

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:	Adult Drug Court Co-occurring
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?	18
8	Total number of participants projected <u>to be served</u> in new fiscal year?	20
9	Number of <u>new</u> participants projected to be served in new fiscal year?	10
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 Drug Court Enhanced had FY 2021 unspent funds of \$66,157.77. Las Vegas Justice Court is poised to spend all FY 2022 appropriated General Fund 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: Adult Drug Court Enhanced

DATE PROGRAM BECAME OPERATIONAL (Date of first drug court calendar): 01/02/1996

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

Cynthia Cruz

Digitally signed by Cynthia Cruz
Date: 2021.11.18 08:30:36 -08'00'

11/18/2021

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adult Drug Court	Established Court With AOC Funding	Post Plea
<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 type="checkbox"/> Veterans Treatment Court	Select one	Select one
<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 been 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 participants 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: Adult Drug Court Enhanced		
	Revenue Received by the Program	FY22 Fee-Funding Request	FY22 General Fund Request
4	Projected participant payments (Made to the court, not to the treatment provider)		\$ 12,455.00
5	Appropriations received from cities or counties		
6	Federal or other grants (Include expiration date and match, if applicable)		
	>		
	>		
7	Other funds received (Describe)		
	>		
	>		
	Total Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,455.00
	Expenditures Paid by the Program (In order per the approved funding priorities - Part II, Section B)		
8	Professional Services		
	Counseling		\$ 97,650.00
	Residential Housing (Mental Health Courts only)		
	Residential Treatment (ASAM levels of care 3.1 and 3.5)		\$ 19,600.00
9	Drug Test Supplies		\$ 49,000.00
10	Drug Testing Equipment		
11	Drug Testing Confirmation		
12	Electronic Monitoring		\$ 960.00
13	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		
14	Operating Expenses (office supplies, rent, postage, telephone, printing, copying, etc.) - Max \$1,200/year		
15	Bus Passes and or Taxi Vouchers - Max \$5,000/year		\$ 2,500.00
16	Incentives (gift certificates max. \$5 - \$15, tokens, books, cookies, cake, and pizza) - Max \$2,500/year		\$ 2,500.00
17	Basic Needs(clothing,hairstyles, hygiene products) - Max \$5,000/year		
18	Transitional Housing with case/house manager - Max 30% of award		\$ 6,000.00
19	Housing (motel, apartments, weeklies) - Max 30% of award		
20	Acquiring necessary capital goods or using appropriate technology		
21	Studying the management and operation of the program		
22	Other		
23	Team Training - Max 5% of total allocation		
	Total Expenditures	\$ 0.00	\$ 178,210.00
	Total Funds Requested		\$ 178,210.00

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.

Las Vegas Justice Court Drug Court (LVJCDC) has been in operation since 1996 and is the largest and oldest treatment court program at the Clark County Justice Court level. The mission of LVJCDC is to promote public safety and health by providing aggressive treatment and supervision to citizens with legal and substance abuse problems through partnerships between local government, law enforcement, the legal community and community agencies in a non-adversarial process. The theory behind LVJCDC is to provide substance abuse treatment under the supervision of a judge, in hopes that the participant will be able to overcome their substance abuse problems and become a productive member of society again without going through lengthy and costly incarceration. LVJCDC serves only adults (18 years and older), as defined in the section 62A.030 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. Its participants are those presenting a high prognostic risk along with high criminogenic needs. Historically, LVJCDC served defendants whose primary drug of choice was methamphetamine. Since 2014, the population has become significantly younger, ranging in age from 18 to early 30's with the predominant drug of choice changing from methamphetamine to heroin. At present, over 50% of LVJCDC participants report an opioid dependency, requiring more complex substance abuse treatment, frequently with a medication assisted treatment (MAT) component.

On average, 14 new participants are referred to LVJCDC each month, totaling approximately 168 new referrals a year. Of those new referrals, on average, over half lack sober and safe housing. Participants who are homeless face higher challenges in successfully completing LVJCDC as funding limitations prohibit providing them with needed wrap-around services beyond substance abuse treatment. These wrap-around services include housing, reclaiming proper identification and work force assistance. As such, participants who are homeless go without these critical additional services and experience a higher rate of failure as compared to those with stable, sober housing.

Homelessness is not the only issue facing LVJCDC. The rapid rise in opioid and heroin usage has strained treatment options as more participants are requiring more complex levels of substance abuse treatment due to their drug of choice. Providing these participants with MAT along with wrap-around services exhausts funding resources at a faster rate. Frequently opioid dependent

Please explain how your program handles participant payments.

The program fees are payable at Las Vegas Justice Court 2nd floor windows.

How much do you collect from each participant?

Drug Court program fees are currently \$750.

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 presiding judge and Specialty Courts Coordinator payroll.

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

☒ NO

If yes, answer the following:

Type of funding (grant, or other)

no

How are the funds going to be expended?

n/a

What is the expiration date?

n/a

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

n/a

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?

Sierra Sage Recovery, Choices Group Inc., Freedom House Sober Living, 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?

75% of 20 participants = 15 participants

What is the cost per participant?

\$6,510 per participant

What is the total amount requested for professional services counseling?

\$6,510 per participant x 15 = \$97,650

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?

Seven Hills Behavioral Institute, Vogue Recovery, Sierra Sage Recovery, Crossroads

Please list all services to be rendered.

28-Day In-Patient Residential Substance Abuse Treatment

How many participants will be served?

25% of 20 participants = 5 participants to be served

What is the total amount requested for residential treatment?

\$140 per day x 28 days = \$3,920 x 5 participants = \$19,600

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.

Contracted Random Drug Testing (observed urinalysis UAs) from Cordant

What is the cost per unit?

\$24.50

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

100

What is the total amount requested for drug testing supplies?

\$49,000

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?

0

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?

Total Court Services/SCRAM

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

25% of 20 participants = 5 participants

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

SCRAM Monitoring Fee \$10.00 per day; average 30 days of electronic monitoring per client.

What is the total amount requested for electronic monitoring?

\$960

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.

\$2.50 per daily public transportation pass x 1,000 passes = \$2,500

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 cards \$5 - \$15 each

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 Sober Living, Las Vegas; Crossroads, Sierra Sage Recovery

How many participants will be utilizing this service?

Sober Living Residence (Housing) - 5 participants

What is the total cost per participant?

Sober living residence costs for two months at \$600 per month for 25% of 20 participants = 5

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

$\$600 \times 5 = \$3,000 \times 2 \text{ months} = \$6,000$

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)?

n/a

How many participants will be utilizing this service?

n/a

What is the total cost per participant?

n/a

What is the total amount requested for housing?

n/a

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.

As with other Drug Courts throughout the country, the Las Vegas Justice Court Drug Court (Drug Court) is facing a changing demographic. Historically, Drug Court served defendants who ranged in age from early 20's to mid-40's. Their primary drug of choice was methamphetamine. Since 2014, the population has become significantly younger, ranging in age from 18 to early 30's with the drug of choice changing from methamphetamine to opioids / heroin. This population overwhelmingly requires higher levels of substance abuse treatment and may need medication-assisted treatment. The court is also facing the pressing concern that if treatment is not provided at the misdemeanor level, addicted defendants will escalate to felony crimes, which can result in serious bodily harm and/or death. Thus, the public safety issue intensifies the longer underlying physical, social, and mental health conditions go unaddressed. Drug Court's goal is to provide services for an additional 20 potential program participants; facilitate access to ACA coverage for these participants; provide access to broader levels of substance abuse treatment programs, mental health services and access to MATs to support the recovery process.

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.

New participants are referred to one of the contracted counseling providers for an orientation session and mental health evaluation and treatment. A treatment plan is then developed for each participant, based on their individual needs. These include social services, substance abuse treatment, with medication-assisted treatment if necessary, and wrap-around services beyond substance abuse treatment. These wrap-around services include housing, counseling, electronic monitoring and work force assistance. They also frequently require assistance with replacing lost identification such as driver's licenses, identity cards or other official documents. The lack of identification creates a significant barrier for participants seeking employment, housing, or social services. The treatment plan may include educational needs. The Drug Court program team reviews these needs and assigns the case management component to the Drug Court Coordinator. The coordinator along with the treatment provider staff cases weekly to identify issues that need to be addressed and include these goals as part of a service plan as well as treatment plan.

PROGRAMS MISSION AND GOALS, all goals must be measurable. (Key Component#1)

Please define your program's mission.

Drug Court's mission is to promote public safety and health by providing aggressive treatment and supervision to citizens with legal and substance abuse problems through partnerships between local government, law enforcement, the legal community and community agencies in a non-adversarial process. This Drug Court program serves only adults with non-violent misdemeanor offenses with co-occurring disorders, and requires a minimum of 18 months to complete.

Define your program's goals.

Drug Court provides evidence-based treatment to participants in conjunction with judicial oversight which is intended to reduce recidivism and increase individual accountability. Drug Court strives to reduce costs incurred by the criminal justice system and improve public safety for the citizens of Clark County.

Provide a cost-effective treatment alternative to Drug Court offenders during FY 2023. The cost of incarceration for 6 months is \$27,000.00 per defendant (Clark County Detention Center cost \$150 per day or \$4,500.00 per month). The Drug Court program costs between \$6,600.00 and \$11,000.00 per program participant (\$550.00 to \$916.67 per month).

Describe any barriers to meeting these goals.

Drug Court seeks unique ways to manage and maximize funding. Treatment options are becoming strained as more participants are facing housing issues and are requiring more complex levels of substance abuse treatment due to their drug of choice and risk classification. While Drug Court is using as many outside resources as possible to defray costs, there still is a substantial unmet need in covering costs associated with substance abuse treatment with co-occurring disorders and participant housing.

PROGRAM LENGTH (Key Component #4)

What is the minimum and maximum length of the program?

The program takes a minimum of eighteen (18) months to complete.

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

PHASE ONE

(Minimum of 90 days in length)

The primary focus of Phase One is participants' acute stabilization with the following requirements:

- o Attend court weekly
- o Stay out of trouble
- o Begin substance abuse treatment
- o Develop a case plan
- o Work on obtaining stable, sober housing
- o Have a medical assessment
- o Work on obtaining government issued identification (if needed)
- o Start changing participant's people, places and things

To advance to Phase Two, in addition to addressing all of the listed requirements, participants must also be honest, make all court appearances, attend treatment, and be clean for at least 14 consecutive days.

PHASE TWO

(Minimum of 90 days in length)

The primary focus of Phase Two is participants' clinical stabilization with the following requirements:

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.)?

All participants are drug tested on an average of two times a week on a random basis for the duration of the program. Drug Court encourages participants to develop a Recovery Support Services Delivery Plan, along with finding sober prosocial activities to participate in. An on-going, sober support system encourages participant success. These systems may include AA, NA, Celebrate Recovery, peer support services or other similar groups. Participants must attend at least two support group meetings and activities per week after achieving court phase 2. Those in court phase 3 and higher must do at least three meetings a week. The rationale is that with this support, they will develop positive peer relationships by learning to self-advocate and learn to be role models to others who enter the program. Drug Court phases are different from treatment phases to assure each participant receives an individual treatment plan based upon their needs. The court phases are each 90 days minimum in length and each have a different focus for the participant. Each court phase requires a minimum length of consecutive clean time to transition to the next court phase. The court phases are as follows: Phase One focuses on acute stabilization and requires 14 days consecutive clean time for transition; Phase Two focuses on clinical stabilization and requires 30 days consecutive clean time for transition; Phase Three focuses on pro-social habilitation and requires 45 days consecutive clean

What are the eligibility criteria?

Drug Court accepts referrals from Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson Justice Courts. All referrals are evaluated, but not everyone meets Drug Court program admission criteria. During the evaluation, the Coordinator determines if the defendant is homeless, has a co-occurring disorder, whether the defendant has Medicaid/insurance, if they are committing crimes to support their drug habit (Coordinator has access to their scope), the severity of their drug use and if drug use is a driver. The Drug Court Coordinators' evaluation only gathers information covering the 12-month period preceding arrest. Consequently, if the defendant has been drug-free for one year, they do not qualify for Drug Court unless they have relapsed, and returned to using drugs. Defendant must be high-risk, high-needs. Should the defendant have a recent criminal history of drug sales, the defendant may not participate in Drug Court.

SCREENING AND ELIGIBILITY (Key Component #3)

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

Drug Court operates in accordance with the NADCP's Key Component 3 by providing a process to identify eligible participants as early and promptly as possible. Potential participants are identified through case review and negotiation by prosecutors and defense attorneys. Frequently, the nature of the charges and criminal history will prompt a referral, but a history of property related crime, drug related offenses and/or admission of a substance abuse problem will also trigger a possible referral to Drug Court. At present, Drug Court relies on its partners in the criminal justice system to provide an initial identification and referral of potential participants to Drug Court. Drug Court accepts referrals from Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson Justice Courts.

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


Once the defendant is identified as being a candidate for Drug Court, their case is transferred to Drug Court for the defendant to be evaluated.

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

They must meet with one of the Specialty Courts Coordinators for evaluation to determine if they qualify for Drug Court. All referrals are evaluated, but not everyone meets Drug Court program admission criteria.

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

Drug Court provides referral, screening and assessment process/eligibility determination. 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 following:

- 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.
- SASSI-3 or similar test, which is a self-report screening instrument for substance dependency. It provides a classification of 

TARGET POPULATION (Key Component #3)

What is the target population?


There is no discrimination because of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, physical or mental disability, religion or socioeconomic status in the selection of eligible participants. Referrals with a substantial violent criminal history/underlying offense are not accepted into Drug Court. The Drug Court program criterion is aimed at substance abuse and criminal activity.

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

yes

JUDICIAL INTERACTION (Minimum Criteria #1)


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

Justice of the Peace Cynthia Cruz is the presiding judge. The presiding judge hears the weekly court calendar, receives status reports from treatment providers, provides judicial supervision, responds to program participants questions and concerns and imposes sanctions and gives rewards. She also participates in graduation ceremonies. 

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


Thursday at 8:15 am

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

Once a week for Phase 1, every 2 weeks for Phase 2, every 30 days for Phases 3, 4, and 5 unless the participant is having a problem in the program. Due to the Nevada COVID-19 pandemic social distancing orders, web-based court is held on Thursdays. Individuals who are struggling with the program, are non-compliant or having drug testing issues have to appear in court. 

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 tests. All participants are drug tested on an average of 2 times a week on a random basis for the duration of the program. All samples are handled pursuant to standard laboratory protocol. 

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.?

Cordant conducts off-site random observed collection and testing of participants' urine. If a positive result is obtained, the sample is retested for confirmation.

How will randomization be effectuated?

All participants must call in daily to determine if their number has been selected and, if it has report for testing within 8 hours.

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.?

Yes. The team includes the presiding Judge, Drug Court Coordinators, public or private defense counsel, District Attorney, and treatment program representatives.

What are the roles and responsibilities of each team member?

- The Drug Court 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 admission to the program, giving clinical input related to program participants' the treatment needs, successes and failures;
- The Drug Court Coordinators meets weekly with the treatment providers to discuss all participants' issues on the pending weekly docket. The coordinators forwards their intake evaluations to the team with brief synopsis' for all participants on the pending weekly docket;
- The treatment team meets before court to review and discuss the participants on docket. The team is seated in court to assist the judge and work with the program participants to assist them in complying with all court orders. The coordinator follows up with the team members to confirm compliance.

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?

The treatment agency determines the length of stay in each phase utilizing the standard practices for outpatient treatment & IOP an example is listed below;

Phase 1 in outpatient is 2 groups 1 individual session a week. Standard practice is 8 weeks in phase 1.

Phase 2 in outpatient is 1 group and 1 individual session a week. Standard practice is 28 weeks in phase 2.

Phase 3 in outpatient is 1 group every other week and one individual session every other week. Standard practice is 8 weeks in phase 3.

Phase 4 in outpatient is 1 group every other week and one individual session every other week. Standard practice is 8 weeks in phase 4. 

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 state statutes.

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

A number of Drug Court's program participants have substantial problems over and beyond their substance abuse. Community partnerships are utilized, which may include working with local social services to provide rental assistance, food pantries, low cost medical service clinics, community sober support activities, and/or peer support services. Drug Court is currently working towards a partnership with the local medical school and Health District to provide lost-cost medical services to its participants as well as screening services for HIV and Hepatitis. Participants can then be referred to other low-cost providers through the medical school for follow-up medical treatment and services. Drug Court also collaborates with other treatment courts to forge cost-effective, progressive ideas to improve Drug Court's program.

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

All participants are offered aftercare services at the conclusion of their substance abuse treatment, and Drug Court places significant focus on the creation of a stable, support structure by each participant to assist them with their continued sobriety. Aftercare is unlimited and at no cost to the graduate. It consists of a "Recovery Support Services Delivery Plan", which includes on-going systems to encourage participant success. These systems may include AA, NA, Celebrate Recovery, peer support services or other similar groups. The graduates are informed that they may also contact a former counselor or the Drug Court Coordinators for referrals to other community services after graduation. At Choices Group, discharge summaries are typically completed during the last treatment plan update. The summary is an overview of the treatment plan goals and objectives, and a plan for continued recovery, which includes any recommendations for future counseling or other needed services, such as educational and vocational training, vocational opportunity, housing referrals, housing, medical, or transportation assistance. These plans are designed primarily by the client with their counselor and will typically include names of sponsors, phone numbers of positive people, referrals for counseling services and any other community referrals needed by the client. A signed copy is given to the client at the time of discharge.

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).

INCENTIVES:

- Fish bowl for VIP Perfect Compliance. Fish Bowl contains slips for awards of gift cards in \$5, \$10, or \$15 amounts to WalMart, Target, McDonalds, etc.
- Coin for participants who achieve a higher phase level
- Candy bowl for VIP Perfect Compliance and Perfect Compliance
- Commemorative Justice Court Drug Court Coin, Sobriety Rocks T-Shirt, Certificate of Completion for participants who graduate
- All incentives given by Judge in front of all drug court participants on calendar that day along congratulations by Judge. [See attached Incentives and Sanctions Chart]

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Key Component#6)

Describe the graduation requirements.

In order to graduate, participants must have completed all five court phases, their substance abuse treatment program, have not been charged with any new criminal offenses and submitted to random drug testing throughout the program. They are required to work their way through the phase(s) and achieve perfect compliance. They are required to pay program fees by graduation, unless they have a documented disability prohibiting them from working. In those cases, fees may be waived or exchanged for a community service equivalent. Any restitution to victims cannot be waived, per statute. Community service cannot be used to satisfy orders of restitution.

EXPULSION CRITERIA (Key Component#6)

Describe the criteria for terminating a participant from the program.

Defendants may be expelled from the program for bringing drugs to treatment, manipulating and/or adulterating urine samples, aggressive behavior, or presenting a safety risk for staff and/or other program participants.

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?

Las Vegas Justice Court utilizes two case management systems to monitor Specialty Court performance. Odyssey constitutes the court's official record, including court filings, fees and fines, case events, and dispositions. Data can be entered into Odyssey by Las Vegas Justice Court judges, management, and authorized staff. The Drug Court Case Management system (DCCM) is the Nevada Supreme Court's system. It is used by the Drug Court to document program participant-specific information including but not limited to drug and alcohol testing results, counseling and community service. Data entry into DCCM is limited to Las Vegas Justice Court specialty court judges, management, administrators, court coordinators and authorized staff. Both systems will be utilized to collect, review, monitor and report data on grant-funded program participants. +

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

Historically, Drug Court has relied 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