

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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Application for Funding of a Specialty Court

OVERVIEW:

Specialty Courts are judicial problem-solving programs designed to address the root causes that contribute to criminal activity. There are two funding sources, Fee-Based funding which is the administrative assessment fee pursuant to NRS 176.0613 and General Fund (GF) funding. A condition of the GF funding is to serve an additional 800-900 new participants each year of the biennium.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

All courts are eligible to apply for Specialty Court funds. A Specialty Court is defined as “a program established by a court to facilitate testing, treatment, and oversight of certain persons over whom the court has jurisdiction and who the court has determined suffers from a mental illness or abuses alcohol or drugs.” Although any court may apply, all requests must meet the minimum criteria located under Part II, Section C.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION:

Application requests must be received by December 17, 2021. Requests received after December 17, 2021 may be denied.

PROCESS:

- Each application must include the applicant summary, cover sheet, budget worksheet, budget narrative, and program design. The budget narrative must identify the reason for the budget request and how you arrived at the amount requested. Applications lacking the requested information may be denied. It is encouraged that all materials be emailed to jpopovich@nvcourts.nv.gov. Materials may be mailed to the address below.

*James Popovich, Specialty Courts Statewide Coordinator
Administrative Office of the Courts
201 South Carson Street, Suite 250 Carson City, Nevada 89701*

- The AOC will compile and submit funding recommendations for all programs that meet the minimum criteria to the Specialty Court Funding and Policy Committee for review.
- The Committee will approve the funding recommendations for both Fee-Based funding and General Fund funding requests at the following February meeting.
- If you have any questions, please email James Popovich at jpopovich@nvcourts.nv.gov or call (775) 684-1780.

CHECKLIST (documents to be returned to the AOC):

- **Section A: Applicant Summary and Application Cover Sheet** (for all programs)
- **Section B: Budget Worksheet** (for all programs)
- **Section C: Budget Narrative** (for all programs)
- **Section D: Program Design** (for all programs)
- **Program Handbook** (for new and existing non-AOC funded programs)

SECTION A
APPLICANT SUMMARY

| Line # | SPECIALTY COURT APPLICANT SUMMARY | |
|--------|--|---|
| 1 | Requesting Jurisdiction | Justice Court, Las Vegas Township |
| 2 | Type of Specialty Court: | Veterans Treatment Court |
| 3 | Judge/Hearing Master | Judge |
| | What type of court is apply for funding? | Please check one box. |
| 4 | This court is existing <u>with</u> current funding from the AOC. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Answer questions #7, 8, 9, and 10 |
| 5 | This court is existing <u>without</u> funding from the AOC. | <input type="checkbox"/> Answer questions #7, 8, and 9 |
| 6 | This court is NEW and not established. | <input type="checkbox"/> Answer questions # 9 |
| | | |
| 7 | Total participants served in previous fiscal year? | 81 |
| 8 | Total number of participants projected <u>to be served</u> in new fiscal year? | 75 |
| 9 | Number of <u>new</u> participants projected to be served in new fiscal year? | 35 |
| 10 | If you had unspent funds last fiscal year, please explain your plans for expending them during this current fiscal year? | Please Answer Below |

Las Vegas Justice Court Veterans Treatment Court spent the entire appropriation of general fund funding in FY 2021 and is poised to spend all FY 2022 appropriated funding.

SECTION A
APPLICATION COVER SHEET
(One application per program type)

Fiscal Year: 2023

TYPE OF FUNDING YOU ARE APPLYING FOR: General Fund

Is your program in compliance with the approved Nevada Specialty Court Funding Guidelines And Criteria? YES NO

COURT: Justice Court Las Vegas Township

PROGRAM: Veterans Treatment Court

DATE PROGRAM BECAME OPERATIONAL (Date of first drug court calendar): 03/01/2014

ADDRESS: 200 Lewis Avenue, 2nd Floor

CITY: Las Vegas STATE: NV ZIP: 89155

CONTACT PERSON: Betsy Avila

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 702-671-3371 FAX NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS: Betsy.Avila@ClarkCountyNV.gov DATE SUBMITTED: 11/18/2021

Signature Field **Harmony Letizia** Digitally signed by Harmony Letizia
Date: 2021.11.18 08:31:40 -08'00'

Specialty Court Judge or Chief Judge Date

PLEASE NOTE

Fee-Based Funds (NRS 176.0613) and General Fund (GF) funds are intended to be used to supplement existing funds for specialty courts and not to replace (supplant) non-Fee Based Funding or GF funds that would otherwise be available for the same purpose. Any loss of funds that is beyond the control of the applicant must be documented and explained in the budget and budget narrative.

1. Type of Specialty Court applying for the funds, as defined in the attached data dictionary.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Drug Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Dependency Drug Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Drug Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoner Re-Entry Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterans Treatment Court | Existing Court With AOC Funding | Pre Plea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felony DUI Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DUI Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol and Other Drug Court | Select one | Select one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | Select one | Select one |

- New program is a program that is not operational. Existing program without AOC Funding has not been previously funded by Fee Based Funds or GF. If applying for funding of a new program, please complete Part I, Sections A, B, C, and D.
- Existing program is a program that is operational and has received Fee Based funds or GF funds anytime during July 2003 to October 2021. Complete Part I, Sections A, B, C, and D.
- Post-Plea requires a defendant to enter a guilty plea before entering treatment. Failure to complete the program leads to the sentencing phase of adjudication.
- Pre-Plea charges are deferred while defendant actively participates in a treatment program.

SECTION B
BUDGET WORKSHEET

| Line # | SPECIALTY COURT BUDGET WORKSHEET | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Requesting Court: Justice Court Las Vegas Township | | |
| 2 | Type of Specialty Court: Veterans Treatment Court | | |
| 3 | Revenue Received by the Program | | FY22 Fee-Funding Request |
| 4 | Projected participant payments (Made to the court, not to the treatment provider) | | \$ 19,900.00 |
| 5 | Appropriations received from cities or counties | | |
| 6 | Federal or other grants (Include expiration date and match, if applicable) | | |
| > | > BJA 2019 Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program | | \$ 67,421.00 |
| > | > FY 2022 JAG | | \$ 80,000.00 |
| 7 | <i>Other funds received (Describe)</i> | | |
| > | | | |
| > | | | |
| Total Revenue | | \$ 0.00 | \$ 167,321.00 |
| 8 | Expenditures Paid by the Program (In order per the approved funding priorities - Part II, Section B) | | |
| 9 | Professional Services | | |
| | Counseling | | \$ 11,160.00 |
| | Residential Housing (<i>Mental Health Courts only</i>) | | |
| | Residential Treatment (ASAM levels of care 3.1 and 3.5) | | |
| 10 | Drug Test Supplies | | \$ 40,000.00 |
| 11 | Drug Testing Equipment | | |
| 12 | Drug Testing Confirmation | | |
| 13 | Drug Testing Confirmation | | |
| 14 | Electronic Monitoring | | |
| 15 | Salary & Benefits (positions dedicated to and paid by the specialty court program; excluding city/county paid positions) | | |
| | Specialty Court Coordinator/Manager Select one | | |
| | Case Manager Select one | | |
| | Drug Testing Technician Select one | | |
| | Case Worker Select one | | |
| | Other (describe) Select one | | |
| 16 | Operating Expenses (office supplies, rent, postage, telephone, printing, copying, etc.) - Max \$1,200/year | | |
| 17 | Bus Passes and or Taxi Vouchers - Max \$5,000/year | | \$ 500.00 |
| 18 | Incentives (gift certificates max. \$5 - \$15, tokens, books, cookies, cake, and pizza) - Max \$2,500/year | | \$ 2,500.00 |
| 19 | Basic Needs(clothing,haircuts, hygiene products) - Max \$5,000/year | | |
| 20 | Transitional Housing with case/house manager - Max 30% of award | | \$ 10,000.00 |
| 21 | Housing (motel, apartments, weeklies) - Max 30% of award | | \$ 4,920.00 |
| 22 | Acquiring necessary capital goods or using appropriate technology | | |
| 23 | Studying the management and operation of the program | | |
| | Other | | |
| | Team Training - Max 5% of total allocation | | |
| Total Expenditures | | \$ 0.00 | \$ 69,080.00 |
| Total Funds Requested | | | \$ 69,080.00 |

SECTION C BUDGET NARRATIVE

The budget narrative and worksheet definitions must be completed. Copies of the program handbook must be submitted with the application, but not in lieu of completing any of the questions.

Budget Narrative (for new and existing requests). The budget narrative should be a brief description of the program and services you are providing.

VTC provides a judicially supervised regimen of substance abuse and mental health treatment in addition to addressing the holistic needs of the veteran with the goal of returning productive law-abiding citizens to the community, thereby reducing recidivism costs. VTC targets the veteran who appears to suffer from mental illness, alcohol or drug abuse or post traumatic stress disorder appearing to be related to military service, including any readjustment to civilian life after combat service.

Line # 8 Counseling Counseling with mental health component to address co-occurring disorders
3 participants x \$3,720 per participant = \$11,160

Line # 9 Drug Testing
\$24.50 per UA x 50 x 40 = \$40,000

Line # 15 Bus Passes
200 bus passes @ \$2.50 per 24HR public transportation pass = \$500

Line # 16 Incentives
Gift certificates (\$5-\$25 value)

Line # 18 Transitional Housing with case manager
\$600 per month x 16 participants = \$10,000

Line # 19 Housing
\$11/day x 15 days = \$615 x 8 participants = \$1,290

Please explain how your program handles participant payments.

The program fees are payable at the Regional Justice Center.



How much do you collect from each participant?

Program participants are charged a one-time program fee of \$600, which includes the cost of a drug and alcohol assessment. This fee can be paid in a lump sum or in monthly installments. If a program participant is indigent, the program fee may be waived or +
If you do not collect any participant payments, please explain why.

n/a

How do you expend participant payments? For example, participant payments are rolled back into the program to cover the salary for the specialty court coordinator.

Fees are deposited directly to the Court Education fund and reinvested in the presiding judge and court coordinator salary and benefits.

Does your program receive an appropriation from the City or County?

YES NO If yes, answer the following:

How much?

n/a

How are the funds going to be expended?

n/a

Have you tried to obtain funding through other sources such as federal grants? Do you have any other funds the program receives?

yes

YES

NO

If yes, answer the following:

Type of funding (grant, or other)

DOJ, Bureau of Justice Assistance 3-year grant
One year JAG pass-through grant funding

How are the funds going to be expended?

Substance abuse treatment, court participant supervision, NADCP annual conference travel and registration costs for VTC team.

What is the expiration date?

9/30/2022

Was there a match requirement? If so, how much?

25% local match, \$50,568

Professional Services (Contract)

Counseling (ASAM Levels of Care 1 and 2.1) must be provided by a certified or licensed counselor per NRS 641C or NAC 641C. Counselors serve as the participant's primary clinician providing assistance throughout the participant's specialty court participation. Counseling is a professional service that must be procured by a contract. ***Include the following:***

What is the contractor's name?

Choices Group Inc., Freedom House Sober Living, Sierra Sage Recovery, Healthy Minds, Vegas Behavioral Health Services

Please list all services to be rendered.

Counseling with mental health component to address co-occurring disorders

How many participants will be served?

3 participants

What is the cost per participant?

\$3,720 per participant

What is the total amount requested for professional services counseling?

\$11,160

Residential Housing (Mental Health Courts only). Housing is a professional service and must be procured by a contract. ***Include the following:***

What is the contractor's name?

n/a

Please list all services to be rendered.

n/a

n/a

How many participants will be served?

n/a

What is the cost per participant?

n/a

What is the total amount requested for residential housing for your Mental Health Court program?

n/a

Residential Treatment (ASAM Levels of Care 3.1 and 3.5). Must be clinically justified and approved by the specialty court judge. These levels of care may consist of withdrawal management and must consist of clinical-based programming, including individual and group counseling and other ancillary services.

Include the following:

What is the contractor's name?

n/a

Please list all services to be rendered.

n/a

How many participants will be served?

n/a

What is the total amount requested for residential treatment?

n/a

Drug Testing Supplies are considered short-term use items with a life cycle of one year or less.

Please identify the type of testing supplies you are purchasing with this award.

Random Drug Testing with current contractor Cordant

What is the cost per unit?

\$24.50 (observed UA test)

What is the average number of times each participant is tested during the fiscal year?

100 average times per year

What is the total amount requested for drug testing supplies?

\$40,000

Drug Testing Equipment has a life cycle of greater than one year. Most common would be the purchase of breath testing equipment or instrument to test urine. **Include the following:**

Please identify the type of equipment you are purchasing.

n/a

Provide an explanation as to why the equipment is needed.

n/a

What is the total amount requested for drug testing equipment?

n/a

Drug Testing Confirmation is a second analytical procedure performed by a certified laboratory on a drug test to identify results. **Include the following:**

Please provide the name and address of the certified laboratory that provides your confirmations.

Cordant, PO Box 172775, Denver, CO 80217-2775

Who pays for the confirmation (Court or participant)?

court

How much does a confirmation cost?

\$10-30

What is the average number of confirmation tests per month?

1

What is the total amount requested for drug testing confirmation?

-0-

Electronic Monitoring is primarily used to monitor DUI Court participants. **Include the following:**

What is the contractor's name?

n/a

What is the projected number of participants who will utilize an electronic monitor?

n/a

What is the total cost per participant (daily cost times the total number of days)?

n/a

What is the total amount requested for electronic monitoring?

n/a

Salary & Benefits

Salary & Benefits is specialty court coordinator, case manager, testers, case worker or any contracted position. Personnel that are dedicated 100 percent to the specialty court program and paid by the program. Excluding the judge and positions paid by the city/county. Personnel is an employee who aides in testing, assists participants with life skills, provides probation type services, and may include personnel that provides clinical services. Also included in this category are part-time contract personnel. Please note effective July 1, 2011, personnel (full or part-time) will be limited to 25 percent of the total allocation. The 25 percent restriction does not apply to positions funded prior to July 1, 2011. At this time no COLA's or merit increases will be authorized. Fringe benefits can be based on actual known costs or an established formula. ***Include the following for each position:***

What is the position title? (include full or part-time)

n/a

What are the job duties?

n/a

What is the total amount requested for this position?

n/a

What is the position title? (include full or part-time)

n/a

What are the job duties?

n/a

What is the total amount requested for this position?

n/a

Operating Supplies Total of all items (office supplies, rent, postage, telephone, printing, copying, etc.). Generally, supplies include any materials that are expendable or consumed during the course of one year. **Maximum allowed is \$1,200 per year.**

What is the total amount requested? Please list items to be purchased with the award amount.

n/a

Bus Passes and/or taxi vouchers are typically pre-purchased and are for distribution to participants in need of transportation to/from court, treatment or their place of employment. **Maximum allowed is \$5,000 per year.**

What is the total amount requested? Please list items to be purchased with the award amount.

200 bus passes @ \$2.50 per 24HR public transportation pass = \$500

Incentives are awards given to the participant for a job well done. Incentives may include gift certificates (\$5-\$15 value), tokens, books, cookies, cake, and pizza. **Maximum allowed is \$2,500 per year.**

Please provide the type of incentives you plan to provide and the projected cost of each incentive.

gift certificates (\$5 - \$25 value)

What is the total amount requested?

\$2,500

Transitional Housing with a case/house manager on-site will enable a program to place participants in a safe, sober, living environment. The facility must provide curfew compliance and report any noncompliance to the specialty court. **Maximum allowed is \$20,000 per year.**

Include the following:

What is the provider(s) name(s)?

Freedom House, Sierra Sage, Crossroads

How many participants will be utilizing this service?

8 participants

What is the total cost per participant?

\$600 x 2 months = \$1,200

What is the total amount requested for transitional housing with a case/house manager on-site?

\$10,000

Housing (Motel, Apartment, etc) would be for an apartment, motel, or place with a weekly room rate. This is to provide a participant with temporary housing until secure housing can be obtained. Maximum allowed is \$10,000 per year.

Include the following:

What is the provider(s) name(s)?

Siegel Suites

How many participants will be utilizing this service?

8 participants

What is the total cost per participant?

\$615

What is the total amount requested for housing?

\$4,920

Acquiring necessary capital goods or using appropriate technology. Defined as equipment, machinery, case management system, computers, printers, fax, etc. Description and estimate of items such as case management system, computers, printers, fax, etc.

What is the total amount requested for acquiring necessary capital goods or using appropriate technology?

n/a

Please list the items to be purchased with the award amount.

n/a

Studying the management and operation of a program. Defined as a program evaluation completed by a consultant or an agency who specializes in program evaluation. **Include the following:**

Describe the program evaluation your are requesting funding for.

n/a

Who will conduct the evaluation?

n/a

What is the total amount requested to evaluate the program?

n/a

Basic Needs are defined as clothing, haircuts, and hygiene products.

Please list the items which will be purchased under this category and the price per item.

n/a

Other

What is the service or item being requested and the total amount?

n/a

SECTION D PROGRAM DESIGN

Please address the following items:

Statement of Problem

Please identify the specific problem or need that will be addressed by this program.

More than half of the 2.6 million veterans deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan return with mental health conditions related to their service. One in six struggle with addiction and one in five have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Left untreated, these issues make it difficult to adjust to everyday life after they return and can lead to unemployment, homelessness and arrest. In fact, there are 700,000 veterans in the criminal justice system today, many of whom have been arrested for charges directly related to trauma, addiction or mental illness. For a long time, our justice system relied on punishment to change behavior. This hasn't worked. Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) provides an alternative to incarceration. These veterans-only courtrooms offer treatment, accountability and structure while connecting the veteran to benefits they have earned. If there is no treatment court available, they may end up in jail, separated from family, without treatment and stuck in a cycle from which they may never recover. In Veterans Treatment Court, they are surrounded by other veterans, they receive veterans-specific treatment, meet regularly with a veteran-mentor, and they have the opportunity to get their life back on track. This year, 11,000 veterans who would otherwise be behind bars are receiving life-saving treatment. The average cost to keep someone in prison is over \$22,000 per year. If they veterans who need treatment had gone to jail instead of treatment, the bill would have been \$248,000,000 and those that go through the program are less likely to be re-arrested. The country's first Veterans Treatment Court has a 98% success rate—that's unprecedented in American criminal justice. Veterans Treatment Court saves lives, families and futures. The program returns veterans to the life they fought to protect.

All specialty courts should be based to some extent on the drug court model developed in the late 1980's. The drug court model has ten key components that are listed within the data dictionary. Other types of specialty courts may not have every one of these characteristics, but they will substantially follow this model. If applying for funding for a new or existing specialty court, please complete the following:

Service Delivery Plan

Please explain how the Court will provide treatment.

VTC service delivery plan will continue to incorporate the services set out in the Budget Narrative section of this application. If funding is approved, VTC program participants will also have access to the following services:

- Access to a certified Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Agency (SAPTA) 28-day residential substance abuse treatment provider with a Level 3.1 American Society of Addiction Medicine designation, which is ADA compliant. The ASAM Level 3.1 is a designation for treatment facilities that provide substance abuse treatment under the supervision of a medical doctor outside of a hospital environment. This higher level of treatment is not currently provided by the VHA.
- Improved drug and alcohol monitoring through the use of SCRAM 24/7 Drug Testing Patch (14 Day Patch).

PROGRAMS MISSION AND GOALS

all goals must be measurable. (Key Component#1)

Please define your program's mission.

The mission of the Las Vegas Justice Court VTC is to enhance public safety and coordinate services for the veteran by providing a judicially supervised regimen of substance abuse and mental health treatment in addition to addressing the holistic needs of the veteran with the goal of returning productive law-abiding citizens to the community, thereby reducing costs associated with recidivism.

Define your program's goals.

In order to accomplish this mission, the Las Vegas Justice Court VTC has made a commitment to make this VTC a model for other courts nationwide to emulate. We want to be the benchmark that others follow. First, we successfully secured grant funded training opportunity from the Justice for Vets organization. In late April 2015, their team conducted a two day training seminar at the Regional Justice Center. The training outlined the importance of implementing the ten key components expounded by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), specifically for a veterans treatment court. It also emphasized the importance of establishing a fully committed case management team.

The program follows the mission statement and has established program phases for eligible defendants. VTC has a District Attorney and Public Defender specifically appointed.

Describe any barriers to meeting these goals.

For veteran participants in which inpatient treatment is recommended by the VA, the VA will attempt to place the participant in a VA inpatient program. However, there are no VA inpatient programs within the state of Nevada. This provides a very difficult situation in which the court no longer is operating within the policies of the VTC guidelines. We have an MOU with the Southern Nevada Healthcare Facility, which does not extend to other facilities. When a veteran is placed in any VA program, the VA considers them a voluntary participant and will not require them to attend any treatment programs. The court's ability to enforce

PROGRAM LENGTH (Key Component #4)

What is the minimum and maximum length of the program?

Minimum of 12 months with an average length of 14 months

Are there treatment phases? If yes, please list each phase, the length of each phase, and what is provided within each phase.

The VTC program is a four-phase, highly structured and supervised program using primarily outpatient treatment. Inpatient treatment may be necessary depending upon a participant's individual needs. Treatment is designed to last for a minimum of 12 months. Progress through the treatment phases will depend upon completion of treatment goals and compliance with drug testing and other program rules. Fewer sanctions should result in timely promotions. Participants must also make significant progress in treatment and other program requirements to be promoted to the next phase. Each phase consists of specified treatment objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities and specific requirements for promotion into the next phase. Each participant must apply to the Court for promotion; all participant applications will be reviewed by the Case Management Team.

Phase I

This first phase is expected to be 60 days in duration. During this phase, a treatment plan will be developed by treatment providers. Participant will be required to obtain a physical at one of the VHA outpatient clinics to identify any medical issues. The VHA outpatient clinics are located on all sides of town:

Southeast Primary Care Clinic Northwest Primary Care Clinic
1020 S. Boulder Hwy 3698 N. Rancho Dr.
Henderson, NV 89015 Las Vegas, NV 89130

Northeast Primary Care Clinic Southwest Primary Care Clinic

If phases are not used, explain how a participant progresses through the program.

n/a

What are the requirements for completing each phase or progressing through the program (e.g., the number, type, and frequency of drug tests, attendance at support groups, etc.)?

Phase I

This first phase is expected to be 60 days in duration. During this phase, a treatment plan will be developed by treatment providers. Participant will be required to obtain a physical at one of the VHA outpatient clinics to identify any medical issues. In order to promote to Phase II, participant must have a minimum of 14 consecutive days of clean time with no positive urine samples, no low creatinine level samples, no invalid samples, and no failures to provide a sample (no matter the reason). Participant must be fully compliant with all Phase I requirements.

Phase II

The second phase is expected to be 120 days in duration. In addition to the ongoing Phase I requirements, during this phase participant will additionally be required to establish a payment plan to take care of any Court fines, administrative assessment fees, and any restitution that may be ordered as part of case. In order to promote to Phase III, participant must have a minimum of 30 consecutive days of clean time (during Phase II) with no positive urine samples, no low creatinine level samples, no invalid

What are the eligibility criteria?

All program participants are veterans who are non-violent misdemeanor offenders with identified substance abuse, mental health and/or co-occurring disorders, who are high needs/high risk.

SCREENING AND ELIGIBILITY (Key Component #3)

Describe the process for identifying eligible participants according to established program criteria.

When a defendant is identified as a veteran, he or she may be referred to VTC from any judicial department within the Las Vegas Justice Court (LVJC) or through a referral by the Office of the District Attorney. Once a referral is made, a VTC Coordinator conducts an alcohol and drug assessment, and if warranted, makes a referral for a mental health evaluation to VHA. The tools used to conduct these assessments include, but are not limited to: the Risk and Needs Triage (RANT) screening instrument which measures individuals' severity of clinical needs and criminal risk, the SASSI-3, which is the screening tool approved by the Nevada Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SPATA) for use in alcohol and drug treatment programs, behavioral health and drug courts. The VTC Coordinator also uses the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders V (DSM V) to properly identify substance abuse and mental health disorders. All assessments

At what point in the case process does the initial eligibility screening occur?

Initial eligibility screening occurs as soon as possible after the initial court appearance.

Who conducts the initial screening of offenders and who determines eligibility?

Initial screenings are conducted by LVJC Coordinators who are Nevada licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors.

What instrument is used to assess risk and needs for the target population? How are the outcomes used for program or track placement?

The tools used by the Court Coordinator to assess a potential program participant's appropriateness for Drug Court include, but are not limited to: the Risk and Needs Triage (RANT) screening instrument, which is an evidence-based instrument that allows problem-solving courts to assess individuals' level of risk and need in order to determine the appropriate level of services; the SASSI-3, which is a self-report screening instrument for substance dependency. It provides a classification of chemically dependent or not chemically dependent. The AUDIT (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test) is used to identify excessive drinking and as a framework for intervention to help hazardous and harmful drinkers reduce or cease alcohol consumption. Th+

TARGET POPULATION (Key Component #3)

What is the target population?

The VTC targets veterans who enter into the criminal justice system and are identified as having high treatment needs for either substance abuse or mental health issues, to include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and are at risk to re-offend without treatment and intervention.

If for ongoing programs, have the demographics or caseloads of the program changed since its inception?

The overall demographics of the program participants have not changed since inception.

JUDICIAL INTERACTION (Minimum Criteria #1)

Who presides over the program, e.g., judge and/or hearing master?

Justice of the Peace Harmony Letizia

What day and time of the week does the specialty court have status review hearings?

Every other Wednesday, Noon

How frequently does the participant appear before the judge for status review hearings?

Phase I and II - Twice a month;
Phase III and IV - Once a month.

DRUG TESTING PROTOCOL (Minimum Criteria #4)

How frequently are participants required to submit to a drug and/or alcohol test?

LVJC has contracted with an outside vendor to conduct random drug screenings. During each of the four Phases, program participants are tested by the provider 30 times per quarter on a true random basis. The provider utilizes a number system, and the program participants must call in daily to determine if their number has been selected. If selected, they must report for

Who or which agency administers the drug and/or alcohol test?

Cordant

What type methodology is used, e.g., urine, saliva, hair, sweat patch, etc.?

observed urine testing

How will randomization be effectuated?

LVJC has contracted with an outside vendor to conduct random drug screenings. During each of the four Phases, program participants are tested by the provider 30 times per quarter on a true random basis. The provider utilizes a number system, and the program participants must call in daily to determine if their number has been selected. If selected, they must report for testing within 12 hours. All samples are handled pursuant to standard laboratory protocol.

How are test challenges handled?

Program participants can challenge any presumptive positive test result. Such challenges are heard by the Judge during status check hearings.

Who pays for a test challenge/confirmation?

When a program participants challenges a presumptive positive drug test, he/she can request confirmation of the result at their own expense.

DRUG COURT TEAM (Minimum Criteria #3)

Does your program have a team? If so, list the members on your team, e.g., judge, defense, prosecution, counselor, parole and probation, etc.?

The team includes the presiding Judge, VTC Coordinator, public and/or private defense counsel, District Attorney, and treatment program representatives.

What are the roles and responsibilities of each team member?

- The VTC Judge makes the final decision on admissions, sanctions, incentives, and terminations;
- Defense Attorney makes recommendations on admissions, provides input on sanctions, incentives, and terminations, and provides advocacy for the participant;
- The treatment providers participate as members of the treatment team. They make recommendation on admissions to the program, provide clinical input on program participants' treatment needs, progress and relapse(s).
- The VTC Coordinator is in regular contact with the treatment providers to discuss all participants' issues on the pending weekly docket. The Coordinator forwards her intake evaluations to the team with a brief synopsis for all participants on the pending weekly docket.



TREATMENT CONTINUUM AND PLAN (Minimum Criteria #6, #7)

Are participants required to attend regular counseling sessions? Identify how often they attend during the respective phases of the program or if clinical services are individualized, allowing for the clinician/agency to determine frequency, duration, and intensity?

Yes. Program participants have to attend regular counseling sessions based on their individual treatment plan and level of care, which is created by their service provider. Some program participants attend multiple individual and group counseling sessions. Other program participants require fewer sessions.

All program participants attend at least two group counseling sessions per week and one individual counseling session per month during Phase I and II. Program participants in Phase I and II, with co-occurring disorders also attend one mental health group counseling session per week and one individual mental health counseling session per week.

In Phase II and IV, attend at least one substance abuse counseling session per week and one individual counseling session [+]
Are the clinicians who are providing all ASAM levels of care certified or licensed per NRS 641C or NAC 641C?

All counselors are certified or licensed by their respective Boards as required by federal statutes.

What ancillary services are available to participants, e.g., career counseling, GED classes, etc.?

Wraparound Services – A number of Veterans Treatment Court program participants have substantial problems over and beyond their substance abuse. Some are homeless, unemployed, underemployed, and lack employable skills, they need medical care and/or do not have proper identification. VHA Social Workers conduct human needs assessment, identify program participants' needs, and make appropriate referrals for wraparound services.

Will aftercare/transition planning be provided to participants? If yes, describe what type of aftercare/transition planning will be provided.

Yes. Aftercare is provided by VHA and discussed with the Court Coordinator prior to graduation. When participants apply for graduation, they have to specify their aftercare plan and identify their list of support service providers, with contact information.

SANCTIONS AND INCENTIVES (Minimum Criteria #8)

Please list the sanctions and incentives that are used (include a description of when and how they are used).

Sanctions are progressive and become stiffer for repeat violations. Sanctions are individualized for the participant, the phase in the program, and the type of violation. As such, sanctions received by one participant may not be equivalent to another participant for the same violation. In general, VTC expects participants in the higher phases of the program to have the capability of compliance; therefore, any violation may result in a stiffer sanction than someone new to the program.

Below are some common sanctions:

- Oral or Written Admonishment by the Veterans Treatment Court Judge;
- Increased mandatory contact with supervision or Court Coordinator;
- Increased drug testing or early morning drug testing requirement;
- More frequent court attendance;
- Assignment of community service hours or daily reporting at the jail;
- Increased supervision, including GPS, alcohol monitoring or earlier curfew (at your expense);
- Jail up to 5 days per violation.

+

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Key Component #6)

Describe the graduation requirements.

In order to graduate, program participants must have a minimum of 90 consecutive days of clean time (during Phases III-IV) with no positive urine samples or low creatinine level samples. They must comply with all Phase IV requirements and petition the Court and receive approval to graduation. All participants are required to pay the \$600 program fee prior to graduation.

EXPULSION CRITERIA (Key Component #6)

Describe the criteria for terminating a participant from the program.

Repeated noncompliance with Court orders or VTC program rules can result in termination from the VTC program.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION ASSESSMENT (Key Component #8)

What methods of data collection will be utilized by this program to track participant data and to provide case management services and outcome evaluation?

VTC utilizes both Odyssey and DCCM, the drug court case management system.

How does your court plan to evaluate the specialty court program, in order to achieve its goals and objectives?

VTC relies upon internal systems to collect and analyze program data. These systems have been effective in determining program retention rates, recidivism, perfect compliance and graduation rates.

MENTAL HEALTH COURTS ONLY (Minimum Criteria #5)

Who ensures program participants are medication compliant?

n/a