

Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and

community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.

Note: Appendices A-C include Key Components and corresponding evidence-based program principles of the Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, and Driving While Intoxicated Courts.

For additional information related to the drug court research supporting the Evidence-Based Program Principles and Key Components, visit the Evidence-Based Practice section of: www.ndcrc.org/content/grant-solicitation-references.

B. Federal Award Information

Amount and Length of Awards

BJA estimates that it will make up to 65 grant awards for varying amounts and time periods depending on the category under which the application is awarded.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

The FY 2015 solicitation offers three drug court grant categories: Category 1: Implementation, Category 2: Enhancement and Category 3: Statewide. Jurisdictions that are in the planning stages should consider participation in BJA's DCPI. Upon completion of the DCPI, jurisdictions will receive a priority consideration when applying for an implementation grant. DCPI provides training and technical assistance to assist jurisdictions in planning a new adult, tribal, or veterans' drug court program. For more information, see www.NDCRC.org.

CATEGORY 1: IMPLEMENTATION. Grant maximum: \$350,000. Project period: 36 months. Competition ID: BJA-2015-4088

Implementation grants are available to jurisdictions that have completed a substantial amount of planning and are ready to implement an evidence-based adult drug court as described above (i.e., meeting the key components as well as the evidence-based program principles).

Applicants may propose to use funding for court operations and services; offender supervision, management, and services; and provision and coordination of recovery support services including education, job training and placement, housing placement assistance, primary and mental health care, and childcare and other supportive services.

CATEGORY 2: ENHANCEMENT. Grant maximum: \$200,000. Project period: 24 months. Competition ID: BJA-2015-4089

Enhancement grants are available to jurisdictions with a fully operational adult drug court (to be eligible, you must have been operating for at least 1 year as of September 30, 2015). Applicants may propose to use funding to incorporate the evidence-based program principles above to address one or more of the following: 1) expand the number of participants served that meet the existing target population description; 2) expand the target population description and serve additional participants who meet the expanded description; 3) enhance court operations; 4) enhance court and/or supervision services; and 5) enhance recovery support services.

Applicants should be mindful of the following considerations:

1. Applicants are encouraged to include or establish new services for populations not currently being served in the drug court based on an examination of the emerging needs in their local offender population. Applicants must demonstrate that the jurisdiction's arrestee population will support the expected capacity of the drug court as stated in the application.
2. Applicants may propose to enhance court operations including training programs for drug court practitioners, drug court program evaluations, performance management system implementation, and automated management information system implementation.
3. Applicants may propose to use funding to expand or enhance court services in areas such as offender management, including drug testing, case management, and community supervision.
4. Applicants may also propose to improve the quality and/or intensity of services; for instance, funding may be used for enhancing offender services such as healthcare and mental health care, education, vocational training, job training and placement, housing placement assistance, and childcare or other family support services for each participant who requires such services.

CATEGORY 3: STATEWIDE. Grant maximum per applicant for Subcategories A and B: \$1.5 million for state based coordination of services. Of the \$1.5 million, a maximum of \$200,000 is available per applicant under subcategory A, and a maximum of \$1,300,000 is available per applicant under subcategory B. Project period: 36 months. Competition ID: BJA-2015-4090

Applicants can apply for Subcategory A or Subcategory B separately; however, it is suggested that applicants apply for each and maximize funds available from both categories to assist with state based coordination, services, evaluation, and training.

Statewide drug court grants are available for two purposes:

- 3a. Applicants may request up to \$200,000 to improve, enhance, or expand drug court services statewide by encouraging adherence to the evidence-based program principles above and through activities such as: training and/or technical assistance programs for drug court teams geared to improve drug court functioning and to increase drug court participation and participant outcomes; tracking, compiling, coordinating, and disseminating state drug court information and resources; increasing communication, coordination, and information sharing among drug court programs; conducting a statewide drug court evaluation; or establishing a statewide automated drug court data collection and/or performance management system.
- 3b. Applicants may request up to \$1,300,000 to financially support drug courts in local or regional jurisdictions which do not currently operate with BJA Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program funding. (A list of active BJA drug court grantees is available at: www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=58.) States applying for funding under this subcategory must demonstrate a statewide, data-driven strategy for reaching and expanding capacity of drug court options and services for nonviolent substance-abusing offenders, which may include: implementing new drug courts; reaching capacity of existing drug courts; and expanding/enhancing capacity of existing drug courts to reach specific or emerging offender populations with drug treatment needs. The support provided through such statewide awards must also be consistent with the evidence-based principles outlined above.