

The Superior, State, and Juvenile Court Judges brought together Drug Court, DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Family Treatment Court, and Substance Abuse Services in 2007 under one agency umbrella called Treatment Services. We've since added the Drug Screening Lab, Felony Probation Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Parental Accountability Court, Dawson County Treatment Court, Dawson County HELP Program, and Dawson County Family Treatment Court. This has allowed for the sharing of resources across programs and has greatly increased our ability to provide services in each area. This has positively impacted all of the accountability court programs in that it has allowed some sharing of office resources, drug screening supplies and services, and office personnel. The Treatment Services budget is made up of County General Fund, DATE Funds, participant fees, drug testing lab revenue, evaluations and referrals revenue, and grant awards. When federal funding ends, we are hopeful that County Commissioners will absorb the grant-funded positions and benefits under the General Fund budget due to the savings our court programs provide the County and State through jail-cost avoidance. Additional assistance comes to our programs from Friends of Recovery, a nonprofit organization formed in 2006 to support the circuit's accountability court programs. Through fundraisers and the solicitation of community funds, Friends of Recovery provides entry-fee scholarships for those participants needing residential drug and alcohol treatment, along with other services. Friends of Recovery also provides supplies for court graduation ceremonies and receptions, as well as an annual Christmas party for participants and their families where guests are treated to dinner, gifts for the children, musical entertainment, door prizes, and photos with Santa. In addition, funding will be continued by non-profit fundraising, participant fees, state and local appropriations, and revenue from the drug testing lab.

In the Hall County office, we have 37 full-time and 3 part-time employees and serve over 600 participants annually. Our Dawson County office operates with 5 full-time employees and serve approximately 120 participants annually. Between regular office hours, in-house counseling groups for Drug Court, Family Treatment Court, and the HELP Program, drug testing services for the courts and our customers, etc., we operate 7 days a week. Our drug testing lab analyzed approximately 50,651 drug screens in 2023. In 2022, we provided over 6,000 hours of treatment and experienced a 6% increase in total program enrollments compared to 2022. We conduct on-going, onsite training for new and seasoned staff alike. As mentioned above, all of our accountability court programs are under one agency umbrella. While all of Treatment Services shares administrative (Director, Assistant Director, Receptionist) and drug testing lab staff, each program has staff specifically assigned to handle the daily operations of the program.

Each of our programs has been awarded grant funding through the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) since their creation in 2015. Funding is awarded on an annual basis beginning July 1 through June 30. There is a 15% match required for each grant which is fulfilled through county-funded personnel positions assigned to each court program.

Deadline for grant submissions to CACJ: February 29, 2024