

Treatment Courts and Technical Assistance

Background | The Center for Justice Innovation provides training and technical assistance to treatment courts across the United States, including adult treatment courts, veterans treatment courts, juvenile treatment courts, family treatment courts, DWI/DUI courts, and other models. The Center specializes in offering individualized technical assistance responsive to the needs of the state.

Strategic Planning | The Center's experienced staff helps treatment courts develop strategic plans that ensure fidelity to evidence-based practices, build robust training strategies for treatment court teams, enhance data collection and evaluation capacity, strengthen interagency partnerships, and manage growth. Strategic planning is available for individual courts as well as for regional and statewide treatment court systems. Throughout the years, the Center has worked with a wide variety of states around the country, including Wisconsin, New Hampshire, California, and Virginia.

Evidence-Based Practices | The Center helps treatment courts implement evidence-based practices like the use of a validated risk-need assessment, graduated incentives and sanctions, medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), Motivational Interviewing techniques, procedural justice practices, and many more. In Missouri, for example, the Center has helped to expand the use of Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy (H.E.A.T.), an evidence-based intervention designed for young black males, into more treatment courts across the state.

Fidelity Reviews | To help treatment courts assess their fidelity to the model, the Center conducts assessments that look at intake, assessment and referral procedures, case planning, compliance monitoring, data collection and evaluation practices, and other key performance areas. The Center also offers targeted training to address the areas needing improvement. In recent years, a working group of statewide coordinators, with support from the Center, established the Statewide Treatment Court Certification Toolkit. The toolkit, a culmination of best practices and lessons learned, provides guidance to states seeking to improve their treatment court network's adherence to evidence-based practices, such as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' (NADCP) Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards and the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts. Statewide administrators and judicial bodies can use the toolkit to enhance existing treatment court certification programs or create new ones by referring to examples from across the country.

Innovation | In addition to promoting evidence-based practices, the Center experiments with new and innovative approaches in treatment courts, including the use of technology to deliver remote treatment and supervision to participants, integrating restorative justice practices to help participants repair damaged relationships and build a stronger foundation for long-term recovery, and advising treatment courts as they navigate justice system and legislative changes.

Opioids | The Center is a leader in the development of specialized opioid intervention courts and other court-based strategies for addressing opioid use disorders. The Center offers training and technical assistance to help states improve their responses to the opioid crisis. The Center's approach to this issue is rooted in *The 10 Essential Elements of Opioid Intervention Courts*, which it developed in collaboration with the New York State Unified Court System and national experts.

Treatment Courts Online | The Center operates Treatment Courts Online (www.treatmentcourts.org), the leading online training resource for treatment courts. This free website offers training videos, practitioner interviews, virtual tours of treatment courts, and a resource library.

Conference Support | The Center's expert staff—which includes former prosecutors, defense attorneys, social workers, treatment providers, court administrators, and other experienced justice system professionals—frequently speak at state, national, and international conferences on a broad range of topics related to treatment courts. Popular presentations include constitutional and legal issues in treatment courts, enhancing courts through teleservices, incorporating restorative justice practices, promoting fidelity to the model, and much more.

For More Information | Contact Monica Christofferson, Director of Treatment Court Programs (christoffersonm@innovatingjustice.org) or Karen Otis, Deputy Director of Treatment Court Programs (otisk@innovatingjustice.org).