

Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program

A Bureau of Justice Assistance,
U.S. Department of Justice Grant Initiative

Large numbers of people with serious mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders are caught up in the criminal justice system, often with tragic results for these individuals, their families, and the communities in which they live. Jurisdictions across the nation are looking for help to address how to improve the use of law enforcement, court, and corrections resources to link people in need to effective treatment and ensure public safety.

Researchers estimate that 16.9 percent of people admitted to jail have serious mental illnesses—rates three times higher for men and six times higher for women than those found in the general population.¹

JMHCP

In 2004, Congress authorized the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) through the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA). This grant program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, was created to help states, local government, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations improve responses to people with mental illnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system. The JMHCP facilitates collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, mental health treatment, and substance abuse treatment systems to better serve individuals with mental illnesses and to increase public safety. The program provides funds to:

- Create effective responses at each step of the criminal justice process, from first encounters with law enforcement through reentry from prison or jail to the community;
- Provide training and cross-training for mental health and justice professionals; and
- Support strategic planning among partners from justice, mental health, and substance abuse agencies.

A national study of individuals with mental illnesses in state prisons found that those individuals, controlled for sentence terms, served an average of 15 months longer than the prisoners without mental illness.²

JMHCP Grant Award Categories

Grants support such efforts as collaborative law enforcement response programs; mental health courts and other court-based programs; specialized training for justice and treatment professionals; service delivery for recovery support resources such as housing; and corrections, transitional, and reentry efforts. For additional examples of how grant funds have been used in the past, see the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project's Local Programs Database at http://consensusproject.org/programs_start and search "JMHCP grantees."

Planning Grants (Category 1)

Category 1 allows jurisdictions to design a strategic, multidisciplinary plan to identify and treat individuals with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system.

Example: A Virginia county with a regional law enforcement Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program received a planning grant to support officers' efforts to safely divert people with mental illnesses to treatment providers when appropriate. The rural nature of the county has made it difficult for officers to quickly link individuals with community resources. Program coordinators used grant funds to conduct site visits to rural counties around the country to learn about effective community-based treatment options and officer-friendly policies that could be replicated in their jurisdictions.

Planning and Implementation Grants (Category 2)

Category 2 gives jurisdictions the opportunity to complete a strategic planning process for their criminal justice/mental health collaborative program, and then implement the program.

Example: A North Dakota grantee used grant funds to plan and implement a jail-based, post-booking program to identify individuals with mental illnesses and link them to services that can reduce the likelihood of future criminal justice involvement. A grant-funded clinical mental health coordinator was hired to conduct screenings and assessments to determine individuals' eligibility for participation in the program. This program has linked individuals to medication monitoring, housing assistance, case management, and chemical dependency treatment, and has increased the number of individuals screened from 92 in the year preceding launch of the program to 550 in the first four months of program's implementation.

Expansion Grants (Category 3)

Category 3 allows jurisdictions to enhance an existing collaborative project, such as supplementing services for justice-involved individuals with mental illness or expanding the capacity of a program.

Example: An Ohio county used grant funds to expand its *Court Assessment Services Team (CAST)* to work collaboratively with probation, education, and community systems to increase the number of youth diverted from further juvenile court involvement to alternative programming. The expansion grant allowed the county to add two additional specialized mental health professionals to the existing court services team, which allowed them to double the number of youth screened and referred to mental health and community services in 2010 as compared to the year before.

A 2006 study by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ) found that the majority (70.4 percent) of youth in the juvenile justice system meet criteria for at least one mental health disorder.³

Technical Assistance

BJA supports JMHCP grantees by providing training and technical assistance (TTA) through the Council of State Governments Justice Center to facilitate planning, implementing, and expanding collaborative initiatives.⁴ TTA involves both on- and off-site support, including in-depth consultations with field experts and experienced practitioners, strategic planning assistance, and participation in national training events and web-based seminars. TTA for grantees has been organized around the *Planning and Implementation Guide*, created by the Justice Center as a tool to help grantees assess the status and progress of their initiatives, identify key next steps in the planning and implementation process, and flag the challenges they need to address. Among the other resources available to grantees is a series of publications on law enforcement, courts, and community corrections. These and other useful materials can be found on the Justice Center's criminal justice/mental health online resource center, (www.consensusproject.org).



Local Programs Database

To feature your criminal justice/mental health program in the Local Programs Database, register at <http://consensusproject.org/register>.

Once registered, you may log in to manage your own content at http://consensusproject.org/programs_start.

Local Programs Database

Search our online database of collaborative criminal justice/mental health programs from across the country (formerly known as the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Information Network, or InfoNet). You can look for programs by state, issue area, or keyword, and program administrators can register and submit a profile of their program by completing a short online survey.

The database is a resource for policymakers, practitioners, program planners and administrators, and others working to improve the response to people with mental illnesses involved with the criminal justice system. It is a platform for sharing expertise about program design and implementation and networking with colleagues.

Profiles in this database are created from surveys submitted by program administrators and were not verified by Justice Center staff. The Justice Center does not promote or endorse any of these programs as "best practices."

- Law Enforcement
- Courts
- Corrections
- Community Supports
- JMHCP Grantees

Create a Profile

Log in to add a description of your criminal justice / mental health program to the database, or to update your existing program profile.

Email:

Password:

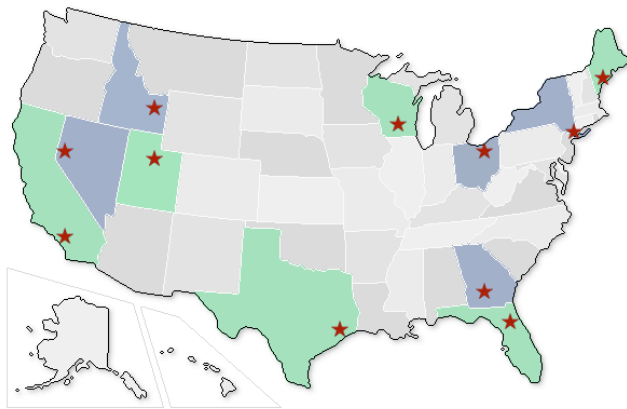
Not registered yet? [Click here to sign up.](#)

Latest Webinar

August 25: Child Trauma and Juvenile Justice: Prevalence, Impact and Treatment Webinar

Reviewed the prevalence, impact, and treatment of trauma for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. [Watch Online](#)

Criminal Justice/Mental Health Learning Sites



The Justice Center and BJA have identified five mental health courts and six law enforcement agencies that use a range of effective responses to people with mental illnesses involved with the criminal justice system. Go to <http://consensusproject.org/learningsites> for more information.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. BJA supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system.

Endnotes

¹ Steadman, H. J., Osher, F. C., Robbins, P. C., Case, B., and Samuels, S. (2009). "Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates," *Psychiatric Services*, 60 (6).

² Ditton, P. (1999). "Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

³ Shufelt, J., and Cocozza, J. (2006). "Youth with Mental Health Disorders in the Juvenile Justice System: Results from a Multi-State Prevalence Study." Delmar, NY: National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice.

⁴ The CSG Justice Center (www.justicecenter.org) has been the technical assistance provider for BJA's JMHCP grantees since the program's inception in 2006. More information is available at http://consensusproject.org/issue_areas/justice-and-mental-health-collaboration-program.