

Accountability Court Funding Program FY '25 Law Enforcement Competitive Grant

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: \$32,700

No Cash Match Requirement

Project Description

Treatment Services is the umbrella agency that encompasses all the accountability court programs in the Northeastern Judicial Circuit (Hall and Dawson counties). Our circuit currently operates with a multi-track Drug Court program in Hall County with 4 distinct tracks (high-risk/high-need track, moderate-risk/moderate-need track, Veterans track, and a prison-reentry track), a multi-track Mental Health Court in Hall County with 2 distinct tracks (co-occurring track and severe and persistent mental illness track), Hall County Family Treatment Court, Hall County DUI Court, and a multi-track treatment court program in Dawson County with 4 distinct tracks (drug track, mental health track, family treatment court track, and DUI track). Between all our accountability court programs, we currently serve over 600 participants with treatment and drug testing services offered 7 days per week. Treatment Services operates a full-time drug testing lab which analyzes over 50,000 drug screens per year.

Due to the sheer volume of participants entering our Hall County Treatment Services building daily, we have identified the need to have an increased security presence at our front doors. A part-time security officer would monitor the treatment building to ensure building rules are enforced and all participants and staff are safe from any potential threat of violence. We offer evening treatment groups, and a part-time security officer could be available to escort our treatment staff to their vehicles in the parking lot. On any given day, we have approximately 340 program participants and other customers entering our building for services.

The accountability courts of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit (Hall County specific) will collaborate with the Hall County Sheriff's Department and Hall County Jail to provide financial assistance by paying administrative and supervision fees associated with the Work Release program. By paying for these fees, we will relieve a substantial financial burden to eligible participants who would face longer retention stays at the local jail. We will be able to enroll eligible participants into our programs at an expedited speed and move those in need of housing to work release to begin securing employment and saving funds for residential placement. Historically, individuals who were eligible for work release would stay longer due to the length of time to save needed funds for release while also paying the weekly supervision fees. This grant and partnership with our local jail will alleviate that burden to participants allowing them to be released from custody sooner, which ultimately provides a cost-savings to our county and provides more immediate access to treatment.

Needs Statement

The Hall County Treatment Services building operates from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. on Friday, and 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on the weekends. We offer over 65 treatment groups in our building per week at various times throughout the day. Additionally, our staff meet regularly with participants for individual counseling and case management sessions, and our drug testing lab operates from open to close, collecting approximately 1,000 drug screens per week.

We currently utilize a part-time security officer for 18 hours per week, but with our building being open more than 60 hours per week, it is necessary to supplement our security services to allow for an additional 20 hours per week to provide a more consistent security presence.

An additional need we have identified and are addressing through this grant application is financial assistance to pay for required weekly supervision/administrative costs for Work Release. We frequently identify eligible participants for program enrollment, but are unable to immediately release them or enroll in services due to lack of housing. Participants will request a move to Work Release as a condition of their bond to secure employment and save needed funding for residential placement. By collaborating with our local jail, we will alleviate this financial burden allowing participants to save funds faster and be released from custody at an expedited rate. Participants repay some of these funds to a designated account which will be utilized to fully sustain this project. We anticipate being sustainable within a year and will not have a need to request grant funding for this project at that time. We are seeking funds at a cost of \$238/participant x 50 participants = \$11,900.

Project Goals

1. Provide part-time security services for 20 hours per week at the Treatment Services building to monitor participant activity and adherence to program and building rules.
2. Decrease time spent in local jail and expedite enrollment into programs. By paying the weekly supervision and administrative costs associated with our local Work Release program, we will be able to enroll eligible participants into our programs faster and allow them to move from general population to Work Release granting them the opportunity to secure employment and save needed funds for residential placement. By relieving the financial burden of weekly Work Release fees, we will allow participants to save funds faster and be released from custody at an earlier rate, which ultimately provides a cost-savings to our county and more immediate access to treatment for eligible participants.

Project Activities and Services

Funding will pay for a part-time security officer at a pay rate of \$40.00 per hour for 20 hours per week for 6 months for a total cost of \$20,800.

Funds will be utilized to pay for weekly supervision fees associated with our Work Release program which will allow participants to secure employment while incarcerated and save funds for residential placement at faster rates leading to earlier release dates.

Resources Needed

This grant funding will allow us to expand our security presence from just 30% of our weekly operational hours to over 60% of our weekly operational hours.

Grant funds will allow us to cover administrative and supervision fees associated with Work Release and relieve a substantial financial burden to eligible participants who would face longer retention stays at the local jail.