

Accountability Court Funding Program FY '25 Enhancement and Innovation Grant Proposal

Department: Treatment Services

Program to be served by grant: Hall County Drug Court, Hall County H.E.L.P. Program and Veterans Treatment Court, Hall County DUI Court, Hall County Family Treatment Court, and Hall County Parental Accountability Court

Grant Solicitation Release Date: September 3, 2024

Grant Application Deadline: September 27, 2024

Total Budget Request: \$55,262.96

Match Requirement: 15% cash match total (based on CJCC calculation) \$9,752.28

Project Total: \$65,015.24

Project Description

To better utilize resources across all our accountability court programs, our agency has recently added multiple tracks to our mental health court program and restructured treatment programming for our drug court, mental health court, and family treatment court program. This massive overhaul of treatment programming allows for more shared resources among our treatment providers and allows our providers to facilitate over 65 treatment groups per week. By sharing resources across programs, we serve more participants than any other judicial circuit in the state of Georgia. Collectively, we served over 800 participants in our circuit in 2023 and our current census for Hall County programs total over 500 participants.

We are fortunate in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit to live in a recovery-friendly community that is full of resources for our staff and participants. We can provide services for participants who utilize sober living environments and have established positive relationships with local residential programs to help support our participants in their recovery journeys. Our relationship with local sober living environments enables us to enroll more participants because we can secure stable housing for them upon intake into the program. Depending on the structure provided and ASAM Level of Care, some participants utilize sober living housing, and some participants utilize structured residential recovery programs. Currently, approximately 30% of our Drug Court participants and 20% of our Mental Health Court participants live in a recovery residence or sober housing program totaling over 100 participants.

We are seeking funding for a full-time case manager position to coordinate services and be the direct point of contact for Drug Court and HELP Court participants in who live in a recovery residence or sober living program. With nearly 100 participants living in these recovery environments, it requires a lot of communication and coordination among all our coordinators and case managers to coordinate care. By having one full-time case manager position dedicated to managing communication with these programs, we can continue to streamline our services. We would also utilize this position to assist with residential and sober living referrals for pending intakes. On average, Drug Court and HELP Court manage approximately 25-30 referrals weekly, several of which require supportive housing.

In reviewing the case manager positions across our two largest programs – Hall County HELP Program and Hall County Drug Court, our case managers manage an average caseload of 75 participants. By

adding a case manager position solely dedicated to managing participants in recovery residences, we can lower the average caseload of our case managers down to 55 participants. Our existing case managers spend a great deal of time helping participants fill out program applications and complete phone interviews, as well as manage progress updates, court attendance, drug screening, and general communication with recovery residence and sober living staff. By creating a specialized caseload for participants in supportive housing, these participants will have a primary point of contact with a case manager who focuses solely on their unique needs and requirements.

We are also seeking funding to provide peer support to be shared among all our accountability court participants. In the last Enhancement and Innovation grant application, we received funds to enhance peer support services across the agency, and it has been a huge success with our participants. In this application, we wish to expand our peer support services even further. We are seeking to expand our MOU with our local RCO, J's Place Recovery to fund CARES peer support specialists to all programs to help promote long-term recovery from substance use. These peer support individuals will assist our courts with recovery coaching, aftercare planning, case management, support services within our community, and assist us with establishing and maintaining an active alumni group.

Needs Statement

In July of this year, our mental health court and drug court completed the largest restructure of tracks and treatment programming in the history of the agency. As a result, we reduced the redundancy of offering duplicate treatment groups across programs. Our treatment providers are now able to offer a more diverse menu of treatment options than ever before, thus streamlining treatment across the agency rather than separating out treatment by program. We have also streamlined our referral and intake process by at least 4 hours per week by adding the new "Co-occurring Track" to mental health court and establishing a combined referral meeting for both drug court and mental health court.

In the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, we make great efforts to open our accountability court doors to all referrals who meet legal and clinical eligibility criteria. We often accept referrals who start our treatment programs in a recovery residence or sober living environment, and we monitor their progress in those programs until they can live independently. We have strong relationships with these providers and are actively involved in the case management of these participants throughout their time in our program. We believe that having a dedicated case manager to manage all participants who reside in a sober living environment or recovery residence will drastically improve our services. This would allow us to have one single point of contact for all our partners and will more effectively streamline communication between the accountability courts and our community partners.

All our accountability court programs could greatly benefit from additional services of certified peer recovery specialists to encourage long-term community recovery support services. By partnering with our local RCO, we will be able to provide enhanced services to our participants and help them build connections with individuals who have a shared lived-experience and who can help them navigate struggles in their recovery journey. For these services, we would request funding for 20 hours of peer recovery services per week, provided by the RCO. Peer services would include aftercare planning, recovery coaching, facilitate peer-lead groups, and coordinating alumni support services.

Project Goals

1. Accommodate case management needs of participants residing in recovery residences and sober living environments. By hiring another full-time case manager, we will be able to serve approximately 100 participants across HELP and Drug Court.
2. Successfully incorporate peer services into wider operation of all our accountability court programs. Having the ability to connect our participants to peer services will increase the likelihood of long-term recovery support and reduce recidivism. Our long-term vision for peer services is to partner with our RCO to devote a full-time peer recovery coach to work with our programs for operational sustainability.

Project Activities and Services

Funding will pay for a full-time case manager position under the Hall County Drug Court program to monitor participants in sober living environments and recovery residences. This position will monitor participants meeting these criteria across both Drug Court and Mental Health Court and further streamline our operations by having one point of contact for our community partners. We are requesting a total of \$42,262.96 which will cover salary and fringe benefits for 6 months.

Funding will support access to peer recovery resources for our accountability participants for approximately 20 hours per week as agreed with our local RCO. Funding will pay for pharmacogenetic testing for eligible participants to develop appropriate medication and treatment plans thus reducing relapse and recidivism rates at the onset of program enrollment. These projects provide a direct cost-savings to our county and allows for more immediate access to treatment to participants. We are requesting funding totaling \$13,000 which will cover 20 hours of services per week at \$25.00 per hour for 26 weeks.

Resources Needed

This grant will allow us to establish an additional full-time case manager for the Hall County Drug Court Program and help us provide immediate case management services all participants in HELP Court and Drug Court who reside in recovery residences and sober living environments.

Additionally, funding is needing to strategically incorporate and integrate peer services into the fabric of our accountability court programs.

*We will use salary for a county funded position as match for this grant. Ethan Ryan, Lab Technician (Dept. 163).