

The 111th District Court is applying for a grant for a Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program. The goal is to plan the program as a problem-solving court which will emphasize public safety, lowering recidivism and hospitalization, and divert defendants with mental illness from incarceration and facilitate linkage to appropriate treatment and community resources.

How large is the grant in the current year and is there a match required?

Current grant is for \$250,000 for three years with a \$62,500 in-kind match required.

How many employees will it add to the county payroll?

None. All required staff is in place as this program is in its third year of planning.

What are the operating and maintenance costs of the grant that will be funded by the county and how are these to be paid?

\$62,500 to be provided in-kind with building, utility and equipment usage.

How many citizens will be served and in what way?

Between 20-100 offenders, in the span of 36 months, will be allowed in the program. The program will be designed to identify and address the unique needs of the criminal offenders with behavioral needs. Mental Health Court represents an effort to increase effective cooperation between the criminal justice system and the mental health system. Positive results are seen with faster processing time, improved access to mental health treatment services and reducing recidivism.

What is the probability the grant will be continued?

In hopes of developing, continuing, and maintaining this program, the 111th Mental Health Court will keep searching and applying for state and federal funds.

How will the county determine if the grant will be continued?

Performance measures will be put in place and evaluated by the 111th Mental Health Court to determine the outcome and success rate of the program.

What long-term authorization has been given for the program at the state or federal level?

The experience of numerous jurisdictions, backed by research, attests to the power of collaboration between the court and the mental health system. When criminal offenders with mental illnesses are stabilized and receive community-based care, their quality of life improves, and they are far less likely to commit subsequent crimes and return before the court.

Must the county change any operational or financial procedures to meet the grants' requirements?

Operational procedures for handling offenders with mental health illnesses are already in place.

Will any ongoing county programs be brought under state or federal regulations of the grant program? If so, in what way are they affected?

No, but this program will interface with the current successful Drug Treatment Court and Veterans Court.

What problem or need will go unmet if the grant is not accepted?

It has been documented that offenders with mental illnesses are readily falling through the cracks in an inadequate jurisdiction in the criminal justice system. This appears to be due to the lack of mental health facilities available to them. This has brought to the fore the urgent need for a judicial system that could specifically advance these services that are needed by criminal offenders with mental disorders. The presence of defendants with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system imposes substantial costs on that system and substantial harm on the community.

What is the precise time period the grant funds may be used?

36 months